

Vis A Vis

MEDEDELINGEN VAN DE STICHTING FAMILIE VIS VAN ZAANDIJK



HERMAN HEIJENBROCK
(1871 - 1948)

Drawing by his daughter
Ine

HIS STAY AT ZAANDIJK



A short biography

The painter Herman Heijenbrock became known in particular as a painter of industry. The representation of the worker and of the industry he made his life-work. In Vis A Vis nr.36 "The rice mill The Union" a pastel of him from 1915 has been shown. Johan Coenraad Herman Heijenbrock has been born in Amsterdam July 27, 1871. After a few year the Heijenbrock family moved to Rotterdam where the father at first was a manager of a bakery and at a later stage runs a store for shipping materials. In the harbour of Rotterdam he gathers a lot of information regarding goods being shipped there. From his 17th till his 19th year he attends drawing lessons at the academy of art at Rotterdam. At the end of the years of his study he receives fourty guilders for a painting of an interior which amount he

spends for a trip to Belgium. There the heavy industry in the Borinage, the region southeast of Liège, gave him together with the coal-pits and the

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gether with rolling-mills, iron-foundaries and steel-works. His paintings are exhibited in Germany and in England.

The outbreak of worldwar one makes travels abroad impossible.

In the meantime his paintings became known in the Netherlands also- He gets the opportunity also here to represent the industry, amongst others in the colemine district, Twente(the textile industry), the Zaan region and Rotterdam and its surroundings. After 1918 he continues to work in our country.

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It should have been in the course of the first worldwar or just there- after that he with his family lived at Zaandijk. He then stays at Lagedijk 56 the house of the engine builder P.M.Duyvis who in turn moved to the house at Blaricum. This was a real exchange of dwellings. Pieter Matheus Duyvis a brother - in-law of Jan Marinus Vis receives as a token of gratitude from Heijenbrock the oil-painting "View on the Zaan from Lagedijk 56 Zaandijk" which is shown in this article. On this painting one sees to the left the windmill "The Stork" and next to that mill the oilmill "The Watchman"of the company Teunis Crok . At the other side of the Zaan the silo of the oil-mill of Teeuwis Duyvis attracts the attention. Lagedijk 56 is a beautiful situated wooden house a long one in the length situated alongside the road. In the days Heijenbrock stayed the ditch alongside the road was still there with the large number of small bridges. To the house of P.M.Duyvis belonged a garden: at the other side of the ditch one could go to over such a small bridge. Later Caron moved into the house and further Bakker. At the moment it is the house of the former notary Zegers.

As a result of his wanderings through Rotterdam harbour Heijenbrock got a great interest in the raw materials and the products that were brought there from faroff countries. He made a large collection regarding these items. This collection was exposed in 1922 in the Amsterdam Municipal Museum. One year later the society "Museum for Labour" was founded the purpose of which was to preserve the collections of Heijenbrock and to enlarge them.



The Lagedijk at Zaandijk about 1920. The second house from the right with the opened window in the top floor is nr.56 , the house of P.M.Duyvis. To the left the bridge to the Bosstraat. The bridge behind that leads to the garden belonging to the house.

ners expressions came into our language. Also from that it is possible to tell something about the introduction of windmills. However one should not think that these mills were alike the beautiful mills one can admire at present at the Zaanse Schans. . These mills were so-called pole-mills. A heavy wooden case with four arms, rotatable around a heavy wooden pole which was strongly supported. Luckily a number of this type of mills has been kept in our country. Most of them are in an excellent condition.. An example is shown in this article. On a drawing of New Amsterdam, nowadays New York one sees clearly such type of mill. At a later stage the lower part of the pole has been covered.

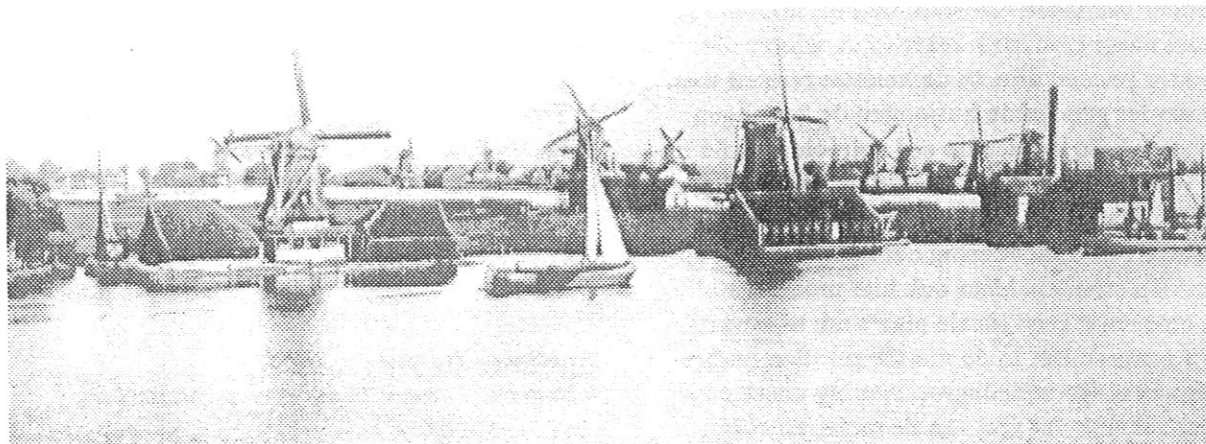
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These first windmills were exclusively flour-mills. The farmers who had to bring their wheat to the mill had to cede part of the yield to the count or other authority. I made the photo of the pole mill in 1976. The mill then looked fine, in an excellent condition. The windmills to get water to a higher level are of a much later date. Their development made it possible in the 17th century to reclaim a large area of land from lakes and the sea.

How was it possible that just at the Zaan the first industry area of Europe and possibly of the entire world came into existence. For an explanation we have to go back to the days of the 16th century and even earlier. In those days there was an extensive trade and shipping to the Baltic. At least as important as the trade later on the Far East. The Zaan region took a large part in this. Amongst others fish and salt were brought to the countries around the Baltic and wheat, rye, hemp and rapeseed, ~~wood on the journey back~~. A large shipbuilding industry was the result of these activities. Inexpensive and easy transportation of the endproducts by water was also a favourable aspect. And it should not be forgotten that contrary to the towns at the Zaan there were no guilds that were in the way of free enterprise. On top of that enterprise and zest for work were fully available. And finally wind was there in abundance.

Then we pay attention to the personnel that worked on the mills. That was very different as to number. About 5 to 6 in a oil- or woodsaw- mill till 40, 50 or even more in a papermill. In general it was heavy and long work and very unhealthy. In the oil-mill the workers were completely deaf as a result of the noise of the machinery, in the mills that peeled groats or rice there should have been a lot of dust, continuously. Not too good for the lungs. In the mills that produced white lead, the raw material for the paint of the same name, the conditions were very bad. White lead is a poisonous powder, at present the production or use are forbidden. The men working in such a mill should have died at a young age. The wages were low and if people got involved in an accident and became unfit for work they could go to the parish. The majority of the mill-owners never thought about the old-age of their men. However we should not forget that in other parts of our country and in other trades it was just the same.

In an oil-mill people worked on piece-wage which implied: no wind no wage



Mills at the Zaan, opposite
Zaandijk. Around 1900

Algemeen(a social institution) in the summer of 1820 paid a visit together with three notables to Frederiksoord (a colony of benevolence) Jacob Vis wanted to see the results of this social policy. He was in particular interested in way of living of some inhabitants of the Zaan region. In a careful way we may draw the conclusion that Jacob Vis has been a progressive person, at least for that time.

literature:

Jan Hajo Vis

P.Boorsma Duizend Zaaansche Molens
 Amsterdam 1958
J.Th.Balk Kijk op Molens
 Amsterdam 1979
Drs.H.A.Visser Zwaaiende Wieken
 Arnhem 1979
Dirk Vis & Jacob Vis JCz.
 Vis A Saandijk 1974

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OIL-MILL THE COLOURED CHICKEN (BONTE HEN)



photo Jan Hajo Vis

The photo above has been made in 1976 from the locks at Zaandijk, The mill in question is the utmost northern mill at the Zaanse Schans. The mill has been built around 1693. On January 27., 1693 Claes IJsbrantse Brant offers for sale a saw-mill called the coloured chicken situated between the mills the ox and the wolf, both oil-mills. The sale was withdrawn but on March 3 1693 the mill became property of Claes Jansz.Kee. Probably the mill was one of the first saw-mills and was demolished. It was replaced by an oil-mill very soon. On November 12., 1693 mentioned Claes Jansz.Kee became participant in an insurance contract with the mill the coloured chicken. Known is that when the oilmen's contract was established in 1727 the mill was a double one. On September 13., 1846 the mill was sold to Teunis Crok for 4 thousand guilders. On July 17., 1890 the mill has been struck by lightning. No fire started but the damage was large. In the next year the mill was taken up by the then established company Crok & Laan. Till 1911 it functioned as an experimental mill. In this mill the

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