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KLM INFO

It's Christmas time again and what a bumpy year it was! I hope all our readers have, once again, enjoyed Vogelvlucht for another year. For KLM, it was a big year - we recommenced our Second Service to Australia, and judging from the letters received, passengers certainly enjoy flying the new Boeing 747-400, one stop service to Amsterdam on either Monday or Friday evenings, from Sydney and Melbourne.

For passengers living outside Sydney and Melbourne, special deals have been set-up in partnership with other airlines, making your next journey to Holland easier, fly via Singapore for a Singapore Sling, via Africa for an adventure of a lifetime, or with our partner, Northwest Airlines, and travel via the United States for a Disney experience. Either way, KLM provides all the options every time. Contact your nearest Holland Gateway Agent for the latest prices.

In this issue of Vogelvlucht we have produced a special feature on Friesland in support of the NSW Holland Festival and the Victorian Holland Festival, being staged in February and March 1993 respectively. I hope this brings some enjoyable reading especially to those who are from this province and entices you to travel 'home' soon. Just contact KLM or your friendly Holland Gateway Agent to help with the details.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

COMING EVENTS 1993

- Keukenhof-Lisse..... March 25 through May 23
- European Fine Art Fair-Maastricht..... April 13 through 18
- Koninginnedag..... April 30
- North Sea Jazz Festival -
The Hague..... July 8 through 11
- Wandelvierdaagse-Nijmegen..... July 20 through 23
- Mondriaan exhibition -
The Hague..... February through June 1994



PROFILE OF THE PROVINCES: FRIESLAND.



Almost 4000 square kilometers inhabited by some 600,000 people: that is the basis for the legendary individuality of the Frisians. The majority of them are of Protestant denomination and the professional profile is as follows:

- agriculture, fishery: 9%
- industry: 20%
- building: 9%
- trade, catering and repairs: 17%
- transport and communication: 5%
- banking and insurance: 8%
- other services: 30%

Despite the emphasis on services and industry, Friesland still has a clearly agricultural atmosphere, with dairy-farming predominant in the West, crops in the East. Pasture represents 200,000 hectares, crops take up some 27,000 hectares. Friesland is exceptional in that the province is actively trying to increase its population: there is a surplus of houses! There are 11 true cities, those of "Elfstedentocht" fame: Leeuwarden, Dokkum, Franeker, Harlingen, Bolsward, Workum, Hindeloopen, Staveren, Sloten, IJlst en Sneek. Other, much

larger communities such as Heerenveen or Drachten, do not rank among these eleven!

Landscape and history

This is directly attributable to the Frisian landscape and history. All the "true" eleven cities are located to the West of the series of interconnected Frisian lakes, where the fertile clay and the harbours brought in the money. Per unit of surface area, Finland is the only country in the world that has more lakes than Friesland! To the East of the lakes, the soil is sandier and formerly, yields were lower. The difference is still clearly noticeable in the landscape: the West has wide-open luscious green scenery, the East consists of a unique patchwork of small fields enclosed by hedges and patches of wooded somewhat undulating countryside.

Frisians as a people with their own identity are senior to all other Dutchmen: they are already mentioned by the Romans! In that time, they lived along the coast



from what is now Denmark to almost in what is now Belgium. In most of this area, they assimilated with other groups, but the North of North Holland (called West Friesland), Friesland itself, and areas in northern Germany have maintained the Frisian identity. Frisian independence is proverbial: the tribe was difficult to bring under foreign rule and Friesland never had a feudal society.

That meant that the economy did not focus on the nobility, but on independent farmers and traders - a trait that also survived among the Frisians assimilating in

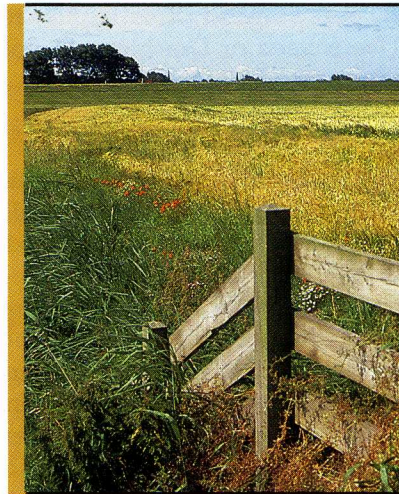




"Holland" and Zeeland. After the Netherlands became independent, Friesland had its own governor ("stadhouder"), from the House of Nassau like the "stadhouders" of The Netherlands and subsequently the Dutch Royalty.

Language and flag.

Frisian is definitely not a dialect but a West-Germanic language with its own linguistic roots, sometimes clearly reminiscent of English ("troch"=Dutch "door", English "through"). There are



many variants and even within Friesland one area (Stellingwerf) does not speak Frisian but a Saxon derivative. Despite modern inroads, Frisian is still very much alive and is recognized as the equal of Dutch in the province.

The Frisian flag shows 7 red "hearts", which are actually the leaves of a small water-lily. These are said to symbolize the 7 early medieval Frisian independent areas along the coast from Holland to North Germany. The little squares in the coat-of-arms have the same origin. Flags showing the Frisian water-lily did already exist in the 11th century, the modern form is about a century old.

