

Dutch Whaling on either Side of the Equator, 1815-1885.

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National Maritime Museum Amsterdam

ECS-conference 2008

Two 'Theatres of Hunting':

- Pacific/Indian Ocean
- Arctic Ocean (Jan Mayen, Spitsbergen, the Davis Strait)

Secondary Sources:

- F.J.A. Broeze, 'Whaling in the Southern Oceans. The Dutch Quest for Southern Whaling in the Nineteenth Century', *Economisch- en Sociaal-Historisch Jaarboek*, vol.40 (1977), 66-112
- C. de Jong, *Geschiedenis van de oude Nederlandse walvisvaart* (Johannesburg/Pretoria 1972-1978). Vol. 2, 449-494

Pacific/Indian Ocean: Primary Sources

- National Archives, The Hague:
 - ✓ Archive Dutch Trading Company
- Royal House Archive (Koninklijk Huisarchief)
- Newspapers 1827-1849
- Schip's journal *Logan*, Kendall Collection, New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, Mass (VS)

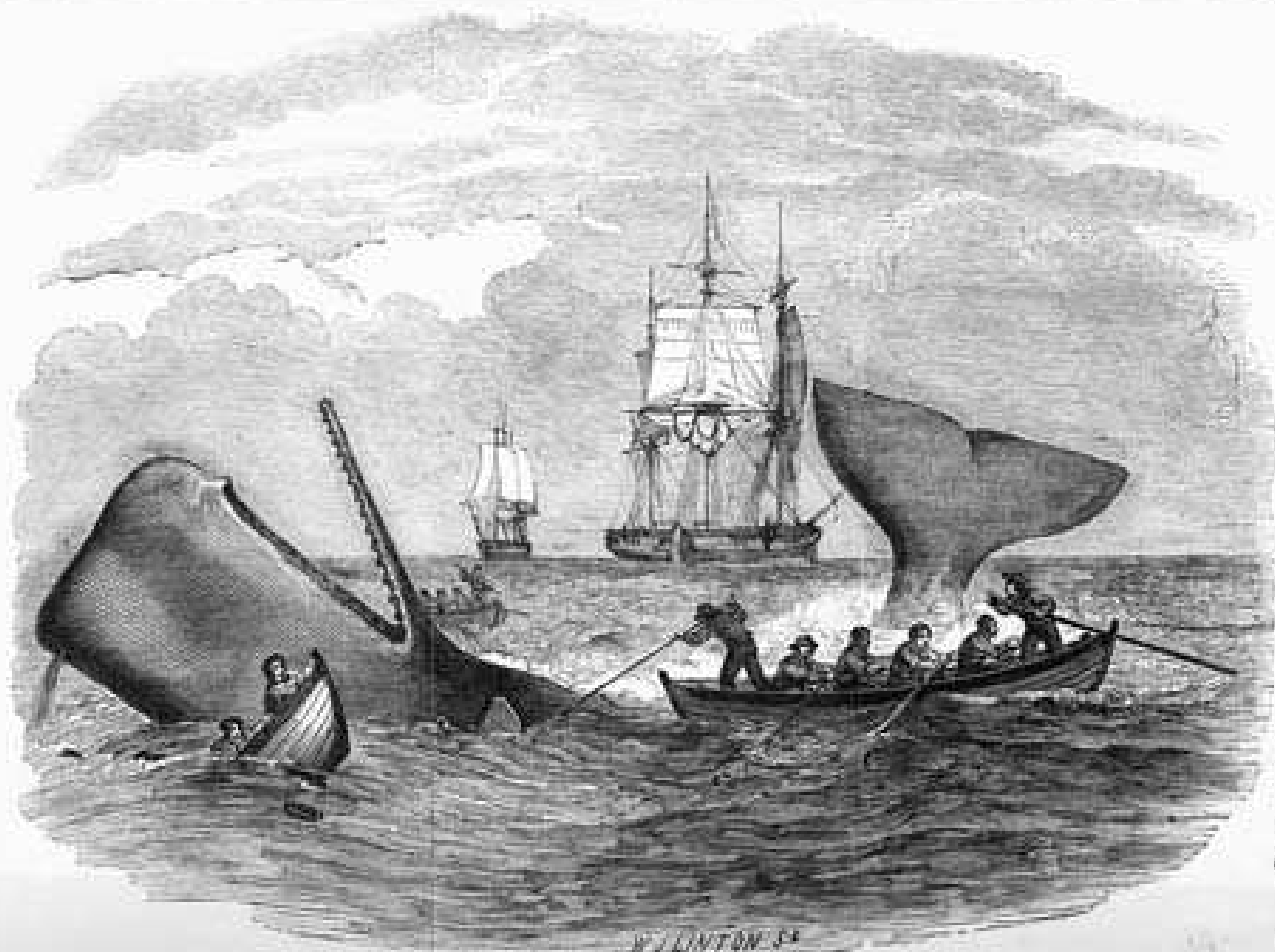
Arctic Ocean: Primary Sources

- Correspondence City Archive Harlingen, 1820-1865:
- Newspapers 1820-1865
- 14 journals 1830-1840; 1846-1848
- Three published accounts (Hoekstra 1828; De Boer 1921; Wever 1921)
- Crewlists 1815-1825; 1858-1863
- Ships lists 1802-1885

Extraordinary:

No company archives have
remained.

Whaling in the Indian and Pacific Ocean, 1827-1849



W. J. LINTON. SC.

NORTH SEA WHALE FISHING.—DRAWN BY DUNCAN.

Dutch Trading Company (Nederlandsche Handel- Maatschappij), 1827-1830

- One expedition with *Logan*, master Reuben F. Coffin (Nantucket)

Company for Whaling around The South (Vereeniging tot Walvischvangst om de Zuid), 1832-1838

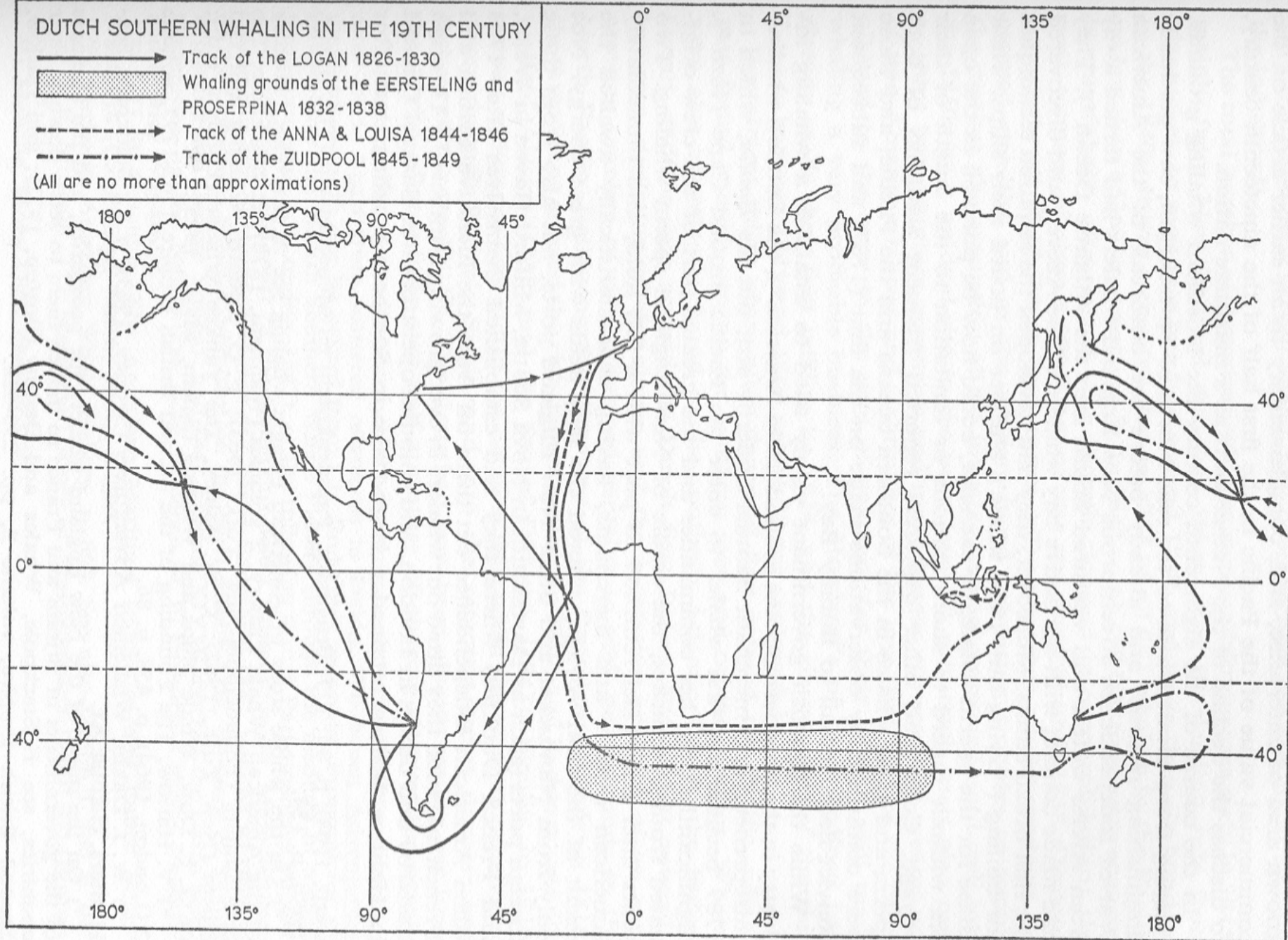
- Two expeditions with *Eersteling*, master H.F. Horneman
- One expedition with *Proserpina*, master J.P. Smith

(Reederij voor de Zuidzee
Walvischvangst)
(Gebroeders Reelfs), 1843-1849

- One expedition with *Anna & Louisa*, master George Gray
- One expedition with *Zuidpool* (ex-*Proserpina*), commandeur Brunn/A.J. Meyer

DUTCH SOUTHERN WHALING IN THE 19TH CENTURY

- ▶ Track of the LOGAN 1826-1830
 - ▨ Whaling grounds of the EERSTELING and PROSERPINA 1832-1838
 - - -▶ Track of the ANNA & LOUISA 1844-1846
 - · - · -▶ Track of the ZUIDPOOL 1845-1849
- (All are no more than approximations)



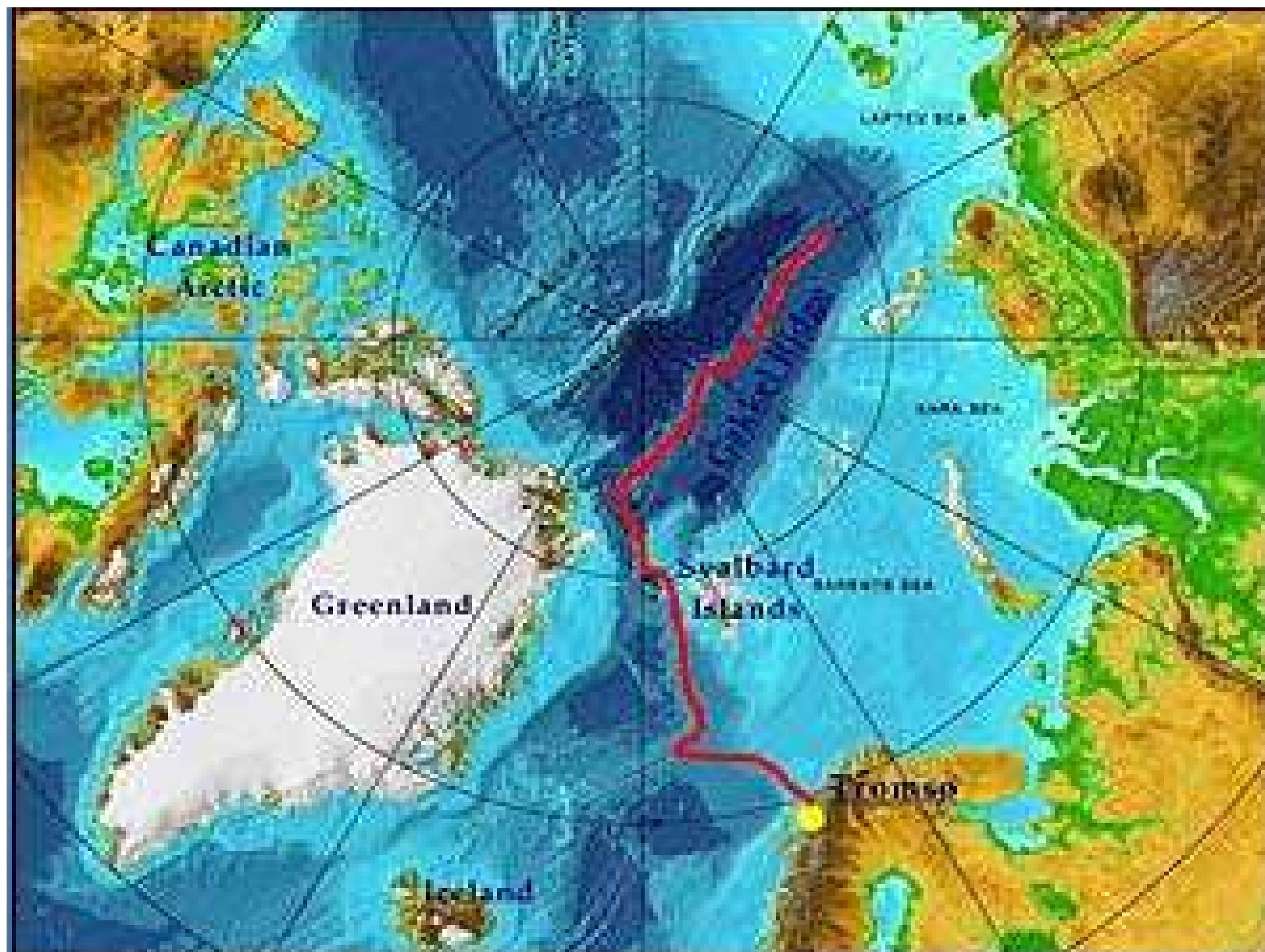
Results South Seas Whaling, 1827-1849:

- 6 expeditions
- 140.764 litres of sperm oil
- Ca. 330.00 litres of black oil ('gewone' traan), possibly from finwhales
- Ca. 6.000 kg. baleen

Conclusions:

- ✓ Dutch unfamiliar with sperm whaling
- ✓ Readiness to import expertise from abroad
- ✓ Whaling conducted from Amsterdam and Rotterdam
- ✓ Enormous investments, mediocre revenues

Whaling in Arctic waters, 1815-1885

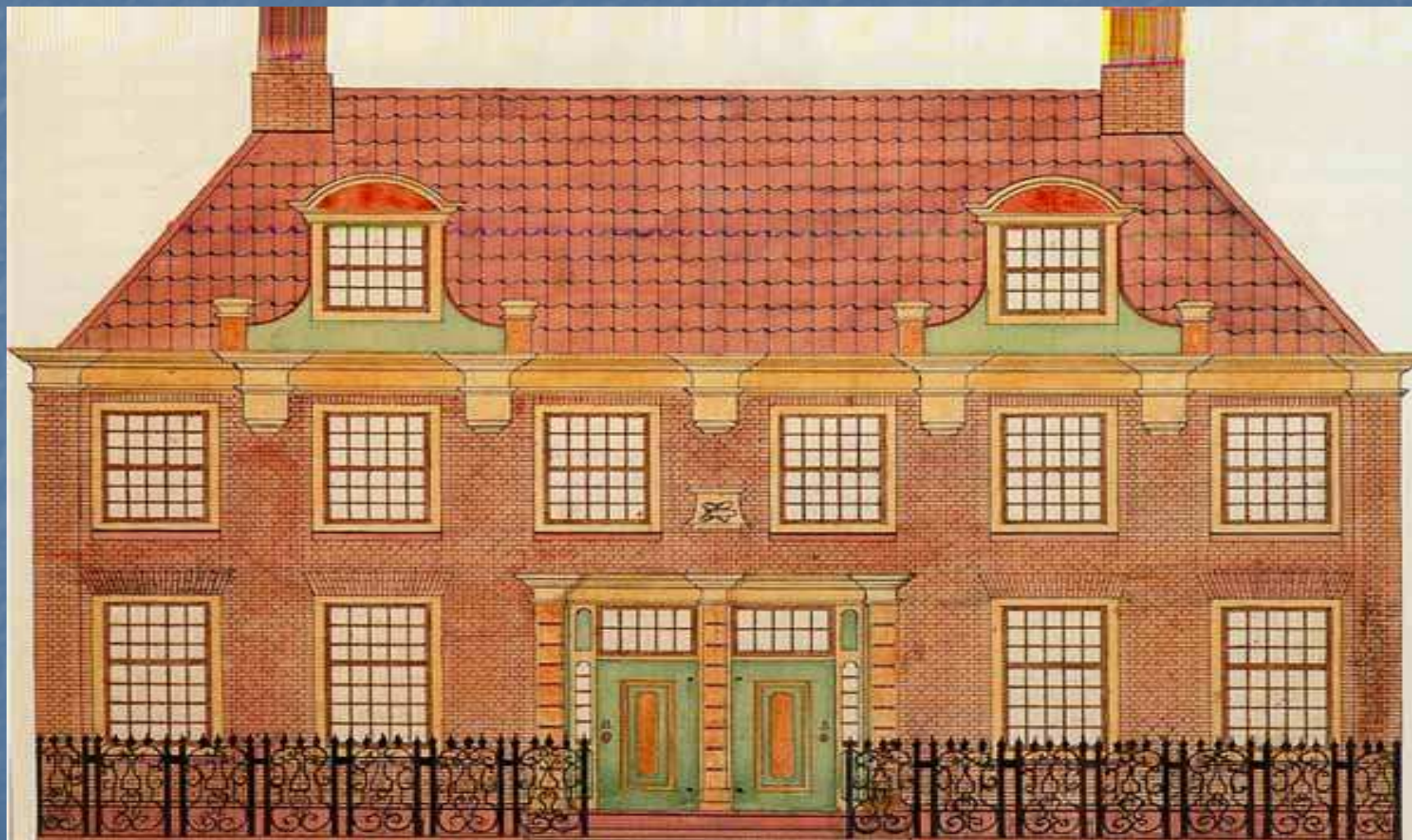


BAREND VAN SPREEKENS

1815-1820

JAN VAS & Co.
1820-1825

Parental home of Jan Vas, Wormerveer



Dutch Company for Whaling

NEDERLANDSCHE MAATSCHAPPIJ
VOOR WALVISCHVANGST
1825-1827

BAREND VISSER & SON
(I)
1822-1824

Greenland and Davis Strait Fishery Association

GROENLANDSCHE EN
STRAATDAVIDSE VISSCHERIJ
SOCIETEIT
1825-1834











Adres.
De Heeren
Barend Visser & Zoon
te Harlingen.
in Holland
Provincie Friesland.

Hebbende Correspondenten
te

London. John Clark en Comp.
Hull. J. B. La Marché.
Leith. - Mardie en Comp.
Bremen. W. A. en W. Fritze.
Hamburg. F. Rüster.
Bergen. Trohn en Comp.
Kopenhagen. Gebroeders Sösten

Aan Heeren
Directeuren der
Nederlandsche
Groenlandsche
Araat-Darische
Visscherij Societät
te
Harlingen
Mijne Heeren!

Den 19 Maart dezes jaars
gingen wij naar See. waren nauwlijks
buitengaats of hadden Contrarie
wind: Zoo dat wij drie weken op de
Noordzee waren kromen 8 April
Snagte in de Frechten en gē Sagin
bij Smorgens de Noordhoek van

BAREND VISSER & SON
(II)
1835-1864



NICOLAAS BRANTJES & SMIT
1851-1885

Dutch Whaling Company Ltd.

NEDERLANDSCHE
WALVISCHVAART N.V.
1869-1872
(C.J. Bottemanne)



Conclusions:

- ✓ Larger scale than South Seas Whaling (1815-1885: ca. 90 expeditions, >100 whales; app. 162,000 seals)
- ✓ Conducted from Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and, especially, from Harlingen
- ✓ Origin crew:
Amsterdam/Rotterdam→international crew
- ✓ Harlingen→locals
- ✓ Heavily subsidized by national government (1822-1855)
- ✓ No inclination to innovate