



New Netherland Institute  
Exploring America's Dutch Heritage

# Goovert Loockermans

# Correspondence and Papers

*Stuyvesant-Rutherford Papers, box 23*

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## Introductory notes on the translation

As a trained archaeologist and professional linguist born in Flanders and currently living in New Jersey, this project is meaningful on many different levels. First of all, I feel honored to have been chosen for this task, and I am grateful for the support I have received from Janny Venema and Charles Gehring. Their insight, knowledge, and support have been invaluable.

This collection of the papers of Govert Loockermans is a treasure trove. It offers a rare and cohesive glimpse into an active period in the life of the Flemish merchant as he lived in New Amsterdam and worked for an important Dutch trading house in Amsterdam. The collection is a series (box 23) in the Stuyvesant-Rutherford papers housed at the New-York Historical Society. It contains Dutch-language letters from 1647 to 1662, a Dutch-language auction report from 1671, and several legal documents in English (reflecting a changed political reality) from 1683 to 1700. The Dutch-language documents are translated here. I worked from a transcription by Janny Venema made earlier from microfilm, and used a set of pictures that I had taken of the documents to update the transcription (done by Janny), and as a reference when a translation was missing or obscure.

Throughout the translation I strove to maintain the integrity of the original. The tone, formalities, jokes and friendly banter, and the seriousness of the scolding and defending were kept as close to the original as possible. The same is true for details that were commonplace to contemporaries but less obvious or accepted now. With my background in archaeology, my goal is to simply present what is there. The researcher should read these translations with that in mind and draw his or her own conclusions. This can best be illustrated by the following example. Govert writes in several letters about the *wilden*, or savages, in reference to Native Americans. I maintained the literal translation of ‘savage’, fully aware of the current understanding and sensibilities regarding such names. It is my opinion that as a source document we should keep it free from modern coloring and interpretations. While such references to Native Americans may be shocking to some, it serves as a reminder that the thinking of the time was very different from our own. We can choose to look down on the less-refined moral sensibilities of our ancestors, who spoke so disparagingly of fellow humans and often treated them reprehensibly. But if we do so are we not committing the same error? That is, looking down on people because they seem ‘primitive’ or ‘savage’ using whatever standard one might choose to compare them to us. So with that as food for thought—and as a clarification of my reasons for certain translations—I leave it up to you, the student of this turbulent and fascinating era, to read these translations for what they are: a snapshot of a time long-gone, an unembellished look into the lives and thinking of people who struggled to carve out a decent life for themselves.

Other difficulties in the translation are much less profound. Even the letter-writers themselves did not always know for sure, it seems. In one case (letter F3-C), we find ‘*min en vrindtschap*’, with *min* translated as ‘agreement.’<sup>1</sup> In the original letter (F3-B), however, we find ‘*mijnen vrientschap*’, simply ‘my friendship’. Did the person copying the letter infer that *min en* = *mijnen*, or was it a transcription error? Variations such as these are frequent in these copies, as they are seldom word-for-word. Another difficulty is punctuation, which was not always used as it is in modern Dutch. The writer often uses what could be called ‘train-of-thought’ writing. Govert does this especially when he writes letters without sufficient preparation, something for which he is scolded later by Seth Verbrugge. Some references and expressions have lost their significance over the centuries, and we can not be completely sure of their meaning. When going from one language to another, there will invariably be a certain loss of meaning. An indispensable tool when working with the 17<sup>th</sup> century vocabulary in these letters was the ‘*Geïntegreerde Taalbank*’, which has an integrated language base, providing several historical Dutch

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<sup>1</sup> See ‘*iets in der minne regelen*’, meaning ‘to come to an amicable agreement’. *Min*, *minne* are old words for love.

dictionaries on the Internet, with a very useful reference tool that can be found at <http://gtb.inl.nl/>. Together with the help of Janny Venema—who was able to point me to the correct base words—this tool allowed me to verify the meaning of obscure words in order to translate them correctly. At the time of these letters there was no uniform spelling yet, either! I left names of people, ships or places in the spelling as used in the letters, without making them uniform throughout. With place names, I used the English (e.g. ‘New Amsterdam’) without further clarification if they were places that were easily identified, or used a footnote when the link was perhaps less clear (e.g. ‘*kerstoffel*’ for St. Kitts). All that being said, I am confident that these translations are accurate reflections of the originals. Where the original was formal, I tried to be formal as well. Where I felt the originals were more informal—as was often the case in parts of the letters between Govert and Johannes Verbrugge—I would often allow myself a bit more freedom to express the feeling, rather than the form, of what was written.

For me—a very recent immigrant to the U.S., from the same Flanders from which Govert Loockermans hailed—these letters offered more than historical facts. Through the centuries that separate us, we see a life to which we can relate. We can imagine the smirk on the face of Johannes Verbrugge as he wrote to his friend that Govert’s wife implores her dear husband to please not just ask for stockings, but to please let her know which color so she can make sure they will match Govert’s pants and shoes. On a deeper level, Govert had to deal with the death of his wife and the surprising passing of Seth Verbrugge, people who very dear and close to him, yet so far away. My own youngest brother, Chris, was similar to Seth: a man in the prime of his life, 26 years old, a member of the Belgian Elite Forces and in far better shape than I will ever be. Yet within a year his body succumbed to a rare cancer and he died in December 2013. Not being there when this happened, following the news about his health from this side of the Atlantic as I was working through this translation, made these stories in the letters that much more personal and relevant. Apart from what we learn about trading practices, about the references regarding privateers and so on, these letters are at times deeply personal. We can only guess at the anguish, hope, and joy that the people in these letters went through.

It is my hope that this translation will make these letters more widely available and encourage their study. Scholars of this early colonial era and the interested public can come to a deeper understanding of the people behind the mere ‘facts of history.’ Perhaps high school students could contrast the time between incoming and outgoing letters with our current instantaneous messaging platforms. Whether you are a descendent of one of these original settlers, a newer immigrant like myself, or simply someone with an interest in this period, these letters will offer you new insights into this small slice of history. If, when you have finished reading these letters, you feel that you have not only learned something new, but also that you ‘know’ these people a bit better and that this history has come alive, then I will have achieved my goal.

This translation is dedicated to my brother Chris.

Wim Vanraes  
August 5, 2014  
Hillsborough, New Jersey



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# Quick Reference: Summary and Chronology of the letters

## I. No Date

Letter 1 (F1-A) No date [reaction to being scolded, preparation to sail to Virginia, ] Govert to associates in Amsterdam (written between May and October 1649)

Letter 2 Gillis, (F1-B) No date, Seth Verbrugge, Govert Vander, Gerret Arentsen, with note from Seth [asking help for Johannis De Peijster]

(both letters appear to be 1 letter, but the content of the first seems to be written by Govert, not Gillis)

Letter 3 (F1-C) No date, Govert to Seth [writes about trip, who they sailed with]

## II. 1647

Letter 4 (F2-A) Jan Jansz Visscher to Seth [notification of having set sail, asking for reimbursement] 7 written on the *Valckenier* April 16, 1647

Letter 5 (F2-B) Gerret Arentsen/Seth VB to Govert [instruction regarding convoy to join] written in Amsterdam, April 27 1647

Letter 6 (F2-C) Govert to Gillis and son [talks about how business is, how the commander did not want to deal until the Princess had left, talks about trip leaving August 2 to South River, talks about objections against local edicts]

Written in Manhattan in 1647, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Letter 7 (F2-D) Seth to Govert [few instructions, guidelines for trading, request to keep Stuyvesant as friend, update on participation cost in the enterprise, request to write at any chance, about all kinds of news, and Goverts wifes needs color for stockings]

Written in Amsterdam August 12 1647, previous letter from Govert, written on May 9 was received July 22 (quick voyage)

On front, added in different ink: To Mr. Govert Loockermans, merchant in Manhattan Received through Vasterick on November 13, 1647

Letter 8 (F2-E) Seth to Govert [received news about good crossing for Govert on Sept. 25, news *Princess*, how to deal with business because of it]

Written in Amsterdam, November 1, 1647

Well preserved octagonal seal present, with S V B

Letter 9 (F2-F) Govert to ship-owners [birth of son of Stuyvesant, on Oct 8 the *Vallickenier* set sail, Oct 13 Govert goes up north, returns Dec 2, organization of municipal councilmen) (added letter, from Jan cousin Verbrugge, to inform that Govert left on March 19 to sail south, confirm hearing about the *Princess*]

Written in Manhattan, received previous letter from Aug 12 on Nov 13 (No actual date, only year 1647, but added letter seems to be of later date, in 1648. other letter shows date of Dec 12)

### III. 1648

Letter 10 (F3-A) Johannes Verbrugge to Govert [Asks help for Claes Bordigh, teasing regarding Govert's desire to have wife with him]

Written in Amsterdam on March 24, 1648/ Received letter from December 12

Letter 11 (F3-B) Seth to Govert [long letter, dealing with sale of received goods, buying of new, scolding Govert for writing about other things but the trade, lesson in business letter writing, taking advantage of loss of *Princess*, talk about prices for wood, fur, issues in England and Company, discussing request for Goverts wife to come over, talk about pearls and scales, request to have cousin Jan VB write down everything, (page missing with ending?)

Written March 26 1648 in Amsterdam, received letter on December 19 with the *Valckenier*

Letter 12 (F3-C) Copy of letter 11, but more complete. Extra page talks about some business, exhort to pay attention to the sale when the ship arrives, that the ship is following in 14 days.

Written on March 30, refers to last letter written on March 26, but that some details were forgotten.

Letter 13 (F3-D) From sesh to Govert, [cover letter, to deliver the letter that is enclosed, probably letter 12]

Written in Amsterdam on April 4, 1648

Letter 14 (F3-E) Johannis VB to Govert [confirm receipt of letter, news Vasterick, various business items, news from pestilence in Curacao, Barbados and St Kitts, death of a cousin]

Written New Amsterdam April 11, 1648

Letter 15 (F3-F) Govert to Uncle and assoc. [confirm receipt letter about Virginia on March 26, confirm receipt news Princess, talk about the setback that causes, talk about business which is slow, complaining about the small peddlers who travel inland to trade, forcing him to follow suit – on March 9, returning any day now- , talk about new venture to new tribe of black savages, request for book De Laet, requests their response before winter, talk about what sells in Virginia, such as masts]

Written in Schuykill, New Netherland on the yacht *De Hoop*, May 27, 1648, sent with Swedish ship *De Witte Swan*

Letter 16 (F3-G) Copy letter 15

Letter 17 (F3-H) Johannes to Govert [confirmation receipt letter on first of May, confirmation sending goods Govert asked for, mentioning Stuyvesants promise to get first dips on cargo of brasil wood from Curacao, update on debtors, trade is bad, requests reply. List with goods that should have been received by Govert]

Written May, New Amsterdam

Letter 18 (F3-I) Gillis to Govert [confirmation receipt 2 letters, raising doubt about promise commander, expecting *Valckenier* back by end of Oct. No real news, except that May 17 peace with Spain was declared from town hall. Death cousin Pieter, brother of cousin Jan on July 8.

Amsterdam, July 10 1648, delivered by skiller Elcke Reynder



Letter 19 (F3-J) Cousin Jan to ship-owners [confirmation of receipt letter, complaining about red tape in New Amsterdam, tip about fur that might be coming. Govert went upriver July 25, for 14 days. Last minute news from his skipper, that 2000 skins will be sent as well]

Manhattan, August 5, 1648, received last letter on June 22, copy sent with Vasterick

Letter 20 (F3-K) Gillis to Govert [information about price estimates, suggestion to take advantage of opportunities such as sale of prize from privateers]

In Amsterdam, August 18 1648

Letter 21 (F3-L/M) Govert to ship-owners [last letter was sent with the *Pijnappel*, no news since. Brandy is good for selling, opportunity because sale of content Danish ship, and from *De Cat*. Had been up north for 8 weeks]

Written in Virginia, December 14, 1648

Letter 22 (F3-N/O) Govert to ship-owners [issues with goods because of Stuyvesant, loss because goods were spoiled during voyage, trade south is expensive, mention again of tribe of Black savages and possible other nation as wide open market. Talk about debts, response about his request for his wife with explanation why he asked, complaining about dealing with the WIC, bill of sale, informing about sending pearls]

Manhattan, 1648. Last letter on August 5 with Vasterick, previous one with Danish ship. Ship-owners letter about Virginia received on March 29, on South River. Returned Manhattan on July 11, received the other letters.

Letter 23 (F3-P) Continued from letter 22? [info about rifles and powder, writing about what he plans to send over with *the Pijnappel*, about hides, instructions for next order to be sent to New Amsterdam

Letter 24 (F3-Q) List of sale of goods in New Netherland (extra page with letter 23)

Letter 25 (F4-A) Copy of Letter 26

#### **IV. 1649**

Letter 26 (F4-B) Gilles e.a. to Govert [sale of goods sent to Amsterdam, trade news, responding to Goverts requests, predicament: sail early, or get other merchants over early as well? Instructions in case Stuyvesants requires their ship for aid to Curacao, issue about high debt WIC owes them, warning of danger therein, news of death wife Govert, talking about Govert returning, requesting all books and accounting, bricks can't be brought over as ballast]

January 20, 1649, went with Vasterick

Letter 27 (F4-C) Johannes to Gillis e.a. [talk about cargo that he accepted, goods he has and tries to sell, plan to go to South River again]

Manhattan, April 1649, received both letters about Virginia on April 3<sup>rd</sup>,

Letter 28 (F4-E) Gillis e.a. to Govert [Invoice with goods that they sent over, request to settle debts, some warnings/advice, work done on ship, sending pearls back to Govert, discussing issues with WIC, talk about different people and business with them.]

Den Helder, May 11 1649, their latest letter was sent with Vasterick on January 20, copy enclosed.

Letter 29 (F4-F) copy of letter 28

Letter 30 (F4-G) Johannes to ship-owners [update on packing and prep to return to Amsterdam]  
Manhattan, August 10, 1649

Letter 31 (F4-H) Govert to Ship-owners [confirm hearing news about death wife, confirmation receipt goods with *Valckenier*, defending his actions, wine was good to sell, requests not to be sent retail goods, informs of souring relation with Stuyvesant, bad deal with him]  
Manhattan, August 24, 1649 (copy)

Letter 32 (F4-I) Johannes to Gillis e.a. [update with mostly small talk, some updates about receipt of goods and such.  
Manhattan, September 20, 1649, sent letters on August 24.

Letter 33 (F4-J) Gillis e.a. to Govert [confirmation receipt letter and *Valckenier* in good order, and list with accounting, no updates, as certain projects are still underway, Vasterick should arrive soon, reply to Govert's defense re: pearls  
Amsterdam, October 6, 1649, received letter from Govert on October 5

## V. 1650

Letter 34 (F5-A) Gillis e.a. to Govert [explaining why no new goods are sent, request to get balance, accounting, etc. income from ship's cargo and passengers]  
February 7 1650, but only sailed out March 7/8. Refers to last letter, sent with Heeremans, on December 17, 1649 with account of what came over with the *Valckenier*.

Letter 35 (F5-B) Gillis e.a. to Govert [copy of previous letter: explaining why no new goods are sent, request to get balance, accounting, etc. income from ship's cargo and passengers, New content: talk about what was sold, updates to fee policy on ship, news of case against WIC, malt and hops are being sent.]  
Copy written February 7 1650, but only sailed out March 7/8. Refers to last letter, sent with Heeremans, on December 17, 1649 with account of what came over with the *Valckenier*.  
New content: Amsterdam, March 24, 1650

Letter 36 (F5-C) Seth to Gillis e.a. [explaining why he came, as winter is slow, that he sailed on The Kitts, but too late, no trading, update on what was bought and ready to be shipped to Holland,  
Virginia, March 18, 1650, received letter on March 20 1649.

Letter 37 (F5-D) Gillis e.a. to Govert [Letter is accompanying general account and supporting docs, update on cargo, discussing closing the contract, ordering Govert to be strict with passage fees (no freebies)]  
Amsterdam, April 20, 1650

Letter 38 (F5-E) Govert to Gillis e.a. [received letters from Vasterick and with *Valckenier*, woman overboard, update on goods loaded and what is expected still.]  
Manhattan, August 10, 1650, *Valckenier* –with letter - arrived on June 28

## **VI. 1653**

Letter 39 (F6-A) Notary Public [sale of land of Govert]  
New Amsterdam, February 11, 1653

## **VII. 1662**

Letter 40 (F7-A) Hoochland to Govert [update on receipt of letter and goods, advice on action re: damaged goods, family news, tobacco update, trading instruction, Seth VB surprisingly died on Jan. 10]  
Haarlem, January 13, 1662

## **VIII. 1671**

Letter 41 (F8-A) Auction summary  
New York, June 10, 1671

# Govert Loockermans Correspondence in Modern English

## I. No Date

[New Document] F1-A

*No date [reaction to being scolded, preparation to sail to Virginia, trading and shipping details about the cargo] Govert to Gillis e.a. in Amsterdam (written between May and October 1649<sup>2</sup>)*

I am telling you, he doesn't keep his word! Now he accuses me of being a thief and a windbag, and he says everyone is haughty and that they do not respect him enough. Or that I haven't made an effort to keep his promises with me, and so on. That has made me very angry. If I were free to act, it would not have ended well!

You write about the thick wool cloth that came last year and other old wares, that there was enough. It seems that there are people who made an inventory that I wasn't aware of, which surprises me. Had I received thick wool cloth instead of chests and old curtains and instead of other goods received cloth, I would not have to buy more of those. So, if the master wants to send something over again, make sure it is nothing but goods for the savages, following the specifications as enclosed with this letter.

4092:30:8:

678: 3:9:

3713: 7:9

I wrote that I had to buy thick wool cloth, which I did. I bought good wares from Ever Tesselaer, for 4,092 guilders, 30 *stuivers* and 8 pennies, and that at 50 percent, as it is done in Holland, all at his risk. The part he owes the masters will be deducted from the 4092:30:8. So when the ship arrives in Amsterdam, he will come according the deal, so that the masters will pay him the sum of 3,407 *stuivers* and 4 pennies for the pearls he

brought at his risk, as can be seen in the promissory note given to him, Tesselaer. The invoice with what we bought from him will be enclosed.

You wrote me about the pearls you returned to me, that you would not have gotten a hundred guilders for

Just as the brother of Hartenbarigh will tell you, and in the way he'll tell you, there's a chance to cook him a pudding. Vasterick has brought a great quantity of contraband, for which he'll get a good price. But I'll refer to the friends mentioned here.

them. It surprises me that you sent them back to me because you could not get your money from it, even though this is what trade is all about. When the ship arrived here last year, you sent me a scale and ordered me to buy pearls.

*[new page]* It gives me a strange feeling to send those back now. Had the master returned the pelts to me as well, those that had been sold so dirt cheap, it would not bother me. But I hear and see and still count on what the friends have arranged with the skipper, who would tell me what to do with the pearls at a different time. It would be best that, if we came across something rare or small gadgets or something costlier, that I would buy those on my own account. That way it would not be sent back to me as if I were a little boy, or as if there was any lack of trust. It would be real nice if I would return to others what we had fully bought from them. It would be easy for the merchants arriving in Amsterdam to buy a large lot of goods

and complain they could not get their money's worth in return, and then be free to return what they had bought.

<sup>2</sup> This letter is incomplete: First page(s) with date is missing. Govert to Gillis e.a., talking about the pearls that were sent back. (Date derived from content of other correspondence: letter from Gillis e.a. to Govert, written on May 11, 1649 talks about returning them, Gillis e.a. wrote to Govert on October 6, 1649 with a response to Govert's defense, telling him to reread the May 11 letter more carefully.)

Here it is not so: what one buys, one keeps. Even if it means losing<sup>3</sup> half!

I was under the impression that they were much nicer, so that we'd make a pretty penny on them. That is why I bought them! The skipper had great trouble here because of the cargo. He has accepted the beaver at 7 guilders and some on condition, as you will surely hear from himself.

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, I bought from the Company 1,600 lbs of tobacco for 9 *stuivers* per lb. in cash, and could not buy with credit<sup>4</sup>, as they're short on money. It seems that all that they get falls in to a bottomless pit. The tobacco is really good! I hope that it will cash in at 16 to 18 *stuivers* per lb., as it isn't Caribbean tobacco. I remembered that Henderick *de snijder* once brought such tobacco home and that he gained a pretty penny on it. I hope get the same result. *[new page]*

In regards to the debts that are open here, they're all good debts. I trust there won't be a deficit of 500 guilders, which will be paid with tobacco, beaver, grain and peas. The brandy has been handed to Viesthal, who was very pleased. He will trouble the friends again!

The skipper delivered the goods for Stuyvesant. This fall I hope, if the good God so pleases, to send a lot of tobacco home from Virginia, as I am planning to send cousin Jan to Virginia with our crate, in which we have a stake of a fourth, with a lot of wares, to see if we can get our surplus sold to make returns. In Fort Orange are our biggest losses, because Vasterick has all the farmers in his pocket and obligated them by oath to buy goods from no one but from him.

How the skipper does it, with the cargo secured in the hold [??]<sup>5</sup>, that is quite something. As it isn't my job, I would not be able to get it as good as he does! In regards to the expenses, he has received 26 guilders per beaver. It is good that the masters make agreements with the people who come from the Fatherland, because it is very easy here. And if it were not specified, it would be very difficult here to receive 6 guilders per beaver. Here one has to give ten guilders in loose sewant for a beaver, making them here expensive and in the fatherland cheap. It would therefore be best that the friends understand that we are going from here with a vessel over other waterways to acquire returns, just as Jacobus, my brother-in-law, will tell you.

The masters can now indeed look for themselves and estimate how our business stands and what our profit was, according to the enclosed list. We have done our best to send over what we were able to get, and we have verified our affairs as closely as possible so you can have *[new page]* full confidence in them. Had the friends been here themselves, they would not have been able to have done a better job.

Mr. Stuyvesant has paid everything, the pelts as well as the taxes and other things, and we have settled very amicably. This way we calculated the recognition, how much he received from each hundred. He calculated otter, bear skins, elk skins, beaver (2 halves) [5 *gershuijden* ??] against 8 guilders apiece. From a hundred eight were bought against wine as payment against eight guilders apiece. We had nothing against that.

We did have some hard words, because I wanted to count the beaver just as the pelts are sold in the Fatherland, but that could not be as all the merchants are treated alike.

The 11 vats of sugar that we are sending concern us and Hartenbarich. Since we bought them together, we'll have to sell them together. The friends will be able to see here in the enclosed list how much each pound costs. The cargo is a *stuijver* per pound, just like the merchants from Hamburg who are in agreement with me, according to the enclosed contract that was made with them. The paperwork for this contract is in the box, together with all the other paperwork such as cargos, costs and bills of exchange. In addition, 1 bale of cotton has been shipped, which I bought from the Hamborger merchants. I paid 80

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<sup>3</sup> Orig. 'al waer men daer de helft aen bekooft': 'bekopen' as in 'dat zal ik me duur bekopen', here translated as 'losing', given the context.

<sup>4</sup> Orig. 'rescontreeren'. WNT: "6. Als vakterm in den termijnhandel. Op een vooraf bepaald tijdstip de dan aanwezige schulden en vorderingen met elkaar verrekenen onder betaling van het verschil." Given the context, 'to credit' seems the best translation.

<sup>5</sup> Orig. has 'sprin', meaning unknown. Context seems to point to translation given above.

guilders and 10 *stuivers* for it, as you can see in the enclosed bill, and the wares from Juryen<sup>6</sup> Schroder. You can have that bale weighed and sold, together with the cargo, in accordance with the contract. Mr. Stuyvesant will pay you in Holland for the cargo and for the boarding fee for his 2 servants and for the lead. But I do not know yet how much he has had. The skipper will be able to tell you, because he said he would have you all be paid everything he owes you in Holland.

[New Document] F2 B

*No date [Fragment of letter, showing the end: some random business details, signatures, and an added request by Seth Verbrugge to help Johannis De Peyster] Gillis e.a. to Govert, most likely continuation of the previous letter (F1)*

He is therefore allowed to know everything, and you collect everything from him. This way your wife and we can get what is ours. We have put an advance on 176 ells of thick cloth, measured according to the plumb line<sup>7</sup>, and they would not cost us more than 31 *stuivers* ----- In addition, there is also that one piece that has been shipped separately. It is quality ware and dirt cheap. You can sell sassafras, but not for less than 5 to 6 guilders per hundred. Having nothing else to add, I will end. Have heartfelt greetings from all of, and stay commended to God.

Gillis Verbrugge  
Seth Verbrugge  
Govert Vander [Liphorst]  
Gerret Arentsen

General letter to cousin Goverdt Loockmans

Cousin Goverdt Loockemans, I, your cousin Seth Verbrugge, would have written you in private, but time is short. I had the best intentions! I would like to ask you to help the young man, Johannis de Peyster, when he arrives over there on our ship. In case he asks for help, he's my wife's uncle's sister's son, from a good house. If you could use his help now and then, either in the store –he has worked for a long time in a silk store- or for errands, he will do it gladly as he is a good and loyal servant. He is making the trip to try something out. I have nothing left on my end. With heartfelt greetings from me and my wife,  
Your affectionate cousin,  
Seth Verbrugge

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<sup>6</sup> Juriaen

<sup>7</sup> Orig. 'op de maet volgens het lood'. My interpretation is that he used the plumb line used for depth measurements – an international standard—as a way to convey the exact length. No other instances confirm this. Another interpretation is given in the WNT: "Een voorwerp, van eenig merk voorzien, dat aan een stuk geweven stof, in 't bijzonder laken, wordt gehecht als waarmede van de soort, de deugdelijkheid, den oorsprong enz"

[New Document] F1-C

*Not dated [Short letter, providing general travel info] Govert to Gillis e.a.*

To the Honorable and trustworthy  
Mr. Seth Verbrugge,  
In Amsterdam

Mr. Gillis Verbrugge and son,

Dear beloved Uncle and cousins,

I have received your letter well, and learned from it that *the Valckenier* has been equipped. It surprises me that the costs were that high! But, if it is God's will, it will be a successful trip. I have no doubts He will bless it and give me good health so I can trade it to the best possible profit as will bring us blessing. I am confident He will grant that.

Also, we have joined a *straetsvaerder*<sup>8</sup> with 24 guns, a *bresielvaerder*<sup>9</sup> and two *fransvaerders*<sup>10</sup>. There are even more ships sailing west, but they have not yet arrived here. The skipper from *De Posthoorn*, sailing to Angola, hasn't arrived here either, but we will depart in company according to what Kroon tells us.

We've had a strong wind here, but thank God there has been no damage. Your son Johannes Verbrugge will tell you the situation. Furthermore, I will send the bill of the costs regarding my wife. I have nothing more for now, so be commanded in God's mercy, who will bestow on us that which will bring us blessing, and who pleases to give us safe travel, since we will set sail today.

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<sup>8</sup> Ship sailing to or from the Street of Gibraltar.

<sup>9</sup> Ship sailing to or from Brazil.

<sup>10</sup> Ship sailing to or from France.

## II. 1647

[New Document] F2-A

*Jan Jansz Visscher to Seth [notification of having set sail, ask for reimbursement], written on the Valckenier April 16, 164*

Seth Verbrugge,

Honorable and trusted Sir and friend, after greetings and well wishes, let all be well.

This letter is a notification that today, around noon, we have traversed past Pampus<sup>11</sup> and that we have hired two ships for eighteen guilders. Could you kindly reimburse that? Could you also send another 2 *vadem* of firewood for the cook's oven, as there is little wood available and we will be needing it. We would also need 2 easels<sup>12</sup> to put food in, and a pail with iron hoops to scoop up water with. I have nothing more to add now. Be greeted, and remain in the protection of the Most High. Vale<sup>13</sup>!

Written on the ship *De Valckenier* on April 16, Anno 1647

H. B. W. B. Jan Jansz Visscher

[New Document] F2-B-p.2

*Gerret Arentsen/Seth VB to Govert [instruction regarding convoy to join] Written in Amsterdam, April 27 1647*

Honorable pious Jan Janse Visser, First Officer on the ship *De Valckenier*, going to New Netherland, at the wharf in front of the bulkhead, is to deliver this letter to Mr. Govert Loockermans, merchant on the same ship.

Post Tessel

Mr. Govert Loockemans [F2-B-p.1]

Honorable, providential and very trustworthy Sir and friend,

We understand that the two ships laying ready at Tessel going to the East Indies will go under sail with the first good wind, either through the inner passage or the outer<sup>14</sup>. So we and the others understand that you will set sail with them. In order to know the time of sailing, could you ask the commander or both skippers if they would kindly signal you when they raise anchor, so you would be allowed to go together. In our judgment, you will have a good convoy with them.

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<sup>11</sup> 'Pampus' was a shallow on the river IJ, in front of the coast of Amsterdam, not really a sand bank but rather a channel that got silted up. Heavy loaded ships had to wait for high tide in order to get past it, causing a well-known delay. At times other ships or so called 'ship camels' were used to give the heavy merchant ships more bouyancy so they could sail the shallower river all the way to Amsterdam. (the 2 ships mentioned here).

<sup>12</sup> Device to hold food (?).

<sup>13</sup> Latin formula, literally 'Be well!'.

<sup>14</sup> Possibly referring to passage through the North Sea, which was through English control, or passage from 'behind' the British Isles, i.e. north of Scotland.



And with this, honorable, providential and very trustworthy Sir and friend, may you, together with your skipper and accompanying friends, remain under the protection of God, and I wish you the fear, peace and blessing of the Lord. Amen.

Amsterdam, this April 27<sup>th</sup>, a.D. 1647

Your friend, Gerret Arentsen  
Seth Verbrugge

[New Document] F2-C

*Govert to Gillis and son [talks about how business is, how the commander did not want to deal until the Princess had left, talks about trip leaving August 2 to South River, talks about objections against local edicts] Written in Manhattan in 1647, August 2<sup>nd</sup>*

Gillis Verbrugen and son  
God be praised, on the Manhatans, Anno Domini 1647

Very beloved uncle and cousin,

I am writing you with all due reverence that –thank God- our voyage has been short! On the 28<sup>th</sup> of June we all arrived in Manhatans, well and healthy. God be praised and thanks for His good mercy! I have to write that business has been bad, and still is poor, because we’ve had a mild winter and only few furs have been trapped. We have an agreement with Willem de Kay for several wood planks at thirty-three *stuivers* each as cargo. We also have there 3 to 4 hundred pieces of that same ware. We will bring these on board with a party brazil wood, if we can get to an agreement with the commander. He does not want to come in agreement with us before the Princess has left.

At that point, we will buy it with the three of us, myself and Willem de Kay and Jacop. There is about 25 *last*. This makes me confident that we will have better cargo going out of here as we had when leaving Portugal, because of what each of us seeks out to ship. Regarding us, I am confident we will be sending over two thousand furs back home.

I would write more about everything, but time is short. I will write more later with our own ship. I am also sending the friends a bill of exchange in the chest for two hundred guilders, eighty of which is for my wife on account of a coat for niece Angeneetgen, who will marry Montanie, a solid guy.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> I have [*new page*] set sail from Manhattan to the South River, to see if the good God would grant me some success there. The friends can expect the ship, so God pleases, one month after Christmas<sup>15</sup>. I will load up everything we can bring with our ship, and I will write about everything! They have here now all those new rights and edicts, against which we have raised objections with an appeal. We will send the remarks and the other materials over with the ship. They would like us to show in our books who we have sold our goods to, and what we have received in return. Together with all the principals we have requested in our appeal not to allow this. It is about this we expect the remarks. The goods have arrived reasonably well with our ship, but the ship is quite leaky. I trust we will find the leak.

With haste I commend you to the protection of the Most High, who will grant us that which will be as blessing to us. Greetings from all of us! On this August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1647.

Enclosed with this letter is a bill of exchange, sent to uncle Gillis, which he should pay to the son of the *Fiscael*<sup>16</sup> the sum of 78 guilders for 12 beavers.

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<sup>15</sup> Orig. ‘karmis’, could be ‘kermis’, which translates as ‘fair’, a type of festival.

<sup>16</sup> *Fiscael*: An old post for a judicial official for the treasury (1537: MNW), later holding much broader responsibilities for public welfare and interest.

[New Document] F2-D

*Seth to Govert [few instructions, guidelines for trading, request to keep Stuyvesant as friend, update on participation cost in the enterprise, request to write at any chance, about all kinds of news, and Goverts wife needs color for stockings]*

*Written in Amsterdam August 12, 1647, previous letter from Govert, written on May 9 was received July 22 (quick voyage)*

*On front, added in different ink: To Mr. Govert Loockermans, merchant in Manhattan Received through Vasterick on November 13, 1647*

Mr. Goverdt Loockman

Praise be to God, a.D. August 12, 1647 in Amsterdam

Honorable and very trusted cousin, greetings!

Your letter from May 9<sup>th</sup> from the land has reached us well on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, as the ship was close and had the wind well in the sails. It was great to hear about the health of you all. However, since we got no news from you, we hope for your health and safe passage! I am writing you shortly, as it seems us unnecessary to give you orders or to place stipulations regarding the trade over there. Even more so because it matters to yourself a lot. And as you are there, the opportunities and current daily transactions are better known to you than to us. Therefore we ask you to please do your very best in that matter, working for the common good. Always look for the biggest profit, as the common burden has many heavy expenses to bear, of which you are well aware.

The goods you would send back with Lieff, if you can, would have the following price guidelines: beaver at 6 and a quarter to 6 and a half guilders each at most, the otter is now out of season, but we have confidence that this winter they will reach the same price as last year. You know that our lot has been pulled apart at 6 guilders and the quality was great, as was mentioned before. The same story for the bear skins, there is no price now but our whole lot has yielded 13 and a quarter apiece. However, I have no idea what they will fetch this winter, but you will be able to use this as measure. The sassafras wood is not selling at all. Our own Pieter de Smet has brought with him 5,000 pounds of it, but could not sell it for anything more than at 10 guilders per hundred. And the ship-owners from Mr. Willem de Kay have a letter from him, stating he will be bringing more than 20,000 pounds of that same wood with him. That means there is be absolutely no demand, and he had to give half away to trade with. De Kay also wrote that he has sold all his dry goods, and yes, at the highest prices ever reached there! All that was to be paid in beaver in early June, and he thought to send over 5,000 beaver skins by ship. We thought it good for you to know about this letter from him, that he then would receive first. So if you would get over there quickly, as his debtors will come to you with their most valuable and finest goods, to turn over his good twice and they would let him wait a bit, just as that would happen here in the country as well. Time will tell how that played out.

The current price of the deer skins stands at 7 to 8 guilders apiece, depending on how they have been tanned, fox at 15 *stuivers* apiece. The caribou we have sold to the *Gloeyende Ove*, which came over, at 23 guilders per hundred. But that was below value, because Jan Yantsz has sold his at 40 guilders. Further brazil wood and campeche wood, or sugar or any other wares. *[new page]* You can see the prices in the price list enclosed with this letter.

We all, your devoted ship-owners, want to ask you to please keep the lord Stuyvesant as friend, and ensure to always stay in his good graces even if we are the topic of talks. Don't count the cost to honor him with this or that, whichever he or his wife would like to have, perhaps some goods where the price was too high. In that case you could sell it to him at cost, as he isn't just anyone! And such a man could do us great good, or great harm. Whatever you do, maintain a neutral posture. If it would happen that the freemen or the whole community were in opposition to him, in small or in big matters, keep yourself out of it. This way you can stay in his good graces. In general, a lot depends on preventing damage for us.

Because if you get him against you, or if he were to become your enemy, he could be a considerable obstacle and break our necks over a straw. Or he could turn all your wares, and our wares, from profit to loss. As we have taken on a very large project, as will become clear from the following, we will have all the more need for his good graces.

With the others, we have made calculations, and when we made calculations at the time we found that the outfitting would cost sixty-eight thousand two hundred guilders. Your eighth part in this is net nine thousand and six hundred guilders. And there are still costs and bills that have surfaced after we made the above calculation. The common outfitting of the ship came to a thousand guilders. You can calculate your part to pay yourself. It is a very heavy outfitting, and it makes [word missing] us tremble. But we do have good wares for it, and we pray that the good God will grant us his blessing over this project [word missing], as well as good health for you and diligence, so you would delegate and employ wisely. Amen! The situation of the country here and in other kingdoms, and in regards to the peace, things are unstable. But for those matters I would refer to the newspapers sent with my brother. With this I end. Stay close to all the friends and good acquaintances from the ship-owners and their wives. Many greetings, and stay in the protection of the Most High! *[new page]*

Please write on all occasions, be it about New England, Sweden or English Virginia, as we always long for news from you, which we love to receive! And your wife has given the task to tell you this: when you write her for stockings, could you please tell her which color as well? She is strong and healthy, nothing wrong besides what you already know. As before, heartfelt greetings, as well as from your beloved. Vale!

Your cousin,  
Seth Verbrugge

In name of the ship-owners of the ship *De Valckenier*, under God's protection

[New document] F2-D

*Cover of previous letter, with delivery notes*

Mr. Goverdt Loockermans, merchant

In Manhattan, delivered through Touarc

Received through Vasterick on November 13<sup>th</sup>, Anno Domini 1647

[New Document] F2-E

*Seth to Govert [received news about good crossing for Govert on Sept. 25, news Princess, how to deal with business because of it]*

*Written in Amsterdam, November 1, 1647*

*Well preserved, octagonal seal present, with letters S V B arranged in shape of anchor*

Mr. Goverdt Loockemans, November 1<sup>st</sup>, Anno Domini 1647, God be praised, Amsterdam

Honorable very trusted cousin, greetings!

On September 25<sup>th</sup> we learned from Cees de Boer about your happy and speedy trip. He had come over the islands and told us. We have been told by many more about the ship the *Princess*, that so sadly between September 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> around 12 o'clock sailed in the wrong channel and sunk, and lost 86 souls to the sea. Together with 21 people, according to the list of names of people who have been found, that makes 107 souls, with 2 who had died from disease before the shipwreck, for a total of 109 souls when they had sailed from Manhattan. The accident has been attributed to the drunk First Officer. Only the day before, around noon, they had good altitude and were at 49 degrees, 16 to 20 miles in the straight sailing lane of the Straight Channel. The First Officer had entered the Channel about 30 miles, and as was found out later, Joggom Pietersz was a good 28 miles outside the Channel. But the First Officer, following his own thoughts, had the course immediately set to east-northeast to yaw the English coast. After having sailed in that direction for 10 to 12 glasses<sup>17</sup>, he thought he was a bit close to the French coast, as they still hadn't reached any land. So he changed course to northeast, yes, even north-northeast. When they first sighted land, the First Officer said that it should be Beversier or Wight, but it was just the coast of Wales, in England. There was a dark fog, and their situation there became so precarious, that they had to sail on 7 to 7.5 fathom. This was on September 27<sup>th</sup>, past midday. In 5 to 6 glasses the water dropped 5 fathom, and shortly thereafter the ship grounded. It stayed intact, however, as the water receded completely. While the ship sat there immobile, the mates made rafts to evacuate the ship. But now with the rising tide a very dark night fell. The wind started to blow so very hard that the ship, as soon as it got afloat again, got thrown about three times so that it capsized [*new page*] and started leaking. From there Johem Pietersz, Molijn the flagbearer<sup>18</sup>, De Stom and other mates arrived here on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was no way to salvage any goods. There were already a few corpses and beaver washing ashore, but the thieving English were too strong for us and seized it all. A good plunder... The ship was a good German mile<sup>19</sup> from land when it perished. That is all about this sad tidings.

We haven't heard about your letters to us yet, but only a few letters have been found. But rumor has it that the skipper will follow with many books and written materials that have been salvaged, as they were of no value to the English. If our letters do not show up, we will have to wait until the arrival of the *Valckenier*. We hope that if something was added, that you will have accepted the brasil wood and oak lumber. We've also heard you've been in conversation.

We heard with wonder that this ship had so much cargo, estimated here at 15 to 16 thousand beavers. This makes us fear that you likely won't have a lot left that you could send over, but we are encouraged by what Joggom Pietersz and others are saying, namely that it seems that you still have done quite a bit, and were planning to do quite a bit. If that would be the case, and you send us a nice lot with our ship and if it would arrive safely, we'd be very happy. Indeed, with the sinking of all these goods, it could easily be the

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<sup>17</sup> 1 glass is a time period of half an hour, as measured by an hour glass, which gave it its name.

<sup>18</sup> Orig. 'vaendrager'. Ensign?

<sup>19</sup> A unit to measure distance at sea, used in the WIC as well in the VOC, set at 7,407 meters. Lit. 'Large German Mile'

case that each beaver hide would be marked up a whole crown. This profit we would happily accept on top of what we usually would make.

Regarding your trading there, we cannot set rules for you, but we would recommend you with urgency to seek the common profit as much as possible, as if it were for yourself. *[new page]* If you could also keep an eye out for dry oxen hides, at 6 *stuivers*/lb., and the salted ones at 2.5 *stuivers* here in Holland, cacao beans at 40 guilders per 100, and furthermore sugar and other wares as you can see on this price list.

We also recommend highly to keep Mr. Stuyvesandt on friendly terms as much as possible. Please write at every opportunity, about<sup>20</sup> English Virginia or the North. I end with this. May the Lord grant you good health and luck in your trading. Have the heartfelt greetings from us all, and also from Jan cousin Verbrugge. Vale.

Your cousin Seth Verbrugge

In name of the common ship-owners of *the Valckenier*, under God's protection

[New Document (F2-F)]

*Govert to ship-owners [birth of son of Stuyvesant, on Oct 8 the Vallickenier set sail, Oct 13 Govert goes up north, returns Dec 2, organization of municipal councilmen] (added letter, from Jan cousin Verbrugge, to inform that Govert left on March 19 to sail south, confirm hearing about the Princess)]*

*Written in Manhattan, received previous letter from Aug 12 on Nov 13 (No actual date, only year 1647, but added letter seems to be of later date, in 1648. other letter shows date of Dec 12)*

Gillis Verbrugge

God be praised. On Manhattan, a.D. 1647

Dearly beloved and general ship-owners of *de Vallickenier*, greetings!

I have received your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> of August in good order on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November, through the courier Vasterick. I read in them that the health of you all is good, which was great news to read. As far as our health is concerned, thanks be the good God for his mercies.

Since it was on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October that our ship *De Vallickenier* had set sail (and I hope it has made a safe voyage) nothing notable has happened here, except perhaps that on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October mister Stuyvesant has taken possession of the ship named *Santobinnie*, on which Westerhuysen was merchant, in New Haven up north<sup>21</sup>. The wife of mister Stuyvesant has given birth to a boy on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. Master Herman, who was at Fort Orange as merchant for the Companie, has had to do with his black boy and with another boy, Swist Jan (Smits Jan?), and they have run off to the savages, but the boy has been captured.

5 days after our ship had set sail, I sailed up north on our yacht to trade with the savages for sewant. I received a beautiful lot there, and returned to Manhattan on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. At that point I received your letter and I understand its contents well. Regarding the commerce here, I hope it will go well, but I cannot tell beforehand how many pieces I will be able to send home if the kig [?] does. We too have something outstanding and we too do not sleep when there is something to do. Things happen here just as you wrote, they trade the wares and let the first go far and selling it expensively will likely not be marked up

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<sup>20</sup> Orig. 'over', could also mean 'by way of English Virginia or the Northern passage'

<sup>21</sup> Orig. 'om de noort': up north, or the northern route around Scotland to avoid the English controlled Channel.

cheaply<sup>22</sup>. He has not been able to get even one pound sassafras leaves and won't get any. They will deliver mine all dry, so we will surely gain from that. As far as the fur trade is concerned, the trading here is quite high on account of the number [new page] of various traders here in Manhattan.

I have had the upper works of our yacht demolished, as it was not seaworthy. Otherwise I would already have sailed south, but as soon as it is ready and weather and wind are favorable, I will rig up for a good sailing to Barbados from New England, loaded with victuals because one can get those cheaply, and could freely sail there to haul in cotton and other goods to return with<sup>23</sup>. I therefore have all confidence that one can make good profits if one can negotiate a good cargo here or from the Englishmen.

Mister Stuyvesant has written about this to the Company and that tobacco would be free with eight percent. He has been so helpful and committed to us, and holds us very dear. There rarely is a meal with guests or Jacop or myself are invited as well, if I am home. So I don't know how we will ever repay him, since he demands or wants nothing from anyone. He and his wife told me not to disregard writing to [for?] my wife, as we always have excuses, either Jacop or Olof Stevensen or lieutenant Nuyton, so I think I will keep him befriended. I do not leave him hanging when it comes down to it, which he likes, as I have understood from his words.

I would write more, but one does not know when the beavers will be delivered without breaking up further or not.

So I hope that the ship *the Vallickenier* will have made homeport safely, and I defer to them, as you will surely hear about everything. Here is some more news: Jan Jacop Hap will marry the widow with 3 children from Harrie the baker at fort Orangie, a virtuous woman. I hope that he will leave behind his old life and live a God-fearing life.

Also, they have chosen 9 men here from the people, who are called *gemeynsluyden*<sup>24</sup>. Every Thursday three of these men will be in the council for a period of one month, then another three. They are chosen the following way: three out of the merchants, namely Augustijnnis, Hartenbarich and myself. From the citizens (middle class) Jacop Couwenhoven, Jan Damen, Henderick Kip. [new page] From the farmers Jan Eversen Bout, Machgie Jansen and TomHal<sup>25</sup>. This way we are 9 strong.

Those who want to do something in name of the community, and are finished with council, will be directed to the three. If they cannot come to an agreement with the three and want to request an appeal, they will have to pay six guilders right away for the appeal, which is what was done here before<sup>26</sup>.

But one has to pay excise taxes on the wine that is tapped, 2 *stuivers* for a jar, or on those who transport it. I would have written to my wife, but I hope that she is already at sea, if God may grant that. Please do as much and send us 20 to 30 pounds of good bird glue and oak and tin beer pints and mingles<sup>27</sup>. With this I end and wish all together alike a heartfelt greeting. Please greet Mother from me, and all the friends.

God be praised forever, in New Amsterdam in New Netherland

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<sup>22</sup> Orig. 'en lateen den eersten ver (?) loopen het duer vercopen sal lichtelijk noch goe coop gerecken woorden'.

<sup>23</sup> 'Haul in.... to return with', from orig. 'tot reetoeeren te macken'

<sup>24</sup> Orig. 'gemeynsluyden', representatives of the community

<sup>25</sup> This would be Thomas Hall.

<sup>26</sup> Orig. 'hier hebbe het gene dat hier voor destijts is voorgevallen'

<sup>27</sup> Mingel, unit of volume, roughly 1 and 1/8 liter, also used as name for beer mug (in oak or in pewter)

Beloved uncle and common ship-owners, greetings!

I was glad to hear about your health from the aforementioned letter [illegible]. I [thank] God for good health. Furthermore this letter serves to [illegible: to let you know] that on March 19<sup>th</sup> cousin Govert has sailed south with the yacht. I hope that God the Lord will grant him good trading, because the fur trade is pretty bad. In January Jacop Janse joined in the great companionship<sup>28</sup> with the widow that was spoken of earlier. Mr. Harm has gotten himself stuck under the ice and drowned himself near Fort Oranje<sup>29</sup>, as people were chasing him to take him prisoner. In the end he did meet a bad fate. We also received tidings from the letters from Melijn and Jochem that the ship the *Prinses* has perished, which caused great sadness when we first heard that news. Many people here in the country have lost their possessions, which they had scraped together, together with the ship, and some their goods and their family. Further [?] so and [illegible line]

A heartfelt greeting to you and cousin Govert ae[illegible]

you even though he is absent he has set his heart to my [illegible]<sup>30</sup>, so, together with all your wives, remain greeted from me, your servant. I hope that God [illegible] will grant to you and to me that which is needed for holiness. Amen.

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<sup>28</sup> Orig. ‘int groote gilt getreede’

<sup>29</sup> Suicide, or an accident when fleeing those wishing to capture him?

<sup>30</sup> Most likely: ‘Even though he is absent, he wanted me to pass his greetings to you.’

### III. 1648

[new document] F3-A

*Johannes Verbrugge to Govert [Asks help for Claes Bordigh, teasing regarding Goverts desire to have wife with him]*

*Written in Amsterdam on March 24, 1648/ Received letter from December 12*

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of August (replied in 1648)

To the honorable, very trusted Mr. Govert Loockeman in New Netherland  
With a friend<sup>31</sup>, under God's protection.

*[new page]*

To Govert Loockerman

Glory be to God! In Amsterdam, on March 24, a.D. 1648

Dearly beloved cousin, greetings!

This serves like to confirm that I have received your letter from December 21<sup>th</sup> from the ship *De Valckenier*, and read that you're in great health, something I'm very happy about! As far as I am concerned, I am – God be praised – still strong and healthy, I cannot thank God enough for his mercy! Amen.

Furthermore, could you please thoroughly look into the things of our neighbor Wolver, as much as possible, on account of Claes Bordigh who hasn't received any money or correspondence in 2 years, as you could see from his writings, as you would show him great friendship. Therefore, Cousin, do your best regarding this problem as one friendship is worth another. Do this for him now, and some other time he can return the favor to you, in one thing as well as in others.

I understand from your letters that you wish your wife were there with you, something I can't blame you for. But I thought you wouldn't be so crazy<sup>32</sup>, but I can tell from your letters that you're very serious about it. You even wrote this to all your friends! That was a bad idea, you had better written to your ship-owners. That would have kept your wife more at peace, she is now so upset and overwhelmed that she has no idea *[new page]* what she should do. On one hand, she wishes to be with you, but on the other hand her illness prevents her from doing just that. She has kidney stones as well as headaches and pain in her body. Going overseas in that condition, and with the 3 kids, I believe you wouldn't want that yourself even though you were writing about it. So be content and have confidence that with time you will overcome. But as I write this in jest, I'd wish you had some camphor<sup>33</sup> to quell the rising of the flesh a little. I even thought about sending you some, wrapped in paper, but I didn't as this might have angered you. But it would have been done in jest, as I wrote, as we know each other well. And also because you too are a rascal to just write so jokingly. If you want to come over with Lieff for a visit, you might not be able to remain calm, as you'd be so teased by us all here together. So remain recommendable before God, but I hope that you will take it in jest. Please do all that and wish all the friends a good night, also to those who ask about me. I wish you a lot of good nights, also to all our friends, namely 7 [??], your mother and my father and mother, and our Mary Luyls (Culs?), and to the whole gang.

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<sup>31</sup> Given to a friend to personally deliver the letter.

<sup>32</sup> MNW 'mal': dwaas, gek, zot

<sup>33</sup> Used on board of ships and in prisons to quell sexual urges.



Your cousin,

Joannes Verbrugge

PS:

But regarding the ship *The Princess*, I hope that you have already received the tiding that it has shipwrecked and that 21 people have been found.

[new document] F3-B

*Seth to Gouvert [long letter, dealing with sale of received goods, buying of new, scolding Gouvert for writing about other things but the trade, lesson in business letter writing, taking advantage of loss of Princess, talk about prices for wood, fur, issues in England and Company, discussing request for Gouvert's wife to come over, talk about pearls and scales, request to have cousin Jan VB write down everything, (page missing with ending?)*

*Written March 26 1648 in Amsterdam, received letter on December 19 with the Valckenier*

Cousin Gouvert Lockemans, God be praised! March 26<sup>th</sup>, a.D. 1648, in Amsterdam

Honorable very trustworthy cousin, greetings!

Our last letter was sent in October by the ship *De Jaeger*, through English Virginia. But I have since received your letter through our ship *De Valckenier*, on December 19<sup>th</sup>. This letter serves to advise you that the loaded cargo has been sold at high prices, as you could see from this enclosed bill. You can also see there that the ship has been loaded with cargo again. I also enclose an invoice for all the loaded cargo we are now sending back to you in return. We have bought those in accordance with your notice, as far as our pennies would stretch. However, it has escaped our attention that we bought for more than we have sold, as is visible on the short bill. We have bought our thick wool cloth<sup>34</sup> now from the man's master, across from Mr. Hardenberch. We think it is beautiful, thick stuff, and very good color wise. In price it is cheaper than last year, at 32 and three quarter *stuivers* per ell, wet colored. We have a good feeling that our goods will be sold high and we can buy new goods cheaply. It seems the Lord is with us, because you, going off on what we told you, could [illegible, on fold] of this year, it would be of no avail<sup>35</sup>, as it was late in the year. We just looked at the upcoming trip, and it actually happens to be a really good one, as far as we can calculate, but we don't know for sure. We had wished that you had given us some more openings, but we can readily believe that you had no time. However, you could have had cousin Jan write down in short pricelist style how the sale went, and about how much was sold of each of the goods.

In your letter you write us even one and a half page full of the latest news, and also about the ship sailing around the north, and about the state of the country, which is unnecessary, as we understand enough from what the skipper and the passengers can tell us. But what about the trade? That is what is dear to our hearts. You do write more later, but please remind yourself that it isn't France here, or other places, where the mail is brought every week. After all, it will take a whole year before we will have more of the next news. That period will weigh heavy on us. *[new page]*

I, Seth Verbrugge, value greatly a certain process when I write an important letter and when I want to write elaborately. So I begin to write in my draft book, even 14 days beforehand, about what at that time I

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<sup>34</sup> Orig. 'duffels', a type of thick wool cloth (broadcloth), named after the Flemish town of Duffel, near Antwerp. Compare with 'duffel coat' and 'duffel bag'.

<sup>35</sup> Orig. 'beschietten', WMNW: 'helpen, baten', (accomodate ; aid ; assist ; help ; avail)

think is necessary. In the meantime, as I think about it, I add things to the draft, until the very last. Then I formulate from this draft a letter in its final form. This letter will then be easier for you to read, and more useful for the person who receives it. But that you, who has such great things at hand, would write us letters at the last minute! It is impossible, in such a short time, to think about everything and write up everything in detail for the common good.

Even as the goods have yielded well, as said earlier, we should not expect the same in the future, but the beaver will be worth more as they were last year. We firmly believe that, the goods that sunk with the *Princess* are lost and gone forever. This will keep the price of the beaver for two years, so see to it that you are quick in this time window. Just as being quick with this small lot has done us well, how much more if you would send a larger quantity with the next ship! Please see to it that you gather all that is possible, because this year will still be quite something for beaver. So let the ship come with Lieff as quickly as possible. In order to send off the ship from there soon, to be the first on the market, please don't hold it and give it a southern ward course but [to] Sieto. Load it with the goods you have ready, and in case you would be trading or receiving anything after it had departed, you could send it later with the other ships. However, could you write more with our ship, whether there will be goods following or not, and in which ship, so we could take out insurance on it.

Regarding the brasil wood, it has also yielded a lot of money as you can see in the bill. Had *the Princess* made safe voyage, they would not have made anything above 10 to 11 guilders. In the future, you shouldn't make higher estimates anyway. However, we stipulate that, in case you could get the same conditions again or a little bit higher, you would be free to go ahead. There is no chance that we could trade all our goods in beaver, in which case wood is the next best thing. *[new page]*

The boards would have fetched more in price, but they were too short. Had they been 37, 38 or 39 feet long, that would have made a difference of a rijksdaalder<sup>36</sup> apiece. But you can send those that you have if there is space, only remember that brasil wood and beaver chests in cargo have to be priority. When you order lumber again, you have to mind their length.

[The market for] sassafras wood here is saturated, if you send it again we're afraid it won't be able to make its price. Could you sell it to Hardenberch's brother or to the farmers, you could have it paid here. They would clearly want that, as they have a large ship. This year, otter and bear skin will be about the same as beaver in price. Keep an eye out for deer skins, that was good ware! The skipper has had great difficulty in Wight, England, because of the Englishmen. He'll tell you all about it. This has cost us 438 guilders. The company does not want to know about it, so you'll have to try to recover that from Mr. Stuyvesandt in taxes<sup>37</sup>. They accept the expenses for their servants at 7 to 11 *stuivers* a day, as they do on the way to Brazil. Whatever you do, don't give money on exchange order, because the company does not give anyone a sale, nor bills, regardless how good a sale you are able to get. The bill that you have sent us is not accurate, because it is only something the owner said, that they could not validate it with their three witnesses. Therefore, if some friends would come to collect, send them therefore back and you can see if you could come to a guarantee there.

We understand with wonder from our private letters from you, that you so persistently request each of us in private that we would let your wife leave to join you. It seems us altogether very strange, and we did not expect this from you, although it does not depend on us, because we could not notice from her that she would be willing to follow with her three children - one could judge straight out of her mouth. *[new page]* We also understand from other good friends that she bids you to come home in her letters, but we hope that you would be wiser than that and that you would not listen to such advice. Let the bleakest<sup>38</sup> part weigh the most, because you are fully aware of the contract we have together agreed to, based on

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<sup>36</sup> “National Dollar”, Dutch coin issued from the late 16th century to the end of the 17th century

<sup>37</sup> Orig. ‘regoniesse’. WNT ‘recognitie’, acknowledgement in legal cases, written acknowledgement.

<sup>38</sup> Orig. ‘swarts’, interpreted as ‘the blackest’. Govert is implored to attach most value to the choice that is the hardest, and stay put in New Amsterdam.

which we have accepted such a heavy outfitting. Therefore, see for yourself what you do, so that you would not cut yourself short in this time, nor us. So that the job may be ended in love and friendship, a job that we with our whole hearts have entrusted to you, because to say the truth, many a well-to-do man has been absent from his wife for 2 to 3 year longer in order to come to greater advancement. One has to beat the iron while it is hot! More good news is that half your time there is slept away, and will be over before you know it.

Whatever you do, mind yourself for delivering wares on credit as much as possible. This way, when our time is over, we could make one even tree with another<sup>39</sup>. We would have wished you had given us some openings from our old debts, if they had come in or not.

In the chest from your brother-in-law Jacop Couwenhove are all the keys from the latticed cabinet<sup>40</sup>. The numbers on the cabinet are attached to the keys with pieces of twine. Do this well, and take good care that this good is handled softly, it is very fragile! Together with the keys of the cabinet is a fine scale, with a pound in copper weights, to weigh gold or pearls. Here the biggest, clumsiest<sup>41</sup> pearls that we had without holes<sup>42</sup> are worth about 60 guilders per two lead<sup>43</sup> and the small string that we had was about 35 guilders. The biggest and most beautiful, that short string, was sold here for about 150 guilders. If you would encounter something, you could take care of it following this, but be aware of white from water and not yellow<sup>44</sup>. Please let cousin Jan Verbrugge properly write down all items, both small as large, so that, may God prevent it, in case you came to die...

[new document] F3-C

*Copy of letter 11, but more complete. Extra page talks about some business, exhort to pay attention to the sale when the ship arrives, that the ship is following in 14 days.*

*Written on March 30, refers to last letter written on March 26, but that some details were forgotten.*

Cousin Goverdt Lockemans, God be praised! On March 26<sup>th</sup>, a.D. 1648

Copy of the letter sent with *De Valckenier*.

Honorable very trustworthy cousin, greetings!

Our last letter was sent in October by the ship *De Jaeger*, through English Virginia. But I have since received your letter through our ship *De Valckenier*, on December 19<sup>th</sup>. This letter serves to advise you that the loaded cargo has been sold at high prices, as you can see from this enclosed bill. You can also see there that the ship has been loaded with cargo again. I also enclose an invoice for all the loaded cargo we are now sending back to you in return. We have bought those in accordance to your notice, as far as our pennies would stretch. However, it has escaped our attention that we bought for more than we have sold, as is visible on the short bill. We have bought our thick wool cloth now from the man, across from Mr. Hardenberch' master. We think it is beautiful, thick stuff, and very good color wise. In price it is a much better bargain, at 32 and three quarter *stuivers* per ell, to be delivered after wet coloring. We have a good

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<sup>39</sup> Original: 'opdat wij ... een effe boom met den andre connen maecken'. Interpreted as: 'so that we could match one tree with the other', where 'tree' is used in the meaning as explained in the WNT 'Boom' I, 2 c, i.e. an image of a drawn figure totaling the amount someone owes, therefore here used as figure of speech for accounting books. (compare with: 'ergens een boompje over opzetten')

<sup>40</sup> Orig. 'keevis', in the WNT unde 'kevie': 'bird cage, but also lattice work, cabinet, bunk, etc.', in this case a cabinet.

<sup>41</sup> Orig. 'lompigste', referring to 'lumpy, lumpiest, plump.' *Grof*

<sup>42</sup> Orig. 'ongegaet', i.e. 'zonder gaten', without holes.

<sup>43</sup> Orig. 'de twee loodt', perhaps the reference to lead is one to a unit of measure for weight?

<sup>44</sup> Orig. 'maer let wel op blanck van waeter, ende niet heel [geel?]', meaning unclear.

feeling that our goods will get sold high and we can buy new goods cheaply. It appears the Lord is with us, because at your departure we said, if you remember, that this year or this time it would not be very profitable, since it was late in the year. We just looked at the upcoming trip, and it actually happens to be a really good one, as far as we can calculate, but we don't know for sure. We had wished that you had given us some more openings. We can readily believe that you had no time. However, you could have had cousin Jan write down in short pricelist style how the sale went, and about how much was sold of each of the goods.

In your letter you do write us even a page and a half full of the latest news, about the ship<sup>45</sup> sailing around the north, and about the state of the country, which is unnecessary, as we understand enough from what the skipper and the passengers can tell us. But what about the trade? That is what is dear to our hearts. You do write 'more later,' but it isn't France here, or other places, where the mail is brought around every week. After all, it will take a whole year before we will have the next news. That period will weigh heavy on us.

I, Seth Verbrugge, value greatly the process when I write an important letter and when I want to write in detail. So I begin to write in my draft book, even 14 days beforehand, *[new page]* about what at that time I think is necessary. In the meantime, as I think about it, I add things to the draft, until the very last. Then I formulate from this draft a letter in its final form. This letter will then be easier for you to read, and more useful for the person who receives it. But that you, who has such great things at hand, would write us letters at the last minute! It is impossible, in such a short time, to think about everything and write up everything in detail for the common good.

Even as the goods have yielded well, as said earlier, we should not expect the same from the arriving goods, but the beaver will be worth more as they were last year. We firmly believe that, as the goods that sunk with the *Princess* are lost and gone forever. This will keep the price of the beaver for two years, so see to it that you are quick in this time window. Just as being quick in this small lot has done us well, how much more if you could send a larger quantity with the next ship! Please see to it that you gather all that is possible, because this year will still be quite something for beaver. So let the ship come with that as quickly as possible. In order to send off the ship from there soon, to be the first on the market, please don't hold it but after the southern journey send it with all speed with the goods you have ready, and in case you would be trading or receiving anything after it had departed, you could still send it with the other ships. However, could you write and send it with our ship, if there will be goods following or not, and in which ship, so that we could have it insured.

Regarding the brasil wood, it also has yielded a lot of money as you can see in the bill. Had *the Princess* made safe voyage, they would not have made anything above 10 to 11 guilders. In the future, you shouldn't make higher estimates than we order. In case you could get the same conditions again or a little bit higher, you would be free to go ahead. There is no chance that we could trade all our goods in beaver, in which case wood is the next best thing. *[new page]*

The boards would have fetched more in price, but they were too short. They should be 38 to 39 feet long, that would have made a difference of a *rijksdaalder* apiece. But you can send those that you have if there is space, only remember that brasil wood and beaver chests in cargo have to be priority. When you order lumber again, you have to mind their length.

[The market for] Sassafraswood here is saturated, if you send it again we're afraid it won't be able to make its price. Could you sell it to Hardenberch's brother or to the farmers, you could have it paid here. They would clearly want that, as they have a large ship. This year, otter and bear skin will have about the same price just like the beaver. Keep an eye out for deer skins, that was good ware! The skipper has had

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<sup>45</sup> Orig. 'scheeptie', diminutive for 'little ship', apparently expressing disdain about wasting time writing about little facts of little importance.

great difficulty in Wight, England, because of the Englishmen. He'll tell you all about it. This has cost us 43[8] guilders. The company does not want to know about it, so you'll have to try to recover that from Mr. Stuyvesandt in taxes. Accept the expenses for their servants at 7 to 11 *stuivers* a day, as they do. Whatever you do, don't give money on exchange order, because the company does not pay anyone, nor buy any bills, regardless how cheap you are able to get them. The bill that you have sent us is not accurate, because it is only something the owner said, that they could not validate it with their three witnesses. So if some friends would come to collect, send them therefore back again and you could see if you could come to a guarantee there.

We understand with wonder from our private letters from you, that you so persistently request each of us in private that we would let your wife leave to join you. It seems us altogether very strange, and we did not expect this from you, even as it does not depend on us. We could not notice from her that she would be willing to follow with her three children, one could judge that straight from her mouth. We also understand from other good friends that she bids you to come home in her letters, but we hope that you would be wiser than that and that you would not listen to such advice. Let the bleakest<sup>46</sup> part weigh the most, because you are fully aware of the contract we have together agreed to, based on which we have accepted such a heavy outfitting in these good times. Therefore, see for yourself what you do, so that you would not cut yourself short, nor us, [*new page*] and that the job may be ended in agreement<sup>47</sup> and friendship, a job that we with our whole hearts have entrusted to you. Because to say the truth, many a well-to-do man has been absent from his wife for 3 to 4 year long, in order to come to greater advancement. One has to beat the iron while it is hot! Another bit of good news is that half your time there is slept away, and will be over before you know it.

Whatever you do, mind yourself for delivering wares on credit as much as possible. This way, when our time is over, we could make our accounting books clean and matching<sup>48</sup>. We would have wished you had given us some openings from our old debts, if they had mostly come in or not.

In the chest from your brother-in-law Jacop Couwenhove are all the keys of the latticed cabinet. The number on the chest is bound to the keys with pieces of twine. Do the same as well, and please take good care that this good is handled softly, it is very fragile! Together with the keys from the chests is a fine scale, with a copper weight to weigh gold or pearls. Here the biggest, clumsiest pearls that we had without holes are worth about 60 guilders per two lead and the small string that we had was about 35 guilders per two lead. The biggest and most beautiful of those short strings, is worth about 150 guilders. If you would encounter something, you could take care of it following this, but be aware of white from water and not yellow. Please let Jan cousin Verbrugge write down all pertinent items, both small and large, so that, may God prevent it, in case you came to die,<sup>49</sup> everything might be known to him and can be claimed by him. This way your wife, and we ourselves, would be able to get our goods. We have advanced 176 ell, following the measure of the plumb line, so that it now wouldn't cost us more than 31 *stuivers*. On top of that we also have that one piece that was shipped separately. It is quality ware and dirt cheap. On March 30<sup>th</sup> we write this to you, cousin. Our previous letter was from March 26, but what we forgot in this letter, was that we count on you, at the arrival of our ship, to pay close attention to the sale. It seems advisable to us to sell so reasonably by comparison, because another ship, from Hardenburch, will follow closely. Secondly, everything you can make in beaver and are able to get in this market, will give a difference of up to a guilder per piece, now or in the coming year. Therefore we command you to pay the closest

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<sup>46</sup> Orig. 'swarts', here translated as 'blackest/bleakest'. Perhaps it could be 'swaerst', heaviest, as in 'most important'.

<sup>47</sup> Orig. 'min en vrindschap', with min translated as 'agreement' (See 'iets in der minne regelen', meaning to come to an amicable agreement'. 'Min, minne' are old words for love.) In the original letter, however, we find 'mijnen vrindschap', simply 'my friendship'.

<sup>48</sup> Orig. 'opdat wij ... een effe boom met den andre connen maecken'. Interpreted as: 'so that we could match one tree with the other', where 'tree' is used in the meaning as explained in the WNT 'Boom' I, 2 c, i.e. an image of a drawn figure totaling the amount someone owes, therefore here used as figure of speech for accounting books. 'Effe' (lit. 'even') can be interpreted as a version of 'vereffenen', meaning 'to settle, to pay off'.

<sup>49</sup> From here on, the copy offers a look at part of the remainder of the original letter, which is lost to us.

attention to this. The iron certificate<sup>50</sup> and malt stone<sup>51</sup>, wine and thick cloth, nails, and pans<sup>52</sup> will come with the abovementioned ship from Hardenberch in large quantities. The word on the street is that the said ship will follow in about 14 days.

[New Document] F3-D

*From Seth to Govert, [cover letter, to deliver the letter that is enclosed, probably letter 12]*

*Written in Amsterdam on April 4, 1648*

Trustworthy cousin, greetings! This letter serves only to deliver the letter that is enclosed with it, to which we refer for everything. Nothing has happened since. So nothing is left to say, but a heartfelt greeting from me and all the friends. Your wife is now doing very well, that it may last long. Amen!

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1648, Amsterdam.

By Seth Verbrugge

Your cousin

[new document] F3-E

*Johannis VB to Govert [confirm receipt of letter, news Vasterick, various business items, news from pestilence in Curaçao, Barbados and St Kitts, death of a cousin]*

*Written New Amsterdam April 11, 1648*

To Govert Lookermans

God be praised, in New Netherland Anno Domini April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1648.

Beloved cousin, greetings!

Your letters have arrived well, delivered by the courier. From it I understood that you had arrived, which was pleasant news to hear. Anyway, I will send the goods you had written me about without delay. But in regards to the kettles, they are not available here.

Yesterday the ship from Vasterick arrived here, but said Vasterick himself has stayed up [north]. Now the coxswain<sup>53</sup> will come with the ship to the South River, in about 5 to 6 days. Because with it I expect Sanderhere any day now from up [north], to then also visit you, I am not sure yet who is best to deliver it with, because as I am told, the ship cannot come that far upriver to you. But I will do my utmost in finding out which ship is most suitable to load the goods in.

And on March 27 I have received 336 bushels<sup>54</sup> of wheat from Jacop J., who is here at present. From these I have sold 100 bushels to your brother-in-law at 55 *stuivers* per bushel, to Jacop Kouwenhove 121 bushels, and to Hendrick the baker 115 bushels all at the same price, that marked the most expensive market for the sale of wheat. I also received from Jacop Janse 81 whole beavers and 27 half ones. Now he has returned here with 60 bushels of wheat for the masters<sup>55</sup>, which I sent to cousin Jacop. From Klaes

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<sup>50</sup> Orig. 'eyser ceel'

<sup>51</sup> Orig. 'mout steen'

<sup>52</sup> Orig. 'pannen', could also mean 'dakpannen' (roofing tiles)

<sup>53</sup> Orig. 'steurman', the steersman (!) of a ship

<sup>54</sup> Orig. 'schepel'. scheffel or schepel: traditional units of dry volume. The German scheffel and Dutch schepel have both been redefined within the metric system, but in very different ways: the scheffel equals 50 liters (1.4189 U.S. bushels) and the schepel 10 liters (0.2838 U.S. bushels). Both words are usually translated "bushel" in English, and both units were originally closer to the English bushel; the schepel was roughly 0.75 bushel or about 26 liters. (University of N. Carolina online dictionary of units of measurement)

<sup>55</sup> In orig. abbreviated as mrs

Schermerhoorn I received 14 beavers and 19 guilders in sewant, so that the obligation has been paid off. He would happily have given all loose sewant for the obligation, as he said the others have done so as well, and also the obligation did not mention beaver. But after long talks and persistent urging I received the earlier mentioned 14 beavers from him, which are also nice wares.

Yesterday Davit Proovoost arrived here from up North. He told me that he had been with the savage who had your cloth. That same savage said that the sewant is all ready awaiting you, and Davit has seen it. But he did not want to give along with Davit, or he did not dare to bring it himself. But we'll see how we will arrange that he gives it to Davit. *[new page]*

With Davit Proovoost letters arrived here with a small English boat sailing the northern route, that came from Barbados. Stuyvesant had letters on it from Curaçao. These letters write that many people died in Curaçao, as did the brother of Ms. Stuyvesant. This to the point that there are few people left who are healthy there, and it is looking really bad. They also write that *De Liefde* and *De Kat* are there with *Groote Gert*, but that they are completely undamaged. However, there are only few boats mates left, so these ships cannot set sail because of the large number of deaths. A man came with that small English boat who had sailed with Jan Smal. He said that Jan Smal is dead, and that 2-3 days later they sailed into rough weather in which they lost the ship, near Little Curaçao<sup>56</sup>. There is also a high number of deaths on the islands, both Barbados<sup>57</sup> and St. Kitts<sup>58</sup>, so many that in 14 days 500 boats mates have perished, apart from the population. There are 28 ships anchored there, and at this time there are crews for only 3 to 4 ships. So the drum has been beaten to gather people to go on St. Barimo/Banimo<sup>59</sup> Bartolomy to Curaçao, to bring timber to refurbish the ships, and with victuals. Who will be skipper on them is yet unknown. They say that it will be the boss<sup>60</sup> who will sail to Curacao, and if so, that skipper Jelmer will go with it and that the boss will come back together with *Groote Gert*.

Furthermore, from the letters from my parents, they write to send you their greetings. They also wrote that my cousin has died, the one who was merchant on the *Maegt van Enchuysen*, named Jacop Pottey. He would go to Guinea for personal matters, and was only for an hour or two on board when he suffered a heart attack. He died on the spot, so that they were really lucky that he wasn't at sea yet.

For the rest I do not know what else to write to you, other than that I will do my best in the matters you have tasked me with. Enclosed I will send these bills from Symen Root and Pieter Abel. Jacop Janse would like to have some sewant, as he thinks it will be a good trade at Fort Orange. But I will see how I deal with that. And with this, remain with my heartfelt greetings, and I wish you the protection of the Most High! Amen.

Johannes van Brug

(You could demand a kettle from my friend, which he will take with him.)

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<sup>56</sup> Orig. 'klyn karsou'

<sup>57</sup> Orig. 'barbades'

<sup>58</sup> Orig. 'Kerstoffel', Sint Christoffel, in English St. Christopher, currently shortened to 'St. Kitts'.

<sup>59</sup> Orig. 'St Barimo/Banimo', is this the name of the earlier mentioned ship '*Santobinnie*'? (See F2-F)

<sup>60</sup> Orig. 'de baes', likely referring to Stuyvesant.

[new document] F3-F

*Govert to Uncle and assoc. [confirm receipt letter about Virginia on March 26, confirm receipt news Princess, talk about the setback that causes, talk about business which is slow, complaining about the small peddlers who travel inland to trade, forcing him to follow suit – on March 9, returning any day now- , talk about new venture to new tribe of black savages, request for book De Laet, requests their response before winter, talk about what sells in Virginia, such as masts]*

*Written in Schuylkill, New Netherland on the yacht De Hoop, May 27, 1648, sent with Swedish ship De Witte Swan*

To the common ship-owners,  
God be praised! On the South River, A.D. 1648 in New Netherland

Dearly beloved uncle and all the friends, greetings!

Your letter about Virginia has reached me well, here on the South River on March 26<sup>th</sup>, and I understood all its contents. I read that you are in good health, which was very good for me to hear. Regarding myself, I thank the Good God for His mercies! We heard the tidings about *De Princess* when you wrote us from Bristol<sup>61</sup>, which was sent through Joggim Pittersen and Mollijn, with a list enclosed that caused great sadness here among the widows and orphans, and which signifies a great setback for the country.

The value is estimated here altogether to be worth two tons of gold<sup>62</sup>, one with the other. In regards to the business here, expect any day the grace of God. That which I have traded so far is gaining but little profit, even though I am one of those who have profited most. We lay here anchored with the four of us.

Vastrickx' ship is one of them, and two other yachts. How it will end is known to God. Because the small peddlers, and the Scots and Swedes, [who] walk inland with the wares, they make themselves slaves to the savages, which is completely against nature, and they give 1 and a half fathom sewant for a beaver and more, as we do here with the yachts. Because of this I felt forced to send wares inland too, which I also did. So one from our number and two savages left with wares on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and I expect them home any day now.

But I hope that it soon will change, since we expect lord Stuyvesant here any day. Then it will be abolished on both sides, which is highly necessary. Otherwise one would have to search for another place. As the savages have told me, and shown and drawn out, there is a river south of Virginia at 35 or 36 degrees. There no one has ever traded, the savages from that river have told me, which are the black savages<sup>63</sup> there. There one buys a beaver for one hundred sewant beads, 4 beavers for a garment<sup>64</sup> and other goods in proportion. If the friends find it advisable, I will go there to look it up. I would then need the book by Jan de Laet<sup>65</sup>, as he writes about that. But I would like the friends to write me in reply to this proposal, about/(by way of?) Virginia, so I would know before winter.

I would also like [in margin: chest with Faroese stockings] because these are the best goods to wet people's appetite for the ship's cargo. I sold my market wares, I'll feel the lack of it if the ship doesn't bring new ones. Also those long blue beads and thimbles, as I will have a need for everything in proportion this coming spring. Oh, also tin plated hooks.

The friends could send these with their ships to Virginia, there is no danger to get it there, as long as we know it is there. [new page]

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<sup>61</sup> Orig. 'Brusto'

<sup>62</sup> Orig. 'twee tone goust'

<sup>63</sup> Black Minqua Native American tribe. So named because of a large black square tattooed on their chest, subtribe of the Susquehanna.

<sup>64</sup> Orig. 'kleet'

<sup>65</sup> Most likely "*Nieuwe Wereldt ofte beschrijvinghe van West-Indien*" by Johannes de Laet, Leiden 1625 or perhaps his "*Notae ad dissertationem Hugonis Grotii De origine gentium americanarum, et observationes aliquot ad meliorem indaginem difficillimae illius quaestionis*", Leiden 1643, as it was requested in context of study of a then to Govert unknown tribe of Native Americans.



There is now strong sailing on Virginia, which is in hands of the English, so that we would be able to get the news. And I have been told by the captain from the Swedish ship, with whom I am sending this letter, that in the narrow of the street large masts are good wares. So if the friends want to go in on that, the masts should be available here. As the captain said, a mast would go for a hundred French crowns or pistols<sup>66</sup>. The friends could write me what they think of it.

Furthermore, about the deaths in the West Indies and the sinking of the ship on which Jan Small was skipper, I am sure that the friends would have heard the news better than we about how it all went. Wullem de Kay lies in Virginia to trade. How it all will go, I'll let the friends (know to) think about. In regards to privateering, we have heard that he has taken two small caravels, hoping to get a better prize. Our wines etc. are already mostly gone, leaving 16 firkins<sup>67</sup>, when I left Manhattan. I left on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Ending with this, I commend you all, no one excluded, together with your wives, children and mothers, in the protection of the Most High, who will grant us that which will bring us to holiness and here a good trade in haste at night, because by day the yachts are always there. Also, I have not been able to write to the others, even as I wanted to. Please confer my apologies for this time.

Written on this day, the 27<sup>th</sup> of May, in the Schuylkil with the ship *De Witte Swan* on the yacht *De Hoop*. Many greetings from us all.

Your honorables obliging servant<sup>68</sup>,

Govert Loockemans

[New document] F3-F

*Cover page with delivery instructions*

To the honorable, very trustworthy Gillis Verbruggen, merchant on the *Kaysers Graft*, near the GreenlandWarehouses, at Amsterdam.

[Seal]

Gate

[New document] F3-G

*Copy letter 15 (earlier draft?)*

To the common ship-owners. God be praised! On the South River, in New Netherland.

Nr. 3 Dearly beloved uncle and all the friends, greetings!

Your letter by way of Virginia has reached me well, here on the South River, on March 26<sup>th</sup>. I understood the whole content, also that you are in good health, which was very good for me to hear. Regarding

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<sup>66</sup> Orig. 'pistoletten', Spanish gold coin, worth a quarter doubloon (about 9 guilders).

[in margin] The wares I have traded until now add little profit, even though I am with the most [successful]

ls corresponding to a firkin. Firkin comes from the Middle Dutch barrel. It is 1/6<sup>th</sup> of a hogshead/okshoofd, the same as an 'ancker'. Sijs (1997), *Van Dale etymologisch Woordenboek*: **anker**<sup>2</sup> < **middeleeuws latijn anceria, ancheria** [klein vat] < **grieks aggos, aggeion** [bak, urn, kist voor vloestoffen, vat, emmer].

<sup>68</sup> A special abbreviation was used: "U: E: D: W: D:", for 'Uwe Edele's Dienst Willige Dienaar', Your Honorable's obliging servant.

myself, I thank God for his mercies! For the rest, the news about *De Princess* we received in January, as you wrote us from Brusto, and sent with Joggin Pittersen and Molijn, together with an enclosed list. This has caused great sadness here among the widows and orphans, and is a great setback for the country. The value is estimated here altogether to be worth two tons of gold, one with the other.

In regards to the business, expect God's grace any day. We lay anchored with the four of us here. There is Vasterick's ship, one less and another two boats. How it will end here, God knows! Because the small peddlers and Scottish run land inwards with the goods, as do the Swedes, the Christians made themselves slaves to the savages. They now give 1 and a half fathom of sewant for a beaver and more. This way, they risk their possessions and their lives among the savage heathens. Therefore I am forced as well to send

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Jacop to the land

goods land inwards, which I then did with one of our people and two savages. I hope it will quickly start changing, since we expect Lord Stuyvesant here any day now. Then this will be abolished on both sides. That is greatly needed, or one would have to search for another place. As the savages have told me, and shown and drawn out [on a map], there is a river south of Virginia at 35 or 36 degrees, where no one has ever traded. There one can buy beaver for one hundred sewantis, 4 beavers for a garment and other goods in proportion. If the friends find it advisable, I will go there to look it up. Could you send me the book by De Laedt? However, I

Written before the winter, namely

would like it if the friends would reply to this at the first occasion, via Virginia. If it would go ahead, I would want a chest with [4 lines crossed out, in margin: faroese stockings]. My market wares<sup>69</sup> I already sold, so I will need it this coming spring, in particular the long blue beads and tin-plated hooks and thimbles, in proportion. The friends can bring it to Virginia with their ships, so that I will be able to know about it. There is now a strong sailing traffic from Manhattan and New England to Virginia, so that this could happen without danger, no matter what. I have heard it said here as well that masts are in good demand in the street, and that from people who have sailed there. A mast fetches one hundred French crowns or doubloons. The masts could be obtained here for sure. I will ask the friends what they think about it. In regards to the deaths in the West Indies and the accident of the ship on which Jan Small was skipper, I think that the friends will have heard the news, and know better as we do how things have gone. Wullem de Kay is anchored in Virginia to trade. I will send how this went to the friends, so they can reflect on it. In regards to the privateering, I have heard that the ship sailed from Manhattan has taken along 2 small caravels, in the hope to get better prizes. That the Good God might grant that.

Sent with the ship *De Swan*, a Swedish ship.

[New document] F3-H

*Johannes to Govert [confirmation receipt letter on first of May, confirmation sending goods Govert asked for, mentioning Stuyvesants promise to get first dips on cargo of brasil wood from Curaçao, update on debtors, trade is bad, requests reply. List with goods that should have been received by Govert]*

*Written May, New Amsterdam*

God be praised, in New Amsterdam, dated this May 1648

Beloved cousin Govert Lookermans,

Your letter from the first of this month has arrived well. In it, I read about your health, which was very pleasing to me. As far as mine is concerned, I thank God for good health!

At your request I am sending you on the yacht of Mr. Stuyvesant 100 pounds of bread in a barrel and another 3 bushels of grey peas with 2 bushels of white peas in a barrel. As the bread was not available here, Keyser has weighed for me 100 lbs from the victuals that would go to Curaçao. This was of great

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<sup>69</sup> Orig. 'neurenborgerij', market wares. Literally 'Nuremburg items', Nuremberg was in medieval times one of two major trading places on the route between Northern Europe and Italy.

help, because they themselves would need it more. The lord Stuyvesant has told me himself that if I would need more he would give it to me, because we have helped him several times before, when he needed something. So now we're in good accord with him. As well as the boss, who hopes to be back here in 4 months with one of the yachts from Curaçao, [will come] loaded with brasil wood. He said we should have ensured this, if the Lord grants him a fair sailing. If so, I hope that we will send the master back some good returns. I will send along with the boss some cloth at half profit, as he said that this will be certainly needed there.

I received a letter from the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month from Jacop Hap, who wrote that the wife of Klaes Hooren had died, and that only little would be left there. It also said that Jacop Janse very much wants to sell his house to cover all his bills with us. For that reason Jacop Janse requested that I would send him an answer about what he should do in regards to this matter, so I will get advice from cousin Jacop<sup>70</sup>. Then I will write to him with the first ship that goes up, about what cousin Jakop and I think is best, because Klaes Hooren intends to go home with Vastrick.

For the rest, trade here is bad, but on the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month I received 40 beavers from Adam Roelanse for cloth, at 2 ell per beaver. These beavers I showed to cousin Jacop, who wanted to sell all his cloth like that! [new page] And since the yacht *Swol* is hoping to go to the water place today, I want to follow up and write you as you wished. Reply to the letters that you have received.

I hope you have already received these goods below.

from the goldsmith on April 25<sup>th</sup>, as follows:

1 bunch sewant *f* 39:11 6 pieces thick cloth

1 ditto *f* 38: 71 ditto @ 38<sup>1/2</sup>

1 ditto *f* 26:161 ditto @ 38<sup>3/4</sup>

1 ditto *f* 54:101 ditto @ 40

1 bant *f* 12: 51 ditto @ 40<sup>3/4</sup>

1 ditto @ 37

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*f* 171: 9 235<sup>1/2</sup> ell

also 1<sup>1/2</sup> dozen axes, 30 thick cloths, 6 red hats<sup>71</sup> and 1 musket<sup>72</sup>.

With this, remain with my heartfelt greetings, together with your accompanying mates, and in the protection of the Most High.

Your honorable servant<sup>73</sup>, Johannes van Brugh

PS: Since cousin Jacop does not have time to write, know that this 7<sup>th</sup> of May, his wife has given birth to a young daughter.

[New document] F3-I

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<sup>70</sup> Cousin of Johannes Verbrugge

<sup>71</sup> Orig. 'roomusse' (rode mutsen)

<sup>72</sup> Orig. 'roer', a subtype of the musket which was the successor of the arquebus. Had a shorter barrel and lighter ammunition.

<sup>73</sup> Orig. 'UED', abbreviation for 'U Edele Dienaar', servant of your honorable.

*Gillis to Govert [confirmation receipt 2 letters, raising doubt about promise commander, expecting Valckenier back by end of Oct. No real news, except that May 17 peace with Spain was declared from town hall. Death cousin Pieter, brother of cousin Jan on July 8].*

*Amsterdam, July 10 1648, delivered by skipper Elcke Reynder*

Honorable trustworthy Mr. Goverdt Loockemans, Merchant on Manhattan in New Netherland. Delivered by skipper Elcke Reynders, under God's protection.

Cousin Goverdt Loockemans, God be praised, a.D. 1648 on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Honorable, very trustworthy cousin, greetings!

We have received your two letters by way of English Virginia in good order, and understood their content, but nothing special regarding the trade, since it was still too early. But regarding the Brasilwood, we hope that it will happen as you think, as pledged by the commander. However, we doubt that still, because Woutter van Twilder had told us the commander has firmly promised it to Vastrcht and that nobody else will be part of that but him- however, time will tell us.

We also hope it went well with the Swede. We expect our ship *De Valckenier* to be back home by the end of October. May the Lord grant it a safe voyage. Amen! Since the departure of our ship, nothing has happened here in the trading of beaver or otter. Furthermore, in regards to our business we refer to our latest letter sent by our ship, in which all things have been written out in full. We urge that you please write at every occasion, as this is very pleasing to us, and we will do the same.

News from here is that on May 17<sup>th</sup> our peace with Spain has been declared from the town hall! May the Lord have us prosper in it. Amen! The friends are all still in good shape, except our cousin<sup>74</sup> Pieter Verbrugge, cousin Jan's brother, has gone into the rest of the Lord on the 8<sup>th</sup> of this month. Nothing more to add at this time, but we'll write again with our large ship. Remain with cousin Jan Verbrugge and all the good friends with a heartfelt greeting, be well! With haste to Delfshaven,

Your<sup>75</sup> friends,  
Gillis Verbrugge and Son

[New document]F3-J

*Cousin Jan to ship-owners [confirmation of receipt letter, complaining about red tape in New A'dam, tip about fur that might be coming. Govert went upriver July 25, for 14 days. Last minute news from his skipper, that 2000 skins will be sent as well]*

*Manhattan, August 5, 1648, received last letter on June 22, copy sent with Vasterick*

To the common ship-owners of the ship *the Valckenier*

God be praised, in New Netherland on the island Manhattan, this August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1648

Beloved uncle, Mr. Gillis Vanbrug, and the common ship-owners of the ship *De Valckenier*, greetings! On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June your letter was handed to me in good condition by said ship, and the goods shipped by you I have received well, however not without great trouble and effort. This is because all the aforementioned goods have been in the warehouse and have been inspected there. Yes, they have

<sup>74</sup> Orig. 'Pieter neeff Verbrugge', similarly 'Janneeff Verbrugge'.

<sup>75</sup> Orig. 'EU', abbr. for 'U Edele', Your Honorable

remeasured all the thick cloth. However, he whose finger is whole may unroll them<sup>76</sup>. I would write you in more detail about this, but exactly because of the reason for this I have to refrain from that. At the current time, it does not seem advisable, and I hope to write you in more detail about it with skipper Willem Tomasse.

Further, I do not know anything more to write you, about any things that seem advisable to write about at this time, except this. A company ship has brought in a prize with about five and a half thousand skins with them, from which Vasrick already brings some as payment, and I trust that we will be able to get a good lot from it when cousin Govert returns from Fort Orange. He had sailed up the river on July 25<sup>th</sup>, and thought to be out for 14 days, something about which you will hear all about with our ship. I hope that our ship will also be ready by the end of the month.

With this I commend you all together in the protection of the Most High, who would grant in mine and your affairs that those things which brings to holiness may prosper.  
[new page]

In haste, as I sat down to close this letter, there comes the quartermaster to me. He is very devoted to us. He offers us if we would be willing to bring about 2000 skins in cargo, at 14 *stuivers* apiece. So I got into agreement about this with cousin Jacop and have accepted that, and for this reason: because Hardenberg said that he demanded no more than 15 *stuivers*, and I am confident that he would have done it for 12 *stuivers*. And I think that it is a good extra. I would have wished that skipper Willem was present for this, but he was on board, and Mr. Stuyvesant immediately had to have an answer, so we have taken this on us.

Copy sent with Vastrick on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1648

[New document] F3-K  
*Gillis to Govert [information about price estimates, suggestion to take advantage of opportunities such as sale of prize from privateers]*  
*In Amsterdam, August 18 1648*

Honorable, very trustworthy Mr. Goverdt Loockemans, merchant in New Netherland in Manhattan.  
On Koevaart

Cousin Goverdt Loockmans, God be praised, a.D. 18<sup>th</sup> of August, in Amsterdam

Honorable, very trustworthy cousin, greetings!  
Your second letter that came about English Virginia has been well received, but we saw little in it that concerns the trade, as it was still too early. But we hope that you, before the arrival of *De Valckenier*, will have been able to get a good trade. The beavers will be pricey here this year, we think, but make in the future no higher estimates as 6.5 guilders piece by piece. I can't write you now about the otters, bear hides and foxes as it is out of the season. The skipper of Willem de Kay's ship, who had arrived here at the end of July and who had lost his ship in Little Curaçao, brought the news that the privateer *De Kadet* had taken a prize with 3.475 skins and some tobacco, and was sent from Curaçao to Manhattan. We hope that this

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<sup>76</sup> Proverb, talking about having prejudices. Orig. 'die sijn vinger heel is die mach se wel ont winde' WNT has: "wie zich niets te verwijten heeft, wordt niet geschaad door aanklacht of laster." (He who has nothing to be blamed for, will not be hurt by accusation or slander)

ship as arrived well, and that you for the common good have bought from it. The skins go at 6 and a half or seven *stuivers* per pound. When something like this happens, just jump on it, because receiving only beaver for our cargo is impossible. We expect now no brasil wood with *De Valckenier*, to our sadness, as we understand that *Groote Gerrit* is anchored in Curacao heavily damaged and without a mast<sup>77</sup>. They say that there are even two shiploads of cargo ready there, which is a shame. The sugar is strongly losing value, the white at 14 *stuivers* per pound. Having (nothing?) more, I will end, and wish you all the wisdom and preparations for everything. Your wife is only doing so-so, the one day seems a bit better, and the other day it is worse again. But we hope that it is at its worst, that God may grant that. Amen! And remain with our heartfelt greetings! Pass our greetings to cousin Jan and cousin Jacop, and to your brother-in-law Oliff Steevense. The time is short, don't take it for granted.

By Gillis Verbrugge and son  
Govert vander Liphorst

[New document] F3-L

*Govert to ship-owners [last letter was sent with the Pijnappel, no news since. Brandy is good for selling, opportunity because sale of content Danish ship, and from De Cat. Had been up north for 8 weeks]  
Written in Virginia, December 14, 1648*

To the ship-owners, God be praised, at Manhattan a.D. 1648, this December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Very beloved uncle and ship-owners, besides proper greetings, this letter serves to let you know that we all together are still strong and healthy. God be praised for his mercy! I hope to hear the same from you all together as well. Greetings!

Our last letter was sent with the ship *De Pijnapel*. Since then, nothing noteworthy has happened. We have understood that Mollijn has come from the Northern route<sup>78</sup>, and that he has letters for us, but we haven't received any yet. We would like to have replied, because our yacht was ready to sail to Virginia to get some brandy, which was in short supply here. Here one can get 6 beavers for a firkin. So we intend that if we cannot get the wines in Virginia that we'll trade for tobacco for the goods and send it over.

A ship arrived here, named *De Jongen Priens Van Denemaricken* from Guinea<sup>79</sup>. The cargo was cotton, sugar and elephant tusks, and [the ship] had made a stop at Barbados. The merchant's name is Tilleman Willeckes. Minne Bouwens is the coxswain there. It could happen that the goods will be sold here, because the crew of the ship wants to get off board. They want to get their monthly wages here, as they are afraid they might not get paid when they reach Denmark. So it could happen that they have brought with them something for us. *De Cat* that came from Curaçao has stayed anchored in the bay, from which we obtained 3,300 lbs of brasil wood at 11 guilders per hundred. We expect to get even more, as he promised us. *[new page]*

The trade here has been low since the ships sailed out, the same with the trade in sewant. I have been up north<sup>80</sup> for 8 weeks, did not bring more than 350 guilders back with me. But I hope for better in the spring, and that we then will reach our goals.

a.D. December 14<sup>th</sup>, sent with our yacht via Virginia.

[New document] F3-N

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<sup>77</sup> Orig. 'schaeloos ende mastelos'

<sup>78</sup> Orig. 'omde noort', sailed to New Amsterdam by way of the northern route around Scotland, to avoid the by the British heavily patrolled narrow of the Channel.

<sup>79</sup> Orig. 'Gueneija'

<sup>80</sup> Orig. 'om de noort', see footnote above, but here seems to indicate that Goovert was up north (at Fort Oranje?)

*Govert to ship-owners [issues with goods because of Stuyvesant, loss because goods were spoiled during voyage, trade south is expensive, mention again of tribe of Black savages and possible other nation as wide open market. Talk about debts, response about his request for his wife with explanation why he asked, complaining about dealing with the WIC, bill of sale, informing about sending pearls]*

*Manhattan, 1648. Last letter on August 5 with Vasterick, previous one with Danish ship. Ship-owners letter about Virginia received on March 29, on South River. Returned Manhattan on July 11, received the other letters.*

To the common ship-owners of *De Vallickenier*, God be praised. On Manhattan in 1648 this 1 S

Honorable, very beloved uncle and ship-owners of *De Vallickenier*, wishing you all together welfare to lead you to holiness, greetings!

Our last letter was sent on August 5<sup>th</sup> with Fastrick, with the ship *Prins Wullem*, and the first was sent with a Danish nobleman over Virginia. I hope you received both. Your letter about Virginia that was sent with *Het Jager* has been handed to me on March 29<sup>th</sup> on the South, and I understood its contents. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> the ship *De Vallickenier* arrived here in Manhattan. On July 11<sup>th</sup> I arrived with our yacht in Manhattan, coming from the South River, and received the letters, understanding their content, about your health, which was great for us to hear. In regards to ours, thank the Good God for his mercies.

We have had great trouble regarding our goods with Stuyvesant, because all our goods were brought into the warehouse, where it was for 25 days, and I had to ask with a special request to receive them. Had Stuyvesant not been to Fort Orange, they might have confiscated our outfitting, ship and goods [half a line crossed out] as you will see in this letter. Now on my annotation was written that all the chests would be opened and measured and checked by the whole council, which has happened. I did my best to make eye cream for the blind<sup>81</sup>, as it happened the cause of the [illegible, weathered paper], is this that [illegible, weather paper, as are the next 3 lines in the letter]

That [illegible] was right away [illegible] and postpone the goods from the masters and ship-owners this way in this small matter, what will it do in important matters? And hadn't it been because of Olof Stevensen's ignorance and because of the good friends, they would never ever have kept a penny from it. I couldn't get our goods that were in the chests any earlier but until Stuyvesant came back home. Then I received something, namely 4 pieces of cassia<sup>82</sup> and 3 rolls of flag fabric, you whips, all the cords and silk buttons. The rest he kept for a cent<sup>83</sup>. Therefore, he whose finger is uncut does not need to bandage it, and needs no eye cream to heal. Yes, I say that I do not want to repeat such ordeal, even if they would offer me a thousand guilders for it. [new page] Therefore, could the friends see if they can get it on another footing, because here they always want to regulate based on their invoice. From now on, give on interest<sup>84</sup>. In regards to the goods coming with *De Vallickenier*, we will report you quite an amount of loss. Most of the wooden chests are spoiled and they will not sell, I've sold 3 half ones. All the Faroese stockings are mostly spoiled, the Spanish wine is sour, the French wine is good, but the provisions<sup>85</sup> are really bad, so we will have some loss on it.

Regarding the trade this year from the South, it has been very expensive: two fathoms sewant for a beaver, and all other things accordingly. Vasterick's skipper will tell you this also, he has traded there as well. I only brought from there both whole and halve skins from otter, beaver and moose, about 1,200

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<sup>81</sup> Proverb, orig. 'Ick dede mijn best om ogesalef te maken om te bli[nd{en}?', doing one's best to make the obstinate understand.

<sup>82</sup> Orig. 'casijant'. WNT 'cassiana'?, A tropical Asian evergreen tree (*Cinnamomum cassia*) having aromatic bark used as a substitute for cinnamon.

<sup>83</sup> Orig. 'sentien', centime?

<sup>84</sup> Orig. 'renttie'?

<sup>85</sup> Orig. 'visstaci', perhaps *visstali*, from *victalie* = provisions?

pieces. What is happening there is that they are going inland too much, and brought the goods to the savages in their own land, 2 to 4 days traveling. So I traded only few thick cloths to the savages, and we did good business there. In Fort Orange it is so that every house there is a trading house. So one has to be careful to get a beaver skin, because everyone has a broker or 2. And this year it has been so full of peddlers that one with permission would have covered the latrines with them. If only they traded as they ought, it would be bearable, but the trade is being spoiled. Yes, they give 9 to 11 guilders for a beaver. I have seen that they give 9 guilders to the savages. To the Dutch  $2\frac{3}{4}$  for the thick cloth, but after this no one will leave the country [illegible lines] and must], or they should be accommodated and maintained. Then the trade will become good.

There is a river south of Virginia, as the black savages say, that leads to said savages. There they did want that they came to them to trade, as they have to be 40 days under way before they even reach us. They say they want to offer 4 beavers for a fathom of thick cloth, 2 for an axe and other goods accordingly. They say there is more, that they found another nation that knows no Christian goods. There is a tremendous amount of beaver there. Following estimates the river runs at a height of 35 degrees. It is a large river. If our yacht would have been large enough, I would have wanted to go take a look with a little bit of assorted goods.

Regarding the old debts, those are paid off except 7 to 8 hundred guilders. [new page] On the sewant from the Swedish governor for which I had taken 4 for a beaver as payment [in margin: 'up to 100 beavers'], on that we have lost 25 percent. Another bankruptcy of 7 beavers from one who is dead, that is also from the old debts.

The friends write that they were most surprised that I had written for my wife. The reason was this: I had to promise the lords Kieft and Stuyvesant and his wife. That is why I wrote for her. But not to that end that I demand to inflict damage to the master or do him disadvantage, and also not that I wouldn't keep the contract. That has to be far from me! Anyway, this is now –God be praised- already half over. Now let this go, and order the goods following the invoice enclosed. But for half of that I am sending over the capital. The reason is this: we would otherwise in this time not be able to get a clear bottom line here, or otherwise we would be bound to it for another year longer. I think it is not a bad idea, but bring it to the friends anyway. They can use it for another voyage if they deem it good, as we still have a quantity of goods with us and other merchants as well. You will get cargo. Also because there is a party of Scotsmen who will come home with our ship, and who with the first ship will again return ... [illegible, text in fold] ... since I bought them in such a way he has to load the cargo, but it will likely take a while longer. He went with wife and children to Curacao, which is best. They have to come home over New Netherland. Our Andris Luykesen has paid the loan agreement letter<sup>86</sup>.

In regards to England, about those 438 guilders, it won't be discounted unless it were things about which you have sent the account of the company. Since the company has written him that they do not allow him to give that because he went into England.

I have bought from the company 300 skins at 14 guilders apiece. He would not give them a bit less as mentioned above, or I would have to leave them. What should I have done? I had to have over 7000 guilders and had to accept them, on condition that from their profit half would be his, and what they bring in as loss, he will put load in again. Among the skins the coxswain [new page] has 11 pieces for himself. Further, I am sending a bill of exchange from the lord Stuyvesant to Mr. Nicolaas van Lith, regarding his goods that came with *Den Vallickenier*. This amounts to 251#16 –Friends, please pay to the persons mentioned below, namely to Jan Dommaer or whoever comes in his stead  
the sum from Jan Dommr. f150 ['to Adriaan Blommaert', crossed out]  
the sum from Aryaan UE [??]f211 ['to Evert Tesselaer', crossed out]  
the sum from Klaes Janse [crossed out: '16 \*\*\*\*\*]  
the sum from \*\*\*\*\* f160 Joost Michielse  
Klas Janse f298

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<sup>86</sup> Orig. 'bodemmarijbrif', in WNT under bodemerijbrief



From these people I have bought goods needed here, such as brandy, or else pounds of beaver to trade for sewant, and a piece of thick blue cloth, as they will tell you there. If you haven't received the bill of exchange from Kieft, please do your best because I paid it for him here, from which my wife should get 80 guilders for a coat<sup>87</sup>, because the lord Kieft has nothing outstanding here. I also write this to Van Ceulen, brother-in-law from Kieft. Please do as much, and send me with the first ship that will sail here, without forgetting the kettles and axes. The axes must be like those that came with *De Valleckener*, because we have none of those here. All the market wares also with the first ship, I have nothing here that is worthwhile. The long blue beads you can get in the glass house of Gilis<sup>88</sup>, in the attic, in a small chest from those that we had strung.

I will send you a string of beautiful pearls [written above this: 'costs together 120? of which?'] of 10 guilders [15] for that woman from whom I bought the pearls. The rest I have sold<sup>89</sup> here. Some loose pearls, which cost 17 guilders. It is ours, and has been tied in some paper with the others in the chest. Regarding the goods we are sending over, I would have liked that we would have been able to get you some more. But it wasn't possible, because we were rather disappointed by the many merchants. I will stop buying sassafras. That which we send over was agreed with you last year. Friends, please pay attention now to the deer skins. There are three packs that really are deer skin. They cost here 3 guilders apiece, in each pack there are 13 pieces. The other packs are bad moose skins, but are indicated as deer skins, [new page] so that in my opinion there will be little profit from those,

in margin: 'The payment of brasilwood and the recognition from last year, as well as from the goods that are loaded up [8 characters illegible] ongoing'

since the company has taken many goods from our store, and still daily does. Its Bill with me at present amounts to 12,000 guilders, from which is subtracted that which sells slowly, that which I was able to pay, namely with loose sewant. But they have agreed not to

receive anything else [for now ? 16 characters illegible] but well strung sewant or skins or from the best wares from the stores to her liking. Furthermore, I have received some skins at such price as he himself wanted, as stated below in more detail. Had I not wanted to accept them like that, I would not have had them.

[New document] F3-P  
letter 22

Nr. 2 Those that are shipped loosely are good moose skins. Among those are skins that here for ourselves would cost between 12 and 8 guilders, perhaps 7, but then you have to take from those the bad ones as well. The bear skins go for 11 to 8 guilders apiece [rest crossed out] those ones that are traded with the savages don't cost as much as  $7\frac{1}{4}$  to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 guilders according to their [left blank: treatment?], per otter 8 to 7 to 6 to 4 to 3 guilders depending on how new they are. I have to give the savages for 2 otters a piece of woven cloth<sup>90</sup> of  $2\frac{7}{8}$  ell, the beavers 1 and three [driling? (from *drieling*)] also 2 for the cloth.

Note [4 lines crossed out and on fold: "from the Christians one must  $8\frac{1}{4}$  xxxxxx and at 8 guilders per piece xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx in the box xxxxxxxxxxxx of the blue [in margin: 'please look after that assortment of hooks and beads] beads and a hook as well [crossed out words]. If the friends pack the wares according to the invoice, please pay attention to the Faroese stockings. Have those treated with *spekolij*<sup>91</sup>, so they won't spoil. I also enclosed a list here from the

<sup>87</sup> Orig. 'roock', in WNT under rok.

<sup>88</sup> Orig. 'gelas', perhaps 'glas', in which case translation would be 'glass house'

<sup>89</sup> Orig. 'voldaan'

<sup>90</sup> Orig. 'cleet'

<sup>91</sup> Orig. 'spekolij', lard as a procedure for waterproof treatment?

yacht *De Hoop*, for new sails with rope, because the sails and rope are old. I wished we had new ones, it would profit even more so. The friends can see if they can arrange with the company that you can declare 4 to 500 lbs of fine gun powder, together with a dozen short muskets of 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> foot for the citizens<sup>92</sup>. I trust that it won't be denied.

Please warn the passengers to leave their rifles or guns on their parcel<sup>93</sup> because the contract with the company is such that...

[new page]

No. 3, Every man must carry his own rifle. It is also known to uncle, that when we sailed out with Jap Adema, the company allowed us a chest with guns and powder, which does not do any harm if declared. Stuyvesant said that we could freely bring a thousand pounds, as long as it is declared when it arrives here, but he wants to give only 50 percent. However, there is no decrease on it, but one could put it 7 to 4 higher on the invoice than its value. The friends have forgotten to write what Einkhoorens' coats<sup>94</sup> [~~may~~ goods ends [??] [2 lines illegible in fold]

Nr. 4. If we can get any goods, we will send it home with *Den Pijnappel*. I see little chance to get beaver. It could happen that the company sells the skins, so that we can buy in auction a partition<sup>95</sup>. There is still about 4 to 500 of it. It is being said that he wants to sell them when our ship is gone, so I probably won't write it down as solid. It could happen that we would receive another one hundred pieces of beaver and bear skin, I am not certain<sup>96</sup>. We estimate here that *De Pijnappel* will arrive home with about [illegible] beavers [crossed out word] He will few skins<sup>97</sup> [fold: 2 lines illegible] can get because they had floated away in a swampy valley where they couldn't be gotten out of, so that the English have great losses there. This winter they will saw our payment, they promised us.

[New document] F3-Q

*List of sale of goods in New Netherland (extra page with letter 23)*

The sale of the goods here in New Netherland

Thick cloth at 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> to 4 guilders per ell

French wine, 80 to 70 to 95 to 100 to 110 per hogshead depending on the payment

Brandywine, 32 to 35 to 36 to 40 to 45 to 50 per firkin

vinegar, per hogshead 52 to 60 guilders

oil, per keg 60 guilders to 55 guilders

canvass, at 18 to 20 to 22 to 24 *stuivers* per ell

linen, at 28 to 30 to 36 to 40 *stuivers* per ell

shoes, at 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> guilders to 3 guilders

fine shirts, at 6 to 7 guilders a piece

coarse shirts, at 5 to 4 to 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> guilders a piece

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<sup>92</sup> Orig. 'borgarij'

<sup>93</sup> Orig. 'passeel', from 'perceel'?

<sup>94</sup> Orig. 'Einckhoorens rocken'. Perhaps coats from squirrel fur?

<sup>95</sup> Orig. 'kabelinge'. Does he mean kaveling, meaning a partition or the whole of partitions into which one has split up a lot/party of wares to be sold (WNT)

<sup>96</sup> Orig. 'voor wis en weet ick het niet'

<sup>97</sup> Orig. pisseni[7-10]

loose sheets<sup>98</sup> 1 pair 8 guilders  
 [next line unreadable] guilders  
 [unreadable] guilders per pair at 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> guilders  
 soap, at 16 guilders per keg  
 linen stockings, at 8 to 9 to 12 to 17 to 15 to 20 *stuivers*  
 buttons, at 5 to 6 *stuivers* per dozen  
 silverware, 50 per hundred  
 spoonware, 30 *stuivers* per pound  
 Glasses: a wine bowl (rummer), 4 *stuivers* a piece, the rest according to the size.  
 pine framings<sup>99</sup>, 3 guilders per ell  
 grey cloth<sup>100</sup>, 2.5 guilders per ell  
 black twill 2 guilders per ell  
 bodices?<sup>101</sup>, a a 6 to 5 to 4 to 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to 2 to 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> guilders apiece  
 thread, at 3.5 guilders per pound  
 fine thread, [illegible: fold]  
 [2lines illegible: fold, paper partially missing]  
 Silk cloth, at 2 guilders per ell  
 gun powder, to the company 1 guilder per pound, to others 7 to 8 beavers per keg.  
 lead, at 16 to 20 to 24 guilders per hundred pound.  
 habit<sup>102</sup> cloth, at 4 guilders per ell  
 twilled cloth, at 3 to 3.5 guilders per ell  
 fur<sup>103</sup> nightcaps, at 3 guilders a piece  
 Faroese stockings, 2 guilders per pair  
 English stockings, 36 to 40 *stuivers* per pair  
 cream cheese, 8 *stuivers* per pound  
 cow milk cheese<sup>104</sup>, 6 *stuivers* per pound  
 shot, 6 *stuivers* per pound  
 English caps with velvet, 7 guilders a piece  
 those English caps, but poor quality, 2.5 to 3 to 3.5 guilders a piece  
*[new page]*  
 tin spoons, 5 to 6 *stuivers* a piece  
 tin chamber pots, 24 guilders a piece  
 wooden chairs, 24 *stuivers* to size accordingly at 40 st.  
 iron pots, at 4 to 4.5 *stuivers* per pound  
 tobacco pipes, 30 to 36 to 40 to 100 *stuivers* per 144 (a dozen dozens)  
 blankets, at 9 to 10 to 12 to 16 guilders a piece

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<sup>98</sup> Orig. 'lusse bladen'

<sup>99</sup> Orig. 'lijest grijenen', 'grenenhouten lijst' (pine framing)??

<sup>100</sup> Orig. 'saijen', compare with carsijen/carpousen???

<sup>101</sup> Orig. 'stick lijven'. 'Neerstick' is a linen breast piece/cover, part of female clothing. 'Lijven' could refer to a bodice, making this some kind of undergarment to be worn under a bodice/vest.

<sup>102</sup> Orig. 'pij', the clothing of a monk. Perhaps this denotes 'coarse', instead of indicating cloth made for religious clothing

<sup>103</sup> Orig. 'bont', could also mean 'colored'

<sup>104</sup> Orig. 'koijs kas'

sole leather<sup>105</sup>, at 28, the other accordingly  
folding chairs, at 9 to 8 to 10 to 11 guilders a piece  
blue<sup>106</sup> linnen, at 26 to 28 *stuivers* per ell  
colored linen, at 28 to 26 *stuivers* per ell  
[1 line illegible, in fold]

[New document] F4-A  
*Copy of Letter 26*

Copy of the letter of January 20<sup>th</sup>, a.D. 1649, sent with Vastrick.

Goovert Loockemans,

Honorable, beloved cousin,

Your letters sent with Vastrick and with our own ship have reached us well. The goods sent on our ship have reached us in good condition as well, however on a really bad market. Perhaps you could take a look at both bills of the sale attached alongside this letter, to which we refer. Vastrick's goods and those of Herden Berch and some other ones still lay unsold. They expect improvement, but without basis for that, as they have no experience with Moscow the way we have. After all, in Moscow things are almost the same as in England and France, with the uprisings and tumult. There is still no semblance of an end to it, so we are confident that next year each beaver will still go at six guilders. Each beaver less will count as from this and from the coming year. And others keep their wares at a loss, however that is on their account.

The *Vogelaers*<sup>107</sup> will lose thousands on the lot from last year, so they lost the enthusiasm for this year completely. This year, a considerable amount of bear hides came over. If in the future so many of those will be sent over, they will fare the same as the sassafras wood, as they cannot be sold<sup>108</sup> here. The largest buyer of bear hides has been provided with our lot. All the others still have theirs. What is left in their lots that is still unsold, they will sell with difficulty, because the largest fur worker has been provided with 15 to 16 skins. You shouldn't make estimates above 5 to 6 guilders for this coming trip, the sassafras wood is falling completely flat as you can see from the sale, but otters will certainly keep their price. The deer skins would have brought in more, but they contained too many small pieces. For 90 pieces, we could only get a thaler<sup>109</sup> in profit. However, we thought it was a good price, with all the small pieces mixed in. You can make the calculation best yourself, to see whether the returns are good or not. That we don't know, as you haven't told us their prices. Also, the pearls have not yet sold. We will barely make our money back. The deer skins you wrote about, at 3 guilders, are the bunch<sup>110</sup> that they wanted to let us keep for a thaler. You could regulate it in accordance to the sale.

You wrote to send you the kettles, axes and market wares with the first ship. We can't do that, because Vant Wilder<sup>111</sup> does not want to take goods with him. [*new page*] We will have to let it ship over with our ship. We estimate that our ship will be there by the end of April. But we are in a predicament. We would

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<sup>105</sup> Orig. 'solleer', leather for shoe soles?

<sup>106</sup> Orig. belau.

<sup>107</sup> (Note: Marcus de Vogelaer was a director of the WIC, 1630 etc. Trader on Russia, had warehouses there. See *Van Rensselaer Bowier Manuscripts* index = online on the NNI website)

<sup>108</sup> Orig. 'verstiert', from 'verstieren, van zich laten weggaan'

<sup>109</sup> Orig. 'dalder', Type of coin: daalder

<sup>110</sup> Orig. 'gaste'. Literally 'guests', most likely figure of speech.

<sup>111</sup> Is the same person as W. van Twiller

want to set sail from here early, for this reason, in case Stuyvesant would use our ship to get brasil wood from Curaçao, and also that you would be able to get the most needed goods a bit earlier.

On the other side, the shoe pinches here: the passengers can sell the goods they brought over only with such difficulty. For this reason they will tarry a bit longer, and we will be happy to see it. Because the later these merchants get on the market, the better for you, because you still are well stocked. And if the little we are planning to send would come too late on the market, than there is little to that. Nonetheless, an agreement is made with the group of people who have indicated to be sailing with our ship, so that we will have a nice cargo. After all, we rather focus on the present than on what has yet to pass.

The cargo of brasil wood is not certain. We have an agreement with Herden Berch for 40 chests solid, 20 out, 20 at home, no less, but rather more, at 25 per hundred less if the cargo is sold at the house.

This you have to keep quiet. There is now no one who can stand in our way to outfit another ship. If it so happens that Stuijvesant wanted our ship to go get brasil wood from Curacao, and it seems advisable to you, be mindful though of the conditions. He is supposed to have 1,800 guilders per month<sup>112</sup>, for crew and all at our expense. Also, do stipulate a fixed sum to pay us in New Netherland from the earnings of the cargo. The payment should be in brasil wood, at 10 guilders, free from anything, per hundred. Not higher, because at present it would barely bring in a price of 11 guilders here with us. Or, if it would happen that the ship would return without brasil wood, than you would be allowed to have from whichever goods the ship would be carrying. And, if the ship came back empty, he must pay you regardless, with deliverable<sup>113</sup> beaver at 6 guilders deliverable.

We understand from your letters that you are owed by Lord Stuyvesant about twelve thousand guilders. This really surprises us, that you would have lent him so much! Indeed, if he would have been asked to come back home, or if the man would have come to die, we wouldn't have gotten not even twelve thousand *stuivers* from them. He who would come in his place would not want to recognize the outstanding debt, and there is no money to be gotten from the masters of the company. [new page] It is true that we wrote and told you here that if he wanted something from our cargo, that you could let him have it. But that is to say a hundred guilders, or 8 or 10, or there about. But so many thousand guilders, that we cannot understand, as it would be damaging to you and to us, and a loss<sup>114</sup>. Therefore, don't start such deals anymore, and if you have given him anything again, please collect it as quickly as possible. He is, after all, not a man who does his own things, or who is his own master. If he got in trouble with the company, he would keep what he had, and refer you and all the creditors to the company, so that they would go there to get payment. He could do this because he was in need when in function with the company. Also, don't mix yourself with buying up invoices, because there is no money to be had from the company. What would they then pay for other things? So far, we could not get [paid] the cargo of the skins.

From private letters you surely will have learned with sorrow the news about the death of your wife. Because of this, we are sure you would now want to decide to come over. This we cannot deny you with good manners, because we think you will deem it necessary to come arrange<sup>115</sup> your own things, as this can't be done without you. As long as you don't come, the household will keep going. But, if you do decide to come over, we would kindly request that you would do your utmost to sell the goods that are with you and that are being sent to you, as much as is possible. However, not on guarantee! You could from now on make public that you and Johannes van Brugge will use this trip back to the Fatherland, to

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<sup>112</sup> Orig. 'smans'

<sup>113</sup> Orig. 'leverbare', WNT: "*Van eene koopwaar. In overeenstemming zijnde met de eischen waaraan het te leveren goed volgens algemeen geldende of bijzondere voorwaarden heeft te voldoen*"

<sup>114</sup> Orig. 'wtvallen', (WNT) falling down when let go.

<sup>115</sup> Orig. 'te comen redde', literally 'to come save'

this way move your debtors to pay. This you will have to collect as much as possible, to leave as little as you can in the country. And, when you leave, you must inspect all the remaining cargo and precisely write it up, and leave that with Johannes Verbrugge, to be sold by him this winter. Also, could you instruct<sup>116</sup> how the sewant has to be bartered this winter [*new page*] by Anderies or someone you trust most, so that we won't have a shortage of sewant in the trade. Furthermore, take care of everything over there that might be necessary in your absence. Be still on guard now.

Also, you have to bring with you all the books and papers from your debts, outstanding and owed, so at home we could close all our accounts, and to see how well that our labor will have done. We really long for that. You could have been able by now to send us the list with all [Illegible for 13 spaces] the debts remaining, this way we would have been out of [illegible for 5 spaces: *noe, not?* (need?)]. It is not nice to have such heavy outfitting be underway for so long, without any opening. Because we are now still so blind as when you left, it is a wonder, after all, that we can give you such perfect account of all that is done by us, which you were supposed to have done towards us as well. We're concerned about this, because of the friends from Haerlem, Gerret Greve and Willem van Brugge. They are precise men in regards to bookkeeping. We can't provide them with a solution regarding their invoices, because we don't even know about it ourselves. They might even think by themselves that we keep things hidden from them and that we're not shooting straight with them.

The jacard- [handwriting is very unclear??] coats are sold at 12 guilders a piece. It is a ware that does not easily sell here, so please keep yourself from such wares. The west-Indian skins will elude Lord Stuyvesant. If he thinks he wasn't dealt with in good faith, please assure him in this, even with oaths, that we will guarantee that he won't be given a pound or penny less from the money as that we ourselves have received for it.

I'm ending this letter now. If something is forgotten, we will think of it in the next letter with the ship *De Vallkenier*. Further, remain in everything most highly recommended, and commanded in God's mercy, who would strengthen you in your loss.

Cousin, please tell Lord Stuyvesant that we will send him that lead with our ship, the clock<sup>117</sup>, Perges has told us, will be sent. Regarding the bricks over Virginia, we cannot do this because we have to put cobble stones as ballast, which is then needed under tobacco kegs, as they are difficult to get there.

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<sup>116</sup> Orig. 'oordene', WNT 'Ordenen', to put in order, to prepare, to task someone with a responsibility, to earmark for some goal

<sup>117</sup> Orig. 'tuerwerck'

## IV. 1649

[New document] F4-B

*Gilles e.a. to Govert [sale of goods sent to Amsterdam, trade news, responding to Goverts requests, predicament: sail early, or get other merchants over early as well? Instructions in case Stuyvesants requires their ship for aid to Curacao, issue about high debt WIC owes them, warning of danger therein, news of death wife Govert, talking about Govert returning, requesting all books and accounting, bricks can't be brought over as ballast]*

*January 20, 1649, went with Vasterick*

Honorable, trustworthy cousin,

Your letters sent with Vastrick and with our own ship have reached us in good order. The goods sent on our ship have reached us in good condition as well, however on a really bad market, as you can see from the bill from the sale enclosed with this letter, and to which we refer. Vastricks and Hardenberchs goods, and some other ones, still lay unsold. They expect improvement, but without basis for that, as they have no experience with Moscow the way we have. After all, in Moscow things are almost the same as in England and France, with the uprisings and tumult. There is still no semblance of an end to it, so we are confident that we'll have a worse market next year compared to now. If they don't sell them, they'll keep them at a loss, however that is on their account.

The Voogelaers will lose thousands on the lot from last year, so they lost the enthusiasm for this year completely. This year, a considerable amount of bear hides came over. If in the future so many of those will be sent over, they will fare the same as the sassafras wood, as they cannot be sold here. The largest buyer of bear hides has been provided with our lot. The others still all have theirs. What is left in their lots that is still unsold, they will sell with difficulty, because the largest fur worker has been content with 15 to 16 skins. This coming trip, you shouldn't make estimates above 5 to 6 guilders, the sassafras wood is falling completely flat as you can see from the sale, but otters will certainly keep their price. The deer skins would have brought in more, but they contained too many small pieces. For 90 pieces, we could keep a thaler a piece. However, we thought it was a good price, the small goods price it down too much. Those you wrote about cost 3 guilders. That are those that they offered us to take back for a thaler. However, you could regulate that after the sale. Also, the pearls have not yet been sold. We will barely make our money back.

You wrote to send you the kettles, axes and market wares with the first ship. We can't do that, because VanWilder does not want to take goods with him. We will have to let it ship over with our ship. We estimate that our ship will be ready by the end of April. But we are in a predicament. We would want to set sail from here early, for this reason, in case Stuyvesant would use our ship to get brasil wood from Curaçao, and also that you would be able to get the most needed goods a bit earlier.

On the other side, the shoe pinches here: the passengers can sell the goods they brought over only with great difficulty. For this reason they will tarry a bit longer, and we will be happy to see it. Because the later these merchants get on the market, the better for you, as you still are well stocked. And if the little we are planning to send would come too late on the market, than there is little to that. After all, we rather focus on the present than on what has yet to pass, because we will have a nice cargo sailing out, and are resolved in our writing to keep this going. Can it be that the first words of the next paragraph should be here?

The cargo of brasil wood is not certain. We have an agreement with Hardenbergh for 40 chests solid, 20 out, 20 at home, no less, but rather more, at 25 per hundred less if the cargo is sold at the house.

This you have to keep quiet. There is now no one who can stand in our way to outfit another ship. If it so happens that Stuijvesant wanted our ship to go get brasil wood from Curaçao, and it seems advisable to you and the skipper, then be mindful though of the conditions. The ship should make 1,800 guilders per month, for crew and everything at our expense. Also, do stipulate a fixed sum to pay us in Manhattan from the earnings of the cargo. The payment should be in brasil wood, at 10 guilders, free from anything, per hundred. Not higher, because at present it would barely bring in a price of 11 guilders here with us. Or, if it would happen that the ship would return without wood, that you would be allowed to see whichever goods the ship would be carrying. And, if the ship came back empty, he must pay you regardless, with deliverable beaver at 6 guilders as they will be priced here next year. [new page]

We understand from your letter that you are owed by Lord Stuyvesant about twelve thousand guilders. This really surprises us, that you would have lent him so much! Indeed, if he would have been asked to come back home, or if the man would have come to die, we would have gotten not even twelve thousand *stuivers* from them. He who would come in his stead would not want to recognize the outstanding debt, and there is no money to be gotten from the masters of the company. It is true that we wrote and told you that if he wanted something from our cargo, that you could let him have it. But that is to say a hundred guilders, or 80 or 10, or there about. But so many thousand guilders, that we cannot understand. It could be extremely damaging to you and to us. Therefore, don't start such deals anymore, and if you have given him anything on credit again, please collect it as quickly as possible. You have to know that he is not his own man and does not do his own things. If he got in trouble with the company, he would keep what he had to cash in his pay<sup>118</sup>, and refer all the creditors to the company, to go there to get their payment. He could do this because what he had received from you or another, would have gone to the company itself, and he would shake you and the others off. Also, don't busy yourself with invoices, no matter how good they are, nor buy them, because so far there hasn't been any money to be had from the company. And if we could not get the cargo of the skins, what would they then pay for the other things?

From private letters you surely will have learned with sorrow the news about the death of your wife. Because of this, we are sure you would now want to decide to come over. This we cannot deny you with good manners, because we think you will deem it necessary to come arrange your own things, as this can't be done without you. As long as you don't come, the household will keep going. [new page] But, if you do decide to come over, we would kindly request that you would do your utmost to sell the goods that are with you and that are being sent to you, as much as is possible. However, not on guarantee! You could from now on make public that you and cousin Jan Verbrugge will use this trip to go back to the Fatherland, to this way move your debtors to pay. This you will have to collect as much as possible, to leave as little as you can in the country. And, when you leave, you must inspect all the remaining cargo and precisely write it up, and leave that with cousin Johannes, to be sold by him this winter. Also, could you instruct how the sewant has to be bartered this winter by Anderies to whom you entrust this most, so that we won't have a shortage of sewant in the trade. Furthermore, take care of everything over there that might be necessary in your absence. Be still on guard now<sup>119</sup>.

Also, you have to bring with you all the books and papers from your debts, outstanding and owed, so upon your return at home we could finally close our accounts with Lieff, to see how well our big labor will have done. We really long for that. You could by now have sent us the list with all the *remaining wares you brought* as well as the outstanding debts, that way we could have made the calculations ourselves to be out of the dream. It is not nice to have such heavy capital missed for so long, without any opening. Because we now know so little and are still so blind about what goes on back there as when you left, is it a wonder, after all that, that we can give you such perfect account of all that is done by us, which you were supposed to have done towards us as well. We're concerned about this, because of the friends

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<sup>118</sup> Orig. 'gaije'

<sup>119</sup> Orig. 'cont nu wat vroegh op UE hoede weesen'



from Haerlem, Gerrit Greeven and cousin Willem Verbrugge. They are precise men in regards to trading. We can't provide them with a solution regarding their invoices, because we don't know about it ourselves. They might even think by themselves that we keep things hidden from them and that we're not shooting straight with them. *[new page]*

The squirrel fur coats are sold at 12 guilders a piece. It is a ware that does not easily sell here, so please keep yourself from such wares. The west-Indian skins will elude Lord Stuyvesant, as you can show him with the sale. If he thinks that there wasn't dealt with him in good faith, please assure him in this, even with oaths, that we will guarantee that he won't be given a pound or penny less from the money as that we ourselves have received for it.

I'm ending this letter now. If something is forgotten, we will think of it in the next letter with our ship. Further, remain in everything most highly recommended, and commanded in God's mercy, who would strengthen you in your loss. Be well! Your friends,

Gillis Verbrugge  
and son  
Govert vander Liphorst  
Gerret Arentsen Zuijck

Cousin Loockemans, please tell Lord Stuyvesant that we will send him that lead with our ship; the clock, Mr. Pergins says, will be sent to them. Regarding the bricks via English Virginia on our ships, we cannot do this because that outgoing ballast is then needed again under the tobacco, as there is no time to get ballast. It is also very inconvenient to get them. Remain greeted. Will write him more elaborately in the next letter, as father is not home.

[New document] F4-D

*Johannes to Gillis e.a. [talk about cargo that he accepted, goods he has and tries to sell, plan to go to South River again]*

*Manhattan, April 1649, received both letters about Virginia on April 3<sup>rd</sup>*

Mr. Gillis van Brugh and the common ship-owners of the *Valck[enier]*

God be praised in New Netherland on the island Manhattan, a.D. this April 1649

After all the appropriate greetings to you, this letter is to let you know that on this 3<sup>rd</sup> of April I have received your two letters over Virginia with our yacht. From them I learned about your health, which for me is still reasonable and for which I thank the good God. Further, this letter to you serves to let you know that we have accepted a cargo, namely about fifty bales of cotton and about 8,000 pounds of sugar at 1 *stuiver* a pound. These aforementioned goods have come here from Barbados<sup>120</sup>, with a ship that has been made prize here. However, these goods did not belong to the merchant of the ship, but were taken as cargo to be shipped to Denmark. This merchant of the ship is Tiellemans Willekens, from Amsterdam. I trust that you know him. He has been to the coast of Guyana<sup>121</sup> with a Danish commission. I believe that this is why he was made a prize. I have already about 1,600 pounds of elephant tusks that came from the boats mates, but these confiscated<sup>122</sup> goods have not yet sold. I trust, however, that they will be sold one

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<sup>120</sup> Orig. 'Berbates'

<sup>121</sup> Orig. 'Gu[n]esa kust'

<sup>122</sup> Orig. 'converscheerde'

day or another. Further, I have here about 3,000 pounds of brasil wood, which came from a company ship named *De Kat*, which stayed in the bay when it came. These pounds of brasil wood have been brought from it. Then the yacht, namely *De Hoop*, arrived here from the Virginias<sup>123</sup>, as I said before, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. I hope it will go under sail again as soon as possible, this 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> of April, if it so pleased God. It will go on her way to the South River, and I, Johannes Van Brugh, will go with it. God the Lord grant me a good trip, and a good trade, because the trade in beaver here is nothing much to write about. I would furthermore write you in more detail about some materials, but I refer to Jan Janse Visser who will tell you orally, as it is not certain that the letters will be delivered (I am sending them with an Englishman!). Further, greetings.

Copy

Copy  
From Virginia

[New document] F4-E

*Gillis e.a. to Govert [Invoice with goods that they sent over, request to settle debts, some warnings/advice, work done on ship, sending pearls back to Govert, discussing issues with WIC, talk about different people and business with them.]*

*Den Helder, May 11 1649, their latest letter was sent with Vasterick on January 20, copy enclosed*

General letter

Honorable, very trustworthy cousin Govert Loockeman, greetings!

Our latest letter was sent with Vastrick on January 20<sup>th</sup>, a copy of which is enclosed here, and to which we refer. Since then little has happened. The goods that we are sending you can see in this enclosed invoice. We would have sent more, but as we don't doubt that you will come over, it seems us to be plenty. Because when you come home with Lief, we would like to close our accounts. Therefore, do not forget any debts or remainders of goods being left to cousin Jan Verbrugge and to bring a list of those with you, so that up to a stuiver we could see what comes here and still stays there. The French wine we would not have sent at first, but as we became aware that in the ship of the free people none was shipped, we decided to ship 10 hogsheads of fine French wine. You don't need to hurry with it, because we ourselves are confident that you will sell them at a high price. Don't lend things out, as it also is from the other families whereof cousin Jan himself would rather remain master this winter, and sell it over time for cash. Indeed, as we can notice with ourselves and from others, New Netherland belongs here as they are in debt more than they are worth. And we wouldn't have sent curtains and valances either, but they have been brought back to us from the English Virginias. And it seems to us here to be good business. We would have sent thick wool cloth, but we were told that not even one from the new ones that came last year have been traded, and that there are also some of the old ones left. It seems to us, therefore, that you have plenty. Had you touched upon it with a even single word how many were still there, we could have made a better estimate about whether or not you had enough.

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<sup>123</sup> Orig. 'Verginjes'

Only by the end of April, and with great difficulty, have we been able to obtain the cargo with the company's hides. The damage of an anchor rope and galleon<sup>124</sup> we cannot get, [new page] nor can we get the boarding money for the servants of the company, running at around 350 guilders.

We had it cut back on the crew, as we did not want to run after the crew. But now they let us run. We can't balance it against taxes/recognition fees. Therefore, whatever you do, stay away from the company. The older the worse she becomes, just as Joggom's dog.

The pearls we're sending back to you. After serious inquiry we learned that we wouldn't get 100 guilders for the lot. You can give them back to the aforementioned woman, so that she could sell them for you to another, or with an agreement, because here we have no chance to safely get rid of them. We are afraid that the skipper will have great difficulty with the cargo that will have to be paid there, that they will give for that cargo, according to the old customs, the beavers at 8 guilders. But we have ordered the skipper not to accept anything higher as 6 guilders deliverable, as we have taken on the obligation of the expenses. We have recommended the business highly to Lord Stuyvesant, who you and the skipper should ask for help. It is in none of the lands the habit that one has to pay for cargo with bartering and goods, unless the skipper is happy with it. If the skipper is not content, make him keep his agreement, in which money is stipulated but not goods. Cargo is like house rent, and not a cent or even half a cent, would be changed to that, as is sometimes done with other goods.

And about beaver at 8 guilders, that we accepted them this way before, well, that was because of our kindness. The beavers then had a different price here as well!

We have written to Lord Stuyvesant and earnestly requested him on account of that money in England, and also because of the added value of the hides that is to be paid to us. Therefore, please stay firm in this. We trust that he will pay this.

Please deliver Fiscael Van Dijck 10 firkins of brandy wine that were shipped under our name. We have bought these for him, [new page] following his order, and with his money. We bought 12 firkins, as we thought we could stretch his money that far, but couldn't in the end. So you can sell the other two that remain besides the other brandy.

Skipper Willem has 2 silver goblets for Lord Stuyvesant. He will deliver them to him and hold them as if he brought them with his own money. Also, he had commission to get our payments with advance this way. Here's a debt assignment<sup>125</sup> for f286:19 *stuivers* enclosed for Lord Stuyvesant, regarding money that was borrowed by him. This is what we request from him, so that if he doesn't wish to pay the beaver at 6 guilders, he would give us the pennies per bill of exchange through his cousin. Please do not accept beaver higher than 6 guilders. He should know that it is borrowed money. We have tasked the skipper with collecting the cargo and the expenses. The reason for this is to relieve you, as you will certainly be busy now, with coming over. We have written Lord Stuyvesant that we have charged the company the beaver at two for one and three for two. As you can see in the attached bill from Mr. Liefflingh's own hand, we have some profit with that. We asked him if he would relieve the work a little as well, because in these bad markets it cannot carry the heavy recognition fees. Nothing else as time is short. Stay with the heartfelt greetings we send to Johannes Verbrugge and all the friends, no one excepted to be forgotten. Remain in the protection of God!

By your friends,

Gillis Verbrugge and son,  
Govert vander Liphorst

Done on May 11<sup>th</sup>, a.D. 1649, in Den Helder

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<sup>124</sup> Orig. 'ancker ton', perhaps the barrel in which the anchoring cable is kept as pars pro toto? (compare with the other versions of this letter)

<sup>125</sup> Orig. 'accingenasij', a document with assignment to pay.

[New document] F4-F  
*copy of letter 28*

Several things from the masters from Holland and other [matters

*[new page]*

Copy from the letter, sent with *De Valckenier*.  
[in margin: 1649, May 11th]

Honorable, very trustworthy cousin Govert Loockeman, greetings!

Our latest letter was sent with Vastrick on January 20<sup>th</sup>, a copy of which is enclosed here, and to which we refer. Since then little has happened. The goods that we are sending you can see in this enclosed invoice. We would have sent more, but as we don't doubt that you will come over, it seems us to be plenty. Because when you come home with Lieff, we should close our accounts. Therefore, do not forget any debts or remainders of goods being left to cousin Jan Verbrugge and to bring a list of those with you, so that up to a stuiver we could see what comes here and still stays there. The French wine we would not have sent first, but as we became aware that in the ship of the free people none was shipped, we decided to ship 10 hogsheads of fine French wine. You don't need to hurry with it, because we ourselves are confident that you will sell them at a high price. Don't lend things out, as it also is from the other families of which cousin Jan himself would rather remain master this winter, and sell it over time for cash. Indeed, as we can notice with ourselves and from others, New Netherland belongs here as they are in debt more than they are worth. And we wouldn't have sent curtains and valences either, but they have been brought back to us from English Virginia. And it seems to us here to be good business. We would have sent thick wool cloth, but we were told that not even one of the new ones that came last year have been traded, and that there are also some of the old ones left. It seems to us, therefore, that you have plenty. Had you even touched upon it with a single word, we could have made a better estimate about whether or not you had enough.

Only by the end of April, and with great difficulty, have we been able to obtain the cargo with the company's hides. The damage from an anchor cable and galleon we could not get, *[new page]* even as we couldn't get the boarding costs for the servants of the company either, running at around 350 guilders. We had it cut back on the crew<sup>126</sup>, as we did not want to run after the crew. But now they let us run, yes, we can't get it settled<sup>127</sup>, against payment for the recognition fees.<sup>128</sup> Therefore, whatever you do, stay away from the company. The older the worse she becomes, just as Joggom's dog.

The pearls we're sending back to you. After serious inquiry we have learned that we wouldn't get a 100 guilders for the lot. You can give them back to the aforementioned woman, so that she could sell them for you to another, or with an agreement, because here we have no chance to safely get rid of them. We are afraid that the skipper will have great difficulty with the cargo that will have to be paid there, that they will give for that cargo, according to the old customs, the beavers at 8 guilders. But we have ordered the skipper not to accept anything higher than 6 guilders deliverable, as we have taken on the obligation of the boarding money. We have recommended the business highly to Lord Stuyvesant, who you and the skipper should ask for help<sup>129</sup>. It is in none of the lands the habit that one has to pay for cargo with

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<sup>126</sup> Orig. 'de maets aff cortte', 'maets' as in ships' mates?

<sup>127</sup> Orig. 'gerescontreert', WNT 'rescontreeren', to make agree.

<sup>128</sup> Orig. 'regoniese', WNT 'recognitie', one sub-meaning is payment for services rendered.

<sup>129</sup> Orig. 'in de narm moet nemen', compare modern Dutch 'in de arm nemen' (to do something with someone's help, to engage someone)

bartering<sup>130</sup> and goods, unless the skipper is happy with it. If the skipper is not content, make him keep his agreement, in which money is stipulated but not goods. Cargo is rent, and not a cent or even half a cent, would be changed to that, as is done with some other goods.

And about beaver at 8 guilders, that we accepted them this way before, well, that was because of our kindness. The beavers then had a different price as well!

We have written to Lord Stuyvesant and earnestly requested him about that money in England, and also because of the added value of the hides that is to be paid to us. Therefore, please stay firm in this. We trust that he will pay this.

Please deliver to Fiscael<sup>131</sup> Van Dijck 10 firkins of brandy wine that were shipped under our name. We have bought these for him, following his order, and with his money. We bought there 12 firkins, as we thought we could stretch his money that far, but couldn't in the end. So you can sell the other two that remain [*new page*] besides the other brandy.

Skipper Willem has 2 silver goblets<sup>132</sup> for Lord Stuyvesant. He will deliver them to him and hold them as if he brought them with his own money. They also had tasked him to bring that along.

Also, to better get our payments to advance, here's a debt assignment<sup>133</sup> for f286:19 *stuivers* enclosed for Lord Stuyvesant, regarding money that was borrowed by him. This is what we request from him, so that if he doesn't wish to pay the beaver at 6 guilders, he would give us the money per bill of exchange through his cousin van Lidt. Please do not accept beaver higher than 6 guilders. He should know that it is borrowed money. We have tasked the skipper with collecting the cargo and the expenses. The reason for this is to relieve you, as you will certainly be busy now, with all that is happening to you/now that you are coming over. We have written Lord Stuyvesant that because of the commission<sup>134</sup> the company has been charged the beaver at two for one and three for two. As you can see in the attached bill from Mr. Liefflingh's own hand, we have some profit with that. We asked him if he would relieve the work a little as well, since in these bad markets it cannot carry the heavy recognition fees. Remain greeted!

On May 11, 1649, Amsterdam

[New document] F4-G

*Johannes to ship-owners [update on packing and prep to return to Amsterdam]  
Manhattan, August 10, 1649*

The common Ship-owners of the ship *De Valckenier*.

God be praised always, in New Netherland on the island Manhattan, a.D. this August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1649.

Beloved friends, Mr. Gillis van Brugh and the common ship-owners of the ship *De Valckenier*, greetings! I hope the health of you all is as good as mine, God be praised for his mercy! We're packing and loading, and barely have time to write anything, so please receive this short letter in thanks.

First, I have received the goods you have sent me with the ship *De Valckenier* in good order, which arrived here on June 30<sup>th</sup>. I hope that it will sail from here on the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> of this month to go toward the Fatherland<sup>135</sup>. But as Vastrick plans to leave now for the Fatherland, you can get a preview<sup>136</sup> in these

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<sup>130</sup> Orig. 'met mangel'

<sup>131</sup> Orig. 'fisschael', or 'Fiskaal', a judicial official guarding the interests of the sovereign or the tax rights

<sup>132</sup> Orig. 'beeckers'

<sup>133</sup> Orig. 'accingver', (compare with 'accingenasij' in next copy of this letter)

<sup>134</sup> Orig. 'comurij', translation unclear, commission?.

<sup>135</sup> Orig. 'Patria'

<sup>136</sup> Orig. 'soo kan UE een weyn[ich opening sien]', 'So you can see a small opening', as if the tip of the veil is lifted, granting a preview of what is coming with the *Valckenier*.

enclosed specifications which returns for the masters are being shipped with *De Valckenier*. But I can't know exactly yet which debts will still follow.

Further, on August 2<sup>nd</sup> two company ships arrived here, namely the yacht *Swol* and *De Liefde*, coming from Karsou<sup>137</sup>. They are bringing salt and brasil wood. I hope to still get some of that brasil wood, as it will be sold soon. But I cannot write about this with certainty. Amen.

Copy sent with Vastrick.

[New Document] F4-H

*Govert to Ship-owners [confirm hearing news about death wife, confirmation receipt goods with Valckenier, defending his actions, wine was good to sell, requests not to be sent retail goods, informs of souring relation with Stuyvesant, bad deal with him]*

*Manhattan, August 24, 1649 (copy of a letter that is not preserved)*

To the common ship-owners of *De Valeckennier*  
God be praised on Manhattan

Very beloved uncle and all the friends and ship-owners, greetings!

I have received your letter with the ship *Prins Wullem* on [blank] and understood the situation and coming<sup>138</sup> date of [blank] with our ship, that luckily has arrived. From it I received the letters with the same content and sad tidings. [in margin: "I learned about the death of my well beloved wife"]

In regards to the goods that came with the ship *De Vallickenie*, I received them well, all dry and in good condition. The returns that I am sending are the last that we could get. The moose skins the friends ought to keep at the same price, because among them is now not one deer skin! They should be valued at 12 to 14 guilders per piece. They ought not to be thrown out of their hands, as the friends have done last year with the beavers. Others have received 7 guilders, 7.5 *stuivers* per piece, where we only get 5.75 guilders for them, and our wares are as good as theirs! But it seems that we are too hasty in selling. I hope that it does not lack the friends in money. It seems that, now that the goods don't bring any value, the friends are disgruntled<sup>139</sup> with my service, as I can see but not knowing what the reason is. It is well known to the friends that I had to leave my sweet and beloved wife, as I could not bring her along. It has pleased the good God to welcome her in His eternal kingdom. The friends have now given me the freedom to come back home, for which kind favor I cannot thank the friends enough. I would have come.

But as it pleases the good God, who reigns all, I have been given [new page] a new partner. Therefore, friends, please excuse me. I will give you good satisfaction, if it so pleases the good God, and follow with the book that next year will be sent over and the returns.

The French wines were very good, 18 from them have been kept, 2 for filling, and 13 have been sold, according to the list that you can see, as attached here. On the list we put everything what is here in the land, both outstanding as well as remaining and what we are sending over to you. Instead of the curtains I would have wished to have had some goods for the savages. If the master would employ me again, [in margin: 'Since my time will be up next year, but I refer to Jacobus Couwenhoven'] I would not want to deal with store goods anymore, but with stockings, shoes, linen shirts and further those things for the savages and wines, as those are the best goods to get returns for. Store goods, however, are just too weak, as they're only sold among the poor commoners. Regarding the cargo of hides of the company, it doesn't surprise me that you have run back and forth for it for so long, the same happens to me here. I myself have received with a lot of effort my settlement of the account only on August 18<sup>th</sup>! When I reminded my lord that 860 guilders remain in debt, I asked him if he would like [In margin: to pay me in brasil wood.

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<sup>137</sup> Curaçao

<sup>138</sup> Orig. 'nae', nearby, close [in time]

<sup>139</sup> Orig. 'miscontentment'

He said that could not be, as it was valued in Holland at 26 guilders per hundred.] So we became bad friends, and I would not vouch<sup>140</sup> for him anymore because, with reverent words, he dug himself a hole with his pride. As Jacobus Couwenhoven will tell you, and as you can hear from others as well: he had promised me the brasil wood several times<sup>141</sup>. Since he was a man of honor, and also took God as his witness, that nobody would get it but us, I loaned it all on account of that promise. But they sold it to others! I am not happy about this at all, so that peace mostly seems to be out of sight. [new page] (*Here begins another handwriting. It seems that the above was written by Govert and the end by Johannes.*) And now, because of an error, some of the cargo is not signed up well, so that I cannot accurately write how much the total is of the cargo that is now coming over. But I will refer to skipper Willem Toomasse, who will be able to provide you that information perfectly. Time has been very short, as you can think, because the ship hasn't anchored here for long and altogether, we've had our hands more than full! With this I conclude,  
Dated August 24, 1649, in New Netherland, on the ship *De Valckenier*

Copy

[New document] F4-I

*Johannes to Gillis e.a. [update with mostly small talk, some updates about receipt of goods and such.]  
Manhattan, September 20, 1649, sent letters on August 24.*

Letters to the masters or copies  
1645 through 1649

[new page]

God be praised forever! In New Netherland on the island Manhattan, a.D. this September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1649

Beloved uncle, Mr. Gillis van Brugh and the common ship-owners of *De Valckenier*, greetings!  
As it just so happens that Adrijaen Bloemert is planning to sail to the islands, I was thinking to write a little letter to you, as usually ships are anchored there that are bound to sail to the Fatherland. I know that it is pleasant to you that we greet each other with a letter once in a while. [xxx7] for this time won't be any different. You might think, perhaps, that I make here so little [xx4] [mention?] of one or the other, but it's because of the shortness of time since I wrote you with *De Valckenier*. In this time little has happened, because the letters that were sent to you were dated on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August. So time is still short, and I hope that you have received the returns we sent over in good order. [in margin: copy]  
You might also be wondering why I am not sending the copy along, but my reason is that it isn't certain at all in whose hands they could end up. So it seems wiser that I keep them here. With this, remain greeted by me, and I wish that it will go well with you, both to soul as to body. Amen!  
In absence of Govert Lookermans,  
Humbly your servant<sup>142</sup>, Johannis Van Brugh

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<sup>140</sup> Orig. 'wou hem niet meer borgen', 'borgen' to stand security, to offer guarantee, to warrant

<sup>141</sup> Orig. 'minige rijs', many times, on several occasions

<sup>142</sup> Orig. 'Ick UE dienst schuldige dienaar', lit. "I, the servant owing his service to you"

[New document] F4-J

*Gillis e.a. to Govert [confirmation receipt letter and Valckenier in good order, and list with accounting, no updates, as certain projects are still underway, Vastrick should arrive soon, reply to Govert's defense re: pearls*

*Amsterdam, October 6, 1649, received letter from Govert on October 5*

Honorable thoughtful<sup>143</sup> Mr. Goverdt Loekemans, merchant in New Netherland or Manhattan, sent with a friend who God guides.

Honorable, very trustworthy cousin Govert Loockemans, Greetings!

Your letter sent with our ship *De Valckenier* we received in good order on October 5<sup>th</sup>. We understood the quantity of our returns, which we found very pleasing. We also got the list with our remainders and your outstanding debts, so that we now can make our balance with Lieff, something we have long longed for. Our idea is to prepare the ship for New Netherland again as soon as possible. If there are many passengers coming, we will before the winter be ready, together with Lieff, to send it to you with the cargo you had ordered with us. However, the quantity of these we still have to resolve, it is still early. And time is too short now to write. We can't write about the market for the returns, because the Moscow-farers have not yet returned and there is still no news how things have ended up there with the beavers. But we're in better spirits as last year, may God grant that it will turn out well. Amen!

We haven't heard anything from Vastrick. He's also expected to come soon. I have to end because I'm out of time. At this time I can't answer your letter, but I'll certainly answer in my next letter. But since you take it so hard, regarding the pearls, please read our letter regarding those again really closely. You will see in it that we do not order to give them back. But, on the contrary, to give her those same pearls to sell them for you or us to someone else, or to make a deal. We are not that bad that we wouldn't think that what one has bought, one has to keep!

Remain greeted, besides your loved one, with whom we wish you lots of happiness and the blessing of the Lord. Amen! Your children are still well and healthy. Dated October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1649, in Amsterdam

Pass our greetings to cousin Verbrugge. The parents and friends of Pieter inde Prins are all together still good to do.

Your friends,  
Gillis Verbrugge  
Seth Verbrugge  
Govert vander Liphorst  
Gerret Arentsen Zuijck

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<sup>143</sup> Orig. 'versinghe', WNT 'Voorzienig', thoughtful, provident, prudent.



## V. 1650

[New document] F5-A

*Gillis e.a. to Govert [explaining why no new goods are sent, request to get balance, accounting, etc. income from ship's cargo and passengers]*

*February 7 1650, but only sailed out March 7/8. Refers to last letter, sent with Heeremans, on December 17, 1649 with account of what came over with the Valckenier.*

Mr. Goverdt Loockmans, God be praised a.D. February 7<sup>th</sup>, 1650, Amsterdam

Honorable, trustworthy cousin, greetings!

Our last letter was sent with Augustijn Heeremans on December 17, 1649, together with our account from the sale of our returns that came over with *De Valckenier*. This will be a short letter, I will write more extensively with our ship. Since our last letter, we planned with all the friends a meeting, and seriously considered<sup>144</sup> and weighed in about the cargo to be sent to you, or not. All of us agreed that this year we would not send any wares. The reason for this was the following. Firstly, because when the ship comes back home with Lieff, our years as company will be brought to fulfillment. Secondly, because you still have remaining goods and debts, roughly amounting to fifty thousand guilders. Thirdly, we also have agreed that you would come over, together with cousin Johannes Verbrugge, so that it won't be possible for the new cargo to be cashed in and sold. The time fulfilled with our company, as mentioned earlier, obliges us to make clean balance among each other, to see what profit our capital has made. This requires you to come back in person, so that we can make an end to the old work this way, and determine a start for the new. So please reflect in the meantime about the ways we can start again and continue for the common good. The other reasons for your coming over will be told to you in person by cousin Couwenhooven. It has been determined, when he was with us, that you should not refuse<sup>145</sup> this, as this matters much to us and to you. So we pray you to conform yourself to it, and get our affairs as much as possible into the clear. Whatever then still would remain, Couwenhoven will cash in for the common associates. *[new page]*

We think now beforehand that our capital is large enough in the land, as last year Vastrick only had 24,000 guilders in cargo. Also, cousin Couwenhooven gives us comfort regarding the payment of the debts, saying that in all likeliness our returns will be large enough. On top of that still comes our cargo in the ship, which this year will again be large, as we will have many passengers and lots of cargo. We estimate that we will be ready in mid April to sail out again. Enclosed is again the sale of our returns. The bales of tobacco are still unsold as are the bear hides. The bales of tobacco can't fetch 6 *stuivers*. The bear skins shouldn't be sold for money, we'll have to store them away for another year. Our New Netherland tobacco is missing considerable weight, as you can see. This is also in your accounts an error. The skipper doesn't know about it either, whatever you do, don't touch a roll of tobacco unless the price is worth it. You should not estimate the leaves that are good higher as at 6 *stuivers*, because here they consider Virginia leaf better than the leaf from New Netherland.

Regarding the common good for New Netherland in The Hague, we refer to cousin Couwenhooven, who has written everything to the community<sup>146</sup>. With nothing else to write, remain with the heartfelt greetings from us, besides the family, and be commanded in God's mercy. Be well!

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<sup>144</sup> Orig. 'rijpelijck overleijt'

<sup>145</sup> Orig. 'refeseeren'

<sup>146</sup> Orig. 'gemeente'

Pass the greetings from us all to cousin Johannis Verbrugge.

Gillis Verbrugge  
Seth Verbrugge  
Govert vander Liphorst  
Gerret Arentsen Zuijck

[New Document] F5-B

*Gillis e.a. to Govert [copy of previous letter: explaining why no new goods are sent, request to get balance, accounting, etc. income from ship's cargo and passengers, New content: talk about what was sold, updates to fee policy on ship, news of case against WIC, malt and hops are being sent.]*

*Copy written February 7 1650, but only sailed out March 7/8. Refers to last letter, sent with Heeremans, on December 17, 1649 with account of what came over with the Valckenier.*

*New content: Amsterdam, March 24, 1650*

Letters from the masters from Holland  
1646 to 1649

Cousin Goverdt Loockmans

Copy of our last letter, sent with Vastrick on February 7<sup>th</sup>, but only on the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> of March did he set sail.

Honorable, trustworthy cousin, greetings!

Our last letter was sent with Augustijn Heeremans on December 17, 1649, together with our account from the sale of our returns that came over with *De Valckenier*. This will be a short letter, I will write more extensively with our ship. Since our last letter, we planned with all the friends a meeting, and deeply talked about and weighed in about the cargo to be sent to you, or not. All of us decided<sup>147</sup> that this year we did agree not to send any wares. The reason for this was the following. Firstly, because when the ship comes back home with Lief, our years as company will be brought to fulfillment. Secondly, because you still have with you remaining goods, roughly amounting to fifty thousand guilders, not counting the debts. Thirdly, we also agreed that you would come over, together with cousin Johannis Verbrugge, so that it won't be possible for the new cargo from the friends to be cashed in and sold. The time with our company being fulfilled, as mentioned earlier, obliges us to make a clean balance among each other, to see what profit our capital has made. This requires you to come back in person, so that we can make an end to the old work this way, and determine a start for the new. So please pay attention to this, and reflect about in which way we can start again for the common good. The other reason for you having to come over will be told to you in person by cousin Couwenhoven. It has been determined, when he was with us, that you should not refuse this, as this matters much to us and to you. So we pray you to conform yourself to it, and get our affairs collected and into the clear<sup>148</sup> as much as possible. Couwenhoven will cash in that which would still remain for the common associates. *[new page]*

It seems to us now beforehand that we still have enough capital in the country, as last year Vastrick only had 24,000 guilders in capital. Also, cousin Couwenhoven gives us comfort regarding the payment of the debts, saying that in all likelihood our returns will be large enough. On top of that still comes our cargo in the ship, which this year will again be a lot, as we will have many passengers and lots of cargo. We estimate that we will be ready in mid April to sail out again. Enclosed is again the sale of our returns. The

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<sup>147</sup> Orig. 'hebben gesamentlijk goet gevonden', lit. have together found it good

<sup>148</sup> Orig. 'onse dingen ... effent', to settle our things

bales of tobacco<sup>149</sup> as well as the bear hides still remain unsold. The bales of tobacco can't fetch 6 *stuivers*. The bear skins can't be sold for money, we'll have to store them away for another year. Our New Netherland tobacco is missing considerable weight, as you can see. This is also in your accounts an error. The skipper doesn't know about it either, whatever you do, don't touch a roll of tobacco unless the price is worth it. You should not estimate the leaves higher, if they are good than at 6 *stuivers* here in the country. Still, tobacco buyers much rather have Virginia leaf.

Regarding the common good for New Netherland in The Hague, we refer to cousin Couwenhooven, who has written the community about that.

Remain greeted!

Dated March 24, 1650, in Amsterdam

Cousin, greetings!

This letter serves to accompany the previous copy, to which we refer, because little has since happened. Our bales of tobacco have sold for 5.5 *stuivers*, weighing net 1,393 lbs. The bear skins still lay unsold. Our ship will sail with Lieff at the end of April. It would have been ready earlier, but Harddenberch, Leijsen and Gabrie and many other skippers had all gone to the proceedings in The Hague, *[new page]* hoping for a decrease in the recognition. For the first time we now have firm report, which for this voyage will remain to its full extent. But in the future the cargo for the savages will be put in [*O\*\*\*\*\*en*] percentages, and all the necessities for the community will be free, except alcoholic drink. This way the work of New Netherland will be according to the wishes of the community. Greetings to you all!

The company will have to forego the land. It would be too long to tell all the circumstances of that case, we refer to the representative. Those who will sail with our ship and are signed up for the old passage fee amount to about 140 people, besides our own people and ship full of cargo. We have to send away people and goods, as we have no space. We have not loaded a single tile, because of the space, and only 2 *lasten* of malt and 500lbs of hops for Couwenhoven, and 500lbs of hops for Oliff Steevensz. So our cargo will still be a lot larger than last year!

We don't doubt that more ships will sail over this summer. Nothing else is left to say, but remain with our heartfelt greetings, together with cousin Johannis Verbrugge. Greetings, and be commended in God's mercy. Be well!

With your friends,  
Gillis Verbrugge and son  
Govert vande Liphorst

[new document] F5-C

*Seth to Gillis e.a. [explaining why he came, as winter is slow, that he sailed on the ketch, but too late, no trading, update on what was bought and ready to be shipped to Holland, Virginia, March 18, 1650, received letter on March 20 1649.*

The common ship-owners of *De Valckenier*

God be praised always, in Virginia on the ketch<sup>150</sup>, [*scratched out: De Voorloper*] *Prinses Rejael*, this March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1650

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<sup>149</sup> Orig. 'menocken'

<sup>150</sup> Orig. 'kits', a ship with 1 deck and 2 masts. The distinguishing characteristic of a ketch is that the forward of the two masts (the "mainmast") is larger than the after mast (the "mizzen"). Historically the ketch was a square-rigged vessel, most commonly used as a freighter or fishing boat in northern Europe.

Beloved uncle Gillis Van Brugh,

Your letter has reached me on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month 1649, through Jan Janse Visser. From it I learned about the health and welfare of you all. What matters mine, I thank God for good health. Greetings! Further, the content of this letter is to let you know I have understood that *De Valckenier* has safely arrived, which was dear to me to hear! But I received no letters from you, because as you were with the ketch to *Halve Maen*<sup>151</sup>, to see there after the trade<sup>152</sup>. Meanwhile, the letters addressed to Govert Loockermans were sent to Manhattan, so that I did not see any letters from you.

In regards to the fact that I have come here, is this, that Goverdt Lookermans agreed to it, as this winter there is nothing to do in Manhattan, and that the work that has to be done could be done by a single person. So I went sailing with the ketch, because the masters have a part in it, to see if I could trade here for the ship-owners some of our old remaining wares that they had as cargo, and that is so difficult to sell here. But as there were many ships there, and as I came a little late, it does not sell.

Further, I have bought some goods from Jan Janse, and have paid him [scratched out: ‘with those beavers, paper and the other against’] in beaver and tobacco, as he will tell you. And also, Govert Lookermans has bought from Mr. Stuyvesant some brasil wood that is very good, but we have to give a lot more for it than before. But he will be paid in grain. We had grain in the attic that we had accepted against a debt. This way we seek to make as many returns as possible. Because Mr. Stuyvesant still has a large lot of brasil wood, Govert Lookermans will do his best to get much of it, either with goods or with sewant, to make it thus into a return, which is possible and feasible.

I hope the masters had good satisfaction when they saw how much was still outstanding, and what was still in the cashbox<sup>153</sup> and in previously returned goods that have come over with *De Valckenier*, according to the aforementioned enclosed lists. I have left it to Jan Janse Visser to sell for you and to deliver the tobacco to you, namely 36 *schepel*<sup>154</sup> white peas and ten quarter chests of sec, which I trust he will sell, [new page] as currently there is little alcohol here now. My time has come to go to Manhattan, so I have left those same wares to him [in margin: ‘Jan Janse will give you sewant[?]’], because it [\*\*\*?? Unclear text] was taken on in debt and bought for sewant. This was done to make returns.

Our yacht has been here, which Govert Loockerman had rented out and Andries, the skipper, has received some necessities for the yacht from Jan Janse Visser. Please accept it in gratitude.

Also, I am sending you with the *Prinses Rejael* a hogshead of tobacco marked with [mark], weighs net [rest of line illegible, fold], traded for peas. With this I end, and commend you in the protection of the Most High, who may grant you and us that which is needed for holiness. Amen!

And remain with the many greetings from Govert Lookermans, his wife, and from me.

UED JvB<sup>155</sup>

Dated this March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1650,

Aboard the *Prinses Rejael*

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<sup>151</sup> Original not clear ‘na ha[lve? Man E[?]’ Likely Halve Maen, a place north of Fort Orange

<sup>152</sup> Orig. ‘handen’, lit. hands. Did he mean ‘handel’ (trade)?

<sup>153</sup> Orig. ‘p<sup>r</sup> kasse’, cashbox

<sup>154</sup> Orig. ‘schepel’, measure of quantity

<sup>155</sup> Your honor’s servant, Johannes verBrugge

[New document] F5-D

*Gillis e.a. to Govert [Letter is accompanying general account and supporting docs, update on cargo, discussing closing the contract, ordering Govert to be strict with passage fees (no freebies)]  
Amsterdam, April 20, 1650*

To Mr. Govert Loockemans, merchant in New Netherland

Mr. Govert Loockemans:

Amsterdam, this April 20<sup>th</sup>, a.D. 1650

Honorable, trustworthy cousin, greetings!

Our last letter was sent with Gerret Vastrick and Evert Tesselaer. This letter serves as short accompaniment to the general account and other documents that go with it. We now have a large cargo, as you can see in the enclosed list. If you now could get to our proposition, that is to turn the remainders you have left with you and the outstanding debts into beaver or other returns, we could expect a nice return with the ship when it comes back. May the Lord grant his blessing to this. We will look forward to you with the ship, which without exception should be done, as was written to you earlier, since we don't understand how such had to be excused.

As our past time and the large account require such action, while we continued for 3.5 years, we deem it necessary that you are present for such account, and come up with other new conditions. We can then speak about the other things in person. While you have such large stake in the company, if there are still any remaining goods and outstanding debts, as we hope not, please transfer them to Johannes De Peijster, with supervision of cousin Jacob Couwenhoove, who we deem to be capable for this with the help of cousin Couwenhoove. He would take it all on him, but said that he himself will have a lot to do. But he said his advice and action will not be lacking.

Please let cousin Johannes Verbrugge come over with you, as his time is now also done. Even more because we trust that little or no remainders will be left there. Please do follow our orders, hold yourself as recommended that when the ship returns home, you will let no passenger come along without paying their boarding money there to you. Even less, don't take anyone for free<sup>156</sup> with you, as has happened more before. We heard this with discontent, as we suffered a loss of more than a thousand guilders in these three voyages. You will not let servants of the company come along without paying there. We won't waste a *stuiver* on the company, nor give her credit.<sup>157</sup>

To end this letter, we commend you, besides cousin Verbrugge and other know friends, to the care of the Most High. Accept the heartfelt greetings of all of us.

Your affectionate friends and cousins,

Gillis Verbrugge  
Seth Verbrugge  
Govert vander Liphorst  
Gerret Arentsen Zuijck

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<sup>156</sup> Orig. 'voor de kost'

<sup>157</sup> Orig. 'willen op de compangie niet een stuijver sien', Zie in WNT voor zien op: d) In aansl. bij b), in den zin van: te kostbaar achten om te gebruiken, te verspillen, te vergooien, om er kwistig mee om te springen; vand. in sommige aanh. : spaarzaam, zuinig, voorzichtig zijn met. Vaak in ontkennend verband, niet zien op iets.

[New document] F5-E

*Govert to Gillis e.a. [received letters from Vasterick and with Valckenier, woman overboard, update on goods loaded and what is expected still.]*

*Manhattan, August 10, 1650, Valckenier –with letter - arrived on June 28*

Letters written to the masters

To the common ship-owners of *De Valleckennier*  
God be praised, on Manhattan, a.D. 1650

Very beloved uncle and friends, greetings!

I have received your letter from Vasterick and our ship in good order, and understood their content clearly. Our ship *De Valleckennier* has arrived safely on June 28, God be praised, with all strong and healthy, with the exception of a woman who had fallen overboard. We hope that we will follow by the end of the month, as every day we do our best to be ready. We would already have been ready, but here we have weak trading so far. What is yet to come, is only known to God. Here is also a list, enclosed with this letter, of the goods we have already loaded. We expect more any day, which might delay us with 2 to 3 days. We do our best to collect the payments from the people, we hope it will go well. The desire here is all for mine (my relatives)<sup>158</sup>, know that the good God will grant that I may come over well/safely . No more this time, since we soon will follow. Remain in the protection of the Most High, who may grant you and us what is necessary to holiness, and give us safe travels. Pass our greetings to mother and you all together.

UEDW<sup>159</sup>/Your willing servant,

This August, 10th

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<sup>158</sup> Hard to read: mine? Niue?

<sup>159</sup> ‘U Edele Dienst Willige dienaer’, lit. ‘Your Honor’s servant, willing to serve’

## VI. 1653

[New document] F6-A

*Notary Public [sale of land of Govert]*

*New Amsterdam, February 11, 1653*

On this day, the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 1653, appeared before me Dirck van Schelluijne, notary public admitted by the high and mighty<sup>160</sup> lords of the States General of the United Netherlands, residing in New Amsterdam, New Netherland, and before the hereafter named witnesses, the honorable Wolphert Gerritsz van Couwenhoven, who confessed to be fully paid and satisfied by Govert Loockermans with the sum of two hundred guilders for ten *morgens* of flat land, and forty *morgens* of cornfields and woodland, together fifty *morgens*, located on the plain or<sup>161</sup> Amersfort next to the land of Elbert Elbertsen. And he, appearer<sup>162</sup>, therefore promises for himself, his heirs and offspring, to indemnify him, Loockermans, from all following claims, and to pass him at the first occasion sufficient acts of transfer and property, all in good faith.

Thus done and passed in New Amsterdam, New Netherland, in the presence of Barent Oosterman, and Andries Andriesz. as witnesses hereto asked, who, in addition to the appearer, have signed this original space of this document deposited under the notary.

To which I testify,

D.V. Schelluijne, Not. Publ.

1653

*[new page]*

[3 lines illegible, faded ink:

Certificate \*\*\*\*\* deposited \*\*\*\*\* fulfilled in the \*\*\*ij of the land.]

N°. 7

Govert

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<sup>160</sup> Orig. 'ho: mo:?', hoog mogende

<sup>161</sup> Orig. 'off'

<sup>162</sup> Orig. 'comparant', a legal term describing someone who is summoned to appear before a judge.

## VII. 1662

[New document] F7-A

*H. Hoochlandt to Govert [update on receipt of letter and goods, advice on action re: damaged goods, family news, tobacco update, trading instruction, Seth VB surprisingly died on Jan. 10]  
Haarlem, January 13, 1662*

Honorable, trustworthy Mr. Govert Loockmans, Merchant at Amsterdam, in New Netherland. Per Skipper Voocht, who God keeps.

*[new page]*

Mr. Govert Loockmans                      a.D. January 13, 1662, in Harlem

Honorable friend, greetings<sup>163</sup>!

Your letter from the 16<sup>th</sup> of July has reached me well, together with the goods in company of my son Cristoffel Hoochlandt, God be praised! We sold the goods on a good market, as we have informed you with the previous ship. Further, about the loss that you had with *De Gulden Arent* because of damaged goods, that does not have grounds for a dispute in our country. For that, they have to have the damage insurance<sup>164</sup>. I do not want to give them any advantage, and the way you understand it is the way I understand that as well. In regards to the fact that you have wished me well with my daughter-in-law, for that I have to thank you so much! I hope that he will succeed in it, as long as they do well, and take care of their things.

Furthermore, there are great changes coming in the tobacco. I have sold the tobacco with great difficulty, but when you will send me some more in company with me, do add some quality leaf to it, even if it was only a third part or half. I would then be able to sell them much more easily, and get good prices. I make a lot more on these bad wares as do the others on the good ones. You can't send too large a quantity, if you have the opportunity, but make that I could have the wares with the first ships, and that it is loaded on top. This way I can get it from the ship and well sold, before another has it in his warehouse. It also wouldn't be bad if you could negotiate with the skippers to get the price of a barrel a bit sharper. I hardly believe that other people give that much per barrel. But I don't know for sure. Now, we have always made a good market for it. Therefore we send with the ship *De Trou* on your account 1 basket with 2 small kegs, according to the invoice attached here. May it please God the Lord that it comes you well at hand, and that you may make good profit on it. This way one can think about each other, once in a while, because time here is over quickly. We have buried Set Verbrugge on the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month. Three weeks earlier, he was with me in Harlem and had no idea, I was very surprised - such a healthy brother! - when I heard that. *[new page]* It is certain that sometime we will leave this place, but uncertain as to when. That being said, we wish you all together a happy and blessed New Year, and this from our hearts. Many greetings, and commended to God, with your wife and children.

Your friend,

H. Hoochlandt.

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<sup>163</sup> Orig. 'tsal', for 't saluyt'

<sup>164</sup> Orig. 'haeverij', literally damage to a ship, here most likely used as insurance against such damage.



## VIII.1671

[new document] F8-A

*Auction summary*

*New York, June 10, 1671*

Roelof Jansz                *f*50,-

Lourens vander Spiegel *f*65,-

Capt. Laval                *f*60,-

5 gl: Adolf Pieters        *f*85,-

Sale set at *f*100,- and finished at *f*12,- and there gained in auction by Hans Kierstede, so that the aforementioned Hans Kierstede is buyer, at the sum of ninety seven guilders in beavers, in witness thereof this was signed, in New York a.D. June 10, 1671

I. Bedloo                    Hans Kierstede

W. Bogardus

To which I testify

N. Bayard, auctioneer<sup>165</sup>

*[new page]*

The widow and heirs of the late Govert Loockermans are likewise of the intent to sell at public auction about two thousand roofing tiles. Payment shall be made with merchantable sewant, within a period of 6 weeks after today's date. To be paid within 4 months

Per hundred by M<sup>r</sup> Steenwijck at *f*15

Capt<sup>n</sup> Marten *f*16,-

Stoffel van Laer *f*17,-

5gl.. bid by the same *f*17.10

I, the undersigned Stoffel van Laer recognize to have bought the aforementioned tiles for the sum of seventeen guilders and twelve *stuivers* per hundred, to be calculated for the whole lot.

In witness thereof this was signed in New York,

June 10, 1671: Stoffel van Laer

I. Bedloo

Petrus Bayard

On condition as said before the heirs aforementioned are willing to sell a leisure carriage<sup>166</sup> with its accessories,

First bid by        Cornelis Steenwijck *f*200,-

Balthaz Bayard *f*250,-

Capt<sup>n</sup>. Kregier *f*260,-

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<sup>165</sup> Orig. 'vendum<sup>r</sup>', 'vendumeester', or sales master

<sup>166</sup> Orig. 'speelwagen'.

Ariaen Cornelissen *f*265,-  
 1]6 gl Cornelis van Borsum *f*300,-  
 ?] gl. Cornelis Steenwijck *f*325,-  
 Bids set at *f*500 and this lead to nothing, so that the said Steenwijck remains buyer for the sum  
 of three hundred twenty-five guilders sewant.  
 New York, dated as above Cornelis Steenwijck  
 To which is testified  
 N. Baijard auctioneer:

[new page]

	sewant	&	beavers
Received from the large house	<i>f</i> 10		one beaver
from the house of Bernardus	<i>f</i> 30,-		
From lot nr. 1:	<i>f</i> 15,-		
From lot nr. 2	<i>f</i> 10,-		
From lot nr. 3	<i>f</i> 5,-		
From the valley etc.	<i>f</i> 20,-		
From the farmyard <sup>167</sup>	<i>f</i> 5,-		
From the tiles	<i>f</i> 5,-		
From the wagon	<i>f</i> [20]	_____	
	<i>f</i> 120,-		
From myself	<i>f</i> 50,-		
from Cornelis Dircksz [?]	<i>f</i> 5,-		
from Meutie Goverts	<u><i>f</i>75</u>		
	<i>f</i> 130,-		
left over by myself	<u><i>f</i> 10,-</u>		
	<i>f</i> 120,-		

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<sup>167</sup> Orig. 'erf'

## Appendix A, Glossary

This list gives the WNT searchable Dutch spelling of the words, and the most common spelling as found in these letters will be put between square brackets in the explanation if it deviates from the searchable spelling. Also, geographic location is given in the spelling as found in the letters, with the English equivalent in the explanation column.

anker	[ancker] firkin, a beer keg standard containing 8 gallons. (equal to one half kinderkin, one quarter barrel, one 11th hogshead)
cargasoen	[caergesoen] cargo (WIC term)
Company	[Compagnie] ‘The company’, meaning the West India Company, or WIC
croon	Crown, sterling silver British coin.
daalder	[dalder, thaler], about 30 <i>stuivers</i> (shillings).
duffel	Thick woolen cloth (the coats made with these were called ‘duffels’), named after the town in the Flemish province of Antwerp where the thick cloth originated. Compare with ‘duffel coat’ and ‘duffel bag’.
Faroese stockings	[ferosen kousen] Stockings in the way made on the Faroer Islands
fiskaal	[Fiscael] An old post for a judicial official for the treasury (1537: MNW), later holding much broader responsibilities for public welfare and interest.
grote Duitse mijl	[grote Duyse mijle] A unit to measure distance at sea, used in the WIC as well in the VOC, set at 7,407 meters. Lit. ‘Large German Mile’
gulden	Guilder (or florin, which give it its abbreviation <i>fl.</i> ), coin used as currency in New Netherland in the 17th century, usually worth around 20 <i>stuivers</i> . Six guilders equaled one English pound sterling or a pound Flemish. A common laborer usually earned one guilder per day.
ho: mo: heeren	High and mighty lords (of the Staten Generaal)
karveel	[kravellen] Caravel, a small, highly maneuverable sailing ship
last	Literally a ‘load’, unit of cargo, roughly 1250kg
Laus Deo Semper	‘God be praised forever’, formula in beginning of letters.
mingel	[mingelen (geeckt en tinnen)] Unit of volume, roughly 1 and 1/8 liter, also used as name for beer mug (in oak: geeckt or in pewter: tinnen)
morgen	[margen/morgen] A morgen, measure of land that could be plowed in a morning (roughly 2.5 acres)
neurenburgerij	[norenborgarij] Literally 'stuff as for Nuremberg', meaning small wares for peddlers or market wares: mirrors, beads,... Nuremberg was in medieval times one of two

major trading places on the route between Northern Europe and Italy.

okshoofd	[oxhooft] hogshead, a standardized size for wooden kegs. Depending on the content it had different volumes (for wine hogsheads, 64 US gallons; for beer and ale, 54 US gallons; for tobacco, 145 US gallons)
penning	penny, 16 penningen make 1 stuiver.
pistoletten	Spanish gold coin, worth a quarter doubloon. (1 doubloon was 4 to 8 British Pound and is worth about 9 guilders)
rente	[renttie] 'that what someone owes', here in the meaning of boarding money
rijksdaalder	[rijcxdaelder] “National Dollar”, Dutch coin issued from the late 16th century to the end of the 17th century and was minted to the Saxon reichsthaler weight standard - 448 grains of .885 fine silver ( <a href="http://www.coins.nd.edu/ColCoin/ColCoinIntros/Rix-Dollar.intro.html">http://www.coins.nd.edu/ColCoin/ColCoinIntros/Rix-Dollar.intro.html</a> ) and set to be equal to 48 to 50 <i>stuivers</i> (Dutch equivalent to shillings) or 2.5 guilders.
roer	a subtype of the musket which was the successor of the arquebus. Had a shorter barrel and lighter ammunition.
sassafras	[salvras] Sassafras wood/leaves, used for tea, as medicine, in perfumes, etc.
schepel	Bushel. Originally 'scheffel' or 'schepel': traditional units of dry volume. The German scheffel and Dutch schepel have both been redefined within the metric system, but in very different ways: the scheffel equals 50 liters (1.4189 U.S. bushels) and the schepel 10 liters (0.2838 U.S. bushels). Both words are usually translated "bushel" in English, and both units were originally closer to the English bushel; the schepel was roughly 0.75 bushel or about 26 liters. (University of N. Carolina online dictionary of units of measurement)
sewant	Dutch rendering of the Native word for the purple and white parts of the Quahog shell when made into beads and strung together. Used as currency, also called wampum in the English colonies.
Squirrelfur coat	[einckhoorens rocken] Clothing/coats made out of squirrel fur
stokvischhout	[stockvishout] “Nicaragua Wood, C. Vesicaria, also used for dye” (Sketches toward a Hortus Botanicus Americanus, London 1810) In modern biology C. Echinata, from the family of Caesalpinia, commonly called Brasilwood, Pernambuco, Nicaragua wood. Used for yellow or red dye (brazilin), or for making bows for stringed instruments. Currently an endangered species.
straatsvaarder	ship sailing to or from the Street of Gibraltar
stuiver	Dutch equivalent to the shilling, being 1/12 of a guilder, now a coin worth 5 cents. In New Netherland 20 <i>stuivers</i> made up 1 guilder.
stuurman	[steurman] coxswain, the steersman of a ship
U:E:	Uw Edele (Your Honorable, used as a more formal term for ‘you’ when addressing one’s superior.)

U:E:D:W:D:	‘U Edele Dienst Willige dienaar’, lit. ‘Your Honor’s servant, willing to serve’
UED	abbreviation for ‘U Edele Dienaar’, servant of your honorable.
vadem	Nautical term (fathom): depth, usually 6 feet (Amsterdamse vadem as used with the VOC and WIC was 1.698m)
Vale	Latin formula, literally 'Be well!', used at the end of a letter to someone.
de vrinden	Literally ‘the friends’, meaning associates, often also family members
zwarte wilden	[swarte wilden] Black Minqua Native American tribe. So named because of a large black square tattooed on their chest, subtribe of the Susquehana.

## Appendix B, Proverbs, sayings and more

I offer these as a reference, intended as a linguistic chrestomathy.

Clock ende gesont	<i>'Strong and healthy'</i>
Doch seijt sijn raet en daet sal niet manqueren	<i>'But he said his advice and actions will not be absent'</i>
Want het met haer (de companije) hoe older hoe boser wert seij aerde near Jochems hont.	<i>'Because with her (the WIC) it is true that the older she gets the meaner she gets, she becomes just like Jochem's dog.'</i>
Sooveer de peningen mochten stricken	<i>'As far as the pennies will last'</i>
om de Engelse cust te gieren	<i>'To yaw the English coast'</i> , to yaw: nautical term indicating horizontal directional change.
om hem een pap te kookken	<i>'To cook him a pudding'</i> , meaning to pull a joke on him
ick dede mijn best om ogesalf te maken om te blinden	<i>'I did my best to make eye cream for the blind'</i> , doing one's best to make the obstinate understand.
in een perket sijn	<i>To be in a pickle</i> (compare: in een lastig parket zijn)
Die sij vinger heel is hoefse niet te verbinden en geen oge salf om te genesen	<i>'He whose finger is unharmed needs not bandage it,</i> [Het WNT zegt: wie zich niets te verwijten heeft, wordt niet geschaad door aanklacht of laster.] <i>nor needs eye cream to heal.'</i>
die soo schant coop vercoft sijn	<i>'that were sold so scandalously cheap.'</i>
opdat wij ... een effe boom met den andre connen maecken'	<i>'so that we could match one tree with the other'</i> , where 'tree' is used in the meaning as explained in the WNT 'Boom' I, 2 c, i.e. an image of a drawn figure totaling the amount someone owes, therefore here used as figure of speech for accounting books. (compare with: 'ergens een boompje over opzetten')
voor wis en weet ick het niet	<i>'I am not certain'</i> (compare: wis en waarachtig)
in de narm moet nemen	<i>'to do something with someone's help, to engage someone'</i> (compare modern Dutch 'in de arm nemen')

soo kan UE een weyn[ich opening sien

*‘So you can see a small opening’, as if the tip of the veil is lifted, granting a preview of what is coming with the *Valckenier*.*

rijpelijck overleijt

*after serious consideration*