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A Key to Dutch History



This iron clock was found on Nova Zembla. On 18 May 1596, two ships left Amsterdam for a reconnoitring expedition in the Arctic. The ship with expedition leader Willem Barentsz and captain Jacob van Heemskerck on board reached the island of Nova Zembla in the northernmost part of Russia and became icebound. The seventeen crew members were forced to spend the winter on the island. They did so in a shelter which they constructed using driftwood, referred to as the *Behouden Huys* [the Safe House]. It was ten months later before a return trip to civilisation could be undertaken by rowing boat. A lot of the crew's belongings remained behind on Nova Zembla including cutlery, clothing, weapons, books, tools and this clock.

A key to Dutch History

**REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DUTCH CANON**



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