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CLASSIFICATION AND DEFINITIONS OF TYPES OF PERSONAL MARKS WITH EXAMPLES MAINLY FROM THE NETHERLANDS

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Keywords: mark, personal mark, owner's mark, producer's or maker's mark, personal marks in coats-of-arms, identity mark, personal mark in ornaments.

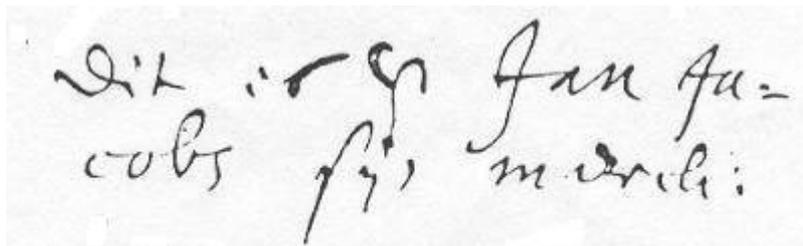
Acknowledgements

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1. MARKS

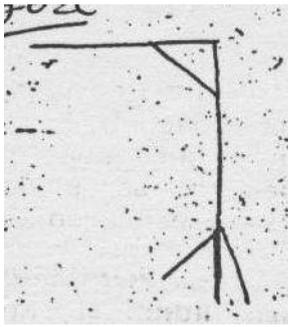
1.1 Personal marks

Personal marks are drawn instead of a signature. They had the same level of validity as a signature. The fact that someone uses a personal mark does not mean that he cannot read and write. To his mind the personal mark stood on a higher level than the signature.



Dit is Jan Jacobs sijn merck

Personal mark of my forefather Jan Jacobs Seven, Veendam (prov. Groningen, NL), 30 November 1668. He probably used his mark as he could not write at that time. Therefore, the clergyman added *This is Jan Jacobs his mark*. Possibly, the clergyman did not know the familyname of Jan Jacobs. At a later date the family name was also spelled Zeven and Zeeven, and occasionally written as 7, because in Dutch 7 is written as zeven. However, the familyname derives of the first name Severijn.



Personal mark of the hangman Jurrien van Cleve, 5 June 1626. The hangman, sending his bill, clearly indicated his profession. *Source: Roskam-Brendeke (1988).



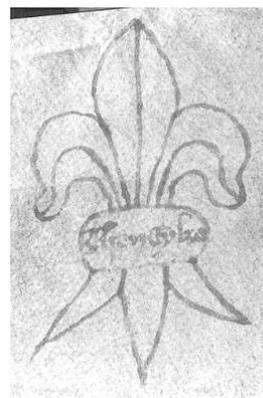
Even the rich Augsburg banker Jakob Fugger, 1459-1525 applied a personal mark. The rake-like mark is quite common, but by adding a ringlet Fugger made his mark different. Detail of a postage stamp. Coll. author.

1.2 Public notary mark

In the Netherlands, public notaries in the 15th and, 16th centuries and occasionally later often signed the documents with their notary mark. The profession of notary originated in Italy as did the notary mark. This kind of mark was rarely accompanied by a signature, their seal or both. It is suggested that a notary mark was more difficult to copy than a signature.



Notary mark of Henricus dictus Brant, Arnhem, (NL) 1393. Source: coll. C.L. Verkerk, Amsterdam. N.B. The mark of Henricus Brant shows flames and therefore it is a canting mark as Brant means fire.



Notary mark of Theodorus then Eylze, Arnhem, 1427. On the central part He wrote his name *ThtenEylze* Source: coll. C.L. Verkerk, Amsterdam.

2 OWNER'S MARKS AS PERSONAL MARKS

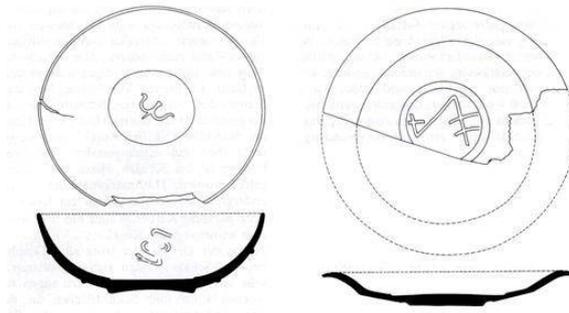
Owners' marks serve to identify the owner of a certain object. Problems could arise when different owners used the same mark. As there are numerous different forms of ownership there also are many different types of marks.

2.1 Utensil mark

Owners marked their property with their personal mark. One did so on his axe.



An axe, dated 1767 and exhibits marks of various succeeding owners. Detail: one of the marks.



Source: Maximum card with stamp, issued by the Liechtenstein Post. The axe is conserved in the Liechtensteiner Landesmuseum, Vaduz.

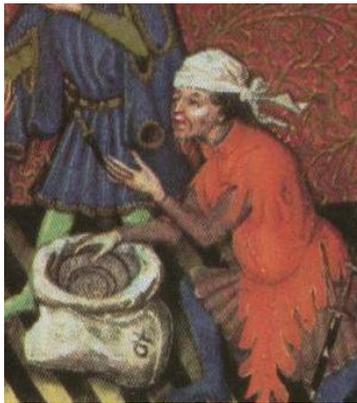
Another on his wooden plate and dishes.

Lübeck (D), left a wooden plate of the beginning of the 14th century, right two wooden dishes (source: Neugebauer, 1975).

2.2 Merchandise mark

Personal marks are drawn on merchandise to identify the ownership of the boxes, bags and such.

In the Book of Hours of Catherine of Cleves we find in miniature nr. 70 a picture with two bags, probably containing grains. Marks can be seen on both bags. Plummer (1975) who incorrectly described these marks as secret signs. However, they are property marks, pointing to the owner of the bags and especially the contents.



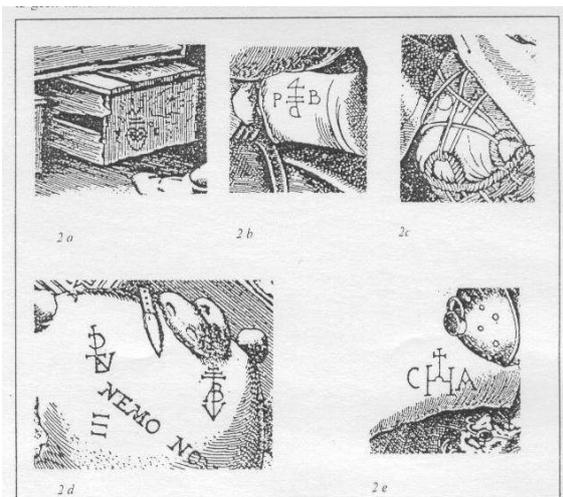
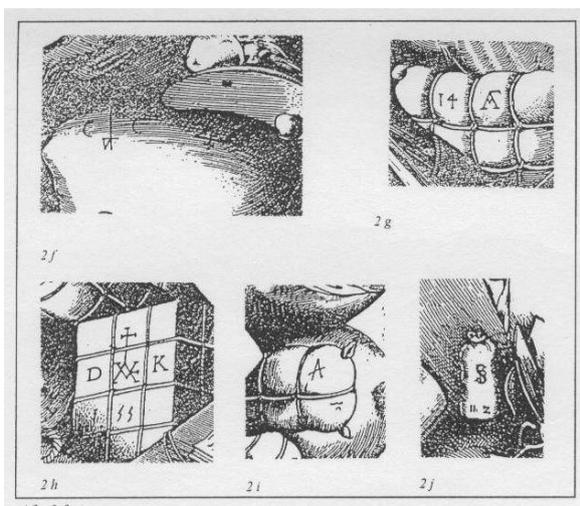
Details of the Book of hours of Catherine of Cleves (Utrecht, ca 1435).



Pieter van Bruegel. 'Iedereen is uit op eigen voordeel'. [Everybody looks for his own benefit]. Copper-plate, after Pieter van Bruegel, 1588.

In an etching by Pieter van Bruegel Senior we can serve more than one mark. Are these

the marks of the salesman or that of the buyer? Some marks could also be scoring marks. Some marks are accompanied by letters which are probably the initials of the owner.



Details of above etching
*Literature and source: Zeven, 1996.



A corn-porter. On the sack the mark of the owner, probably with the initials M and R. Detail of picture by Jan Luijken, 17th century. Coll. Atlas van Stolk, Gemeentearchief Rotterdam.

2.3 Bottle marks



Bottle mark of Joannes Hardenbergh, found in the ship wreck of the 'Amsterdam'. The mark shows his personal mark and his initials I (= J) and H. Source: Kistemaker & van Vilsteren (eds.) (1994).

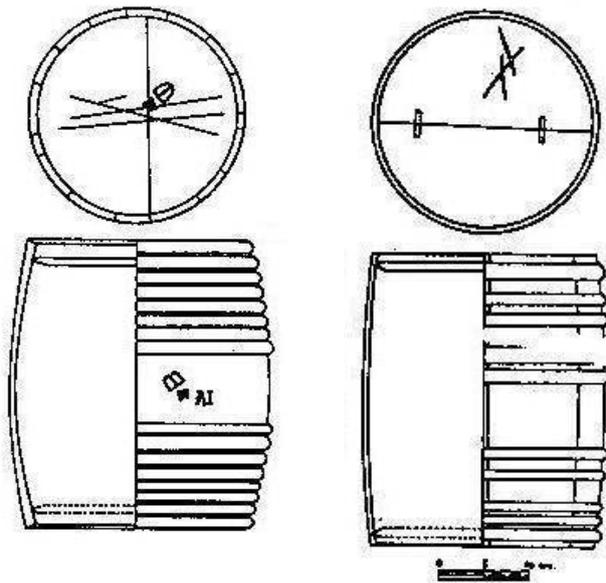
Hardenbergh was appointed by the V.O.C. (United East-Indian Company) in 1748 as supervisor of the 'wet wares', i.e. he was responsible for the provisioning of the V.O.C.-ships with brandy, beer, wine. He probably protected his trade with marked bottles which made control easier. Such marks could also be applied by the bottlemakers.

2.4 Barrel mark

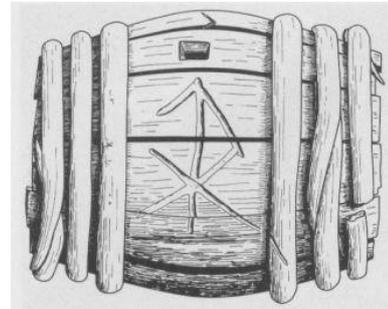
Fishermen marked their barrels – empty or partly full - with their owner's mark. No barrel with a mark is preserved. In various archives lists of fishermen's marks are preserved. An example derives from the Municipality Archives of Vlaardingen (NL).

	Sijndel grommet don 27 ^e Giniij Jacob Grijnd van marck 2 tonnd don 28 ^e Debla 2 tonnd, don 27 ^e Peraan van lott 2 tonnd,
	dito Jacob Grijnd van marck 2 tonnd, 1 2 6 4 tonnd,
	Louderet di Monice van bejiddam, 1 2 tonnd,
	Jhannis Proug van bejiddam 3 1 2 tonnd, Louderet Gausse van Maasliij 1 2 tonnd
	Jos Proug van egmont 2 tonnd, don 28 ^e Giniij.
	Pictier Louder van egmont, 1 2 tonnd
	dito Cornelis Blaoff 1 2 tonnd,
	Grijndrich Linn van Vlaarding 4 1 4 tonnd,
	Grijndrich Proug don draect. van Vlaarding, 2 tonnd,
	Cornelis Gausse gortor van Vlaarding, 1 tonnd on verbeeld tonnd, -
	Grootor bilanc 1 tonnd,
	Muerten Grijndrecht van Vlaarding, don on verbeeld tonnd,
	Jacob Linn van bejiddam, 1 2 tonnd, don 28 ^e Giniij
	Com. Boren van vliet 3 1 2 tonnd;

Source: www.familiearchiefpronk.nl (consulted 18-01-2009). A page, dated 1701, copied out Registers van den aanbreng van den haring, 1699-1811. Municipal archives, Vlaardingen (Zuid-Holland, NL). *Lit. den Breems (1993).



Two reconstructions of two beer barrels of which the remains were dug up in the wreck of the V.O.C.-ship 'Amsterdam'. Note the marks on the top and on the side of the barrels. These marks probably refer to the breweries and hence to their owners.
Source: Kistemaker & van Vilsteren (1994).



A barrel found during excavations at Lübeck (D).
Source: Neugebauer (1975).

A barrel with a monogram of the letters A en H (or H and A). However, such a mark can also be a brewery mark. The barrel and the tub are transported over the ice with a push-sledge.



Two details of the painting *Winterlandschap met schaatsers bij de stad Kampen* [Winter landscape with skaters near the city of Kampen], by Hendrick Avercamp, ca 1620. Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem (NL).

Beer barrels have also been marked with pictorial emblems. *The brewery at Leiden* (NL), by Hendrik Meijer, 1772 (Museum De Lakenhal, Leiden, NL) a non-existent brewery with roundels of pictorial emblems across the front elevations. Beer barrels stored in front of the

building are marked with similar emblems The emblems of this ‘brewery’ and the barrels are marked with a white hart, a white hope, a white peacock, a white post-horn and a red unicorn and probably reference the names of the breweries owned by the five master brewers who commissioned the painting.

2.5 Pipemaker’s mark

On pipe-bowl we find simple or very beautiful picture. Some of them refer to the pipe-factory, other show pictures of persons or any other subject. On the heel of the bowl we also find marks.



A heel mark on a pipe made by N. van Koomen, in ca 1860-1870. It is not known whether this mark is his personal mark, as he mostly marked his pipes with a picture and his initials. The pipe bowl was found at Schoonhoven (NL).

Source: www.kleipijp.nl/verzameling.

2.6 Cloth lead marks

After weaving the cloth had to be worked, and after each treatment the weaver, fuller and dyer had to fix their personal cloth leads to the cloth. Next the guild masters controlled the cloth. The latter also fixed their guild cloth leads to the cloth. In general they used a lead with with the city’s coat-of-arms.



Two cloth leads with the marks of the owner or the person who worked-up the cloth. The left cloth lead is, according to Witschi (1999) a mark of a German speaking country.

2.5 House and farm mark

Houses and farms were marked with personal marks. Why several marks in the door in Liechtenstein has been notched has not been explained.



House marks on a door in Liechtenstein. Source: a detail of a postage stamp issued by the Liechtenstein Post in 1999.



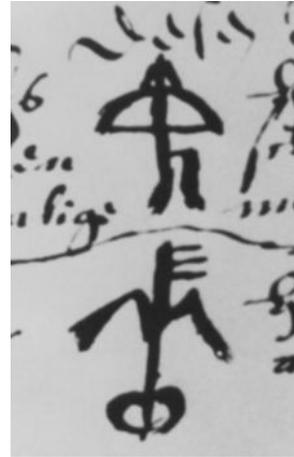
House mark on a house at Oudewater (NL)



House mark on a farm at Lopik (NL)

2.6 Grave mark

The ownership of graves are marked with personal marks of the owners. As graves could be sold a new owner could add his own mark. Or as more corpses could have been buried in the same grave more personal marks could be carved into the grave stone.



Grave tomb with a coat-of-arms based on two personal marks of Marten Orges. Heraldic right: his personal mark existing of his mark and his initials; heraldic left: the personal mark of his wife. Source: Dutch reformed church at Beekbergen (prov. Gelderland). Coll. Anton C. Zeven.

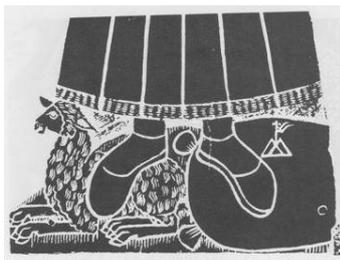
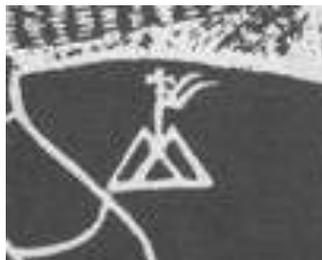


Fig. 9.12. Brass of an unknown woolman in Northleach church, c. 1485. The short pointed wool sables suggest a hairy medium sheep. Note the wool sack with the merchant's mark (from Armitage & Goodall 1977).



Details of a bronze grave plate of an unknown person.

However, may by searching in the archives the same mark of a named person may be found. Source: see sheep marks. Source: Ryder (1983).

2.6 Lumberjack's or timber cutter's mark

A timber cutter marks the tree with his personal mark in the crosscut end to indicate that he felled that tree. Often he is not the owner and will be paid by the owner for his work. If he also is the owner of the tree he will still mark the tree with his cutter's mark.

2.8 Saw-miller's mark

A saw-miller buys trees from timber merchants and to mark his newly obtained possession he drives his mark in the crosscut end of the tree.



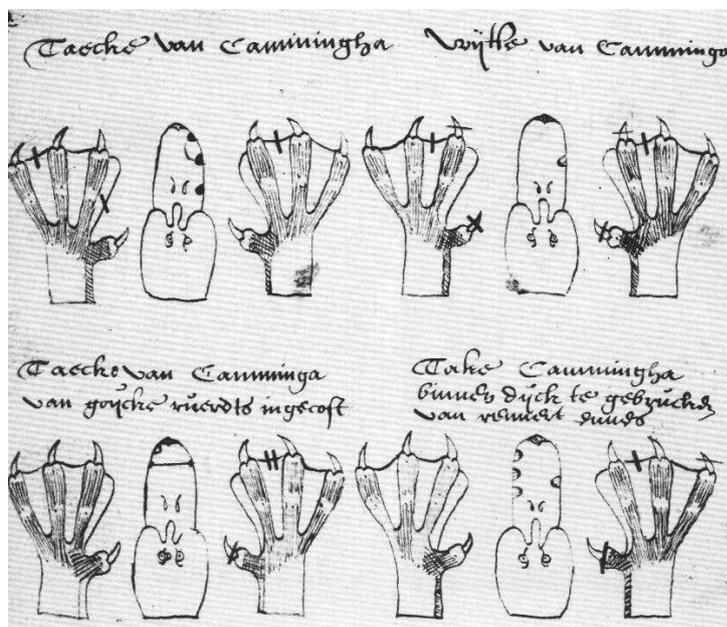
Mark of the timber-mill De Eenhoorn (in English The Unicorn) at Heemstede (prov. Noord-Holland, NL). The letters EH refer to EenHoorn. Source: www.smzk.nl.

2.9 Animals in flocks and herds

Fowl and cattle, owned by various persons, are kept together in one flock or herd. Although the owners often recognize their own animals disputes are avoided by marking the animals, each owner with his own mark. If a bird or animal is not marked they are deemed free. Hence, the importance to mark young animals as soon as possible to prevent raiders from stealing them.

2.9.1 Waterfowl marks: bill scratching, and web and nail cutting

Waterfowl marks applied to the bill by scratching, or the feet by cutting the web and by clipping a nail.



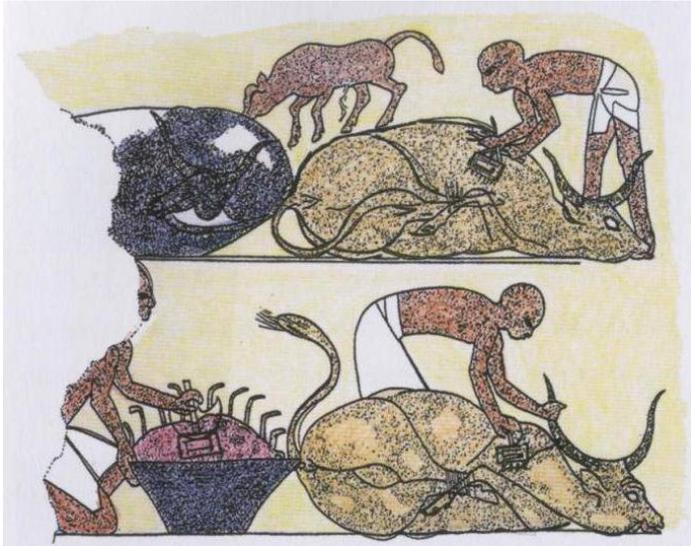
Top left: mark owner Taecke van Cammingha, top right: idem Wytse van Camminga, bottom left: Goycke Ruerdts, who sold his swans **with his mark** to Taecke van Camminga, bottom right: Rennert Ennes, who also sold his swans to Take van Cammingha. The latter was allowed to use Ennes' marks only on the landside of the dike. Source: F. van Anrooy et al. (1979). Original source 'Zwanenboek'.

2.9.2 Cattle (incl. horses) marks

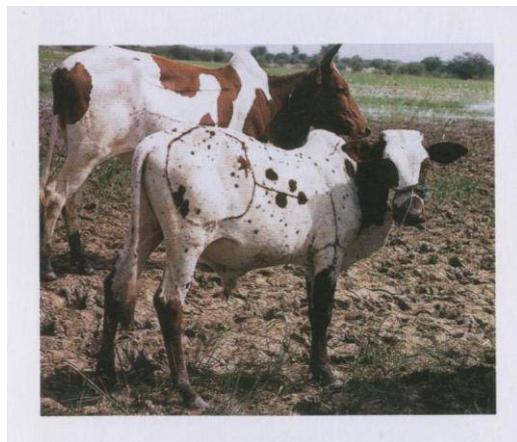
*Most of the information on sheep is extracted from Ryder (1983 for sheep) and Felius & Fokkinga (2001 for cattle).

2.9.2.1 Brand marks

Horses, cattle, sheep (see also 4.2.2.) and pigs were mark by a brand mark. The sheep in Iran also have an ear notch together with marks on their noses. In East Africa the Masai of Kenya give all their animals a tribal mark, cut or burnt into the ears or flank.



Branding cattle in Old-Egypt, redrawn from a painting in an grave tombe, of Nebanum, dated 4000 BC. The brand appears to have a rectangular shape. Source: Felius & Fokkinga (2001).



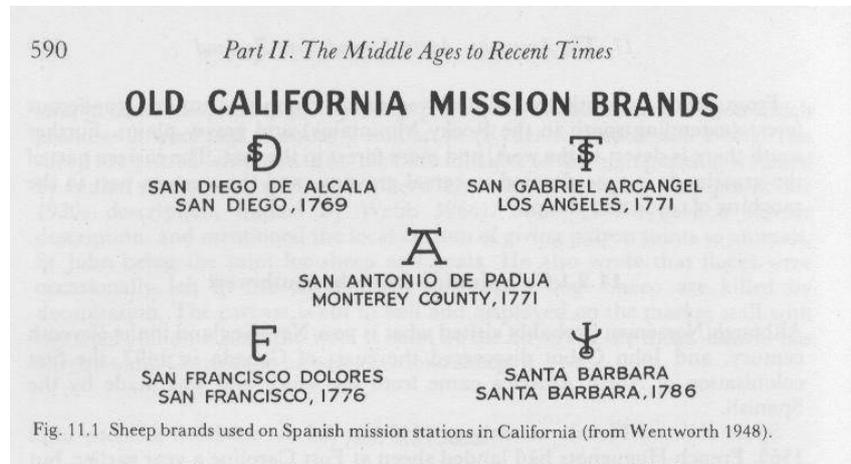
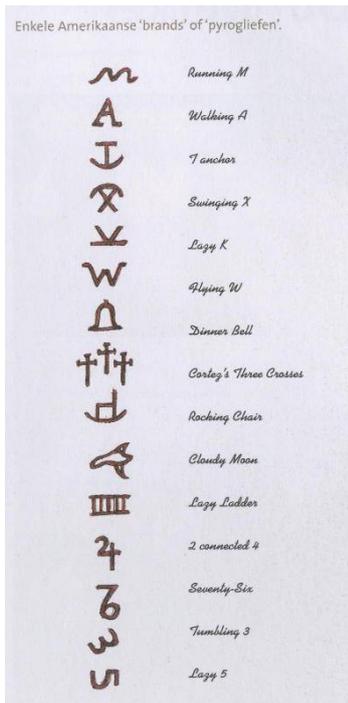
Animals of the Peul or Fulani, herdsman people in Mali, are marked with large brands. In front a bull calf. Source: Felius & Fokkinga (2001).



A Masai herdsman branding with an iron bar
Source: Felius & Fokkinga (2001).



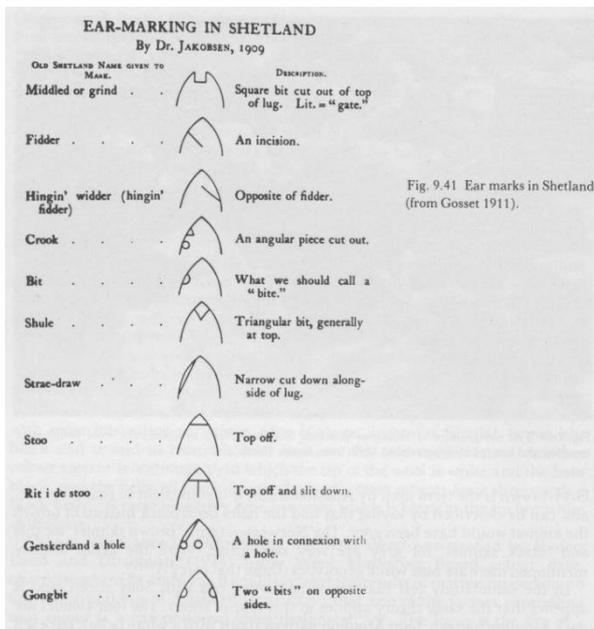
Branding in the U.S.A. Source: Felius & Fokkinga (2001).



U.S. brand marks. Source: Feliuss & Fokkinga (2001). Cloisters also own sheep flocks. To identify ownership the sheep are branded. Source: Ryder (1983).

2.9.2.2 Ear (or 'lug') and nose marks

Marking of individual sheep in common flocks by ear marks is probably the **most** widespread. They can be divided into punches, slits and notches. Furthermore, using both ears for different marks a twofold system can be applied.



On Shetland the the sheep were marked by 'lug-marks' or 'fidders' cut into the ears. In East USA where sheep ran at large which could mean that they are not seen for several months, ear marks are important too. Source: Ryder (1983). The nomadic Basseri (Iran) combines a brand on the nose with a notch in the ear.

The same holds for France, where De Brie mentions this already being practiced in 1379. On the Balearic Islands the sheep and goats were marked by cutting the ear and also by marking the fleece with colour.

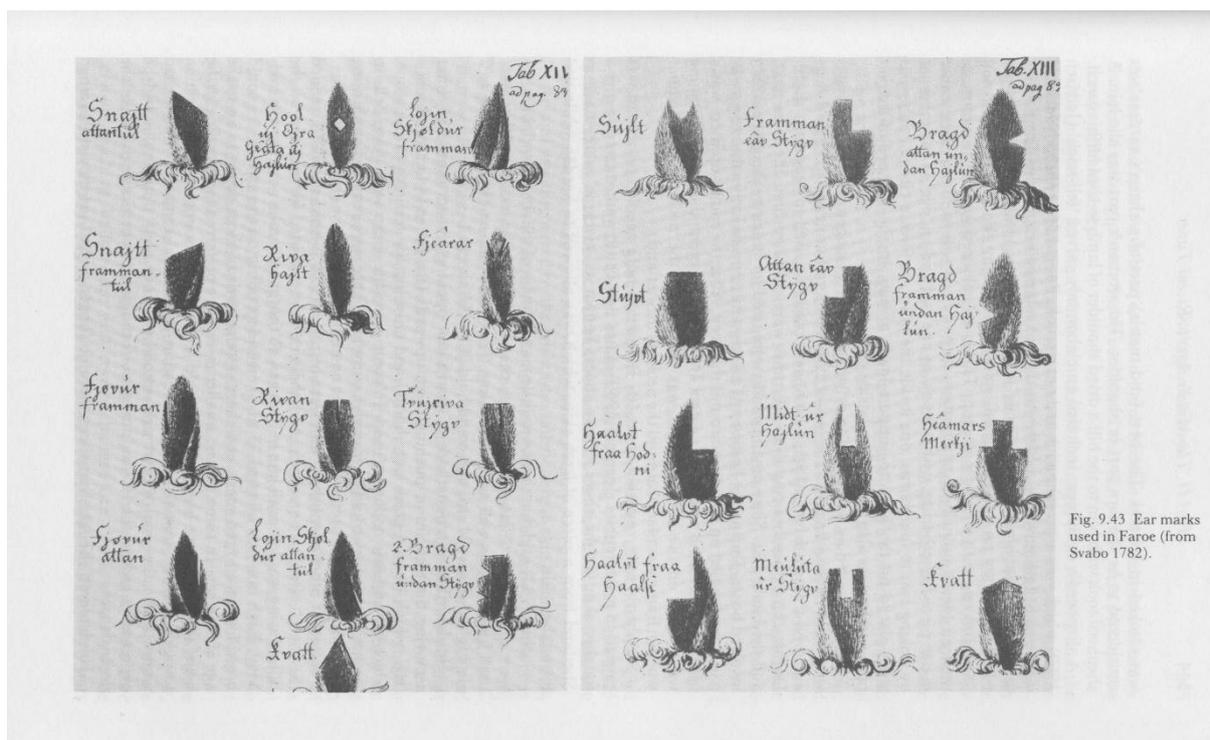


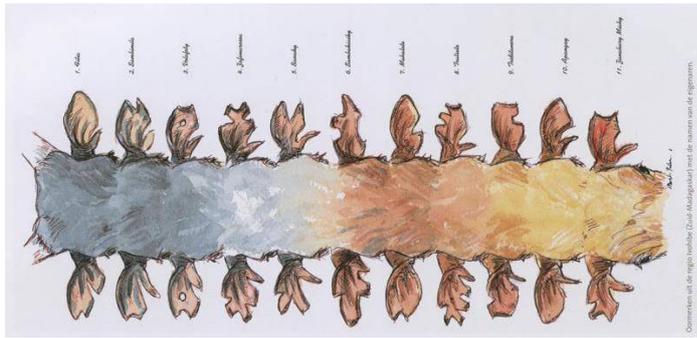
Fig. 9.43 Ear marks used in Faroe (from Svabo 1782).

On Faroer earmarks were also used to identify the owners, whereas with common ownership the earmarks indicated the locality. The above illustration is borrowed from Svabo (1782, cited by Ryder, 1983). *

On island of Lewis, Scotland McDonald (1978, cited by Ryder, 1983) listed nine earmarks used, together with their Gaelic names.



On Madagascar the ears of zebus are cut and perforated to identify the owner. Even a grave tomb is decorated with cattle, which have notched ears. Source: Felius & Fokkinga (2001).



Ear marks in the Ivohibe region (South-Madagascar) with the names of the owners. 1. Jitia, 2. Sambimila, 3. Volafoty, 4. Zafimarosoa, 5. Banaky, 6. Sambakiviky, 7. Mahalota, 8. Iratseto, 9. Isiditanora, 10. Apangay, 11. Zanahary Miahy. Source: Felius & Fokkinga (2001).

Horses were also earmarked *Lit. Edwards & Langrish (1994)

2.9.2.3. Marking the fleece

In France individual sheep were marked by removing some wool. (See below).

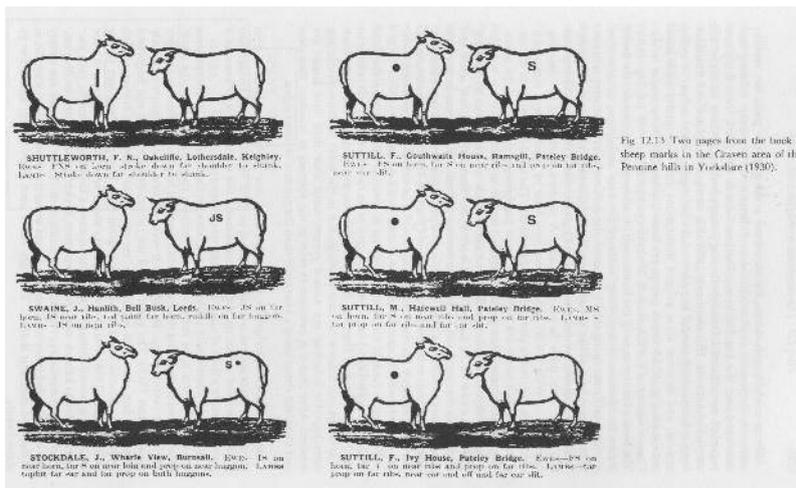
2.9.2.4. Horn marks

In addition to other owner's marks a brand could also be applied to the horn. Such a brand could be a number in one horn indicating the individual lamb and sheep, whereas in the other horn the initials of the owner were branded. Furthermore, a mark indicating the year of birth was also applied.

The branding iron is owned by the sheep owner, whereas other utensils are those of the shepherds. They carry out most of the work. In Scotland a brand iron is called a buist.

2.9.2.5. 'Raddle' marks

Raddle (in Cumbria also ruddle) is usually a red pigment 'red lead' (oxide) or red ochre to mark sheep. In medieval England the use of raddle was already being carried out in the 13th century and together with the earmark which was first applied in the 14th century a wide variety of marks was available. Sheep were raddled either to mark to sheep belonging to an owner, or to mark the lambs and the mother.



Raddle spots could be placed on various parts of the body of the sheep. Occasionally tar was used, but this material spoils the wool. Sheep and goats were marked by a coloured spot and by an ear notch. Together with the brand initials the owner could be identified. Modern pigments disappear in the field, but also during the processing of the wool.

In Scotland self the marking of the nose became illegal at the end of the 19th century. Therefore, the branding irons were dipped in tar to 'print' the brand on the fleece. Source: Ryder (1983).

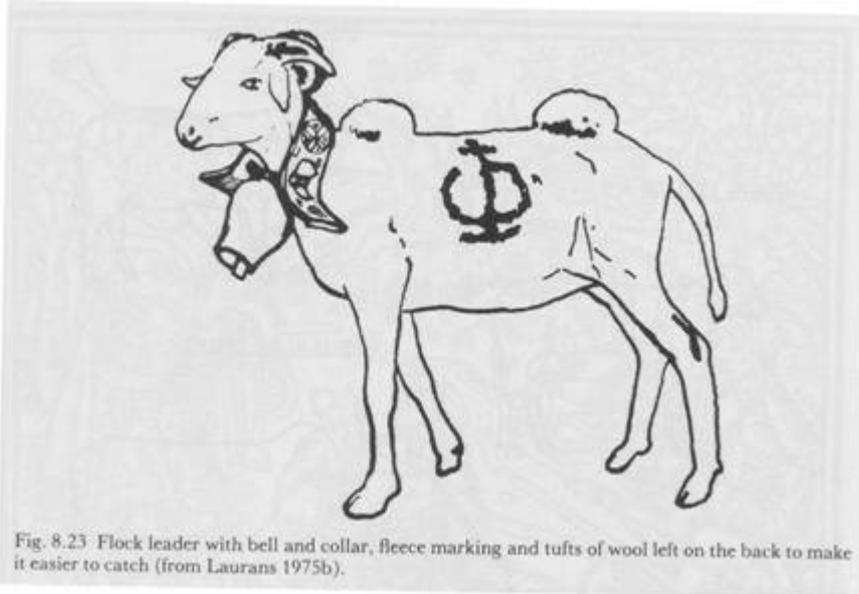
According to Ryder (1983) sheep on the painting *The Cornfield* by John Constable show raddle mark. This painting was made in 1825 (The National Gallery, London, U.K.). The same holds for the painting 'Burns Cottage' by Sam Bough, made in 1876 (Glasgow Art Gallery).

In England, in the Lake districts and Dorset the rams were 'bloomed' with red ochre in olive oil to locate the animals more easily.

2.9.2.6 Tattoo and ear tag

The tattooing of animals is common. However, tattoos mark the individual animal and not the owner. The same holds for the ear tag.

2.9.2.7 Personal marks



A personal mark used as proprietor mark. The two tufts of wool on the back are left to easy catching of the animals. This sheep is the flock leader with bell and collar. Source: Ryder (1983).



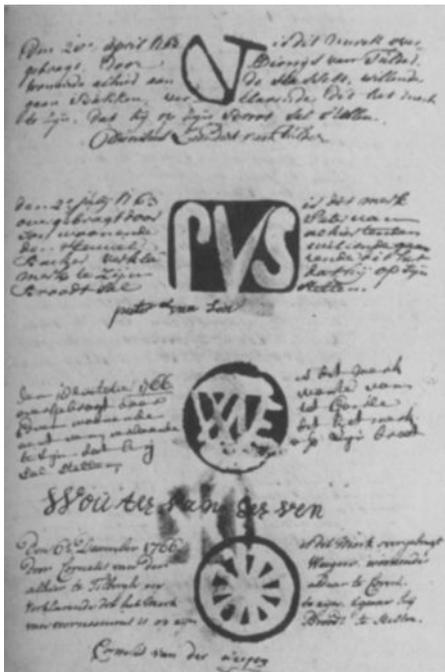
Fig. 11.2 Selling fleeces to a wool merchant in New York State, c. 1860. The sheep looks like a Merino with wrinkly skin.

N.B. The number on the sheep is to mark this animal in the flock. It does not identify an owner. I have added the picture as a warning.

2.10 Bread mark

Several city authorities ordered the city bakers to mark their breads. This order was given to prevent flour being adulterated with foreign material such as sand, or the more expensive wheat flour with rye flour. We should remember that owing to the wear of mill stones a bread eater also consumed some 2 kilograms of stone grindings and some bakers did not hesitate to add sand.

Furthermore, the city's regulation weight of the bread could be controlled. When adulterated bread was discovered the bread was seized and given to the poor, and the baker was fined.



Four baker's mark from Tilburg and Goirle (prov. Noord-Brabant), 1. Mark constructed from the initial of Dionijs van Fulde, 20 April 1763, 2. Idem Peter van den Heuvel, 2 Julij 1763, 3. Idem Wonte van Erven, 18 October 1768, 4. Canting mark of Cornelis van der Weegen, 6 December 1766, in which weegen refers to weel of a Dutch wagen (car, waggon). So the weel is canting.

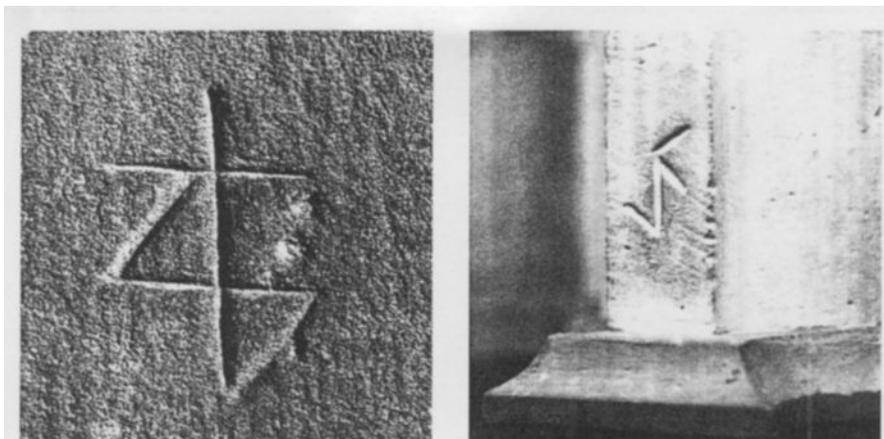
*Source: Anrooy et al (1979).

3 PRODUCER'S OR MAKER'S MARK (non-owner's marks)

A producer's mark was used by the man who actually made the product from material that he did not own. In general the producer was paid for his work, for instance per item prepared. To indicate which products had been made by them each producer marked 'his' product with his mark.

3.1 Stone mason/stone cutter's marks

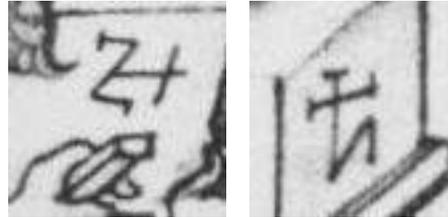
Stone cutters made in quarries rough stone blocks. At the building site these blocks were cut to desired size and shape.



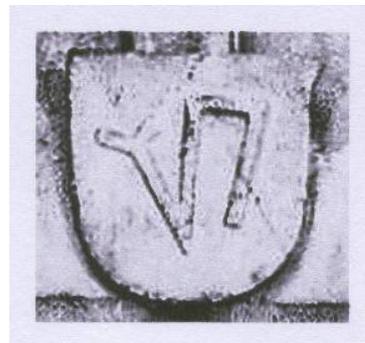
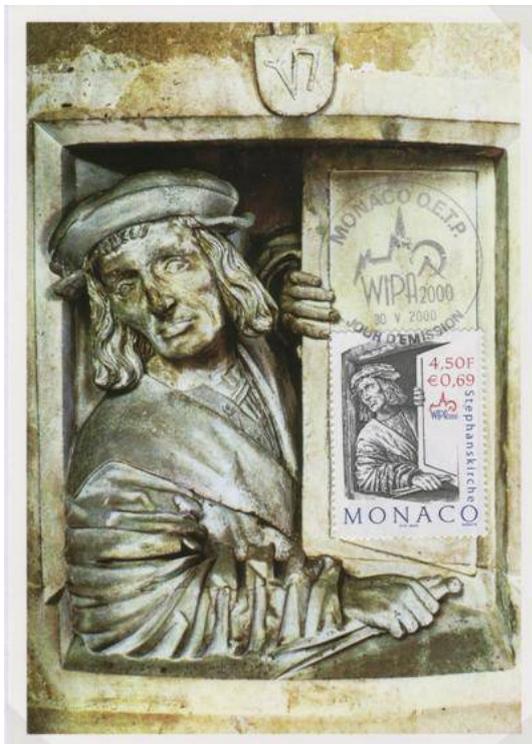
Two stone cutter marks. Left: in the St. Pancratius Church at Haaksbergen (prov. Overijssel), right: in the St. Jans Cathedral at 's-Hertogenbosch (prov. Noord-Brabant, NL). *Lit. and source: Janse & de Vries (1983).

Philip S.C. Caston c.s. used an apparatus to scan three-dimensionally (3D) the stone marks of the wall stones of the fortress Rosenberg in the city of Kronach (Germany). With the computer program CAD they were able to compare the various stone marks to obtain more information of the history of construction.

*Lit. Caston (2008) and www.hs-nb.de/biw/caston/festung/festung.html



Two almost identical marks on a painted glass at Augsburg (Germany). Source: Janse & de Vries (1983).



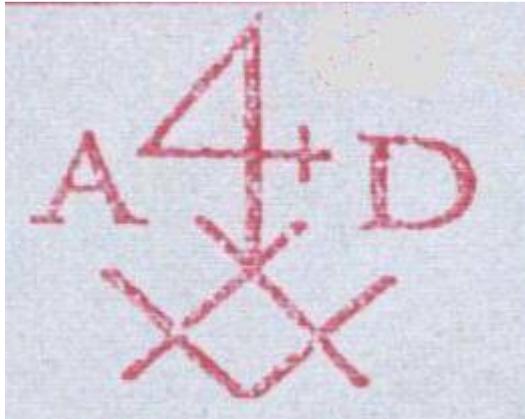
Maximum card of postage stamp depicting an unknown constructor of the Saint Stephens-cathedral at Vienna, 'looking' in 1510 from a window. Above his head probably his mark. According to D.J. de Vries. 2014. *Met het oog op het Laatste Oordeel*. Clavis pt XVII dated the sculpture ca 1480.

3.2 Axe mark

An axe mark is made by the tree cutter to indicate the tree he felled. The mark could be made by cutting or by drawing. See also 2.6.

3.3 Painter's mark

Art painters could mark their art work with their personal mark.



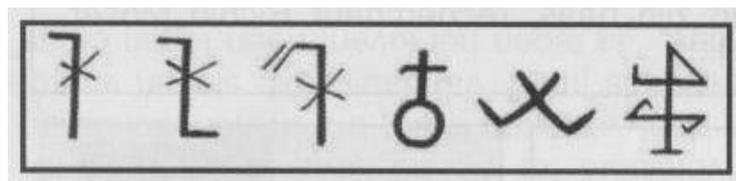
Mark of the Flemish painter Anthony van Dyck, 1599-1641



Mark of painter Vitus Stoss, ca 1445-1533. His mark is made up of a personal mark and his initials F and S. This mark may show that he wrote his first name as Fiet or Fiets.

3.4 Forest beekeeper's mark

Forest beekeepers obtained permission of the tree owner to use or cut a hole in the trunk with the hope that wild bees would nest in it. He marked his property of work with his personal mark to return later to harvest honey and beeswax.



Left: a postage stamp showing a forest beekeeper at work. Above: marks of Polish and Finnish forest beekeepers to identify 'ownership' of a bee's nest.

*Lit. Source: Jan de Crom. 2005. De bosimker. Thema 18: 12.

3.5 Tin/pewter smith/silver/goldsmith's marks

These marks are not included in this review.

3.6. Leaden roof cover

As a trotseerloodje or traceerloodje has only been applied in the Netherlands, there is no English word for it. As a temporary term (noodnaam) 'roofers badge' has been used, but a

descriptive name ‘slate hole cover’ would be better. It is a flat piece of lead with the mark of with usually the date and some tools and sometimes also the mark of the roofer or slater, which were soldered onto the nails attaching the lead parts covering the roof-ridges of slate roofs. The lead plates were attached to the roof to indicate which roofer had worked on the lead parts of the roof.

For more information: see Steijn (1995) and <http://digilander.libero.it/klunder/>



Two slate hole covers from Blokker (left prov. Noord-Holland, NL) and Utrecht (prov. Utrecht, NL). In both cases the slater’s name is not known. The one working at Utrecht used the initials G en G. Approximate size of 6 x 8 cm. Source: coll. Peter Klunder, Italy, by kind permission.

3.7 Printer employee’s mark

At one time Formerly, each employee in a printing-work had his own mark to identify the sheets which were printed under his responsibility. This mark is not the mark of a publisher.

4 PERSONAL MARKS IN COATS-OF-ARMS

Although personal marks have almost disappeared, they found a continuance in seals. However, in most cases the owners of such seals changed in due course to more heraldic images. Probably, because they thought that a ‘heraldic’ seal was more in accordance with the standards within their society. However, recently developed coats-of-arms include the old personal marks again.



Seal of Anna van Gelder, 1739. She used in her seal the so-called Gelre-mark. This mark was used by the various counts and dukes of Gelre Lit. Koobs den Hartog (1979). Source: coll. A.C. Zeven .nr.19.23.

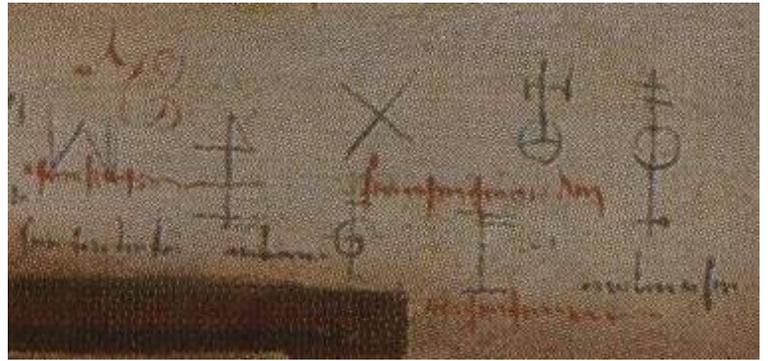
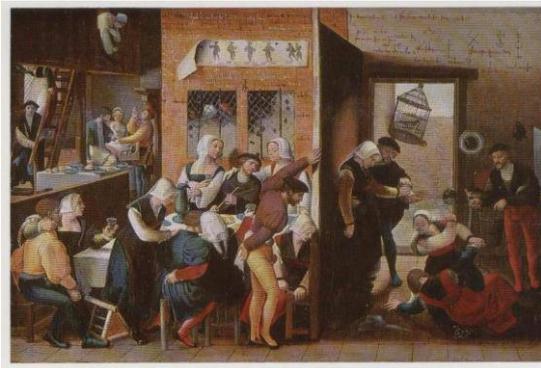
< Coat-of-arms of Hendrick Kruijmer. Drawing by C.J. van den Bosch, 1970. Source: A.C. Zeven. 2004. CD-Armorial of the Genealogical Society ‘Veluwe Geslachten’

5 IDENTITY MARKS

In the section Identity marks I have grouped those marks for which I cannot find a logic place in the above used sections.

5.1 Customers of an inn

The inn keeper has marked on the wall (top right) the personal marks of his guests. It is not clear to me why he did so. Perhaps to indicate former guests.

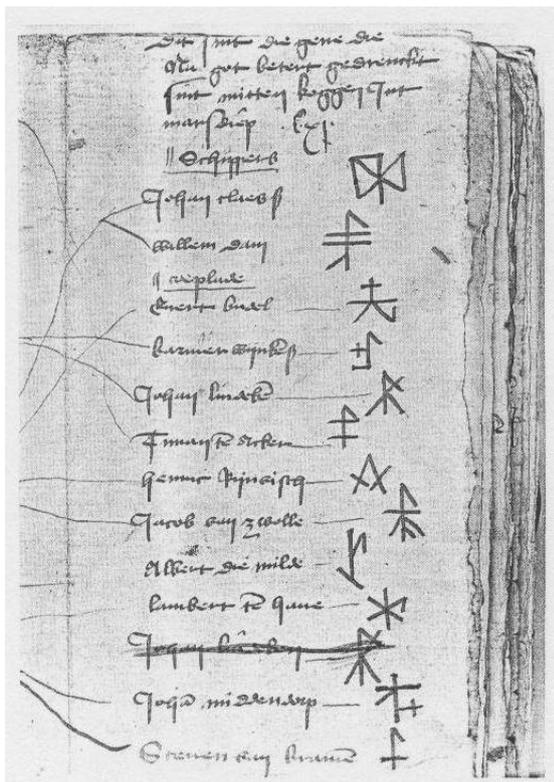


Picture postcard. Merry group, ca 1540, by Jan Sanders van Hemessen, ca 1500- after 1563. Gemäldegalerie, Berlin. Detail showing several marks on the wall.

See below.

5.2. Drowned seamen

A list with the marks of the drowned seamen was made. The marks are either those of the skipper or of the owners of the tradeware on the ships of these drawn skippers. If tradeware was recovered the owner could be retraced. Some skippers also were the owners. These marks were probably painted for instance on barrels with oil flax seed, on beams, on bags with skins of the blue-grey squirrel.



Dit sint die gene die nu, Got better, gedrenckt sint mitten koggen int Marsdiep [mcd]lxi [These are those who now, God save, drowned with the cock-boats in the Marsdiep, 1461]. Buisman (1989) describes two heavy storms for 1461, the first in February ('verbolgenheyt der zee', i.e. the anger of the Zuydersea) and the second in December. As the Marsdiep is near the entrance of the Zuydersea the seamen probably drowned during the first storm.

*Source: Kolman (1995). Lit. Buisman (1989).

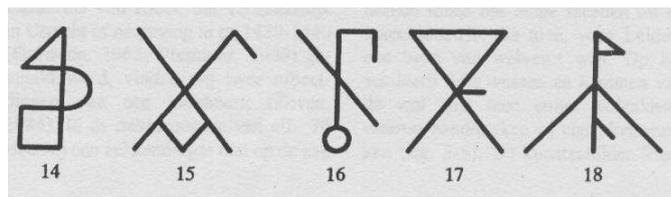
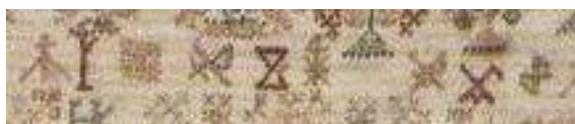
Similar lists, some of 1406, have been published in the book *English merchant's marks*, by F.A. Girling. 1964. Oxford University Press. Girling described one of them as *Hanseatic marks* dated from 1406. Cottonian manuscripts.

5.3 Scoring marks

Scoring marks are not included in this review.

6 PERSONAL MARKS IN ORNAMENTS

Marks, identical to personal marks were often embroidered in samplers. The examples may have been obtained, for instance, from grave tombs.



Details of various personal marks of which five marks in the above sampler by Annetje Muisidochter at Marken (prov. Noord-Holland, NL), 1663.

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