

# THE VOCHS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## Possible Dutch influence in the Aboriginal Language Interesting?

Some time ago, I did a little research—first on what the aboriginal population could have been pre settlement (for a member of an earlier workshop meeting we had); AND—then, I decided to look into the possibility of the Dutch language having some influence in an Aboriginal dialect or two. What I found was amazing. You may not agree with me, but that's fine I think the closeness is worth looking at.

I start with English so we know where we are heading; then the tribal language (which may be a mix of 2 or 3 dialects) and then Dutch with a comment:

English	Nyunda	Dutch	Comment	OTHER
Aged	Oop'baija	Oop bejaard	Dutch J = Y	Elderly
Bad	Goora'ee	Goor, Goorheid		Dingy
Wooden				
Bowl	Bat.tje	Batje		Sml bath
Clod				
Or Earth	Turpa	Turfje, Turf		Sml mound, lump of peat
Cold	Koon'dhetha	Koudachtig		Coldish
Coughing	Oondoonda mok	Aandoen, Ademtocht		Gasping
Digging Stick	Wippa	Wipje		Sml Plank
Exchange/				
Barter	Kooyeroo	Koopjeruillen		
Hawk	Kir.ken.jo	Kiekendief		Hawklike bird
Jaw	Caar.do	Kaak		
Many/				
Plenty	Bool.la	Boel		A lot
Wind	Windhoo	Wind		

Just a few I found, I believe there are more. But this of course does not prove there is a Dutch component to the Nhunda language—BUT....HC..

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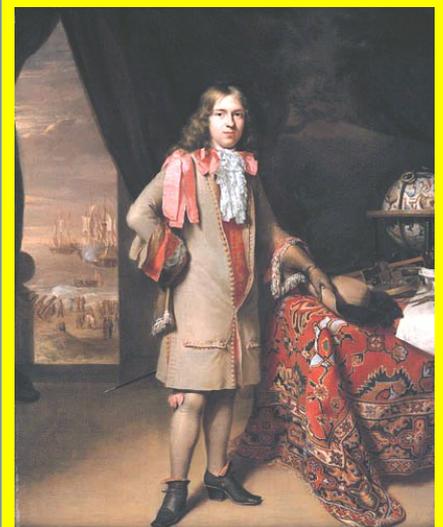
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### THIS MONTH IN VOC HISTORY:

**Willem de Vlamingh** - was baptised, on **28 November 1640**, as the son of Hessel Dirckszoon and Trijntje Cornelis on the island of East-Vlieland in the Netherlands. Because part of the Vlielanders livelihood was whaling his early seafaring experience had been on whale boats. He married Willempje Cornelis from Amsterdam on 2 December 1668 and settled in Amsterdam and its seafaring world. In 1688 he joined the VOC and on **26 November** of that year he was on his way to Batavia. In May 1690 he returned to Holland. Four years later, on 7 January, 1694, he again departed for the East Indies and reached Batavia ten months later on **13 November** that same year. On 23 August 1695 he was back in Amsterdam and was nominated for the responsible task of mounting an expedition to search for the *Ridderschap van Holland*.



Portrait by Jan Verkolje and his son Nicolaas Verkolje, ca. 1690, thought to be of Willem de Vlamingh.

## The Dutch: The Super Traders of the West

by Monica de Knecht



Admiral Cornelis Matelief de Jonge

a pilgrim path to Mecca”. (Wood, 1918). This was like “killing two birds with one stone” getting rid of their powerful trade rivals and establishing themselves as absolutely indispensable to the Moghuls. They won many sea battles, principally through such men as Cornelis Matelief de Jonge, a Dutch Admiral who was very active in establishing Dutch power in Southeast Asia during the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. His fleet was ostensibly on a peaceful trading mission, but its true focus was to absolutely destroy the Portuguese power in the area. The Dutch did not totally succeed through his efforts, but ultimately through the might of many others, so finally wresting the control of Malacca from the Portuguese more than thirty years later, in the Battle of Malacca, where they teamed with the Sultanate of Johor under Abdul Jalil Shah III and Aceh. (Wikipedia).

Passing eastwards through the Straits of Malacca they heard of a native festival that “still annually commemorates the first Englishman who lived and died in Japan. (See August Journal “William Adams”). However, as we learned, that Englishman did not work for the British, he was an agent of the VOC.

The VOC was both a company of commerce and its ships could also wage war. “When they were blocked by the Spanish Fleet and excluded from Lisbon; the VOC ships smashed the Fleet in Gibraltar Bay. They routed the Portuguese off Java and won Sea

There were many reasons why the Dutch, through the VOC, became the West’s ‘Super Traders’. Some say it’s because the *Gentlemen XVII* had little scruples, preferring trade above all other considerations. Possibly because those they put in charge as governors were pragmatists and realists and in some cases totally ruthless. (Finkel). Others say it’s because they had thrown off their Spanish overlords, but did not become a monarchy; so did not have to contend with a Monarch’s sense of idealism, as was the case of the Spanish, French and English who thought it their duty to convert the heathens, either to Catholicism or to good old English Protestantism and put their bases of settlement and colonialism in the “heathens’ lands”. The Dutch, at all times, realised that Colonialism had too big a price tag on it, especially for the English who set about creating ‘little England’s’ in all the far flung lands of their Empire.

The Dutch broke through the Portuguese monopoly of trade in India. The VOC agents travelled through the land, won the favour of the Great Moghul at Delhi, established a factory at Surat; even acted as a maritime patrol for the Moghul Empire where they were able to ‘clear the seas of Portuguese and to clear



Sir Francis Drake

## The Dutch: The Super Traders of the West

Continued.....



Witte Cornelisz de With

power in all the Eastern seas.” (G.A. Wood, 1918). The VOC became trade masters over all the islands.

By far the VOC’s most valuable market was the Spice Trade, where they cunningly claimed that the Englishman Sir Francis Drake’s 16<sup>th</sup> century Treaty ‘gave the Dutch the right to a complete monopoly of the Spice Trade’. (G.A. Wood, 1918). The Dutch were masters of reading through contracts to suit themselves. Obviously Drake had forgotten to mention spices. They also had factories in Sumatra, Amboyna and Java.

It is interesting to note that if the English only had the Spanish and Portuguese to fight, England would have become as supreme in the islands as it had in India.

Sailing from the islands, English merchantmen may have discovered Australia first, (Wood, 1918)

The Dutchmen were always men of business and never crusaders. When the English tried to get into Amboyna, the Dutch under Jan Pieterszoon Coen, soon ‘put paid’ to that through the Massacre at Amboyna, under the pretence that the English

were plotting against the Dutch Governor. By torture of natives and English they were able to ‘prove’ this. Never again did the English try to trade in Amboyna. So the job was done, according to the VOC. In another punitive action, Witte de With, under Coen; laid waste to the island, destroying 90000 clove trees of the native inhabitants. This was purely to increase the price of cloves. (Boxer, 1965). Through having little scruples, the ruthless merchants of the VOC had taken control and absolute monopoly of the Spice Trade.

The English under their monarchies were not interested in supporting the British East India Company in gaining a trade monopoly, they were far more concerned with creating an Empire on which the ‘sun would never set’, which they did attain under Queen Victoria in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the cost of which became absolutely horrendous. The VOC, in its heyday was supreme, even over the Stadthouder. (Finkel)

The Dutch, through their ruthless pursuit of trade also became supreme in Japan. When the Christian missionaries were expelled and Christians were put to death, the Dutch traders, through their manoeuvrings and intrigues with various shoguns became the only westerners that were allowed to trade in Japan, at Deshima, after the policy of national seclusion was instituted in 1639.(Encyclopaedia Britannica). They did not achieve this without the inevitable cost of conscience and ethics, having to either put Christians to death under the Shogun’s orders or to trample on the icons of saints. (Japan: Memoirs of a Secret Empire). “Their trading post in Nagasaki Harbour became Japan’s principal window to the outside world”. (Encyclopaedia Britannica).

We can therefore deduce that through the VOC, the tiny country of the Netherlands became the West’s Super trading power, through different factors. Firstly their willingness to become a totally versatile trading empire, experienced in both cunning, strategy and sea power.

Secondly, they were not hampered by a zeal to crusade, colonise or the grandiose plans of monarchs and could sacrifice even their souls to achieve the trade they wanted.

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# THE VOCHS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## BLAEU, Willem. [A pair of Globes - Terrestrial and Celestial] *Globus Orbis Terrae*. [Amsterdam, Joan Blaeu, c.1645-48].



### The apotheosis of the Golden Age of Dutch cartography:

Willem Janszoon Blaeu's 26-inch globes are the apotheosis of the "Golden Age" of Dutch cartography. Their size and grandeur stand testimony to the confidence and wealth of a great maritime and trading nation at the height of its powers. "These globes were not merely the largest globes ever made in Amsterdam, and even the world's largest up to that time, and virtually until the end of the seventeenth century, they were also representations of enormous human achievement - an extraordinary record of an extraordinary period of geographical discovery. During the preceding century, more

than half of the known world, including the entire Western Hemisphere, had been charted and, more recently, during Blaeu's own time, large portions of the Pacific were being explored. Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and French explorers had contributed the lion's share of what was known, but during Blaeu's generation the Dutch themselves had taken up the mantle as masters of the sea and changed the face of the world with their voyages of discovery. What better way for a small seafaring nation with large ambitions to express its pride than to construct a symbol of its achievement in such a quintessentially representative form; a three-dimensional model of the world that would fill a room with its mass; a magnificent statement of what the Dutch had achieved and were achieving with every new fact and update added by Blaeu over the course of the Globe's transformation, through four states from 1617 to 1645/48?" (van der Krogt).

### Terrestrial globe

Blaeu intended the globe to be a luxury item aimed at wealthy merchants and noblemen. However, it was also the most advanced cartographic document of the age: it was a monument and tool; to be used as much as admired. The 'Globus Orbis Terrae' of 1617 was the first dated printed documentation of Hudson's first voyage and the first to give the name "Nieu Nederland" to the area now known as New York, Manhattan and Long Island. It was also the first depiction of Schouten and Le Maire's discovery of a navigable passage around Cape Horn (named after Schouten's hometown of Hoorn); a revelation of such economic importance that Blaeu's globe was initially suppressed by the States General following a dispute between the Dutch East India Company (V.O.C.) and Schouten and Le Maire's "Australian Company". Schouten and Le Maire's voyage was undertaken in order to circumvent the monopoly held by the V.O.C. on all trade with the East via the Cape of Good Hope or through the Straits of Magellan. By discovering a route to the Pacific via Cape Horn, the Australian Company changed cartographic orthodoxy by rendering the existence of a great southern landmass contiguous with Tierra del Fuego impossible. Blaeu - from undisclosed sources as the documentation of Schouten and Le Maire's voyage was sequestered by the V.O.C. - obtained this information and sought to publish it in a book featuring maps of their discoveries. However, in an ultimately unsuccessful effort to obtain a charter to publish his voyage, Le Maire pressed for an injunction on Blaeu's book.

Blaeu, with more than a little cheeky panache, kept his globe from becoming outdated with the simple device of removing the old, incorrect information and replacing it with... nothing! In due course the injunction was lifted and Blaeu was able to publish his globe with the new shape of Tierra del Fuego and a reduced southern continent of Magellanica.

After Willem Blaeu's death in 1638, his son, Dr Joan Blaeu (1596-1673) undertook a major update of the globe to incorporate new discoveries. These were carried out with a combination of re-engraving the plates and printed overlays pasted on to the relevant portions of the globe. The most drastic of these updates involved the erasure of an entire

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## BLAEU, Willem. [A pair of Globes - Terrestrial and Celestial] *Globus Orbis Terrae*. [Amsterdam, Joan Blaeu, c.1645-48] continued.....

dedication and cartouche bearing the “Advice to Reader” in order to make room for the findings of Abel Tasman’s voyages and to show Australia. Other areas of re-engraving included changes to Canada to show the discoveries of Thomas Button (1612-13), William Baffin (1616) and others, alterations to the coast of Greenland, and the removal of the name and diminution in size of the mythical island of Frisland. The printed overlays allowed Blaeu Jnr. to alter Japan to incorporate the mapping by Maarten Vries in 1643, and to shift the entire coast of North America approximately 20 degrees eastwards and show California as an island. However, north of California, he became less sure of himself and retained his father’s delineation. Here any attempt at a western coastline is abandoned, replaced instead by a large decorative cartouche surrounded by beavers and Native Americans. The various attempts of Gaspar and Michael Corte Real, Sebastian Cabot, Hugh Willoughby, Martin Frobisher, John Davis, Willem Barentz, Jan Huyghen van Linschoten, and Henry Hudson to find a northwest and northeast passage are described, ending with the hope that Hudson’s discovery of a “huge and wide open sea” would result in the long sought-after route.

### Celestial globe

Astronomical details on the sphere include a magnitude table close to the North Pole. The Milky Way and Magellanic Clouds are labelled. Close to the North Pole, there are two tables in a cartouche, one explaining the astrological symbols marked on the sphere and the other explaining the precession with a table based on a constant precession rate. There are novae with explanations in Cassiopeia, Cyngus and Ophiuchus with the first and last observed positions marked. A total of 83 stars and up to eight star groups are named; some of the stars are also named in Arabic script. The 48 Ptolemaic constellations and four of the non-Ptolemaic constellations are drawn. The 12 southern constellations of Plancius are also drawn. The nomenclature for some of the Ptolemaic constellations is extensively detailed and some of them are given in Greek, followed by the name in Arabic script. The constellations are said to be in the tradition of Mercator, but this is not the case. For this globe Blaeu relied on the style used by Johann Bayer in his ‘Uranometria’ of 1603.

### Publication History

First state, 1617.

1a. First edition. 1b. [May 1617] Tierra del Fuego removed. 1c. [c.1618] Re-engraved to show Cape Horn, Le Maire Strait, revised coastline for New Guinea and numerous newly discovered islands in the Pacific.

Second state, [1622].

In the “Advice to the Reader”, “In ista quam”, the signature and date are changed to: Guiljelmus Caesius Auctor. Anno MDC XXII . If the original dedication is visible, two variants may be distinguished. 2a. The name “Ianssonius” is changed to “Caesius”. 2b. The name “Caesius” is changed to “Blaeuw”.

Third state, [between c.1622 and c.1645].

In the “Advice to the Reader”, “In ista quam”, the signature is changed to: Guiljelmus Blaeu Auctor. Anno MDC XXII .

Although the date is unaltered, judging by other publications, the spelling of ‘Blaeu’ indicates that this state dates from after c.1630.

In the charter, “Ianssonij” is changed to “Blaeuw”.

Fourth state, [c.1645/48].

The cartography is heavily revised by Joan Blaeu.

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Joan & Willem Blaeu Atlas in 11 volumes with white leather binding with gold leaf and special chest to hold it in, with a portrait of Willem Blaeu on the wall next to it, copy owned by the University of Amsterdam Special Collections

## The Qianlong Emperor -A tale of two Embassies

by Monica de Knecht

The trading approaches of the British and Dutch to the Chinese court, are no more revealing and comical than in the description of the trading embassies of the British (1793) and the Dutch (1795) to the Court of the Qianlong Emperor.

### THE BRITISH

The British East India Company requested that George III send a delegation to the Court of the Qianlong Emperor, to negotiate more favourable trading conditions than that which they currently had under the Canton system, which was the system adopted by the Chinese in 1757. (Dr. John Makeham, 2008) ( It was known as the *Yī kǒu tōng shāng* (一口通商, "Single port commerce system") and it was adopted in response to perceived political and commercial threats from abroad. (Canton is now known as *Guangzhou*). (Wikipedia)

The British; always ones to impress, sent an aristocratic envoy to lead the Embassy. He was no less than George Macartney, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Macartney, Viscount Macartney of Dervock, Baron of Lissanoure, Baron Macartney of Parkhurst and of Auchinleck. He had the distinction of belonging to a very ancient Scots-Irish nobility. Certainly a man who thought a lot of himself and of Britain, as he was the one who coined the phrase - Britain controls " a vast Empire on which the sun never sets". (Encyclopedia Britannica).

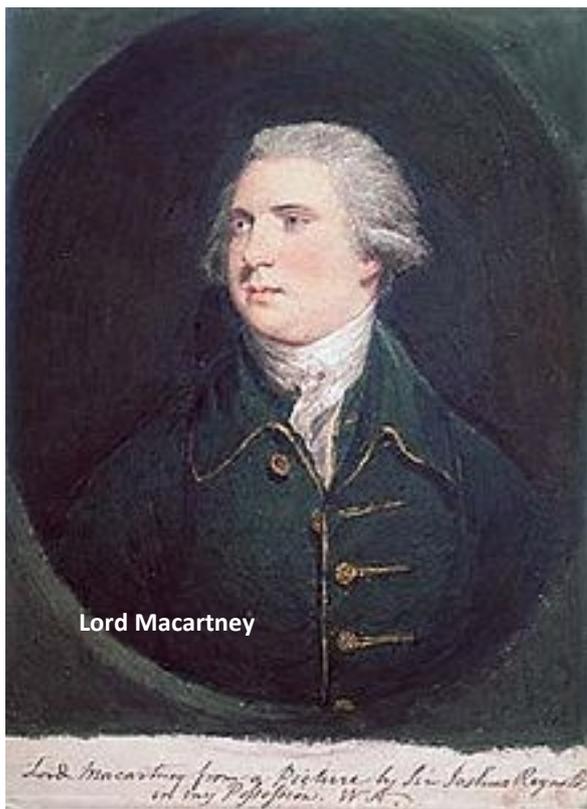
The Kowtow issue Now before Macartney had even departed on his mission, he had been instructed to accept 'all ceremonials of the court which may not commit the honour

of your Sovereign or lessen your own dignity". (Wikipedia) The Chinese required the ritual of the *kowtow* which obliged the individual to kneel with both knees on the ground and bow so as to touch their forehead to the ground. (Usually 9 times). Now the

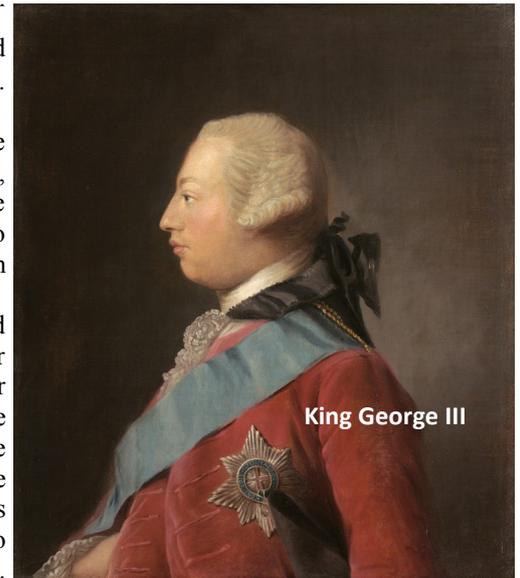
Portuguese and the Dutch had no problem adhering to this. However the British were of a different breed, let alone an aristocrat. Macartney also believed that Britain was the most powerful nation on earth.. So when the time came, he would just genuflect, as he would before George III, his own sovereign, just touching one knee to the ground. Macartney thought that by treating the Chinese emperor on equal par with his own monarch, he was doing the Emperor a great favour, as he considered the British a far superior race.

With him, was his second in command, George Staunton, with George's son, Thomas, a 13 year old child prodigy who had an aptitude for learning languages and, in fact, had mastered the Mandarin tongue with great sufficiency, in only a couple of months. Wikipedia

The meeting with the Qianlong Emperor took place on 14 September. Several thousand attendees were present, including other foreign visitors, viceroy Liang Kentang and the emperor's son, the future Jiaqing Emperor. According to the Manchu custom the ceremony was held in a yurt and the Emperor presided like a Khan. (Wikipedia).



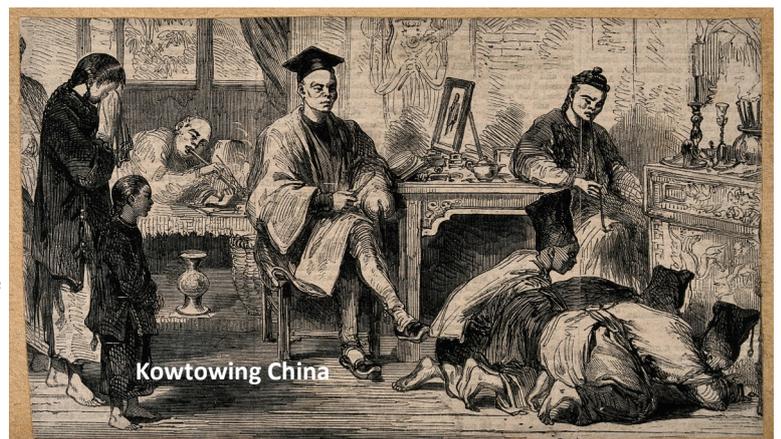
Lord Macartney



King George III

Macartney stepped up to the platform first, kneeling once, exchanging gifts with Qianlong and presenting King George III's letter. He was followed by George Staunton, and finally Thomas Staunton.\*Note 1. The Emperor, having been informed that Thomas knew his tongue, asked the boy to speak a few words and was so delighted with his eloquence, that he took a silk purse from his belt and presented it to the boy. This was the one 'plus' event of the whole mission. A banquet was then held to conclude the day's events. (Dr. John Makeham, 2008)

However the Chinese were not only outraged by the British



Kowtowing China

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envoy not 'kowtowing' as they viewed their Emperor as the 'Son of Heaven' who has no equal on this earth; they were deeply offended by the gifts Macartney brought. They did not consider it a 'trading mission' as the British themselves thought of it; it was just a tribute mission, where the ambassador from any other country would just bring token gifts. The gifts that Macartney brought were showy and were thought inferior; even though the British had selected them with great care, being the latest in European scientific achievements, with the obvious emphasis on future trade. The Qianlong Emperor thought of them as 'useless baubles' and not to compare with what his country had in abundance and was therefore an insult to add to not 'kowtowing'.

George III was sent an edict by the Qianlong Emperor which went as thus:

*Our celestial Empire possesses all things in prolific abundance and lacks no product within its borders. There is therefore no need to import the manufactures of outside barbarians in exchange for our own produce..* (Qianlong Emperor, 2<sup>nd</sup> edict to King George III of England, 1792).

All future requests by the British concerning the expansion of their trade from outside Canton were refused after this episode. (Dr. John Makeham, 2008)

### THE DUTCH APPROACH

Now a Dutch-American merchant by the name of Andreas Everardus van Braam Houckgeest had heard about this embarrassing incident, so he requested that the Commissioners-general in Batavia send a VOC embassy to the Court of the Qianlong Emperor, which coincided with the celebration of the Qianlong Emperor's sixtieth year on the Throne.

Batavia did agree with this suggestion, but instead appointed the Chief of the Dutch trading mission in Dejima, Isaac Titsingh, to be head of this embassy rather than van Braam, as the versatile Titsingh was also a surgeon, scholar, merchant and a man of dual nationality. He was able to act as Ambassador at the same time as he could be a shrewd trader, to ensure that their mission was a success, unlike the disastrous expedition led by Lord Macartney only two years before.

As mentioned before, the Dutch traders had no problems doing the full kowtow with the nine prostrations, as required by the Chinese Court. \*\*Note 2 The VOC traders had never had any problems to adhere to any procedure required in order to facilitate trade.

They, who had trampled on icons and executed Christians for the Japanese Shoguns, had absolutely no difficulties in performing this, to them, trivial command.

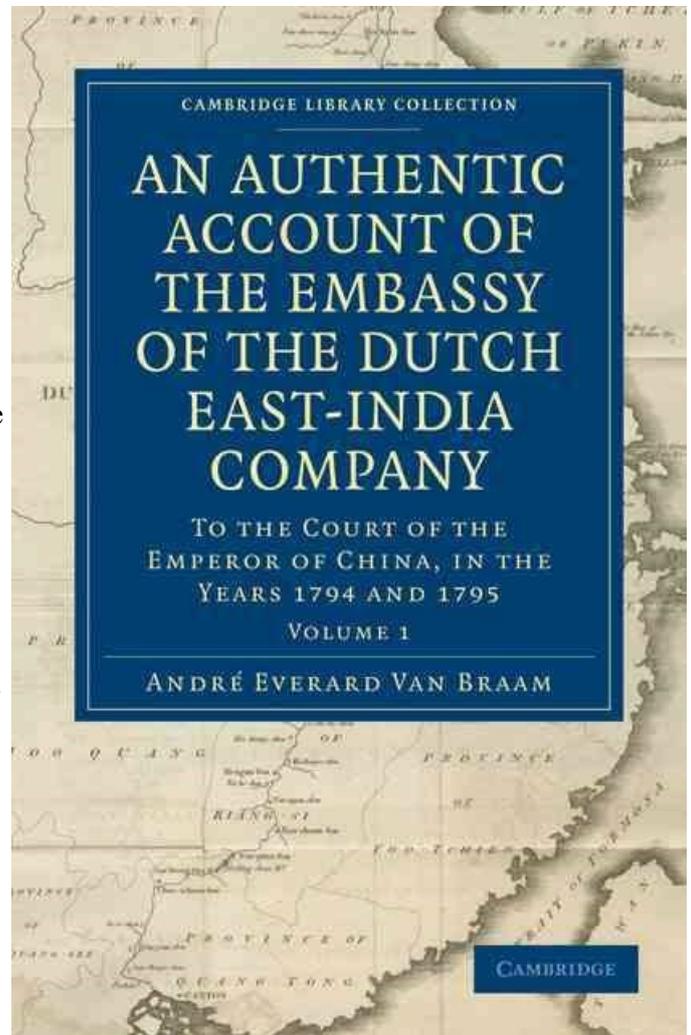
As van Braam did his homage, his hat fell off, while he bowed and this caused the Emperor to laugh, which relaxed everyone and caused the ensuing audience to be a mutually pleasurable occasion, both to the Chinese Court and the Dutch traders.

The Dutch, of course, were careful about the presentation of their gifts, ensuring that they were only token and could not surpass the Emperor's gifts in return. They were not interested in 'showing off' like the British.

To their delight, they were very lavishly entertained for the remainder of their stay and were even allowed to have additional audiences with the Emperor at his palace, outside Beijing. The British were only allowed one audience in the Emperor's yurt. The Dutch, on the contrary, had been treated with uncommon respect.

Isaac Titsingh ensured that every effort was made to conform with the demands of the complex Imperial court etiquette. The VOC had certainly made the right choice to select him, rather than van Braam. The timing of their arrival at the court of the Emperor was also extremely favourable, as it coincided not only with the Emperor's 60 year Jubilee, but the New Year's celebrations. Titsingh is also believed to have been the first Freemason in China and the only one to be received at the court of the Qianlong Emperor.

Now, at this time. the Dutch East India Company was very much degenerated. compared to its former splendour and the British East India Company had never been more powerful, which goes to show that the Dutch, even in decline, excelled



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the English in shrewdness, tact and political nous.

The members of the Titsingh mission, including van Braam, were the last European diplomats to enjoy the mid-winter splendour of the vast Summer Palace before its destruction by Lord Elgin's troops during the punishing Second Opium War between the British and the Chinese in 1860.

They were the last European embassy to China under the tributary system.

### NOTES

\*Note 1 This young boy who later became a member of Parliament ; in 1839, led the charge, calling for war against the Chinese because of their confiscation of British opium. This became known as the 1<sup>st</sup> Opium War.

\*\*Note 2 A special concession had also been granted to Macartney by the Chinese, that he only needed to perform one prostration. The haughty Lord could not even do that.

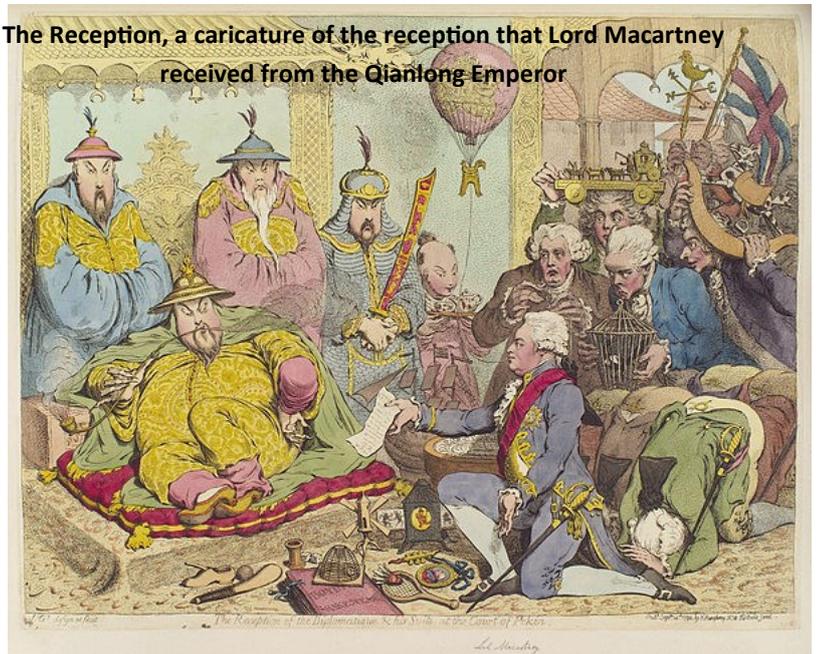
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The Reception, a caricature of the reception that Lord Macartney received from the Qianlong Emperor

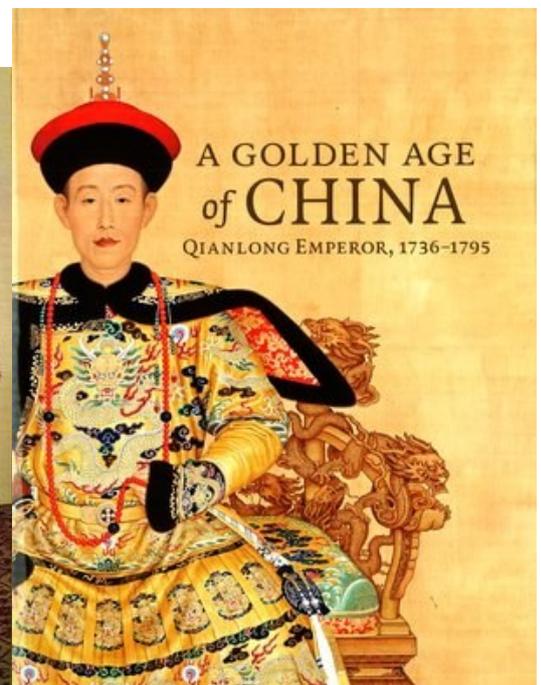


18th Century Chinese Lacquer ware & Blue and White bowl



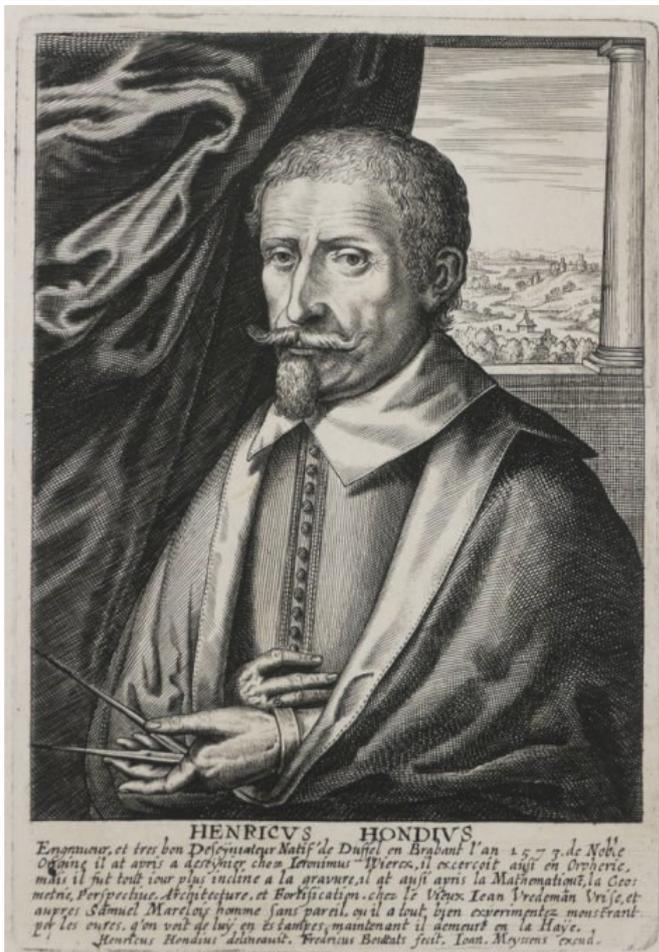
The Qianlong Emperor in Ceremonial Armour on Horseback, by Italian Jesuit Giuseppe Castiglione (Lang Shining)(1688–1766 AD).

Empress Xiaoxianchun (1712-1748), consort to Emperor Qianlong.



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## Books & Art



BOUTTATS, Frederik (ca. 1620-?), engraver:

[PORTRAIT of HONDIUS, Henrick the Elder (1573-1650)] Henricus Hondius. Engraveur, et tres bon Deseynateur Natif de Duffel en Brabant l'an 1573 de Noble Origine il at appris a deseyneier chez Ieronimus Wierix, il excercioit ausi en Orpherie, mais il fut tout iour plus incline a la gravure il at ausi appris la Mathematique, la Geo:metrie, Perspective, Architecture, et Fortification chez le Vieux Iean Vredeman Vrse, et aupres Samuel Marelois homme sans pareil, ou il a tout bien experimentez monstrant per les eures, q'on voit de luy en estampes, maintenant il demeure en la Haye. Henricus Hondius delineavit. Fredericus Bouttats fecit. Ioan Meysens excud.

[Antwerp], ca. 1662. Copper engraving ca. 16,5 x 11 cm (6.5 x 4.5 inches). Paper age toned, otherwise a very good engraving.

Famous engraved portrait published in Cornelis de Bie's "Het Gulden Cabinet vande Edel Vry Schilder-Const" (Antwerp, 1661-1662, 3 vols). Hondius is shown with a pair of compasses and an abstract Dutch landscape in the window behind his back.

"Henrik Hondius I or Hendrik Hondius the Elder was a Dutch Golden Age engraver, cartographer and publisher. He is known as a draftsman, engraver and publisher of maps, landscapes, genre scenes, portraits, architectural views "Les cinq rangs d'Architecture, 1617" and technical drawings "Geometrie, contenant La Theorie et Practique - a La Fortification, 1616". With Hans Vredeman de Vries he published a textbook on perspective in 1604-05" (Wikipedia).

Thanks to the 'Wayfarers Bookshop' Canada and the Internet.



All examples of Hondius' work.

Thanks to 'Invaluable' worlds premiere auctions online.



# THE *VOCHS* MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## VOC Historical Society—AGM 2015-2016 RESULTS:

Just recently we held our AGM for 2015-2016. It was a quiet meeting but a lot was resolved and in particular the positions on the committee.

Below are the results:

CHAIRPERSON: as per last year it will be a rotating position where each member on the committee has a turn to chair the meeting.

VICE CHAIRPERSON: Pending

SECRETARY: Henny Crijns-Coenen

TREASURER: Louella Zitman

COMMITTEE MEMBER: Sietske Haring

COMMITTEE MEMBER: Harry Crijns

COMMITTEE MEMBER: John Ottes

WEBMASTER: Georgina van der Kuil

PR OFFICER: Bill Zitman

We all look forward to a very successful and fruitful year with so much being organized for the 400th Anniversary Dirk Hartog Celebrations we will not be sitting idly by.

Just awaiting for all the announcements of the different venues for the celebrations.

The grand opening will take place in Sydney, there will be events here in WA and in particular the 'big one' where Denham, Shark Bay and of course 'Dirk Hartog Island' will take pride of place.

Will be getting the caravan into ship shape very soon for the trip up the coast.

Regards to you all

Henny

Secretary/Editor

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