

Dr Ir J. Vermeer
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Hemelum, 28 September 1995

To: Mr Kirean Markham
2, The Gables
Pulham Market
Diss
Norfolk
England

Re: Dutch *tjotter*.

Dear Sir.

From Mr Simon Stephens, curator Maritime Information Centre of the National Maritime Museum of Greenwich, I heard that you are the owner of a Dutch *tjotter*, formerly owned by (the late?) Sir John E. Thornycroft of London.

The reason why I am interested in this boat may become clear to you from the following. With a view to publish a monography devoted to this type of vessel, I am gathering historical and technical details of all *tjotters* that have survived up to the present: I may refer to enclosure A, copy of a letter dated 3 May 1994 from the director of the Fries Scheepvaart Museum at Sneek to the National Maritime Museum of Greenwich.

From further copies (enclosures B to E) you will see, that we knew of the existence of the *tjotter* of Sir John Thornycroft, thanks to his correspondence with the then chairman of the foundation "Stamboek Ronde en Platbodemjachten", captain C.J.W. van Waning.

Taken up the intention to compose a *tjotter*-monography, I wondered if the Thornycroft-*tjotter* would have survived up to the present. It will be evident that I was very glad to hear from Mr Stephens that she is still alive and that he could inform us about the present owner (he got your adress from Mr John Margetson). Moreover he mentioned that he has been told the boat is currently undergoing restoration.

It may interest you to know, that at present about 15 of what we call 'big *tjotters*', dating from the period 1880 to 1930, are still in existence; about an equal number of a somewhat smaller type exists as well.

As said, the intended monography will contain historical and technical details of all existing *tjotters*. Hence I would like to put a number of questions to you, hoping you have the answers.

1. What is the present name of your *tjotter*.
2. Do you know of former names.
3. Where do you sail with her.
4. When did you buy the boat.
5. Who was the previous owner; where did he live.

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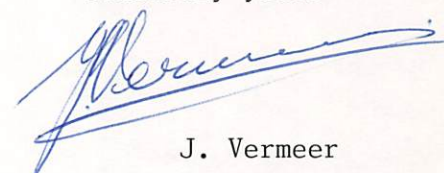
6. Do you know of former owners, in particular after the tjotter was no longer the property of Sir John Thornycroft.
7. Do you have, or should you be willing to make, a series of photographs for documentation purposes, showing details of the boat (including the wood-carvings), an overview of it, as well as a picture of the boat under sail; the photograph mentioned in the enclosed letters has disappeared.
(I have included a few examples from my former book on 'Frisian yachts' as enclosure F).

Finally I would ask you to consider the possibility of taking a set of measures of your boat according to the schemes which I have enclosed with this letter (enclosures G and H). With the aid of the drawing (enclosure G) I suppose you may be able to interpret and translate the terms of the list (enclosure H).

To end with I have enclosed a photograph of a model of one of the finest Frisian tjotter, called "Albert en Nelly", one of the top-pieces of the 'Fries Scheepvaart Museum' at Sneek.

Looking forward to your highly esteemed reply, I remain

sincerely yours



J. Vermeer

Enclosures:

- A Letter from Fries Scheepvaart Museum to National Maritime Museum, dated 3 May 1994
- B Letter from Sir John Thornycroft, dated 19 September 1958
- C Letter from Capt C.J.W. van Waning, dated 3 October 1958
- D Letter from Capt C.J.W. van Waning, dated 20 January 1959
- E Letter from Sir John Thornycroft, dated 20 February 1959
- F Copy of a page of my book 'Het Friese Jacht'
- G Measuring scheme
- H List of measures

Photograph of tjotter-model

Copy to

Mr S. ten Hoeve, director of Fries Scheepvaart Museum