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The oriental treasures of Frisian nobleman Tinco on exhibition



BEETSTERZWAAG – From the 8th of June 2018 the exhibition *Tinco Lycklama, a Frisian nobleman in the Orient* will be open to the public in Beetsterzwaag (Friesland). Here, the exceptional story of a almost forgotten member of the Frisian nobility, who was born in Beetsterzwaag and as a young man travelled for three years through the Orient, is being told. After his return to his place of birth, Tinco Lycklama à Nijeholt (1837-1900) set up a museum with almost 700 objects from the East that he had collected during his travels. A few years later he moved to Cannes in the south of France, where he again opened a museum and earned the respect of his peers, in part thanks to the significant donations he made to several (religious) institutions.

In collaboration with the *Musée de la Castre* in Cannes and the Tinco Lycklama Foundation this collection will temporarily return to Beetsterzwaag.

Apart from the collection, the exhibition charts the journey of Tinco Lycklama and gives an impression of his life and work. Furthermore, the exhibition offers new insights into Syria thanks to photographs from Tinco's own times in combination with paintings by the modern-day archaeologist and painter Theo de Feyter. His gouaches show places in the Near East (where) Tinco travelled to 150 years ago, such as Damascus, Aleppo, Palmyra and Beirut.

Tying into the exhibition, a number of additional activities have been organized, including lectures and guided tours.

Background information

Tinco, a Frisian nobleman, studied history and law in Utrecht and Groningen. In 1862 he registered with the renowned Ecole des Langues Oriëntales in Paris. The knowledge he acquired there spoke to Tinco's imagination and he resolved to take a journey that lasted three and a half years. Via Berlin and Russia he travelled to the Caucasus. His main destination, however, was Persia and in May 1866 he reached Tehran. Afterwards he continued his archaeological explorations at Persepolis, Babylon, Nineveh and Palmyra and crossed through Libanon and Palestine. He moved by horse and on foot through desolate mountain ranges and deserts and hired assistants to guide, protect and serve him.

Tinco undertook excavations, and bought or was presented with hundreds of artifacts, including some highly valuable ones. At the end of his travels he had these shipped to his birthplace of Beetsterzwaag where he founded his museum in the Eysingahuis, which opened its doors to the public in January 1871.

The museum would not last long. Tinco developed health issues and went to a spa in Cannes for treatment. The Frisian nobleman fell in love with that city. In 1872 he acquired the Villa Escarras and moved his entire museum along with him.

In Cannes, Tinco was a welcome guest in the cultural and social life of the international *beau monde*.

He organized fancy dress balls that were famed throughout the entire south coast of France. By 1877, his collection had extended so much/had become so extensive that he decided to part with it. It became a gift to the municipality of Cannes as a token of gratitude for the hospitality received. Tinco thus became founder of the Musée de la Castre in that city.

The Frisian died in 1900 in Cannes, but was buried at the Church of St. Francis in Wolvega.

Practical information:

Location: Grietenijhuis (the old town hall), Hoofdstraat 17, 9244 CL Beetsterzwaag

When: from June 8 until September 9, 2018

Hours: opened Wednesdays to Sundays from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Fares: €5,00 (free for children aged 12 and under, if supervised)

Organisation: Stichting Historisch Beetsterzwaag (*the Beetsterzwaag Historical Society*), in cooperation with the Tinco Lycklama Foundation and the Musée de la Castre in Cannes.

The municipalities of Cannes and Opsterland have made a cultural agreement to make this exhibition a reality. The Tinco-project is a subsidiary of Leeuwarden Cultural Capital of Europe 2018.

Omrop Fryslân (*Frisian public broadcasting service*) will be filming a documentary about Tinco as part of the *Fryslân Dok* series, to be aired on June 16 at 3:30 pm (NPO-1), June 17 at 1:00 pm (NPO-2) and every hour on June 17 at Omrop Fryslân.

More information can be found at:

www.historischbeetsterzwaag.nl

www.culturelehoofdstraat.nl

Background information on Tinco at www.tincolycklama.org (in English)

Partners and sponsors

This exhibition has been made possible with the aid of:

Gemeente Opsterland, Van Teyens Fundatie, Provincie Fryslân (Iepen Mienskip Fûns), Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds, Mondriaan Fonds, Gravin van Bylandt Stichting, P.W. Janssen's Friesche Stichting, Rabobank Drachten Friesland Oost.

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