

1 Sijtje Boes

In the second half of the nineteenth century, Marken was discovered by so called "Vreemden" (strangers). Just like in Volendam artists were drawn to the sight of the colourful traditional clothing and the little town with its beautiful harbour, the small alleys and the many bridges. When the 'Vreemden' came, it meant a growing source of income from the poor Markers. There was one woman who was as first! She had a business instinct and made Marken into a tourism attraction! For sixty years she shown visitors her modest typical house. The souvenir shop she also had, is still standing at Havenbuurt 21, where you can still buy your souvenirs! In 1983 Sijtje Boes died.

2 Hof van Marken

In 1903 there was a fire in Hotel de Jong, in Marken. The fire had severe consequences. The houses were all made of wood and stood so close to each other that in a short time, all nearby houses were burning. The fire department in Marken could not handle this fire alone and needed help of the department in Monnickendam. At that time, Marken was still an island, so the fire truck was loaded on a motorboat. That night it was so foggy that the boat could not find Marken, so they had to turn back. The fire destroyed many houses. After 1903



Hotel de Jong was rebuilt, nowadays known as Hof van Marken. This was also the place where the painters stayed to paint the picturesque island. The Hotel was the first to receive a phone connection on Marken, everyone loved to use this!

3 Clog factory



Very welcome by one of the oldest clog makers from the Netherlands. Did you know that clogs are actually from China? Of course these clogs were a different shape, but in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands they looked at the Chinese Clogs.

After inventing the steam machine, clogs were made industrially. This worked way faster but still it was a lot of hand tailored work. You also needed to be very crafty. Moreover, with the sharp chisels, powered by steam, it was a dangerous job!

In the Netherlands clogs are still made for daily use, in this clog factory they will show you how clogs used to be made, as if time stood still.

The machine which you will see inside, made an impressive journey across the world, the machine was built in 1913 in Germany and was used here. Marken was still an island then, but the distribution of clogs on the main land was much easier, so the steam machine was unnecessary in Marken. After being used shortly in Amsterdam, the machine was sold to a Brazilian sugar cane plantation. The steam machine has leather straps, these could very badly handle the weather in Brazil, it was too expensive to maintain this machine. The machine was stored in an old barn for years until an antiquarian picked it up and brought it back to the Netherlands. In Limburg they used this machine in someone's home to generate electricity (very luxury for that time), but the woman of the house didn't really like this machine. The pros never outweighed the cons.

The current clog maker went beyond anything to preserve the atmosphere from then and to restore it to 1913. His collection of steam machines is quite impressive! The



collection was already expanding when he found a steam machine which looked a lot like one of an old factory. It took over a year to repair the leather straps, complete the bobbins and get the machine working properly again. Only one original chisel was preserved in the factory, but the rest were found all over the Netherlands and Germany.

4 Zereiderpad:



In the thirteenth century Marken was separated from the rest of North Holland by a heavy storm. In this time monks from Friesland bought this island and practiced agriculture and had cattle's. To protect the island, they built their farms on heights, the so-called 'werven'. The Zereiderpad was the connection path between these 'werven'; the Monnikenwerf, nowadays a part of the Kerkbuurt and the disappeared Kloosterwerf, now under water. On this picture you see two little boys on the Zereiderpad. In the traditional clothing boys were skirts, just like girls. Even their hair was just as long. When boys turned 8 and girls turned 10 years old, they got clothes which looked more like grown up clothes. The fact that the Marker traditional clothing is so extensive is due to the fact that little agriculture was possible. When the men were at sea, the women and children were dependent on each other. Therefore, there was enough time to richly decorate the clothes with embroidery.

5 Dairy farm

In the summer you can enjoy the beautiful colours of cows grazing outside. Don't be surprised if you have to wait on the bike path for crossing cows! A nice sight. You are also welcome to take a look at the cows inside. On Saturday it is even possible to visit the local products shop, which can also be found on the farm.



Previously, the Marker farmers didn't have lots of money. Most of the men were fishermen, but in 1881 there was a woman left on her own with three small kids, her husband drowned at sea. She was forced to start farming. Marken continued to be flooded regularly, which had major consequences for the quality of the grassland. In the summer the cows were outside on soggy pastures. Extra income was derived from selling hay, which they grew extra long to reduce the chance of hay growth. The hay was loved in the Vecht region where the Markers sailed across the Zuiderzee.

After the Afsluitdijk came, things went better. It remained difficult to create a stable market for the products. In the summer they had a surplus of milk, in the winter a shortage so that in the winter they tried to make butter and cheese. Marken had about sixteen dairy farmers in 1957, after the dike was built on the mainland. Nowadays there is only one farmer.

6 The Goudriaankanaal

After the flood of 1825, in which large parts of Waterland were flooded, King Willem I wanted to protect Amsterdam against storm surges by closing off the IJ. In order to give the city a good connection with the Zuiderzee and thus with the world's seas, it was decided to dig a canal of IJdoorn through Waterland, the Gouwzee and Marken: The Goudriaan Canal. If the plan had been carried out, much of Marken would have been excavated. However, Amsterdam strongly opposed the high costs. In 1828, the king decided to stop the excavation work. The dams in the Gouwzee were removed and the canal filled in. The narrow locks are still there. Since then, the route of the canal as it was plotted on Marken and in Waterland has remained visible.

7 Werven

The various Werven can be clearly seen from the "farmers path" (Oosterpad). Little is known about the origins of the Werven. Over the centuries, about 27 names of Werven have been known. Over time, the Werven have been expanded and densely built up, some of them even so close that they are next to each other. Around the Werven lay "bleaching fields", small grasslands where residents used to bleach their laundry. Near the lighthouse there is still a lost yard to discover, the land here is much higher than the rest, this was previously the Noorderwerf.

8 Lighthouse 'Het paard van Marken'



Marken has had its own lighthouse since 1700, on the eastern tip of the island. At the time it was a mark on the route from the Wadden Sea to Amsterdam. The current lighthouse was built in 1839 and absolutely worth a visit. In winter, ice sometimes forms around the 16-meter-high lighthouse. In 1971 this was so bad that the tower was pushed a few inches from its place. The old light was replaced in 1992. This old light can still be found at the harbour of Marken at the KNRM.



9 The sugar ship

Marken was also occupied during the Second World War, but things were going well here. There was not much to eat, but the Markers obtained a fantastic medium of exchange on October 4th, 1944, which put them in a kind of glory time! Six ships were moored at the Marker dike when the lighthouse keeper looked out of the window. Unfortunately one of the ships has sunk! A watchman had glanced at this ship, it was full of sugar. This sugar had been claimed by the enemy in Dinteloord and on its way to Germany. From that moment on it went fast! It was like a gold rush. Boats rowing to the sunken vessel, hoisting sugar on board and back to the dike as fast as they could. Sugar was dragged all day long on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, not on Sunday. When the Markers wanted to pick up the last bags on Monday, the ship was already empty! Nevertheless, there was enough and this was a perfect exchange for wheat and other food, a real party!

10 War Memorial

The War Memorial stands in front of "Het Trefpunt", the village hall of Marken. This commemorates the victims of World War II. There is also a memorial here that reminds the residents of Marken of the crash of a Short Stirling BK 710 aircraft in the night of May 25-26, 1943. The propeller blade on the memorial is from the original Short Shirling BK 710.

11 Marker Museum



The museum is housed in six historic houses in the old centre of Marken.

The museum provides an unique insight into how people used to live on the island. In the museum you will find an old Marker fisherman's house and a historical collection of Marker traditional clothing. Every year a different theme is highlighted in the museum. This museum is currently closed.

12 Church



The Big Church on Marken was built in 1903 and 1904, but some elements in the church are way older. The hexagonal pulpit, the lectern, the chandeliers and a copper double sconce date from the 17th century. The clock in the tower also dates from the 17th century. If the church is open, it is definitely worth taking a look at the ship models inside. This church is also one of the highest points in North Holland!

13 Nicknames

Nicknames on Marken were just as common as in Volendam, fewer people live on Marken so the nicknames were mainly practical, so Trijntje from Piet from Klaas from the Tower. (The original lighthouse inhabitants). Several streets and neighbourhoods also had names. Moeniswerf was so far away that it was called England. At the bottom of the harbour you will find Moscow, Siberia and Nova Zembla because these were cold and difficult to reach with a lot of water and bridges. Behind Taverne de Visscher is neighbourhood IV, that was called France. It was fairly sheltered and pleasant. In the Kerkbuurt you will also find various signs on houses with for example: Vrolijke buurt (Cheerful neighbourhood).

Marken is completely surrounded by water, which could make it quite dangerous for children. Parents wanted to keep the children at a distance as much as possible, so stories were told about the nokker, which would catch you if you got too close to the water!

14 The cemetery

This cemetery was built in 1820 on a hill to protect the deceased from the water. The island was regularly flooded and it used to happen that the coffins bobbed around after a flood. The coffins were therefore given a brass plate with the name on it, so that they could get buried again in the right place. Marken is not so large and the graves were assigned under numbers. It happens that three people are buried under the same cemetery. The cemetery is very modest and sober, but it suits the Marker community.

15 Tavern de Visscher:



This is the oldest tavern in Marken. Traditionally, this tavern also had a liquor store function and was therefore partly the central meeting place on Marken.

Gossip and news spread faster here than beer could be tapped. Till today the old house has been preserved in its original state and the founder's wooden boat collection is still displayed in the tavern. In our opinion, this is the best place to stop for a coffee or lunch. The only dish that has never disappeared from the menu? The Marker fish tasting.

16 "Kijkhuisje"



A visit to Marken naturally includes a glimpse into the life of the Markers of the past. In this old house on the harbour you can see with your own eyes how the Markers lived less than a hundred years ago. The houses on the island then exist in only one room, often many people lived there. Families with over ten children were no exception! The bedsteads consisted of several layers, so not only the parents, but also a large number of children could sleep in this.

Marken is world famous for its traditional clothing of which there is a numerous variety. For example, there is not only special clothing for Whitsun, Easter, King's Day and weddings. When a Marker is in mourning he or she wears dozens of different versions of the traditional clothing during the seven stages of mourning.

17 The Wave

In 1916 Marken and many other villages on the Zuiderzee were hit by a major flood. Imagine: Because of the high waves, botters and vessels were knocked over de harbour dike against the houses. The wailing and crying for help went through the bone. People were sent out with ladders, ropes and tarpaulins, but they were told that the matter was hopeless and the dike would not win against the water despite all the effort. In memory of this disaster, which killed 16 people, the monument "The Wave" was revealed at the port of Marken in 2016. The image depicts a wave at sea; the design was chosen by the people of Marken themselves.

18 City coat of arms:

The flag mainly consists of two colours: Azure blue and mustard yellow, you also see these colours in the "Kijkhuisje". This flag shows the head of a Moor, the origin of this image has not been confirmed. Several statements are circulating, we have listed some of them.

- Early Marker sailors saw a insignia with four Moorheads nearby Italy. That would be the idea for decorating the flag of Marken. But they did not want to exaggerate and were satisfied with one head..
- The coat of arms may represent Christ or Saint Mauritius. There is no evidence of this either.
- It is also possible that girls with loose morals, who lived in Marken, could get a visit from sailors after a long journey. These had tanned heads and would have been called "Moorheads" by the girls.



Marken also has its own national anthem, there are no Moors in it. This song is still sung on festive occasions. The lyrics and music were composed by Albert Klarenberg who lived on Marken for only a few years. Probably the island had already won his heart over in this short notice!