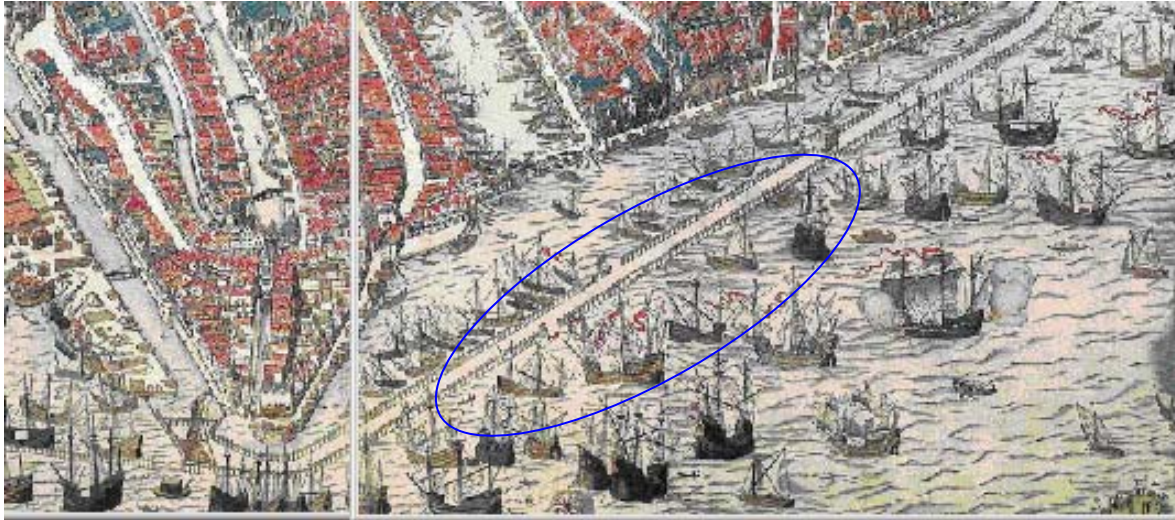


On the Trail of Henry Hudson in Amsterdam

Henry Hudson came from England to Amsterdam for his third voyage in January 1609. He arrived in Amsterdam's harbor at about the location of the city's Central Station (built in the 1890s).



Hudson's landing in Amsterdam is marked approximately by the blue oval.

Detail of Cornelius Anthonisz bird's eye view map of Amsterdam, 1544, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam
<www.cultuurwijzer.nl/nwc.gemeentearchiefamsterdam>



Central Station today, at right, with the pointed top of the Schreierstoren (Weepers' Tower) visible at the far left.

Hudson visited a nearby café on Zeedijk called *In 't Aepjen* ("in the monkey house") to find food and lodging. The proprietor of the café kept monkeys that had been brought to the Netherlands from the East by sailors. Some lodgers are said to have gotten fleas from the monkeys, and when they scratched themselves on the street outside passersby knew they must be staying at *In 't Aepjen*. The café is still in business today, one of two remaining wood frame buildings from the 1500s, and is decorated with monkey memorabilia to commemorate its history.



Café *In 't Aepjen* exterior today



Monkey décor in the café



Café *In 't Aepjen* interior



East India Company building on Oude Hoogstratt

Hudson met with directors of the Dutch East India Company (*Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie*, or VOC) at this building, East India House, which had been built three years earlier. Hudson made arrangements for his voyage to Asia via the North Pole, consulted maps and charts and negotiated his fee. He likely found men to serve as his crew here as well.



Detail of Dutch Royal seal over East India House window



Interior courtyard



Seventeenth-century etching of East India House Courtyard is visible in center, and canal at left.

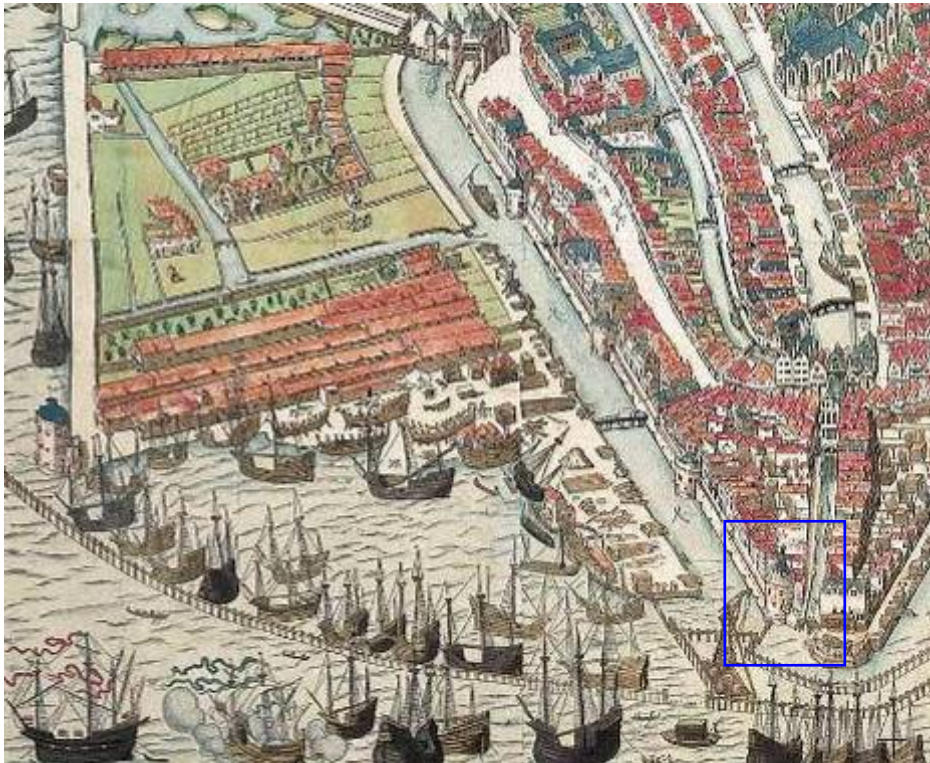
Source:
Wikimedia.com



Schreierstoren, by the Geldersekade quay on Prins Hendrikkade

The Schreierstoren ("Weepers' tower") is a defensive tower in what was the medieval city wall, built in 1482. Its name was believed to come from the notion that sailors' wives wept as their men set sail from this spot, though this is not the case. It is really a shortened version of the original name, "schreyhoeckstoren," which means something like "crooked hook" and referred to the bend in the city wall.

Henry Hudson set sail from this point on April 4, 1609 aboard the Halve Maen (Half Moon) with his crew of 16, and provisions, coal, rope, knives, wood, and ice picks. (Ice picks were needed because the route was supposed to find a shortcut via the North Pole.) Hudson made it to Norway but then turned his ship around and sailed west, hoping to find a passage to Asia through America. He did not find a new passage to Asia but did discover new territory, which became New Netherlands and which brought wealth to the Dutch.



This detail of a map from 1544 shows a portion of Amsterdam's medieval wall, canals, and the harbor. The Schreierstoren, where Hudson launched his voyage, is highlighted in blue. It is also visible in the map on page 1, on the lower left by the windmill.

Bird's Eye View Map by Cornelius Anthonisz, 1544, Rijksmuseum <www.cultuurwijzer.nl/nwc.gemeentearchiefamsterdam>

The Schreierstoren tower has two plaques affixed to it which commemorate earlier Hudson anniversaries and remind passersby and tourists of its place in history.



"From this ancient 'tower of trade' erected 1482 A.D. Henry Hudson set sail April 4, 1609 A.D. on the vessel 'Half Moon' on that voyage of discovery destined to bring him to the harbor of New York and the Hudson River. This memorial erected September 1927 by the Greenwich Village Historical Society of New York City, U.S.A. Catherine Parker Olivette, founder. Samilla Jameson Heinzmann, sculptor."



"Presented to the City of Amsterdam on the 350th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage to North America by the Port of New York Authority April 4, 1959."

Text and photos: Denise Jordan, NYC DOE