



# Zelandicarum insularum exactissima et nova descriptio

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€ 1100



ZELANDICARVM  
 INSVLARVM EXAC-  
 TISSIMA ET NOVA  
 DESCRIPTIO, AV-  
 TORE D. IACOBO  
 A DAVENTRIA

Miliaria Zelandica sed parua 3000. passuum

Medocria	2	4	6
Magna	2	4	6

Blank  
 ZEE-2

Pst dk

# ZELAND.



*Euinus Lemnius* of *Zirichzee*, in his booke *De occultis naturæ miraculis*, Of the hidden secrets of Nature, amongst other things writeth thus of *Zeland*, his native country: That this Marine tract, saith he, was not vnknowne vnto the ancients, it may out of *Cornelius Tacitus* easily be gathered; although not by the same name, that at this day it is knowne by: but of a custome and common kind of salutation and speaking one to another, which acquaintance and friends of this prouince do vse at their meetings: therefore he calleth them by the name of *MATTIACI*, when he thus writeth: *In the same iurisdiction are the Mattiaci, a nation very like the Batavi, but that those, in regard of the situation of their countrey, are more desperate and couragious.* Whereby he giueth to vnderstand, that although they are next neighbours and do border vpon the *Batavi* or *Hollanders*, (so called of the hollownesse and lownesse of the ground) so that they might iustly be ac-

counted one and the same people, yet are only distinguished by the name of their customary salutation; and being neerer the Sea, are more hardie and audacious; (as indeed they are,) and for manhood, witte, policy, craft, deceits, cunning in buying and selling, and diligence in getting, and waies to enrich themselves, they do farre excell them. And in that hee calleth them *Mattiaci*, I conceiue it, that they were not so named either of any place or captaine, but of that fellowlike salutation, as I said, and vtuall manner of speaking one to another vsuall amongst them, to witte, of *Mat*, which in common speach and friendly meetings, signifieth a fellow and companion in all our actions, bargaines, contracts, and dangers; of all our purposes, counsailes, labours and trauailes: a copartner and comfort in any thing whatsoever we take in hand or go about, &c. For the name of *Zeland* is not ancient, but is lately inuented, and made of Sea and Land, as who would say *Sea-land*, a country or land bordering vpon the sea: for it is enclosed round with the ocean, consisting of fifteene Ilands, although it be not long since the raging Sea did great hurt in this country, by whose violence and ouerflowing, a good part of *Zeland*, (his dammes, walles and banks being rent and broken downe,) was ouercome of the salt-water and laid leuell with the sea: notwithstanding certaine of them do remaine, of which especially three do continually wrestle with the boisterous billowes of the sea, and do very hardly defend themselves with infinite costs and charges against this rude and vnruely element. Of these first *Walcheren* (*Walachria*) doth offer it selfe to the eie of such as do saile to these coasts; so named either of him that first entered and inhabited in it, or (as I gesse) of the Gauls (*Galli*) which much frequented this country; who of the Low-countre-men are yet called *Walen*; or of that part of *Brittaine* which lieth vpon the West side of it, and is called *Wales*, the most gentlemanlike and brauest nation (you may beleue him,) amongst the English, and descended also from the Gaulles, which their language as yet doth manifest &c. From hence Northward or somewhat declining toward the East is *Scouten Scaldia*, the Latines call it of the riuer *Sceldt*, which runneth by it and heere falleth into the sea &c. *Suyrbeuelandt*, so named of the situation of it toward the South (to distinguish it from another distant from it Northward and therefore called *Noortbeuelandt*) a large and most goodly tract of ground, coasting along the shore of *Flanders* and *Brabant*, although of late yeares hauing suffered great dammage and losse, it is now much lesse and narrower. Thus farre *Lemnius*. *Tritthemius* in the *Annales* of the Franks nameth *Middleborough* the chiefe city of these Ilands *Mesoburgus Meyer*; calleth it *Mattiacum*, more like a Latinist, then a true Geographer. More of these thou maist read in the forenamed *Lemnius*, who hath most excellently well described all the Ilands of *Zeland*, and the cities of the same. To these if thou wilt, thou maist adioine *Lewis Guicciardine*, and I know not what els thou canst seeke for further satisfaction. There are also certaine *Annales* of these Ilands, written in the mother tongue by *Iohn Reygersberg*. But for an incommode, thou maist also to these former adde the descriptions of the cities of the Low-countries, done by *Adrian Barland*. Of the people of this prouince these verses are commonly spoken:

*Crescit nequitia, simul crescente senectâ;  
In Zelandinis non fallit regulatâ.*

The worse they wax, as they grow old;  
In Zelanders this rule doth hold.

These Ilands are situate between the mouthes of the riuers *Maese* and *Sceldt*, bordering on the North vpon *Holland*, on the East vpon *Brabant*, on the South vpon *Flanders*; on the West vpon the Germane sea. *Iames Meyer* thinketh that *Procopius* calleth these *Arboricas*. Yet *Petrus Diauus* is of opinion that this place of *Procopius* is corrupt, and for *Arboricas* is ought to be read and written, *Abroditos*.

That these are those Ilands, I do verily beleue, vnto which *Cæsar*, in his sixth booke *De bello Gallico*, affirmeth that he forced a part of the army of *Ambiorix* Prince of the *Eburones*: which, as his owne words do giue to vnderstand, did hide themselves in Ilands, which the continuall motion, or ebbing and flowing of the sea had made. It is also very probable that *Lucane* in his first booke aimed at these Isles, in these his verses: *Quæ iacet litus dubium, quod terra fretumq; vendicat alternis vicibus, cum funditus ingens Oceanus, velcum refugisse fluitibus aufert. Ventus ab extremopelagus sic axe volutat, &c.* — They come in troopes amaine, From where th' vncertaine shore doth lie, that is nor sea nor land, But both, by course, as raging *Tethys* flow' th and ebb' th againe: Or as the wind with rowling waues all calm' d doth stand, From North to South thus carrying to and fro: &c. And that which the same Authour in his ninth booke sometime did speake of the *Syrtes* or *Quicklands*, one may now not altogether vnfitly applie to these Ilands, where he thus speaketh, — *Primam mundo Natura figuram Cum daret, in dubio terra pelagiq; reliquit: Nam neq; subsedit penitus quo stagna profundi Acciperet, nec se defendit ab aquore tellus: Ambigua sed lege loci iacet inuisa sedes.* When as this masse world by Nature first was fram' d, A doubtfull case it seem' d how God would haue it nam' d: For neither could the earth receiue the ocean deep, Nor land well able was his owne from sea to keep: The place so dangerous is, that none to it dare go; And whether sea or land it be, men scarce do know. Yet now these our Ilands are habitable, and easie and safely to be come vnto, by the industrie and labour of man, and not by the benefit and nature of the place.