

THE VOCHS Bi-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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SHOULD WE OVERLOOK THIS PART OF OUR HISTORY?



George Fletcher Moore

George Fletcher Moore in the Perth Gazette of 18 June 1836 pg. 714 wrote: "*On this day we saw (near Mount Anne, 150 kms east of Perth) a native and his cardo (wife) a young woman of a very pleasing countenance, and something of European features and long wavy, almost flaxen-coloured hair.*"

Some time in the latter 1840s two Aborigines from the north came to the New Norcia Mission. "*They told me through one of the mission natives that near the coast, four days journey north of New Norcia there were other white men. After looking into this matter I came to the conclusion that these could well be the descendants of the mutineers Captain Pelsaert (Batavia) left behind..*" Bishop Salvado, New Norcia. "*And their ghosts may be heard.*"

Rupert Gerritsen.

"From Champion Bay we learn that a tribe of natives have made their appearance at the easternmost sheep

stations upon the north Branch of the Upper Irwin, who differ substantially from the Aborigines previously known, in being finer complexioned, with long, light coloured hair flowing down their shoulders, fine robust figures and handsome features; their arms are spears ... which they throw underhanded". Perth Gazette 9

August 1861.

In 1865, Augustus Oldfield, a pastoralist from the lower Murchison claimed that: "*I was much surprised to find in some of the old natives [at Champion Bay] features nearly approaching the European type, although these parts have been settled but a few years.*" A Oldfield "The Aborigines of Australia", pg 218.

And finally from Daisy Bates:



Daisy Bates

"I also found traces (amongst the natives) of types distinctly Dutch. When Pelsaert marooned two white criminals on the mainland of Australia in 1627, these Dutchmen had probably been allowed to live with the natives, and it may, be that they and their progeny journeyed far along the river-highways, for I found these types as far out as the headwaters of the Gascoyne and the Murchison. There was no mistaking the flat heavy Dutch face, curly fair hair, and heavy stocky build." The Passing of the Aborigines - A Lifetime spent among the Natives of Australia (1938).

This is but a very small sample of the sort of evidence that is available from the diaries and journals of the early explorers and residents in Western Australia. The descriptions of European features amongst aboriginal groups can only mean one thing and that is that cohabitation took place and that European DNA entered their gene pool in the days of VOC shipping.

The "superior" huts, wells and native paths were obviously built with European assistance and not from itinerant visitors from ships sailing past or whalers and sealers dropping in from time to time for rest and recuperation. These were built for use by the builders (the castaways) who had no option but to improve their lot where possible.

The adoption of European agricultural practices by the natives in the form of warren fields allowed them to adopt a more sedentary lifestyle like that these Europeans enjoyed at home.

This evidence points absolutely to these New Holland castaways having been accepted into the indigenous community. This acceptance extended to intermarriage and the production of offspring.



Bishop Rosanda Salvado

VOC Historical Society Inc.

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The Story of New Norcia

New Norcia was founded on its present site in March 1847, and since then has been a mission, a monastic town, a place of education, and now a tourism destination.



New Norcia - Pre-history

Next to the famous Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia was the Benedictine monastery of San Martín Pinario. There, two young men had made their monastic profession, promising to live a fully monastic and obedient life. Following closure of the monasteries by the anti-clerical government in Spain in 1835 one of these men, Dom José Benito Serra, went to the renowned Abbey of the Most Holy Trinity of Cava, near Salerno in Italy. After a few years of waiting in vain for his own monastery to re-open, Dom Rosendo Salvado followed Serra to Cava. The initial months were difficult. Gorman was accidentally shot dead (by Fonteinne) in June that year, and Fonteinne, distraught following the accident, abandoned the mission and returned to France. So it was the two Spaniards who were responsible for the foundation of the mission that grew into the New Norcia of today. Although, as its inaugural superior, Serra had responsibility for the mission, his appointment in 1849 as Co-adjutor Bishop of Perth diverted his missionary energy. After

Dom Rosendo Salvado



ten very active, but fairly troubled years, he left for Europe in 1859, never to return. So the first period of New Norcia's history is usually known as the Salvado Era.

The Salvado Era: 1846 - 1900

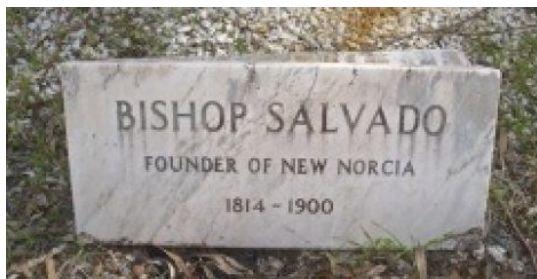
The first fifty years of New Norcia's history are dominated by the towering figure of Bishop Rosendo Salvado (1814 – 1900). Salvado spent 54 years of his life making New Norcia one of the most progressive and successful missions in Australian history. Salvado's original vision was to create, among the indigenous

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peoples of the Victoria Plains, a Christian, largely self-sufficient village based on agriculture. However, after the decimation of the local populations by introduced diseases in the 1860's, he concentrated his activity on giving a practical education to the indigenous children who were brought to New Norcia from all over the state. Like other missionaries of the nineteenth century, his aim was to 'civilise and evangelise' according to the European ideals of the time, but he did so with sympathy for indigenous culture that was rare in his day.

Salvado led a monastic community which, at its height, numbered seventy men, most of whom were Spaniards and lay brothers. His several fundraising trips to Europe provided him with the means to acquire land, to construct buildings and to purchase books, vestments, art works and ritual objects as well as stock and equipment. Practical success and his own personal charm combined to make Salvado both a notable Western Australian and an international figure in the Benedictine world.



Sadly, in 1900 during a trip to Rome, Salvado became ill and died at the age of eighty-six at the Monastery of St Paul Outside the Walls. His body was brought back to New Norcia by the Community and interred in the Abbey Church where it rests today. It is reported that when news of Salvado's death reached New Norcia the local Aboriginal people cried and wailed for three days.

The Monastic Town: 1901 - 1950

Following Salvado's death, New Norcia changed direction and, over the next fifty years, became less of a bush mission and more like a traditional European style monastic settlement. Education and community care for Indigenous people continued, but the emphasis shifted towards the educational and pastoral needs of the population of rural Western Australia. More monks were ordained priests and more time was devoted to prayer, intellectual pursuits and artistic work.

This process began with the arrival from Spain in 1901 of Salvado's successor, Father (later Abbot and Bishop) Fulgentius Torres. Finding the Mission in decline, he sold land to raise development funds. He personally designed and supervised the building of St Gertrude's Ladies College (opened 1908), and St Ildephonsus' College for Boys (opened 1913), staffing the former with Josephite Sisters and the latter with Marist Brothers. In his fourteen years as Superior, Torres carried out significant improvements throughout the town. He paid particular attention to the interior decoration of the town's buildings, bringing the Spanish woodcarver Juan Casellas and the monk-artist Fr Lesmes Lopez to New Norcia to create the many fine works that are now part of its rich heritage.



The direction set for New Norcia by Torres was continued during the leadership of Dom Anselm Catalan, from 1916 to 1951.

Catalan was Abbot during a period of social upheaval with two World Wars and the Depression. He stabilised the monastery during his time, but also added to the fabric of the town with the building of the Hostel and greatly encouraged the work of Dom Stephen Moreno, New Norcia's talented composer of religious music.

Change since 1951

Following Catalan's time, the Monastery and town underwent considerable change.

Change occurred first within the monastery. In an effort to attract more Australians, the monastic

lifestyle was adapted to better suit local conditions. The reforms of the Second Vatican Council in the late 1960s further simplified and clarified both monastic life and worship. Outside the monastery walls, the changes were even more dramatic. The number of parishes staffed by the monastery was reduced to just the parish of New Norcia, the Aboriginal schools closed in the 1970s and formal secondary education ceased with the

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closure of New Norcia Catholic College in 1991.

Change has also come in the shape of a growing tourism business and since the 1980s, hospitality at New Norcia has flourished and diversified. Today the town attracts thousands of visitors each year and the Community offers guided tours of the town where you can see (and hear) the history of New Norcia brought to life. New Norcia's traditional crafts of self-sufficiency, bread making and olive oil production have also been revived.

Abbot Catalan

New Norcia today

Today the Benedictine Community operates several businesses to cater for visitors to New Norcia. The Roadhouse, including a General Store, is responsible for the provision of fuel, oil, basic groceries and café services to visitors to New Norcia. The Roadhouse also serves as a Post Office and provides an overnight stay area for campers and caravaners. There are powered sites and self sufficient caravaners can camp down near the oval area.

Hidden behind the walls of the Monastery's southern cloister the Guesthouse is a place of retreat for people seeking to quietly share the simple life and rhythms of the Benedictine monastic community of New Norcia. Guests can participate in guided [retreats](#) and the monks are available for spiritual direction on request. Or visitors can do nothing but soak up the peace and quiet.

The old colleges, St Gertrude's and St Ildephonsus', as well as the upper and lower Old Convent now provide accommodation for groups visiting New Norcia.



New Norcia Hostel



Full details of these businesses can be found in the relevant areas on the New Norcia website. If you are interested in learning more about New Norcia's history there are several books for sale at the Museum Gift Shop, such as 'A Town Like No Other' and 'The Story of New Norcia.'

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The Silver Coins of the Gilt Dragon Shipwreck



Proclamation and Colonial Coins

The Silver Coins of the Gilt Dragon Shipwreck

The Gilt Dragon was a “jacht” of the Dutch East India Company (V.O.C.) that wrecked off the coast of Western Australia in 1656. Not only was this just the 25th European vessel recorded to have reached the shores of the Australian continent, it was only the second to land with a known quantity of silver coins on board. The Gilt Dragon stands apart from all other wrecks in Australia as being the “first modern discovery of an outward-bound seventeenth century Dutch East Indiaman.(1)” Although the wreck of the Gilt Dragon has been studied in detail since 1963, the mystery surrounding it’s survivors remains as strong as ever.

At the time the Gilt Dragon sank, it was carrying eight chests of silver coins, intended to fund the purchase of spices from Batavia (now Jakarta in Indonesia). Research by the maritime archaeologist Jeremy Green indicated that this equated to “...about 40,000 individual coins.(2)”

When the Dutch authorities in Batavia learned of the wreck, several attempts were made to secure the eight chests of treasure, however the search parties were not able to sight the wreck, let alone any of the survivors or the treasure.

The wreck of the Gilt Dragon lived on in local legend across West Australia however, yet remained undisturbed for more than three centuries, and only came to light in 1963, when several recreational spear-fishermen stumbled upon it.

The story of the period shortly following the discovery of the wreck of the Gilt Dragon is nearly as captivating as the story of the wreck itself - controversy, dynamite, bureaucracy, treasure, and sadly even suicide all feature in the Gilt Dragon’s story.

The Coins Recovered from the Gilt Dragon

While it is widely accepted that the Gilt Dragon was carrying 40,000 silver coins when it wrecked, research by Jeremy Green indicates that “there are over 20,000 coins still unaccounted for (3)”, and further that “A major proportion of [the coins that have been recovered] are badly corroded.(4)”

Of the approximately 20,000 coins that have been recovered, just 4,288 have been identified and are legally held in private hands.

Analysis of the 4,288 coins that have been identified and are legally held in private hands yields the following information:

These statistics clearly show that the most readily available coin from the wreck of the Gilt Dragon is a Spanish

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The Silver Coins of the Gilt Dragon Shipwreck

colonial 8 reals struck at the Mexico City Mint in Mexico. The coins recovered from the wreck of the Gilt Dragon that offer the best combination of rarity, size and visual appeal are arguably the silver 8 reals struck at the Segovia Mint - just 20 of them are known in private hands, they are the largest of the very few “milled” coins included within the wreck’s treasure.

Historical and Numismatic Importance

The discovery of the Vergulde Draeck was the catalyst for the development of maritime archaeology in Western Australia.

Although the wreck of the Gilt Dragon has been studied in detail since 1963, the mystery surrounding it’s survivors remains as strong as ever.

It is widely known that 118 of the 193 crew drowned when the ship sank on Half Moon Reef, and further that a search party of 7 men set out for help from Batavia. Nothing is yet known however of what happened to the 68 survivors that stayed behind. Just how such a large number of people could effectively just disappear is a mystery that many people say requires an answer.

1. Graeme Henderson
2. Jeremy Green
3. Jeremy Green
4. Jeremy Green



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A list of English expressions featuring the Dutch.

By Monica de Knecht

These are all derogatory or pessimistic. This verbal war by the English against the Dutch started in the 17th century when the English lost to the Dutch and especially when they lost the 3rd Anglo-Dutch war. - others are more modern; but all are making out the Dutch as a bunch of drunken, mean, brawling, cowardly losers. Possibly a little bit shady. You may say it could be termed racist, but because most of them have gone into the vernacular, they're acceptable. Also it's a Northern European race against a Northern European race. However, I don't think it's quite right, myself. What do you think?

Dutch bargain or wet bargain

A one sided bargain or a bargain settled over drinks, the Dutch being formerly reputed to be steady drinkers.

Dutch comfort – not much comfort at all

Cold comfort, i.e. things might have been worse.

Dutch concert

A great noise and uproar, like that made by a party of drunken Dutchmen, some singing, others quarrelling, speechifying, etc.

Dutch courage

The courage exerted by drink; pot valour. The Dutch were considered heavy drinkers.

Dutch defence

A sham defence.

Dutch generosity

Stinginess.

Dutch gleek

Tippling. Gleek is a game and the name implies that the game loved by Dutchmen is drinking.

Dutch headache

Hangover.



Dutch leaf

False gold leaf.

Dutch gold, Dutch metal

made from it, hence the name Dutch leaf. It is also called Dutch metal.

Dutch mineral

Copper beaten out into very thin leaves.

Dutch nightingales

Frogs.

Dutch oven

usually a heavy iron cooking pot, nothing wrong with that - but it can be derogatory, one English expression terms a Dutch oven as a prank where one farts under a blanket while holding a victim there.

Dutch rub

To rub your knuckles across the top of someone's head whilst holding their head under your other arm.

Dutch talent

That which is not done in true nautical and shipshape fashion, more the result of brawn than brain.

Dutch treat

A meal, amusement, etc., at which each person pays for himself (*i.e.* not a treat at all). To go Dutch has the same meaning.

Dutch widow

A prostitute.

Dutch wife

A list of English expressions featuring the Dutch.

An open frame constructed of cane, originally used in the Dutch East Indies and other hot countries to rest the limbs in bed; also a bolster used for the same purpose. Called thus because it was round, fat and just lay there, like a Dutch wife.

Dutched

Cancelled.

Dutchman's draught

A "big swig", a copious draught; one of the many allusions to the Dutchman's reputed fondness for heavy drinking.

Double Dutch

1. Gibberish or jargon, as of infants or of a foreign tongue not understood by the hearer.

His Dutch is up

He's lost his temper.



I'm a Dutchman if I do

A strong refusal.

If not, I'm a Dutchman

Used to strengthen an affirmation or assertion.

In Dutch

In trouble, out of favour, under suspicion.

The Dutch have taken Holland

A quiz when anyone tells what is well known as a piece of good news.

To talk like a Dutch uncle

To continually lecture – a bit of a nag.

Well, I'm a Dutchman!

An exclamation of strong incredulity.

Pennsylvania Dutch

Not Dutch at all, but rather *Deutsch*, i.e. German, descendants (both the language and the people) of German settlers in Pennsylvania

Dutch sandwich

A legal tax dodge also called the Double Irish. Profits are sent to Ireland which has a high tax rate. But, Ireland doesn't tax some payments made to other EU states, so the money is sent to a shell in the Netherlands. The Dutch have very low tax laws, so it is home free. The money is then routed to an Irish - owned subsidiary in Bermuda which is why it is called Double Irish.



Willem de Vlamingh and the Black Swans

By Monica de Knecht



Willem Hesselsz de Vlamingh is mainly known as the man who cemented Dirk Hartog's claim to have discovered 'New Holland', as Australia was termed after Abel Tasman's discoveries. However he has his own place in history as a great explorer, travelling so many times that, like Abel Tasman and Dirk Hartog, there are no known portraits of him, except this one and we're even not sure that this is really him. Great traders like Jan Pieterszoon Coen and Joan van Hoorn were painted many times, as they were the 'darlings' of the *Heeren XVII*, but explorers were not so feted, unless they discovered islands of gold and spices. De Vlamingh explored the central west coast of New Holland in the late 17th century, where he landed in what is now Perth, on the Swan River. This mission was fruitless, but he did chart parts of the continent's west coast.

EARLY LIFE. Willem de Vlamingh was born in Oost-Vlieland in the Dutch Republic and baptised on 28th November, 1640. In 1664, de Vlamingh sailed to Novaya Zemlya and discovered Jelmerland. In 1668, he married. His profession was a captain of whaling and he still lived on the island Vlieland. In 1687, he and his wife sold their 'apartment' in the Jordaan.

VOC YEARS Willem joined the Vereenigde Oost Indisch Compagnie in 1688, when he was middle aged and made his first voyage to Batavia in the same year. Following a second voyage in 1694, he was asked, on request of Nicolaes Witsen, administrator of the VOC, to mount an expedition to search for the *Ridderschap van Holland*, a VOC capital ship that was lost with 325 passengers and crew, on its way to Batavia in 1694. VOC officials believed it may have run aground on the western coast of New Holland.

RESCUE MISSION In 1696, de Vlamingh commanded the rescue mission to Australia's west coast to look for survivors of the *Ridderschap van Holland*, that had gone missing two years earlier, with Admiral, Sir James Couper on board. There were three ships under his command; the frigate *Geelvink*, captained by de Vlamingh, himself; the *Nijptang*, under Captain Gerrit Collaert and the galiot (a small fast boat), *Weseltje*, under Captain Cornelis de Vlamingh, Willem's son. The expedition departed Texel, 'strictly incognito' on 3rd May, 1696. So the VOC wanted this to be a



**Nicolaes Witsen
Painting by
Peter Schenck**



Willem de Vlamingh and his ships at the Swan River.
museum.wa.gov.au
Voyages of Grand Discovery Exhibition.

'hush hush' mission. (Or maybe Nicolaes Witsen did). I wonder why. Maybe he didn't want much fanfare in case it was a failure, as he had invested his own funds. Because of the Nine Years' War with France, they sailed around the coast of Scotland to Tristan da Cunha, a group of islands in St. Helena. In early September, the three ships arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, where they stayed for seven weeks, because of scurvy among the crew. On the 27th October, they left using the Brouwer Route, on the Indian Ocean route from the African Cape of Good Hope to the Dutch East Indies. On their way east, they checked Île Saint-Paul and Île Amsterdam, but found no wreckage or survivors. On 5th December, they sailed on.

ZWAANENRIVIER On 29th December, 1696, de Vlamingh's party landed on Rottnest Island. He saw numerous quokkas, (a native marsupial) and thinking they were large rats, he named it '*t Rottenest (Rats' Nest Island)*'. He afterwards wrote of it in his journal. "I had great pleasure in admiring this island, which is very attractive and where, it seems to me, that nature has denied nothing to make it pleasurable beyond all islands I have ever seen,

being very well provided for man's well-being, with timber, stone and lime for building houses, only lacking ploughmen to fill these fine plains. There is plentiful salt and the coast is full of fish. Birds make themselves heard with pleasant song in these scented groves. So I believe that of the many people who seek to make themselves happy, there are many who would scorn the fortunes of our country for the choice of this

Willem de Vlamingh and the Black Swans

one here, which would seem a paradise on earth”.

On 10th January, 1697, he ventured up the river and he and his crew are believed to have been the first Europeans to do so. They are also the first Europeans to see black swans and therefore de Vlamingh named it Zwaanrivier (Swan River in English), after the large number of black swans they observed there. In Europe at that time, the swans were all white. The crew split into three parties, hoping to catch an Aborigine, but five days later they gave up their quest to catch a ‘Southlander’.

DIRK HARTOG PLATE. On 22nd January, they sailed through the Geelvink Channel. The next days they saw ten naked black people. On 24th January, they passed Red Bluff. Near Wittecarra, they went looking for fresh water. On 4th February 1697, they landed at Dirk Hartog Island, Western Australia and replaced the pewter plate, left by Dirk Hartog in 1616, with a new one that bore a record of both of the Dutch sea- captain’s visits.

Willem de Vlamingh found the 1616 Dirk Hartog pewter plate at Cape Inscription, Shark Bay on 4th February 1697. Stress from flattening dinner bowls to create the plates predisposed them to corrode and crack. The Hartog text was copied and a new inscription recording the date of the discovery by de Vlamingh and his crew was stamped with letter punches into the metal.



This statue was unveiled in 1997 in tribute to early Dutch seafarers & 300th anniversary of Willem de Vlamingh’s naming of the Swan River. Burswood Park, W.A.

The recovered Hartog plate was taken to Batavia in Java and is exhibited at the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. The de Vlamingh plate was attached to a wooden post with rectangular iron-planking nails. As the iron corroded the run-off caused differential corrosion reactions that help form the complex patina. The fallen plate was discovered by Hamelin in 1801 and attached to a new post. It was recovered by Louis de Freycinet in 1818 and eventually taken to Paris where it remained until given by the French people to the Australian government after World War II.

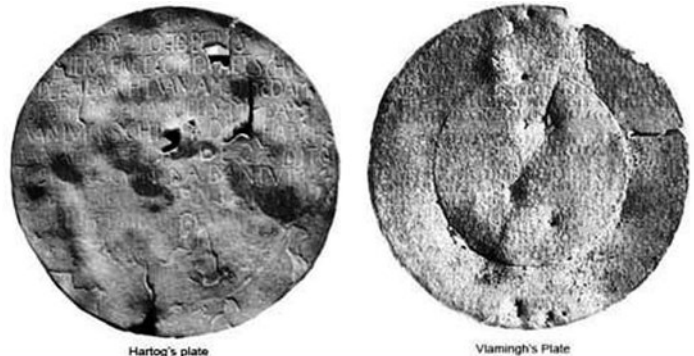


Image of the Hartog Plate and de Vlamingh’s plate. Courtesy of the Pocket Oz Guide to Australia.

Knife blade impressions showed the plate had previously been in use on board de Vlamingh’s ship *Geelvinck*. Analysis at the Australian Synchrotron showed up the original metal structure in the outer rim while the flattened bowl had an altered structure that changed the way in which the two areas corroded. It also revealed that Hamelin had used arsenical bronze sheathing tacks to attach the plate to his post. Analysis of a tiny fragment of the plate strongly indicates an English origin of the tin and lead in the pewter alloy; Cornish tin and Derbyshire lead.

RETURN FLEET AND WILLEM’S LAST VOYAGE Willem de Vlamingh, with his son and Collaert commanded a return fleet from the Indies on 3rd or 11th February, 1698, which arrived in his hometown, Amsterdam, on 16th August. (The Dutch, at that time,

still used the Julian calendar, as the Gregorian calendar was the innovation of a Catholic Pope and they were a Protestant nation). However it is not certain that de Vlamingh was still alive at that point and burial records from Vlieland around this time do not exist. On an earlier retourship, de Vlamingh had sent Witsen a box with seashells, fruits and vegetation from New Holland, as well as eleven drawings that Victor Victorsz had made on the expedition. De Vlamingh also included some black swans, but they died on the voyage. Witsen offered the drawings to Martin Lister. Witsen was actually disappointed that the men had not been more interested in exploring.

In 1699, the English pirate, William Dampier, would explore the coast of Australia and New Guinea, 71 years before James Cook. So why didn’t the English claim *Terra Australis* when Dampier discovered it. Well just look at their portfolios. – James Cook: Top seaman, brilliant cartologist, excellent astronomer, capable sea captain and on the other hand, William Dampier: Started out as their top seaman, navigator, naturalist, explorer and circumnavigator, but unfortunately turned pirate when he was

Willem de Vlamingh and the Black Swans

court-martialled for cruelty to his own men. The English thought a lot of character. Such a pity they didn't think the same when colonising their new land. All they wanted to do was to get rid of their convicts, when they lost America. But I'm not just referring to those poor wretched souls, but the ones put in charge. Some of those were very like William Dampier.

CONCLUSION De Vlamingh actually started his career with the VOC at a very late age, so was only able to serve them for 10 years. He may have been a lot more lauded if he had actually found the *Ridderschap van Holland*, as it was a very large merchantman with trade aboard and possible survivors. It's curious that the Administrator of the VOC was more interested in exploration than trade, so was it also possible that he knew that it was a vain mission and the men would have time to do a lot of exploration. If it was a success then Witsen would be lauded by the VOC and Willem would be acclaimed. Either way Witsen would be a winner. Witsen was a 'jack of all trades'; cartographer, statesman, authority on shipbuilding, ambassador and VOC administrator. Unfortunately Willem, who was the one most interested in exploration died very early. It's not told why. A possibility was that he could have died of scurvy, as so many sailors did, at that time.

However, Willem is known in perpetuity, because he named the river after the swans living in that estuary. Although they anglicised the name, the first English settlement in that area, established in June 1829, was referred to as the Swan River Colony and it was meant to be a no convict colony, but a free settlers' colony. Also many Dutch names were taken off by the English, but Rottneest Island remained, named by Willem—also the flag of Western Australia consists of a British Blue Ensign, but the badge still retains the Black Swan of de Vlamingh.



William Dampier. Explorer, pirate, circumnavigator who was once court-martialled for cruelty. Image from Shark Bay.



WIKIPEDIA AND ENCYCLOPAEDIA

BRITANNICA

AND END NOTES.

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“HAMZA – THE SPANISH SULTAN”

By Supporter & Member of the VOC Historical Society

Monica de Knecht



Spice Islands - Image from duyfken.com

Sultan Hamza, (died 6th May, 1648), was the tenth Sultan of Ternate in the Maluku Islands. He ruled from 1627 to 1648, during a time when the Dutch East India Company (VOC), increasingly dominated this part of maritime Southeast Asia and the increasing power of the Makassar Kingdom threatened the Ternatan possessions.

SPANISH EXILE AND RETURN. Hamza was the third son of Kaicili (prince) Tolu, himself a son of Sultan Hiron who ruled from 1535 – 1570. His brothers were Hafsini, Naya and Kapita Laut Ali. When the Spanish invaded and occupied Ternate in 1606, Hamza was among the many members of the royal family who were taken to the Spanish Philippines as state prisoners. While in Manila, he was hispanicised in many ways, being baptized in the Catholic faith, where he took the name, Pedro de Acuña, after the Spanish governor, who had led the 1606 invasion and married in the Church.



The Spanish Forts on the Island of Tidore 1606 – 1663 –colonialvoyage.com

Since he was therefore expected to follow Iberian interests, the Manila authorities allowed him to return to Ternate in 1627. At this time Ternate was an autonomous kingdom, but was bound by a contract with the VOC to follow Dutch commercial policy, where there were a number of Dutch garrisons on its territory. Some months after Hamza's return, the current Sultan, Mudafar Syah the first passed away.

Although there were other candidates for the throne, the Ternatan state council chose to appoint Hamza as new Sultan of Ternate, the more as he shrewdly reverted to Islam on his return. The Dutch, who were miffed that they were not consulted on the matter, feared that the choice of ruler might strengthen the Spanish, who occupied a number of forts on Ternate and its neighbour, Tidore, since 1606. They would rather have seen his forceful brother Kapita Laut Ali, the sea lord, as the new Sultan. Though fluent in Spanish and educated by the Jesuits, Hamza openly denounced his former Spanish protectors, in order to re-inforce his claim to the throne. However, he never seems to have seriously plotted to place Maluku under the sway of Manila, dur-

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“HAMZA – THE SPANISH SULTAN”

ing his reign. Nevertheless, the Dutch perceived him as an extremely cunning and ambivalent figure, who operated between Spanish and Dutch interests.

ATTEMPTS TO STRENGTHEN THE REALM There were various and disparate opinions about Hamza. He was variously described as ‘gentle and discreet’ or ‘tyrannical’. He certainly worked to strengthen the centre of the kingdom by forced migrations. Christians from Moro Halmahera were forced to settle in Malayu on Ternate Island and people from Loloda were moved to Jailolo, opposite Ternate. He also strengthened his position at the cost of the Jogugu (first Minister) and Kapita Laut Ali, (always too strong to be a true ally of the Sultan). Kapita was sent on an expedition to reaffirm Ternate’s



A Kora kora (large outrigger) from Maluku and soldiers performing a cakalele (War dance) in 1669. Image from Wikiwand.

King of Gowa had replaced Ternate as the overlord in Buton, Banggai, Tobungku, Menado and Buru. .

INTERFERENCE IN THE KINGDOM OF TIDORE. Hamza also intervened in the affairs of Ternate’s traditional rival, Tidore, which was still allied to Spain. Sultan Ngarolamo of Tidore was deposed in 1634, with Ternatan support and replaced with his cousin Sultan Gorontalo, who had lived in Ternate as Hamza’s protégé. The VOC were not very happy with Hamza’s activism, since it was apparently just a way to increase royal Ternatan influence in the region, which could be detrimental to Dutch trading interests. Hamza allowed the deposed monarch to stay in Ternate, where his

power in Sulawesi and Buton and conveniently died on route in 1632 or 1633. Hamza also sent expeditions to curb his former vassals, the autonomous leaders in West Ceram and Hitu in Ambon, during the 1940s. Ambon was a very important centre for clove production and the chiefs were not easily brought to obedience. The dissatisfied Ambonese asked the King of Gowa (Makassar), to be their protector. Hamza, in turn, called for Dutch assistance to curb the rebellion. All this formed part of the notorious Ambon wars, where the VOC troops crushed all opposition with enormous loss of life. Hamza was less lucky in North Sulawesi, where the gold-rich Gorontalo refused to obey him. An expedition in 1647 achieved nothing and the vague Ternatan claim once again had to be backed up with VOC support. In spite of the Sultan’s efforts, the territory shrank drastically in these decades, due to the great expansion of Makassar. By 1636, the



The Dutch East India Company - the Indonesian chapter. Image from indoneo.com



The Throne in the Sultan’s Memorial Museum, Tidore - North Moluccas. Image from Alamy.

“HAMZA – THE SPANISH SULTAN”



Image from an AEON essay entitled “How the Jesuits cultivated the idea of a European empire”.

daughter was married to Hamza. Some years later, however, the treacherous Hamza saw to it that Ngarolamo was murdered, when tongues wagged that he could be a threat, as his loyalty was questionable. Meanwhile, the Spanish, in turn, murdered Sultan Gorontalo in 1639 and Tidore remained allied with them until 1663.

DEATH Hamza, already old by the standards of the time, passed away in May 1648. After being a practitioner of Islam for decades he still, according to the rumours, invoked Catholic saints at his deathbed. So at heart the Jesuits had left an imprint and it appears that he only became a Muslim to gain a

throne. This was similar to Henri IV of France, who was a Huguenot and became a Catholic in order to gain the French throne. Henri cynically said “Paris is worth a Mass”.

Hamza left no sons in spite of his numerous marriages. He was succeeded by Mudafar Syah's son [Mandar Syah](#)^[14] His attempts to centralize his realm were apparently inspired by his Spanish background, since the policy of colonial rule in the Philippines was to exercise direct control over the territories. The resources of the Ternate centre were nevertheless too limited and fragile to uphold the extensive realm efficiently. The solution was to ask for assistance from the VOC when needed, which tied Ternate closer to Dutch colonial governance. He was a man who was dependent on two European powers in order to keep his throne. In spite of his guile, he was never able to be able to rule autonomously.

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VOC Chamber of Amsterdam enjoying the tribute of 5 continents (frontispiece in C. R. Boxer's "The Dutch Seaborne Empire - 1600 - 1800). Hutchinson of London)

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Frederik Coyett

The Swedish Aristocrat blamed for the Loss of VOC Formosa

By Monica de Knecht



The Dutch in Formosa (now Taiwan) 17th century. Image from colonialvoyage.com/dutch-formosa

the chief officer in Dejima first between 3rd November, 1647 and 9th December, 1648 and another term from 4th November, 1652 and 10th November, 1653.

RESCUING DUTCH PRISONERS IN JAPAN. Coyett and his brother-in-law, François Caron, were both involved in releasing ten Dutch prisoners. This centred on the *Nambu affair* of 1643, when the captain Hendrick Cornelisz Schaep and nine members of the crew of the *Breskens* were captured in Yamada in Iwate Prefecture. *This episode happened when The Breskens and her sister ship the Castricum (under Maarten Gerritsz Vries) had been sent by order of the Governor General in the Dutch East Indies, Antonio van Diemen, to search for the Gold and Silver Islands that were said to lie somewhere northeast off the coast of Japan. They were also to investigate a route to northern Asia. In June 1643, the Breskens, which had been separated from the Castricum in a storm, entered the bay of Yamada in Nambu domain capital of Morioka. They were later sent to Edo (renamed Tokyo). Unhappily for the Breskens' crew, a group of four Jesuits, intent on infiltrating into Japan, had been caught at around the same time in a different part of Japan. As a result, bakufu (shogunate) officials were extremely anxious about the problem of coastal defences. However, after it was understood that the crew were Dutch and not Catholics, bakufu fears were calmed and the problem to be solved became one of deciding by which procedure the Dutch should be released.*

ENNOBLED. Coyett's superiors in Batavia considered his service as Opperhoofd very satisfactory and he was able to maintain an optimal diplomatic stance vis-à-vis the bakufu, in the face of several difficulties and provocations. His status was also enhanced when he and his brother, Peter Julius, were ennobled by Queen Christina of Sweden in 1649.

DUTCH AT WAR WITH MING CHINA WAS THE PRELUDE TO THE SIEGE OF FORT ZEELANDIA AND THE END OF THE DUTCH RULE IN FORMOSA. From 1623 to 1624, the Dutch had been at war with Ming China, over the Pescadores. In 1633, they clashed with a fleet, led by Zheng Zhilong in the Battle of Liaoluo Bay, ending in Dutch defeat. By 1632, the Dutch had estab-

Frederik Coyett, born c. 1615 or 1620, who was buried in Amsterdam on 17th October, 1687, was a Swedish nobleman and the last colonial governor for the Dutch colony of Formosa. (now Taiwan). He was the first Swede to travel to Japan and China and was the one responsible, according to the VOC, for the loss of Dutch-occupied Formosa in 1662.

EARLY YEARS It is believed that Coyett was born in Stockholm, Sweden, in a family with Dutch/Flemish roots that migrated from Brabant to Sweden in the 16th century. His father was a goldsmith, who died in 1634, in Moscow. The prominent Swedish diplomat, Peter Julius Coyet was his brother. (As was common in these times, Coyett's name was spelled differently at different times and by different people, so sometimes it was Coyet, Coignet or Coijet.)

From 1643, he worked for the VOC. Coyett was twice the VOC Opperhoofd in Japan, serving as



François Caron (1600 - 1673). Brother-in-law of Frederik Coyett. Also a former Governor of Dutch Formosa. Image Prabook. Biographical Encyclopaedia.



Coat of Arms of Coyett (Swedish nobility) Image from Wikipedia

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lished a post on a peninsula named Tayoan (now Anping District of Tainan), which was separated from the main part of Formosa by a shallow lagoon, historically referred to as the Taiking inland sea. The Dutch fortifications consisted of two forts along the bay: the first and main fortification was the multiple-walled Fort Zeeland, situated at the entrance to the bay, while the second was the smaller Fort Provintia, a walled administrative office. Frederik Coyett, the governor of Formosa for the Dutch East India Company, at this time, was stationed in Fort Zeelandia with 1,733 people: 905 soldiers and officers, 547 slaves, 218 women and children and 63 married men, while his subordinate, Valentyn, was in charge of Fort Provintia and its garrison of 140 soldiers.

KOXINGA LAST OF THE MING LOYALISTS. In 1659, after an unsuccessful attempt to capture Nanjing, Koxinga, son of Zheng Zhilong and leader of the Ming loyalist remnants, finally gave up as he felt that the Qing Empire had consolidated their position in China, while his troops needed more supplies and manpower. He began searching for a suitable location as his base of operations and very soon a man named He Bin, who was working for the VOC in Formosa, fled to Koxinga's base in Xiamen, offered his services as a spy and provided Koxinga with a map of Taiwan.

SURRENDER OF FORT ZEELANDIA. On 10th February, 1662, Frederick Coyett was forced to surrender Fort Zeelandia, after a nine-month siege from a large Chinese force of 25,000 men and 1,000 ships under Koxinga. Coyett said that the Chinese were "little better than poor specimens of very effeminate men", when he believed there was no plan to invade Taiwan. The Dutch soon changed their tune to "Formosa is lost", once the fierce invasion was well underway. His army was decisively crushed by the Chinese and Coyett left Taiwan after that Siege, with enough supply to reach Batavia. He was then imprisoned and tried for high treason, due to his failure to hold Taiwan or preserve commercial interests of the VOC. Possibly because of his high connections to the Swedish Court, he was pardoned and exiled to Rosengain, (now known as Pulau Ai) the most eastern of the Banda islands, before he was released in 1674. In 1684 he bought a house on Keizersgracht, where the Hemony Brothers used to have their foundry. (They were the greatest bellfounders in the history of the Netherlands. They developed the carillon, in collaboration with Jacob van Eyck, into a full-fledged musical instrument by casting the first tuned carillon in 1644.)

Coyett's son Balthasar Coyett, born to his first wife Susanne Boudaens in 1650, followed his father into service with the VOC, eventually rising to become the



Koxinga, 1st ruler of the Kingdom of Tungning (Taiwan) Han Chinese (1624 - 1662) Image from Wikipedia.



Image of Keizersgracht in Amsterdam. Image courtesy of viator.com

Governor of Ambon.

NEGLECTED FORMOSA. In 1675, he published *Neglected Formosa* ('t Verwaerloosde Formosa), accusing the VOC of ignorance and refusal to send backup and that was why he lost Taiwan. Koxinga had spared Coyett's life, but the irate Dutch had sentenced him to death for the loss. William III, the stadhouder, had pardoned him, but he was still exiled.

In his exile he wrote an account of the events and a vindication of his own actions in 'Neglected Formosa', writing that the book was about 'the intentions and preparations of Koxinga's force to invade the island of Formosa and the careless and inefficient precautions taken by the Dutch authorities to defend that possession.' 'Neglected Formosa' was published in Amsterdam right before he arrived there from exile in 1675.

The first portion of the book recounts Koxinga and his father's anti-Qing activities. Coyett describes Koxinga as 'no less brave than his courageous father nourishing the same implacable hatred toward the new Manchu rulers of China.' The Mings were descendants of the Han Chinese who had a hatred of the Manchurians

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and the Yuan dynasty, founded by Kublai Khan, the grandson of Genghis Khan. The Mings had conquered the Yuans to establish their own dynasty, but now the Mongolians or Manchurians had in turn defeated them, to establish the Qing dynasty.

In 1652, a Jesuit priest had warned the Dutch that Koxinga had his eye on Formosa and was planning to incite the Han Chinese inhabitants to revolt against the colonizers. An anti Dutch uprising, led by Kuo Huai-yi, took place and the VOC instructed the Dutch governor to 'keep an eye on Koxinga'. This was four years before Coyett took up his position as Governor of Dutch Formosa. Following this Coyett wrote that he had sent periodical warnings to company headquarters, but a rival managed to convince company officials that Coyett's 'fear for a war was only imaginary and was caused by his cowardice'. In 1653 the Dutch built Fort Provintia in response to the rebellion, but Coyett criticized it as 'too feebly built' – mainly capable of just dealing with small uprisings, but unable to hold out against cannon fire.

Coyett tried to make peace with Koxinga, sending him and his commanders presents and heeding Koxinga's request to re-open trade between China and Taiwan. At the same time, he requested the aid of the VOC to repair several dilapidated fortresses and build several more – but the VOC refused to listen. They claimed that they had financial difficulties. Koxinga's force lost ground to the Qing Empire and the Dutch authorities in Taiwan were convinced that he would invade in the spring of 1660. But he never arrived, reportedly because he had gained some ground against the Qing, but he had also heard of Coyett's preparations to defend Taiwan, through his spying network.

The Company acknowledged the threat, praising Coyett for his actions, but they were unconvinced, Coyett wrote. An official had written to Coyett that "We cannot entirely believe that said Koxinga will wage a war against the Company, (unless as a last resort), as he is fully aware of how such would be to his disadvantage" (April 1660).

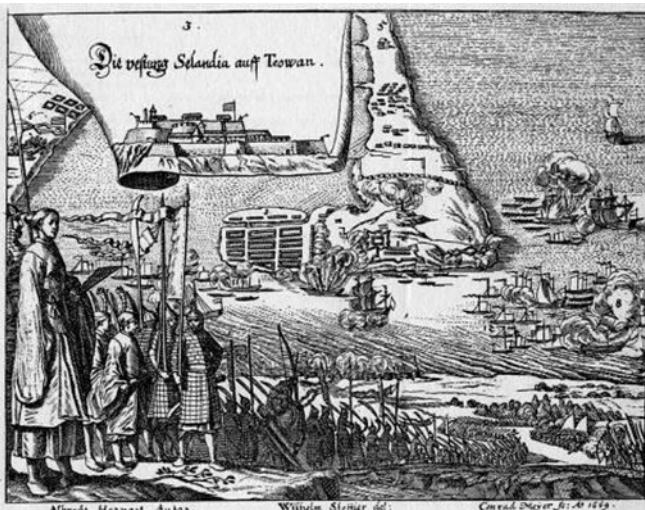
Coyett cites this attitude by his superiors as one of two main reasons for the loss of Taiwan. The second was their refusal to spend any money to bolster the colony's defences, shooting down all of his proposals. They were very angry that Coyett had bolstered Fort Zeelandia's weak east wall on his own accord.

LOSS OF THE VOC'S FORMOSA. Koxinga finally took action in April 1661, one year past the expected attack. In less than two hours, a considerable portion of the fleet had entered the colony's bays with a few thousand soldiers reaching land. His forces pushed forward and soon laid siege to Fort Zeelandia. The Company finally sent a fleet to help out, but Coyett wrote that nobody wanted to assume command of the fleet, until an adventurer, Jacob Caeuw, who had no military experience, signed on for the job. Caeuw was of little help and eventually excused himself back to headquarters. After nine months of a most cruel and bloody siege, Fort Zeelandia fell.

"Formosa is lost", was the general cry amongst all Indian nations and the *Heeren XVII* in Holland, Coyett wrote. The Council of Formosa and myself "were regarded as first-class delinquents, but these, not willing to lose their character and honour by admitting themselves to the blame for the loss of Formosa, openly declared that they had been too much tied down; that the assistance sent was not sufficient and, in short, Formosa had been neglect-



Translated
"Neglected
Formosa" by
Frederik Coyett
Image by
Internet Archive



A 17th century illustration of the fall of Fort Zeelandia in 1662.
Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commona

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Coyett before Koxinga
Image courtesy of
FACEBOOK

ed.” by the Company.

The VOC was so angry with Coyett that they sent a replacement governor, but this man saw the situation and never landed, finally fleeing for Japan. Unable to hold out, Coyett signed an instrument of surrender with Koxinga.

Coyett would have died in exile if not for his friends and family and his connections to the Swedish court, who petitioned William III for his release. The conditions were that he settle in the Netherlands and never take part in any “Eastern affairs”. His family also had to pay 25,000 guilders. (In today’s money about 1,500,000 guilders equating to approx. 750,000 euros).

AFTERWORD. Frederik Coyett had achieved much in trade, having been twice appointed Chief trader or opperhoofd in Japan and the VOC had been very

pleased with him, but they could not forgive the loss of a colony. They had been warned well in time of Koxinga and his ambitions, but didn’t consider him a risk at all. After all he was already on the losing side in China, as the Ming Empire was collapsing. When the attack didn’t come off at first, mainly because of Koxinga’s reliable spy network, the VOC thought that Coyett was just an alarmist, not to be taken seriously at all. Curiously, ever afterwards it is accentuated that it was ‘the Swede who lost Formosa’. When Koxinga did attack and their colony was lost, it was all his fault. Naturally the VOC had to find a ‘scapegoat’ for their disregard and negligence. “Neglected Formosa” vindicates Coyett, through the ages and the bust of him, side by side with Koxinga, in Tainan, indicates that the Taiwanese themselves thought him a worthy opponent for their revered Han ancestor, the last great



Michael Coyett, Frederick Coyett’s 14th generation descendant and his family, visit the Koxinga Shrine in Taiwan.
Photo by CNA

combatant for the Ming dynasty.

In 2006, Coyett’s 14th-generation descendant, Michael Coyett and his family visited Taiwan from Belgium. They visited the Koxinga Shrine in Tainan and paid tribute to him for sparing their ancestor’s life.

In some ways, I believe that Koxinga is one of the reasons that the modern Taiwanese feel so strongly that they must remain separate from mainland China. They consider themselves descendants of the great Han Chinese, who looked down upon the Mongolian usurpers; first the Yuan from Kublai Khan and then the Qing Manchu. The Qing Empire eventually fell, possibly dying from within, through love of luxury and neglect and disdain for their own people. Nationalism took over and eventually true Communism and execution or ‘re-education’ of any aristocrats left, so that art, poetry and religion,



Shen Yun - the brilliant dance group which is absolutely forbidden in Communist China. Image courtesy of thesmithcenter.com

in turn, died with them. The modern Taiwanese feel, like Koxinga that they must continue to fight against being taken over, for he, after all, started a Han-Ming dynasty anew on this little island.

Ironically, Koxinga died of malaria in June 1662, only a few months after defeating the Dutch in Taiwan, at the age of 37. There were speculations that he died in a sudden fit of madness when his officers refused to carry out his orders to execute his own son Zheng Jing, for Zheng had an affair with his wet nurse and conceived a

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child by her. Zheng Jing lived to succeed his father, so continuing the new dynasty that his father had founded, the Kingdom of Tungning. A heritage that modern Taiwanese are so anxious to protect against Communist China.



Busts of Koxinga and Frederick Coyett - made by Huang Hung-cheng in 2010. Photo by Ting Wei-chieh, Taipei Times.

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Previously unrecorded price list for Blaeu's globes:

By BLAEU, Johannes, 1674.

£20,000.

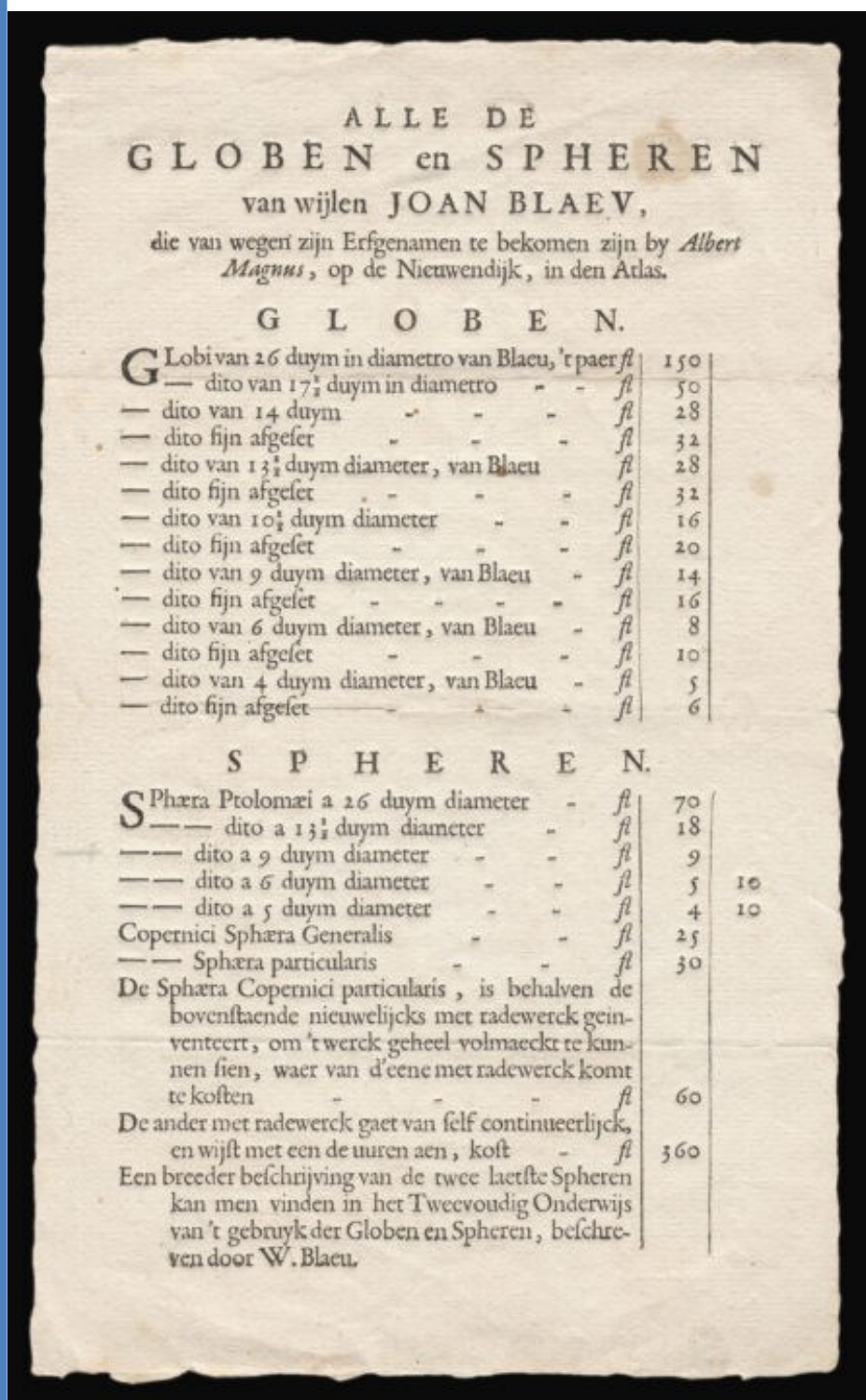
Alle de Globen en Spheren van wijlen Joan Blaeu die van wegen zijn Erfgenamen te bekomen zijn.

Ephemera

- Author: BLAEU, Johannes
- Publication place: [Amsterdam]
- Publisher: by Albert magnus, op de Nieuwendijk, in den Atlas,
- Publication date: 1674–1689
- Physical description: Letterpress broadside.
- Dimensions: 197 by 118mm. (7.75 by 4.75 inches).
- Inventory reference: 13003

A previously unrecorded price list for terrestrial globes (i.e. "Globen"), and celestial globes (i.e. "Spheren") from the estate of Joan Blaeu, offered for sale by Albert Magnus, in the "Nieuwendijk, in den Atlas".

The globes and spheres are offered singly, and in pairs, by diameter in duim (roughly equivalent to one inch): 26, 14, 13 ½, 10 ½, 9, 6, and 4 duim; coloured and uncoloured. This list suggests a more comprehensive output of Blaeu globes than is known to be the case. A comparison with the catalogue of the Blaeu inventory.



The Shimabara Rebellion and the VOC.

By Monica de Knecht



Tokugawa Iemitsu the 3rd shogun ruling at the time of the Shimabara Rebellion. reference courtesy jref.com

The Shimabara Rebellion was an uprising that occurred in the Shimabara Domain of the Tokugawa Shogunate in Japan from 17th December, 1637 to 15th April, 1638, when Matsukura Katsuie, the daimyo of the Shimabara Domain, enforced unpopular policies, set by his father Matsukura Shigemasa that drastically raised taxes to construct the new Shimabara Castle and violently prohibited Christianity in December, 1637.

A CRUEL MASTER

Matsukura Katsuie, the daimyo of the Shimabara Domain, did not only enforce the policies set by his father, but was an innately cruel and brutal man.

In the mid-1630s, the peasants of the Shimabara Peninsula and Amakusa, dissatisfied with this over-taxation and

suffering from the effects of famine, revolted against their lords. This was a territory ruled by two Lords: Matsukura Katsuie of the Shimabara Domain and Teraswa Katataka of the Karatsu Domain. Those affected also included fishermen, craftsmen and merchants. As the rebellion spread, it was joined by the rōnin (masterless samurai), who once had served families such as the Amakusa and Shiki and had once lived in the area, as well as former Arima clan and Konishi retainers. As such, the image of a full “peasant” uprising, (as the daimyōs would have it), is also not really accurate.

SHIMABARA WAS FORMERLY CHRISTIAN.

Shimabara was once the domain of the Arima Clan, which had been Christian; as a result, many locals were also Christian. The aristocratic Arima were moved out in 1614 and replaced by the Matsukura. The new lord, Matsukura Shigemasa, hoped

to advance in the shogunate was involved with various projects, including the expansion of Edo Castle, as invasion of Luzon in the (today a part of the Shimabara). As a result, he people of his new domain and Christianity. The policies The inhabitants of the fief of Konoshi Yukinaga, hands of the Terasawa family, there. Other masterless of Katō Tadahiro and Sassa of Higo Province.

REBELLION.

The discontented rōnin of the in secret on Yushima and plot 1637, when the local daikan assassinated. At the same The rebels quickly increased to join in the uprising. A



Matsukura Katsuie Image courtesy of WIKI



Amakusa Shirō, the young leader of the Shimabara Rebellion

hierarchy and so construction building and well as a planned Spanish East Indies, Philippines). Shigemasa built a new castle at placed a disproportionate tax burden on the further angered them by strictly persecuting were continued by Shigemasa’s heir, Katsuie. Amakusa Islands, which had been part of the suffered the same sort of persecution at the which, like the Matsukura, had been moved samurai in the region included former retainers Narimasa, both of whom had once ruled parts

region, as well as the peasants, began to meet an uprising, which broke out on 17th December (magistrate), Hayashi Hyōzaemon was time, others rebelled in the Amakusa Islands. their ranks by forcing all in the areas they took charismatic 16 year old youth, Amakusa Shirō

The Shimabara Rebellion and the VOC.

emerged as the rebellion's leader.

SIEGE.

The rebels laid siege to the Terasawa clan's Tomioka and Hondo castles, but just before the castles were about to fall, armies from the neighbouring domains in Kyūshū arrived, forcing them to retreat. The rebels then crossed the Ariake Sea and briefly besieged Matsukura Katsuie's Shimabara Castle, but were again repelled. Then they gathered on the site of Hara Castle, which had been the original castle of the Arima clan before their move to the Nobeoka Domain, but had been dismantled. They built up palisades using the wood from the boats with which they had crossed the water and were greatly aided in their preparations by the weapons, ammunition and provisions they had plundered from the Matsukura clan's storehouses.

THE DUTCH ENTER THE FRAY.

The allied armies of the local domains, under the command of the Tokugawa shogunate under Iemitsu (the grandson of Ieyasu), with Itakura Shigemasa as commander-in-chief, then began their siege of Hara Castle. The swordsman Miyamoto Musashi (actually a rōnin himself), was present in the besieging army, (only in an advisory role to Hosokawa Tadatohi).



Dutch ships at the siege - image by Wikipedia

The shogunate troops then requested aid from the Dutch, who first gave them gunpowder and then cannons. Nicolaes Couckebacker, Opperhoofd or Chief of the Dutch factory on Hirado, provided the gunpowder and cannons and when the shogunate forces requested that he send a vessel, he personally accompanied the vessel *de Ryp* to a position offshore, near Hara Castle. An all-out bombardment of the fortress commenced, both from the shore guns, as well as from the 20 guns of the *de Ryp*.

These guns fired

approximately 426 rounds in the space of 15 days (at least once per hour on average, not a real barrage), without great result and two Dutch lookouts were shot by the Rebels. The ship withdrew at the request of the Japanese, following contemptuous messages sent by the rebels to the besieging troops. "Are there no longer courageous soldiers in the realm to do combat with us and weren't they ashamed to have called in the assistance of foreigners against our small contingent".

THE END OF THE REBELLION AND THE JUSTICE OF THE SHOGUN.

Itakura Shigemasa was killed in an attempt to take the castle. More shogunate troops under Matsudaira Nobutsuna, Itakura's replacement, soon arrived. However the rebels at Hara Castle resisted the siege for months, which caused heavy losses to the Shogunate forces. Both sides were hard at it in winter conditions. In February 1638, a rebel raid killed 2000 warriors from the Hizen Domain. However, the rebels could not hold out forever, due to lack of food, ammunition and



A woodblock print by ukiyo-e master Utagawa Kuniyoshi, depicting famous rōnin, Miyamoto Musashi, having his fortune told. Image by Wikipedia.



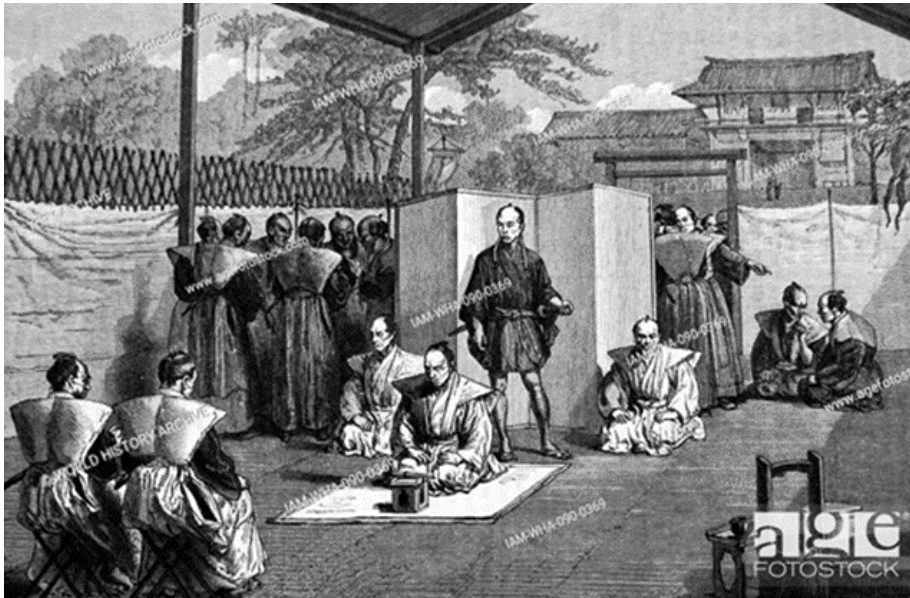
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auspicious-
dutchies-in-the-
history-of-japan**

The Shimabara Rebellion and the VOC.

provisions. On 4th April, 1638, over 27,000 rebels, facing about 125,000 shogunate soldiers mounted a desperate assault, but were soon forced to withdraw. Captured survivors and the fortress' 'rumoured sole traitor', Yamada Emosaku, revealed the fortress was out of food and gunpowder.

On 12th April, 1638, troops under the command of the Kuroda clan of Hizen stormed the fortress and captured the outer defences. The rebels still continued to hold out and caused heavy casualties until they were routed three days later on 15th April, 1638. In total the Shogunate army comprised nearly 126,000 men. The strength of the rebel forces is not precisely known, but combatants are estimated to have numbered over 14,000, while non combatants who sheltered in the castle were over 13,000. One source estimates it as at best only a quarter fraction of the size of the Shogunate forces.

AFTERMATH



Gentlemen preparing to perform hara-kiri or ritual suicide.

After the castle fell, the shogunate forces beheaded an estimated 37,000 rebels and suspected sympathisers. The teenage leader's severed head was taken to Nagasaki for public display and the entire complex of Hara Castle was burned to the ground and buried together with all the bodies of the dead.

The Shogunate excused the clans which had aided the rebellion militarily from the building contributions, which it routinely required from various domains.

However Matsukara Katsue's domain was given to another lord, Kōriki Tadafusa and Matsukara began to be pressured by Iemitsu to commit honourable ritual suicide, known in Japan as *seppuku* and to westerners, *Hara-kiri*. However after the body of a peasant was found in his residence, proving his misrule and brutality, big factors to have caused the

rebellion in the first place; Matsukara was beheaded in Edo (former name of Tokyo). Westerners may have deemed him lucky to have been denied the honourable, but horrific suicide death.

CONSEQUENCES FOR EUROPEAN TRADE AND FOR DUTCH TRADING IN HIRADO.

Tokugawa Iemitsu suspected that European Catholics had been involved in spreading the rebellion, so Portuguese traders were driven out of the country; his 3rd and most permanent edict of the national seclusion (*sakoku*) or the enduring closure of Japan from Europe or European trade. This continued for over 200 years, until the Meiji Restoration in the 1860s. Christianity was strictly forbidden and therefore it was forced underground. Christians were forced to deny their faith and embrace Buddhism, or die as martyrs.

However because the Dutch trade had been so beneficial, they were the only Europeans allowed to continue trading in Japan. I'm wondering if this is possibly because the first Tokugawa Shogun Ieyasu, Iemitsu's grandfather, had been so chummy with them; especially William Adams, (ironically an Englishman), who had been able to establish the VOC in Japan and who



The first Tokugawa Shogun, Ieyasu. Image courtesy of BBC History.

The Shimabara Rebellion and the VOC.

was given the honour of becoming a *samurai*, along with shipmate, Jan Joosten. These were men who Iemitsu, as a little boy, would have known.

However, the Dutch were banished from Hirado forever and only allowed to trade on the island of Dejima. I believe this was because when Nicolaes Coeckebacker (or Couckebacker), the opperhoofd of Hirado had failed Iemitsu in not being able to rout the Catholic rebels, when he had been asked to do so, by Matsudaira Nobutsuna. After a fortnight Matsudaira politely asked him to withdraw his Dutch troops. He 'thanked him for his help' Coeckebacker's participation in the assault was, according to his own reports, both reluctant and ineffective.

Even though he had been Chief of the Dutch trading factory at Hirado and had been successful for the VOC., he still had to go, because of the failure of the Dutch at the Shimabara Rebellion.

After this, in 1640, he attempted unsuccessfully to negotiate a trade agreement with the Trinh Lords of Vietnam. He wrote a report concerning *his Trip to Tonkin and His Inspection Tour of the Company's Comptoir in Tayouan on the Island Formosa*. After his return to Holland, Coeckebacker married and became a *Wethouder* or alderman in his hometown of Delft.

He was a close friend to François Caron, who would oversee the transfer of power to the Japanese in 1641 and who would be the first Opperhoofd in Dejima, for the VOC.

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END NOTES



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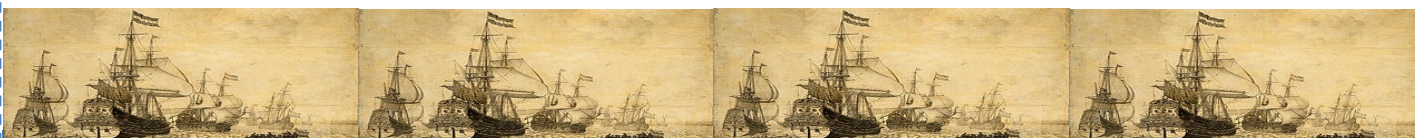
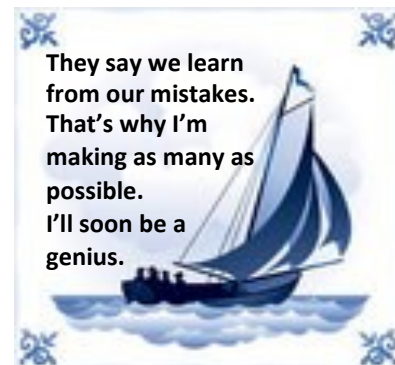
THE VOCHS *Bi-MONTHLY* NEWSLETTER

From the Editor:

Dear Members, Friends and Supporters of the VOCHS
My sincere apologies for the very lateness of this newsletter.
All sorts of problems this-a-way.
Hopefully back on track very soon.
Our Monica de Knecht is always right on the ball, thank you so much Monica de Knecht.
Hope you all enjoy the read.
Thank you .

Cheers
Henny
Secretary and Editor for the VOCHS

If you find any of our 'deliberate mistakes' in this newsletter please know that "Mistakes are lessons of Wisdom".



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