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**fries
scheepvaart
museum**

Stichting Het Fries Scheepvaart Museum

Sneek, 3 May 1994

National Maritime Museum
Greenwich
LONDON SE10 9NF
Engeland

Re: Dutch 'Tjotters'

Dear Sir,

Perhaps You know that in the Netherlands in 1955 an organization has been founded called "Stichting Stamboek Ronde en Platbodemjachten", in English Foundation Register of Round and Flatbottom Yachts. An article in "Yachting World" of January 1955, entitled 'Old Frisian Yachts' by the late Jan Loeff, introduced this foundation in the United Kingdom. The foundation aims at furthering the preservation of all types of old Dutch and Frisian yachts that still exist and stimulates the gathering of documentation about these ships.

Our "Fries Scheepvaart Museum" had been designated to preserve the old correspondence-archives of this foundation. These archives are of great value for those who try to record the history of certain (types of) old-fashioned ships.

At the end of 1992, with financial support of the above foundation and of our museum, our fellow-worker Dr. J. Vermeer was enabled to publish the book entitled "Het Friese Jacht" (HEDEBY publishing Co. Leeuwarden). At present Dr. Vermeer is aiming to compose a similar publication about the old-fashioned Dutch and Frisian 'Tjotter'. So he is gathering historical and technical details of all the boats of that type that have survived up to the present.

We know, that in the first decades of this century a number of Frisian boeiers, Frisian yachts as well as tjotters has been sold to English, even to American inhabitants. For instance, The Mariners' Museum near Newport (USA) has in his collection a real Frisian tjotter, built in 1913 by M. van der Werf Bros in Sneek. It will be evident that Dr. Vermeer tries to make his monography as complete as possible, describing all existing tjotters including those who have disappeared from our country. It is for this reason that I make an appeal to your co-operation. I suppose You know of the existence of tjotters in your country, either private property or in musea. If this is the case I hope You will make known to me where these stay and who are the owners.

We know of one tjotter that in 1958 was owned by Sir John E. Thornycroft, K.B.E.

Enclosed You will find copies of correspondence between the first chairman of the Stichting Stamboek Ronde en Platbodemjachten, commander C.J.W. van Waning and Sir John E. Thornycroft. From the letter dated 19th September 1958 (*enclosure*) it appears, that at that time Sir John was owner of a Dutch tjotter. He states, that his father, Sir John I. Thornycroft, bought the boat from a friend of a certain Mr. Charles Ricardo about 50 years ago - that means about 1908 - and took it to Bembridge in the Isle of Wight. Fifteen years later some repair work was done to it and the boat was brought to London. A drawing (numbered 26317) (*enclosure*) was enclosed with this letter, while also reference was made to a photograph. In his reply dated 3 october 1958 (*enclosure*) chairman Van Waning informed the owner about the origin of the type of yacht in question and requested to have additional prints of the drawing to be presented to the three principal maritime museums in Holland. It is in this way our museum became a reprint of the drawing concerned. From further correspondence (letter dated 20th January 1959 of Cd. Van Waning to Sir John Thornycroft) (*enclosure*) it appears that the tjotter was registered under number 200 in the "stamboek van Ronde en Platbodemjachten"; a plaquette bearing this number was sent to Sir John Thornycroft, to be fixed at a suitable place in the boat.

Since 1959 no further correspondence with Sir John Thornycroft or later owners of the said tjotter could be traced. Hence we are anxious to know whether this boat still exists. Possible You may know that if so, could You let us know name and adress of its present owner. In addition, if You know more ships like this in the United Kingdom, I would be grateful to hear about.

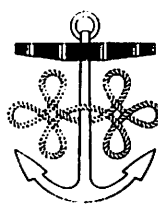
Looking forward to Your reply, I remain,

Yours faithfully

S. ten Hoeve, director
Fries Scheepvaart Museum

Enclosures.

Copy B



NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

S. ten Hoeve
Director
Fries Scheepvaart Museum
Kleinzand 14
8601 AD Sneek
Holland

6 September 1995

Dear Mr Hoeve

Firstly my apologies for the delay in replying to your letter but I have been through several office moves in the last year and I must of mislaid the file.

I have done some research in our library based on the information you supplied and have been unable to trace a vessel fitting this description under the ownership of Sir John Thornycroft.

I then traced several living relatives of the Thornycroft family and was eventually put in touch with John Margetson. He told me, to my surprise and relief that he once owned this vessel and that he sold it to a Kirean Markham. Apparently he still owns it and it is currently under going restoration in Norfolk. I have been told he would be interested to hear from your colleague and his address is:-

2, The Gables, Pulham Market, Diss, Norfolk. Tel.No. 01379
608071

I have contacted other relevant museums in the country as to whether other examples of this type of craft survive but unfortunately none have come to light so far.

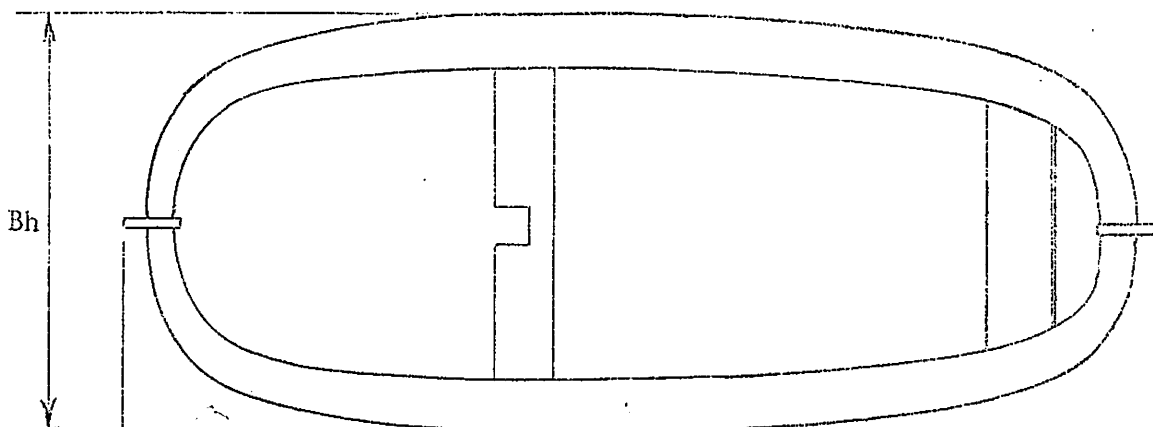
I hope this information will be of use to your colleague and once again my apologies to both for the delay.

Yours sincerely

Simon Stephens

Simon Stephens
Curator, Maritime Information Centre
Information Division

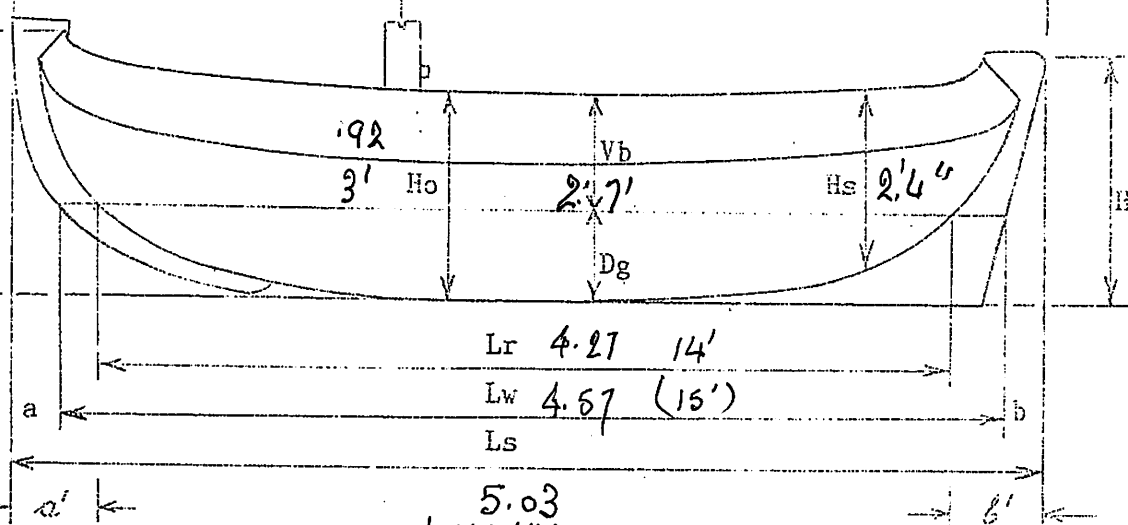
6'3"
1.91



(6.2) PB 1.88

169 PM
5'6 1/2

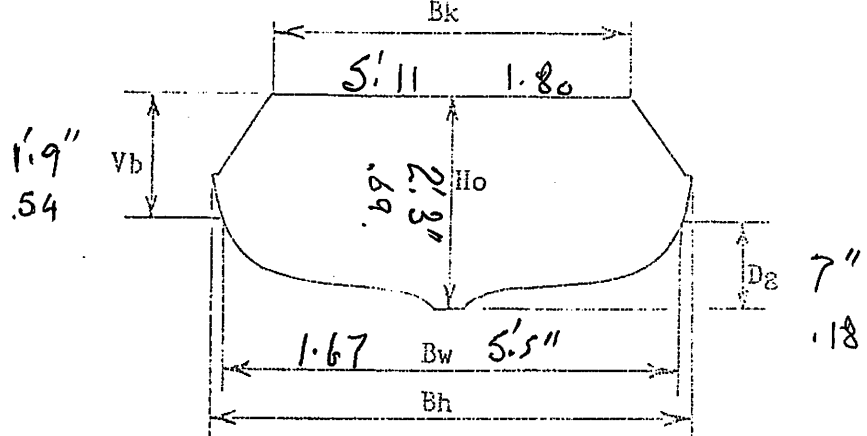
.97 H_v
(3'2")



.94
3'1"

Lr 4.27 14'
Lw 4.57 (15')
Ls

a' 5.03 (16'6") b'



1'9"
.54

.69
2'3"

7"
.18

6'3"
1.91 m