

D. DE JONG, H. KOBELL EN M. SALLIETH (illustrators)

*Nieuwe beschryving der walvischvangst en haringvisschery*

Amsterdam: H. en G. De Roos en H. Vermandel

1792 facsimile reprint

Franeker: Van Wijnen

1992

514 pp.

f.239,50

The first well-known work on old Dutch whaling is the book by Captain C.G. Zorgdrager: *Bloeyende opkomst der aloude en hedendaagsche Groenlandsche visschery* (Prosperity and rise of the old Dutch and present Greenland fishery), issued in 1720 and 1727. A German translation appeared in 1723 and was reprinted in facsimile in 1975. The second, more comprehensive work was written by anonymous authors. It was entitled *De walvischvangst met veele byzonderheden daartoe betrekkeelyk* (Whaling, with many relevant particulars) and appeared in four volumes in Amsterdam and Harlingen in 1784-86. It contains a wealth of information and was widely advertised. A reprint was issued by J. and G. Roos and H. Vermandel in Amsterdam in 1792 with the title *Nieuwe beschryving der walvischvangst en haringvisschery* (new description of whaling and the herring fishery). The names of the three illustrators, D. de Jong, H. Kobell and M. Sallieth, appear on the title page and this edition is generally catalogued with these three artists as the authors. It was largely translated into French and published by Bernard de Reste under the title *Histoire des pêches, des découvertes et des établissements des Hollandois dans les mers du Nord*. It appeared in three volumes in Paris in 1801.

The Dutch edition of 1792 comprises 514 pages, 6 maps and 15 pages with pictures. It deals with whales, seals, other Arctic mammals, birds and fishes in the Arctic seas, the history of Dutch discoveries and fisheries in those seas, and the geography and history of Arctic countries and islands and their inhabitants.

Contemporary and later historians and anthropologists often referred to this useful, comprehensive work.

The increase in interest in the history of whaling - now largely a past industry - has induced a Dutch publisher to issue a facsimile-print of the *Nieuwe beschryving* in one finely bound volume of 23 x 28 cm, selling at the price of f.239,50, 200 years after the original appearance of the book. The price may seem somewhat high, but the book is large and is well printed. It can be ordered from Uitgeverij Van Wijnen, P.O. Box 172, 8800 AD Franeker, Netherlands.

A translation of the *Nieuwe beschryving* or parts of this work is in fact more worthwhile than one of the older books by the brave Captain Zorgdrager. Mr Joost Schockenbroek has written a pamphlet with a brief survey of the history of old Dutch whaling as an introduction and this has been inserted into the facsimile reprint.

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