



DE BLAUWE WIMPEL

maandblad voor scheepvaart en scheepsbouw in de lage landen



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Makum



The Maritime world of Peter J. Sterkenburg

(18-12-1955-23-04-2000)



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Peter Sterkenburg was a modest man, and because of that character trait plus the fact that he was continuously occupied by special commissions, his work is only admired by a small group of art lovers, but less well-known in large circles. We had to wait one and a half years for our painting, that long was the waiting list in 1990. Except for a few museums, all of his work is privately owned. In 1992, he held an exhibition in Hong Kong at the invitation of KLM. This exhibition was such a success that he, again at the invitation of KLM, exhibited once more in Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Sydney and Jakarta a few years later. In Jakarta, the opening was carried out by Dutch Minister Annemarie Jorritsma. The exhibition resulted in many new assignments. However, he still found time to accept a commission for a large oil on panel of 180 by 700 cm from the Holland America Line for the cruise ship "Amsterdam". Unfortunately, due to his completely unexpected death on the 23rd of April last year, he was not able to complete the painting completely. His sudden passing was a great shock to family and fans from all over the world.

Since Saturday, October 13th last, a retrospective exhibition of his work has been on view at museum Het Hannemahuis in Harlingen, the Netherlands. This overview consists of 50 paintings, which is rather unique because his work - spread all over the world - is mainly in private hands.

The exhibition "Bound to the sea, maritime paintings by Peter J. Sterkenburg", which was also opened by Dutch minister Annemarie Jorritsma, will last until November 24th. Henri van der Zee from London, who was a journalist for many years at the leading Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf, has written a book together with Ton van der Werf about Peter's life and work. The biography, in which 80 of Sterkenburg's paintings are depicted in four-colour print, was presented at the opening.

The book, size 24.5 x 31.5 cm, features 128 pages and appears in a Dutch (Met de zee verbonden) and an English edition (Bound to the sea). The price is NFL 69.95 (€ 29.50). The ISBN number is 90-901-4897-3. By placing a depiction of one of his paintings on the center pages of the Blauwe Wimpel, we hope to let more people enjoy his special view of the maritime world.

Tiny Fahner-Zeilstra

**AN OIL PAINTING FROM
PETER J. STERKENBURG
(1955-2000)**

Pilot boat "Captain Cook II" North and South Head, Sydney, 1925
Size 49.2 inch x 37.4 inch.

The Australian pilot steamer "Captain Cook II" had Sydney, Australia as her home base. The vessel measured 396 tons and had a length of 46.5 m. She was built at Mort's Dock, Sydney, completed on December 16th 1891 and replaced her predecessor "Captain Cook I" in 1893. Originally her bridge was positioned behind the smokestack, which must have been a pretty unhealthy place to work with all the smoke coming from the chimney. In 1902 the bridge was brought forward. These pilot vessels were also used for seagoing search and rescue missions, and many stories are told of brave feats of seamanship performed by their crews.

On one occasion in 1907, "Captain Cook II" sailed as far as Lord Howe Island to rescue a shipwrecked crew and bring them back to Sydney. The last vessel for which "Captain Cook II" served as pilot was the Mariposa, which entered Sydney on the 20th of March, 1939, the same day that the "Captain Cook III" began service. Captain Cook II then served as a training vessel until 1949 when she was towed to sea and scuttled. The painting shows how the pilot boat sails towards one of Captain Erikson's windjammers in strong winds. North and South Head, the cliffs in the background, form the bluff between Sydney and South Reef. The year is 1925.

