

MIDDELBURG

THE GEM CITY *of* HOLLAND

The express trains of the Netherland State Railways give splendid connections with Middelburg from Amsterdam (4 hours), The Hague (3 hours), Rotterdam ($2\frac{1}{2}$ hours), Cologne ($6\frac{1}{2}$ hours), Antwerp (3 hours) and Brussels (4 hours).

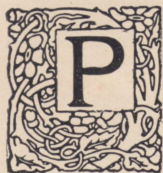
The Flushing Royal Mail Route is the quickest and easiest route from London to Holland and Middelburg (8 hours).

Day Service via Queenboro-Flushing

Night Service via Folkestone-Flushing

MIDDELBURG

THE GEM CITY OF HOLLAND



PERHAPS the name means nothing to you. Perhaps if you were told that Middelburg is on the Island of Walcheren and is the capital of Zeeland, it would still mean nothing. And yet, if it has been your privilege to visit Holland, there is a strong likelihood that you were on the little isle of Walcheren and at the very threshold of this quaintest in a land of quaint cities, and that you did not even know it. For Flushing, be it known, is also on Walcheren, and Middelburg's near neighbor—and Flushing is familiar to all of us as one of Holland's two principal sea-gates, the port of the Flushing Royal Mail Line from Folkestone and Queenboro, and a terminus of the Netherland State Railways. Often the traveler who follows the beaten path misses much of the enjoyment which lies within arm's length and might be his if he would but reach out and take it. But what of the traveler who stumbles upon a gem in the very middle of the path and does not stoop to pick it up?

There are many such unfortunates. They rush past Middelburg with never a glance, en route from Flushing to Amsterdam or The Hague. Doubtless it is hard to realize that so much of the most

interesting history and so many of the most delightful scenes and experiences in this fascinating land-below-the-sea are to be found at its very gateway. One feels instinctively that the true Holland of his imagination must be more than a few brief hours from London—and one is emphatically mistaken.

If one lands at Flushing by the night steamer, the usual course is to rise hurriedly in the wee small hours and speed away on the early train. Don't! Stay luxuriously in your berth till six, then arise, breakfast, and take the morning train for Middelburg. The four-mile trip will require just nine minutes. The connection with the day steamer is equally convenient,

and if it happens that your European trip does not take you across the Channel between England and Holland, you will find Middelburg equally easy of access if you travel from Amsterdam or The Hague to Brussels or Paris. Zeeland's capital is but an hour's ride from Rosendaal, an important railroad junction between Rotterdam and Antwerp.

Middelburg fairly overflows with features of rare interest. You will find them in its history, in its landscapes, in the manners, customs, occupations and appearance of its people, in fact, in any direction you may wish to turn. But first let us get our bearings. Let us seek "Long John" at once.



A Coquette of Veere



A Zeeland Peasant



“On the way home”

“Long John,” or “Lange Jan,” is Walcheren’s Washington Monument. It is the tower of the Nieuwe Kerk, two hundred and eighty feet high, equipped with forty-one bells which, every seven and a half minutes, chime a fragment of some familiar melody. The view from the top is ample reward for the climb, and while there, do not overlook the ancient telescope which, from its appearance, might well be one of the first put together by Zacharias Jansen, three hundred years ago and within a few feet of the tower you stand upon. Jansen, the inventor of the telescope and the microscope, and Father Jacob Cats, the humorist-poet-philosopher, were contemporaries in Middelburg for a time, and the town claims them as its most illustrious sons. Jansen’s first efforts are still to be seen

in the little museum of the Zeeuwisch Genootschap der Wetenschappen; Father Cats will live in Holland in book form until the end



Veere Town Hall

of all things. On a clear day, the view from Lange Jan embraces almost the entire island of Walcheren. Around the rough oblong of its coast line may be seen the points of greatest interest—Flushing, the birthplace of that popular idol of the Dutch, Admiral de Ruyter; Veere, famed for its well preserved buildings of bygone centuries; Domburg, the curious little bathing resort, half hidden among the sand-dunes and the rich foliage of its numerous trees; and Westkapelle, with its giant sea dike. This dike, by the way, protects one of the lowest, though at the same time, one of the most exposed parts of Holland, and receives the most painstaking care from the government. Should it break, the entire island would be below the sea in a very few seconds. Walcheren was formerly nothing but a stretch of shallow sea water. The Dutch saw possibilities in its development, built a sort of cofferdam around it, pumped it dry and made it into an island. Later by a long embankment they converted it into the peninsula which it is to-day. As all this happened so long ago that there are no accurate records to be had, there seems no cause for alarm on the traveler's part at finding himself below sea-level. We must not forget, while at the top of Lange Jan, to look down at the red roofs of Middelburg itself. There are many points of interest which impress us from this viewpoint and demand closer inspection.



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A Walcheren Peasant

Middelburg's Town Hall dates back to the sixteenth century. It is one of the finest and most interesting edifices in the Netherlands, a masterpiece of late-Gothic architecture. The facade is embellished by twenty-five ancient statues of the Counts and Countesses of Holland. The tower has another chime, "Gekke Betje" (Foolish Betsy), which, apparently as a matter of principle, disputes the accuracy of Lange Jan's proclamation of the hour. Within the Hall will be found many rare delights—the fine old wainscotted Court Room, delightful portraits, interesting antiquities and fascinating ancient documents. One of the latter is the oldest in the Dutch language. It is a charter granted to the town in the thirteenth century, and is well worth perusing — with the assistance of the attendant.



One of the Natives

It is but a step to the old Abbey, which is extremely fascinating in itself and doubly so in view of its long and varied history. It was completed a century or so after the foundation was begun in 1106. On two occasions it has been partially destroyed by fire and each time rebuilt. Then in 1559 Middelburg was made a diocese by Pope Pius IV, and the brotherhood disbanded. The rooms are now used by the High Council of Zeeland and other bodies for their meetings. Restfulness is the keynote of these fine old rooms. All the quiet and dignity for which the best Dutch interiors are noted, the perfect fitness and beauty of equipment, are found



Four Girls at Middelburg Market

here in full measure. The walls themselves are covered with seven fine Gobelin tapestries which depict with wonderful detail various naval battles between Zeeland and Spain. Some of the tapestries were made on Middelburg looms and others at Delft. The colors are toned down by time to the most beautiful harmonies.

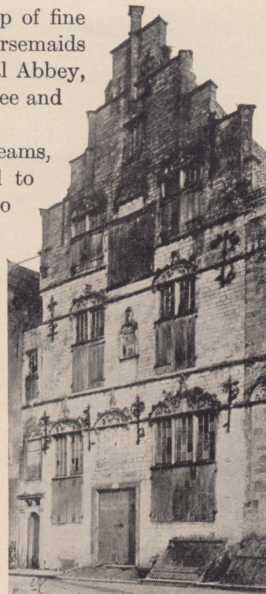
After examining the cloth-covered table, the councillors' chairs with their cleverly worked backs of laced pigskin, and the pewter ink and pounce pots before each seat, let us step into the courtyard.

Here is a delightful retreat, quiet and romantic, with a clustered group of fine old chestnut trees. It is a veritable haven for the quaintly garbed nursemaids and their charges. The Abdij Hotel, doubtless a part of the original Abbey, occupies one side of the courtyard. Here one may rest and enjoy coffee and a cigar, while surrounded by evidences of a splendid past.

Middelburg, formerly a fortress, is entirely surrounded by moat-like streams, which are thickly fringed with beautiful, stately trees. It is delightful to walk around the old ramparts and enjoy the unusual scenery which is so picturesque in its calm, serene beauty.

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It is Thursday. It must be, if the traveler hopes to see Middelburg at its very best. For Thursday is market-day, and as early as six or seven in the morning preparations are in full swing, the stalls with varied wares laid out to the best advantage gradually filling the square. Under the avenues of white canvas roofs will be found a most amazing variety of merchandise, which is offered quietly, with a striking absence of exhortation. The immaculate cleanliness of everything, the wares disposed in the most orderly way, the polish on the brass or copper scales and other metal are a fascinating spectacle. The crowd is always lively, picturesque and most orderly. The dress of the men is somber and their demeanor fits their garb. The wide jacket, the waistcoat and



A House at Veere



Abbey Gate



"Even the children are picturesque."

hold the colored necktie. No less curious are the straight knife with its artistically carved handle, genuine Zeeland art, and the likewise elegantly fashioned pipe-case in which the "Gouda" pipe (clay pipe) is secured

from breaking. These two things cannot be dispensed with and belong to the inventory of the trouser-pocket. The shoes are low, fastened with small leather straps, a primitive pattern of the Oxford model. In the ears they wear plain gold rings, and on their heads the high hats with inch-wide brims and the nap ruffled by continued brushing in the wrong direction.

the short trousers are unexceptionally of black cloth.

On their waists they wear four big silver plates, and out of the waistcoat pocket, as if from curiosity, is peeping forth the silver tobacco-box which always finds its place there. Look at the gold buttons in filigree work which



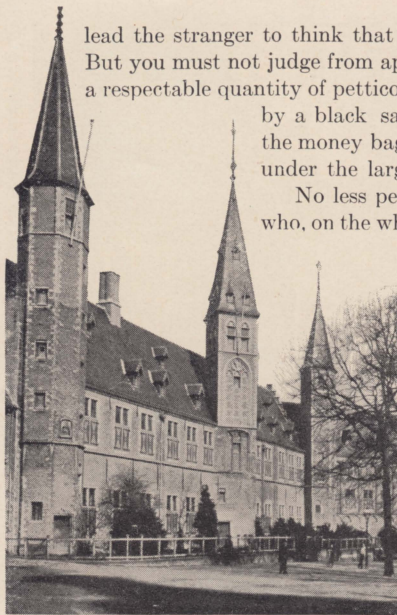
This quaint though quiet garb provides a fitting background for the lively costumes and actions of the women. The latter, with their best and smartest frocks, their caps of lace, their faces beaming with robust, ruddy health and excitement, are a picture of infinite variety and beauty. As a rule the farmer sends his most attractive daughters to market, and it is doubtful if such a bevy of rustic beauty could be found anywhere else. The shining white caps, often encased in a yellow straw bonnet of a peculiar uniform shape with multicolored ribbons hanging in front and at the back, the corkscrew-shaped gold ornaments above the ears, in which triangular plates are pending, beset with pearls, and the red necklace, tied in four strings round the chubby neck, enclose a fresh, rosy face in a most happy way. Most elegant is the tight, dark-colored bodice, cut out very low; the short sleeves with their velvet arms to the greatest advantage, while the slight lace-bordered chemisette (beuk)

considerably enhances the bright aspect of the bust. The circumference of the petticoats would

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"Middelburg's Town Hall is one of Europe's famous edifices.



Part of the Abbey at Middelburg

lead the stranger to think that the much disdained crinoline is still held in due veneration. But you must not judge from appearances; the voluminous rounding is in reality obtained by a respectable quantity of petticoats, the uppermost skirt being for the greater part protected by a black satin apron. The women wear long shoes with silver clasps; the money bag, shut with a large silver clasp, hangs on the belt, half hidden under the large apron. Heavy gold rings adorn the well-formed fingers.

No less peculiar are the costumes of the male or female young peasants, who, on the whole, are dressed in the same way as their fathers and mothers; yet in details their costume is different and this very variety adds to the picturesqueness.

The costumes, by the way, are as interesting as a study as for their beauty and quaintness. Many of the villages and towns have costume characteristics of their own, which have been handed down through the centuries practically unchanged. The native can tell you at once to what town a certain young woman belongs. The shape of the bonnet also indicates the religion of the fair wearer.

After the market the people gather in groups in the Melk Salons for their weekly discussion of events and personalities, and by midday the market is clear and the crowd dispersed by cart, boat and bicycle. A string of many-skirted Zeeland maidens pedalling along the road on bicycles, with baskets over their arms, is a familiar,

though ever an incongruous and amusing sight. The fair at Middelburg, an occasion of the greatest interest to both native and visitor, begins on the first Thursday after the fourth Monday in July and lasts ten days. If possible, the tourist should arrange to include a part of this time in his Middelburg visit.

These few principal features by no means exhaust the interesting possibilities of Middelburg, but to do full justice here to the scenes and people is obviously impossible. There is the canal, an excellent example of the useful water-ways so characteristic of all Holland. Truly the Dutch have mastered this element and made it their slave. They have driven it back from the land they wished to occupy; they make the most thorough use of it for transportation and irrigation; and for cleansing purposes who but the Dutch will ever know its full value? The canal runs from Flushing, through Middelburg, to Veere, with various offshoots where they are needed most. It flows between embankments which raise its water-level high above the surrounding country. To see from a distance one of the little water-craft traveling along against the skyline, gives all the impression of a mirage.

But the interest in Walcheren is by no means confined to Middelburg. In the other cities and towns, and in the open country, buildings, landscapes and people of the truest Dutch types are to be seen on every hand. The roads are superb, ideal





Canal Scene

for driving or cycling, an invitation in themselves to visit the other parts of the island. Veere is but an easy ride of three or four miles away, a ride which, even if it were not delightful on its own account, would be well worth while because of the fine old buildings which carry one back, by their well-preserved antiquities, through Veere's fascinating, semi-maritime history. This quiet, quaint little town is particularly appreciated by artists of various nationalities, who have been fortunate enough to discover it and who are endeavoring to immortalize the rustic scenes, beautiful gables and trim little fishing boats. From Veere to Domburg there is a rapid succession of long, shady, hedge-fringed avenues. Domburg, well known as a quiet, select bathing resort, is surrounded by beautiful estates. The town is situated in an extremely pretty part of the island, where an abundance of trees and shady walks are to be found on all sides. Westkapelle, a couple of miles from Domburg, presents people of a distinct type. They are of Norman descent and hardy in physique, as is necessary at this exposed point. There are several



“The suffragette movement has not yet reached the Holland fisherwomen ”



Ancient Church Tower at Westkapelle, now used
as a Lighthouse

large mounds of grass-covered earth in this district, which are said to have been constructed centuries ago to provide a refuge for the people in case the sea should break through the defences and submerge the land. Everywhere are evidences of the desperate struggle of old, first to drive back the sea and then to hold the land so hardly won. A great many of the inhabitants of Westkapelle find constant employment in keeping the immense sea dike in repair.

It is about seven miles from Westkapelle to Flushing, and here we find one of the finest harbors of Western Europe, superb sea-views, and the famous statue of Admiral de Ruyter, on the North Sea Boulevard.

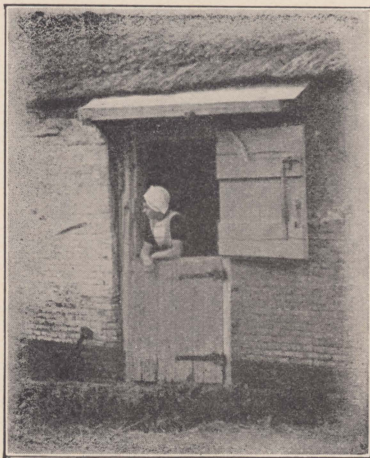
Nor is this all; the most extended, painstaking description of this delightful district would fall far short of doing it justice. It is a part of Holland which has held true to type. It is in almost every detail characteristic of the entire country at its best. It has retained all its ancient landmarks, all the manners, customs, habits and costumes which are so fascinating in their quaintness. And the people, even to the children, are the best of hosts. Their smiling, welcoming faces and cheery greetings convey a true impression that they are thoroughly pleased to see you among them.

Don't miss Middelburg and the rest of Walcheren, especially since it is so very easy of access from Amsterdam,



A Zeeland Woman

The Hague, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Brussels or London. When traveling from Holland to Belgium don't fail to make the short side trip to Middelburg from Rosendaal Junction. When enroute between London and Holland, via Flushing, you need only stop for as long as you please instead of going on at once. However long or short a time it is, however much or little you may be able to see, you will consider yourself fortunate indeed that you were wise enough to depart here from the beaten track.



"Is he coming?"

What is Worth Seeing at Middelburg

Collections of the Zeeland Society of Science, among others: Old Dutch Room. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 to 12 a. m. and from 1 to 5 p. m. On Sundays and Holidays from 1 to 5 p. m. Apply to the caretaker of the building, Wagenaarstraat.

Collection of Antiquities in the Town Hall. On week-days from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m.; on Sundays from 12 to 5 p. m. Apply to the town-beadle or the caretaker.

Picture Gallery. Collection of Modern and Ancient Pictures. For strangers every day from 1 to 4 p. m. Apply to the landlord in the Schuttershof.

The Mausoleum of the Evertsens in the New Church. Every day. Apply to the sexton, Wal A 4.

Abbey Steeple. Every day from 10 to 12 a. m. and from 2 to 5 p. m. Apply to the watchman, Spanjaardstraat E 81.

The Restored Porticos and Vaults in and under the Provincial Government Buildings. Apply to the caretaker, Koorkerkhof A 132.

Zealand Tapestries in the Council Chamber of the States of Zeeland. Apply to the caretaker, Koorkerkhof A 132.

Tapestries (Gobelins) in the Court of Justice on the Hofplein. Every day, when the Court is not sitting.

Children's Playgrounds of the Society "Uit het Volk—Voor het Volk." (From the People—for the People), Hofplein. To be seen daily.

The Walks round the town.



A Village Near Middelburg

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

(Prices subject to change)

- Hotel De Abdij—60 rooms. Bed and breakfast, \$1; dinner, 80c.; hotel omnibus, 10c.
Grand-Hotel—45 rooms. Bed and breakfast, 80c.; dinner, 80c.; hotel omnibus, 20c.
Hotel Nieuwe Doelen—36 rooms. Bed and breakfast, \$1; dinner, 80c.; hotel omnibus, 10c.
Hotel Du Commerce—45 rooms. Bed and breakfast, 60c.; dinner, 50c.
Ladies' Home, St. Pieterstraat F. 51—Bed and breakfast, 60c.; dinner, 40c.; pension, 80c.
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A FEW ATTRACTIVE DRIVES

(Prices for Carriage and Pair, including Stops, given in Guilders—Cost of Tolls, Stabling and Gratuities extra. f. 5 = \$2.00; f. 8 = \$3.25; f. 12 = \$5.00; f. 15 = \$6.15)

Middelburg-Koudekerke-Flushing-Middelburg, f. 5.

Middelburg-Veere-Vrouwepolder-Oranjezon-Middelburg, f. 8.

Middelburg-Veere-Vrouwepolder-Oranjezon-Domburg-Westkapelle-Koudekerke-Middelburg, f. 12.

Middelburg-Serooskerke-Oostkapelle-Domburg-Westkapelle-Koudekerke-Flushing-Middelburg, f. 12.

Middelburg-Veere-Vrouwepolder-Oranjezon-Domburg-Westkapelle-Koudekerke-Flushing-Middelburg, f. 15.

For full particulars, fares and tickets, apply to the following information offices of the
Netherland State Railways and Flushing Route:

NEW YORK CITY . . C. Bakker, General Agent, 334 Fifth Avenue
LONDON, S. W. . . G. H. Ravelli, Tourist Agent, 33 Cockspur Street
LONDON, E. C. . . H. S. Alter, Tourist Agent, Electra House, Moorgate
AMSTERDAM Heerengracht and Sophiaplein
THE HAGUE . . . Plaats 10 BRUSSELS Boulevard du Nord 64
ROTTERDAM Noordblaak 91 BERLIN . 71 Unter den Linden

For detailed information respecting Walcheren, apply to
The Society for Encouraging Foreigners to Visit Walcheren
Market Place I 14, Middelburg

