

Extracted from P.J. Moree's 'A concise history of Dutch Mauritius, 1598-1710'.
(The remarks are the author's).

**APPENDIX 4: LETTER FROM PIETER BOTH TO THE HEREN ZEVENTIEN, MAURITIUS,
14 OCTOBER, 1610.**

My Lords,

Having seen and heard from the beginning that the person Goesen de With, assistant, lost his mind, being innocent, and therefore not able to serve the Company in any capacity. On the other hand everybody makes fun of him everyday and he is the mockery of all, because of which [he] grows crazier by the day, therefore have [I] consented to send him back with the ship *Ceylon*. Also dispatched on the same ship our barber-surgeon, master Thijmen Jacobs, who has been indulging himself freely, according to the information which has been provided, of which [I] am sending a copy to your lordships. [...]

If it pleases my lords to do me the favour of sending my kind regards to Mr. Marcus Vogeler because I long to know how he has been since his illness, also in particular to Mr Fransoys van Hove and to tell Mr Jan Harmans that Anneken, who he has recommended so much, has - on the roadstead here - given birth to a daughter who has been baptized here and named Mauritia. Our master gunner was also baptized here.

Now for the new tidings: I have slept on the bank of the Fishermen's River for two nights and went fishing each day with our *seghen* (a seine) and caught 1270 fishes in one take, most of which were *harders* (fish similar to carp). So that our *seghen* has proven to be worth a hundred times more than its cost, and it is still in a good state. Because of this we have supplied ourselves with enough fish - fresh and salt - to reach Bantam. We have also caught sixty good-looking *camferreygers* (camphor herons) and other birds in abundance, which I have also preserved. Our salted meat is in such a dreadful state, yes the lot that I have brought back to Holland on my last voyage was better than the best we have now. This was caused amongst other circumstances by the long stay below the line [the equator].

'My lords, I have taken the liberty having a long piece of ebony cut in the form of a spear and two small pieces, one for my son, another for my daughter as toys; also [sent] a box with all sorts of sea-shells in order to make a fountain after my return, God willing. Should this hinder the cargo of the ship, I have instructed the merchant and the captain to throw [these things] overboard. Because of this I pray that You Honourable Sirs will allow Captain Claes Sijmons, bearer of this [message], to deliver [these things] to my wife in Amersfoort in order to tell me [her] of my health. From Your Honourable servant Pieter Both in the ship 't Wapen van Amstelredam, in the roadstead of Mauritius.'

Remarks

The three men mentioned in the second paragraph, Marcus de Vogelaer, François van Hoe, and Jan Harmans were all *bewindhebbers* of the chamber Amsterdam and all three belonged to the *Heren Zeventien*.

Both had married Sophia van Duverden van Voort in 1603. At the time of the writing of this letter their children were five-year-old Hendrick and seven-year-old Elisabeth.