

C.J.W. van Waning

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Rotterdam, 3-10-1958
Mecklenburglaan 57

Sir John E. Thornycroft K.B.E.
Thornycroft House
L o n d o n

Westminster S.W. 1

Dear Sir John,

It was indeed a great surprise to me to receive your kind letter of September 19th, with enclosed the really marvellous drawing of your "tjotter" and the photograph showing her at Bembridge about 1920. An interesting note to the drawing may be, that it fills a rather important gap in our still young and incomplete collection of such drawings.

Every year (if we can find the funds) we have a drawing made on scale of one of the older Frisian or other Dutch yachts which were built without the use of such facilities. So far we had no drawing of a "tjotter" and we feel most grateful for your valuable contribution to our endeavours.

Mr. Charles Ricardo had your present "tjotter" on the Thames already about 1908, which brings her building date (if she was newly built) between 1900 and 1908. It is of course difficult to decide who built her ?

Taking her length from stern to stern from the drawing I come to almost exactly 5 m (16' 4").

Her beam is 7' or 2.11 m.) $\frac{\text{length}}{\text{beam}} = 2,4$ which is normal for a tjotter of her time.

Perhaps the oldest kind of "one design class" in the Frisian yachting world was the "four-eight"-class, which had a length of 4.80 m (15' 10") and a beam of 2.40 m (8') - l:b = 2.

This class was popular between about 1850 - 1890.

The carving on the planking near her bow and stern show curls of a shape typical for more than one Frisian yard.

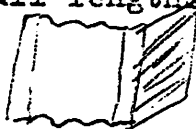
The carving on the rudder seems unusual to me: It does not show a peacock with long stretched feathers and a flower in her beak as most Frisian "tjotter"-rudders have.

In the beginning of the 20th century the yard of Lantinga at IJlst was the leading tjotter builder in Friesland and almost the only one, who built them in numbers for "export" to "Holland", that means to the Provinces North and South Holland, Amsterdam, Rotterdam etc., and probably sometimes to England.

The chance that Lantinga - who is still living at IJlst - did build your tjotter seems fair, but only for the simple reason mentioned above.

There are however some indications on the drawing that point in another direction. - The number of hull plankings 19 is 7 on each side, which is at least 2 more than the usual number. This can be an indication for an even nobler origin than Lantinga. As the lines of the hull or a section at the bow and stern are not shown, it cannot be decided if it perhaps is what we call built with a "piek" (pronounced: peek), which means that a section near to her bow and stern is not round like but about

If further the (original) frames are carved with two lines over her full length than their is a good chance that she was built by the most famous boier and tjotter builders of Friesland: Eeltje Holtrop van der Zee - 1823 - 1901 or rather his son Auke van der Zee - 1853 - 1939.



Perhaps you could have a look of the shape of her bow and stern, when she is in her winter berth ?

According to the law of our Foundation every owner of a round and flatbottomed yacht with side boards of Dutch origin is considered automatically as a "Friend of the Round- and Flatbottom Yacht" (in Dutch: "Vriend van het Ronde- en Platbodemjacht").

Our honorary secretary, Dr T. Huitema of Wassenaar, will give you further particulars about our Foundation and its activities; these will show you that your new function as "Friend" gives you only rights and no obligations.

In the meantime your tjotter will be promptly registered in our "Stamboek". I hope she has got a name, painted or carved on the proper place, the little panel on the back of the stern seat ?

If possible, we would like to have 6 prints of the drawing DRG 26317. Three of these prints will be presented in your name to the principal maritime museums in Holland:

- a. Nationaal Historisch Scheepvaart Museum at Amsterdam;
- b. Maritiem Museum "Prins Hendrik" at Rotterdam;
- c. Fries Scheepvaart Museum at Sneek.

They all three keep a collection of such drawings and we help them where we can. Perhaps it is a nice idea for Mr. D.J.D., who made the drawings, to know that we consider his work worthy of that honour.

I hope that my efforts to collect some information about your tjotter have been of any use to you.

Thanking you again for the interest shown in our work, we remain,

yours faithfully

Stichting Stamboek Ronde- en
Platbodemjachten

Captain C.J.W. van Waning, C.B.
R.Neth.N.retd.
Chairman.