

# Living on Water

Planning and Revitalization

Frank Bos

WCC 2011

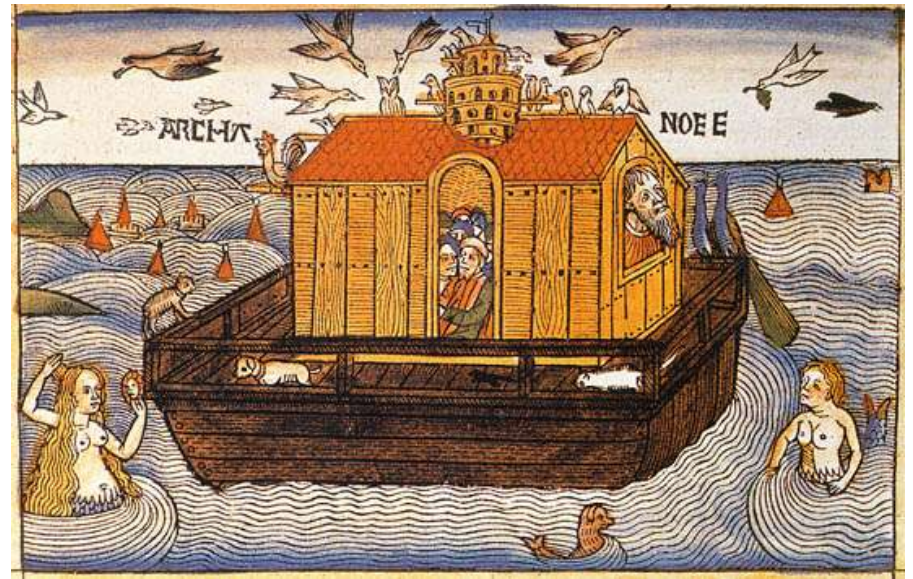
# Who is Frank Bos

- **Has lived on board since 1977**
- **Heritage specialist on living on water**
- **Writer, researcher and photographer**
- **Member of the LWO = national houseboat organization, the LVBHB and the cie. law and regulations FONV**

## Three main points:

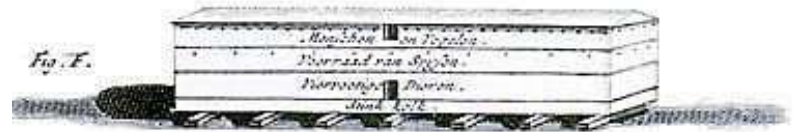
- 1. A long history of living on water**
- 2. An interesting cultural heritage**
- 3. The opportunities for old and new boats and harbours**

**Ad 1 - A long history of living on water**  
**Noah,**  
**left St Seven 1100 - right bible 1478**



# Ad 1 - A long history of living on water

## Discussion Van Yk 1697





## Ad 1 - A long history of living on water

**A watermill without a wheel?**

**Floating watermills since 537 AD on the Tiber in Rome.**

**Inspiration for Michaelangelo? (Sistine chapel 1508)**



# Ad 1 - A long history of living on water

Is there progress in design?

On the left 1100 AD; On the right 2000 AD





# Ad 1 - A long history of living on water

## For eternal life, a ship burial

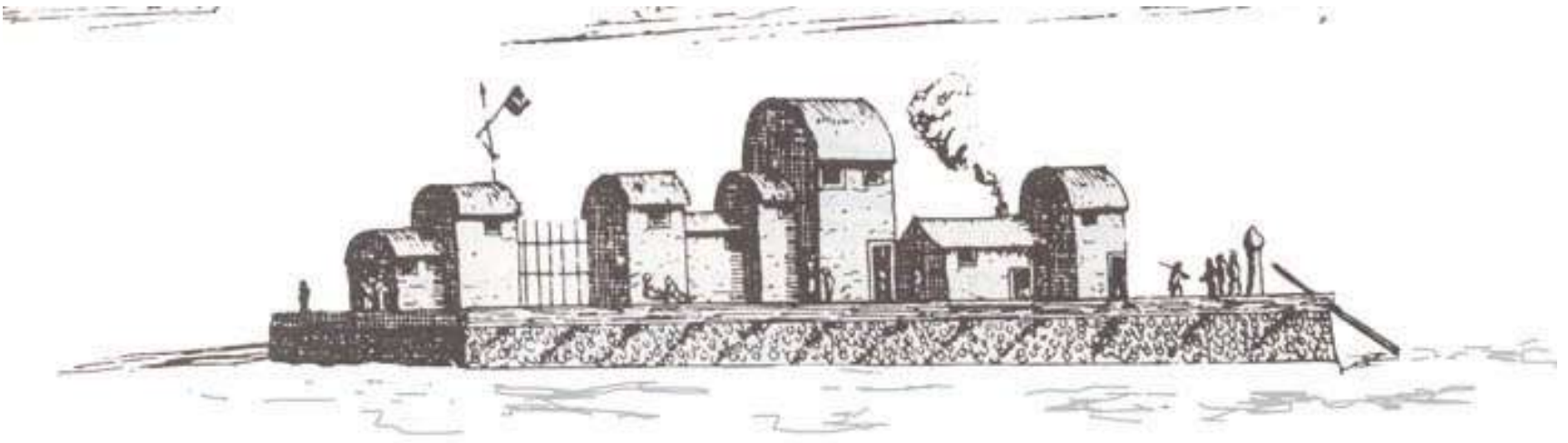


**Not only the Vikings.  
Around 650 AD,  
Sutton Hoo, England**



## Ad 1 - A long history of living on water

**First records in a Chinese encyclopedia from 800 AD.  
A permanently inhabited raft in China 1671**



## **Ad 1 - A long history of living on water**

- **The Netherlands was formed in 1568 and from that time on there have been records of people who permanently live on water**
- **At the same time there were already contacts in Asia and Indonesia**

## Ad 1 - A long history of living on water

**On the left and right, examples of different forms of houseboats in Asia**



## Ad 1 - A long history of living on water

**The oldest picture of houseboats around 1650 in Amsterdam: converted cargo vessels**





## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage

**Lots happened on water**



## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage

***Heritage is a set of stories, places, buildings and objects within a group who pass on this information from generation to generation.***

## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage

So,

if this *hat* has  
survived a few  
generations, it is  
heritage





## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage

**2011: Remember the first houseboats of Amsterdam: holes in the hull, railings, a lot of plants and people on the roof. This has been a continuing cult behaviour for 360 years**





## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage



**The time of  
flower-power has  
gone. Some ships  
are left... but this  
no longer exists**

## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage

### Which of these boats is a houseboat?



One is a recent replica of a barge, the other is an original privately-owned barge, which has survived thanks to its use as a houseboat. The third is a 'trading' ship around 1920, a floating shop/home used for commercial purposes

**Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage**  
**Paris 1839 Seine near the Louvre**





## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage

**This superstructure is a remnant of a big steam ship**





## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage

**What do you see? Is it ugly and uninteresting?**



## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage

**I see the remains of the ship's bridge of Hedel,  
a hull of at least hundred years old**





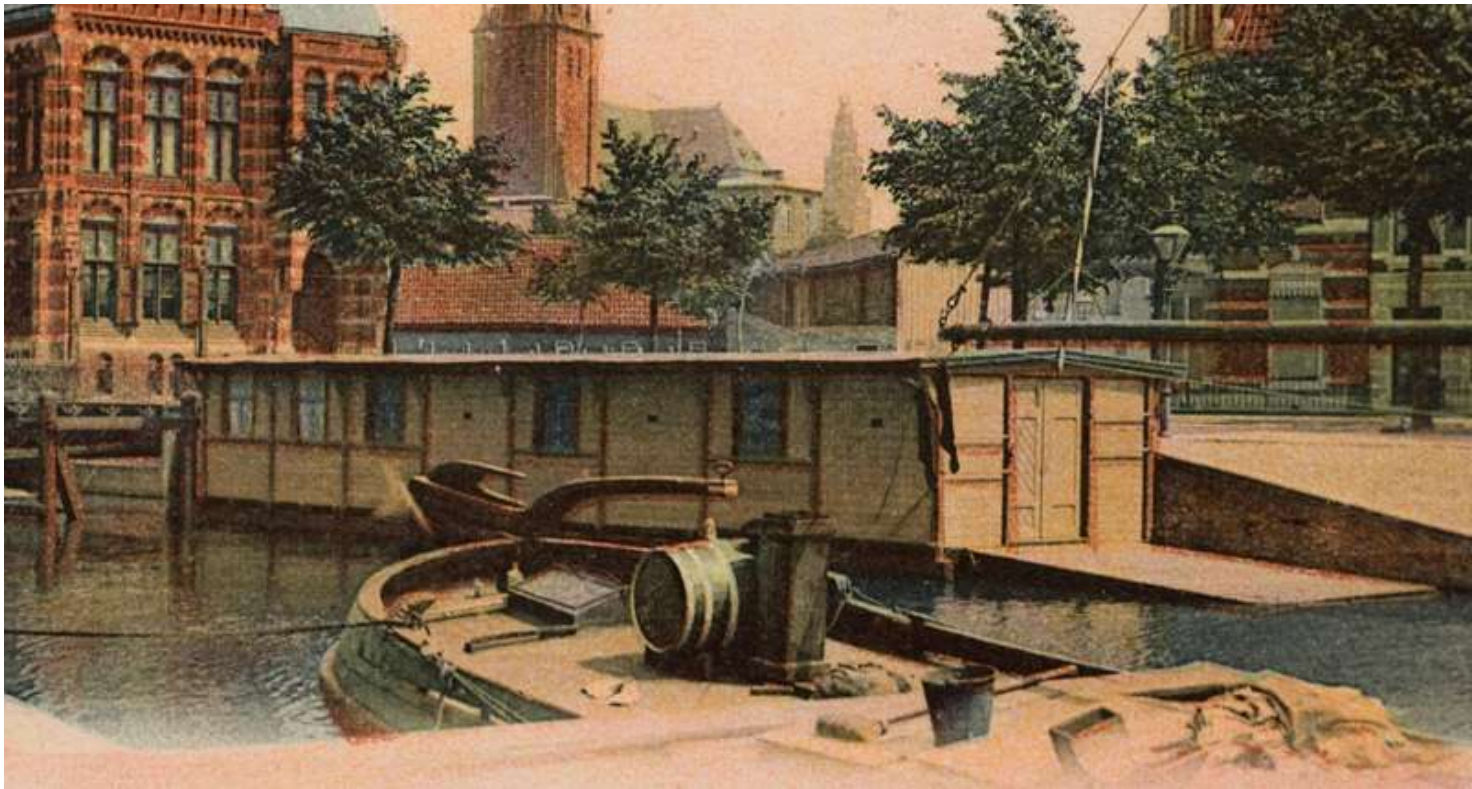
## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage

**Is this just a wreck or a hundred year old ship worth keeping?**



## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage

**1886 – 1912 in the centre of the city of Groningen,  
the home of the Lady's Rowing Club Wellgunde during  
its last days**





## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage

### Reinforced concrete vessels.

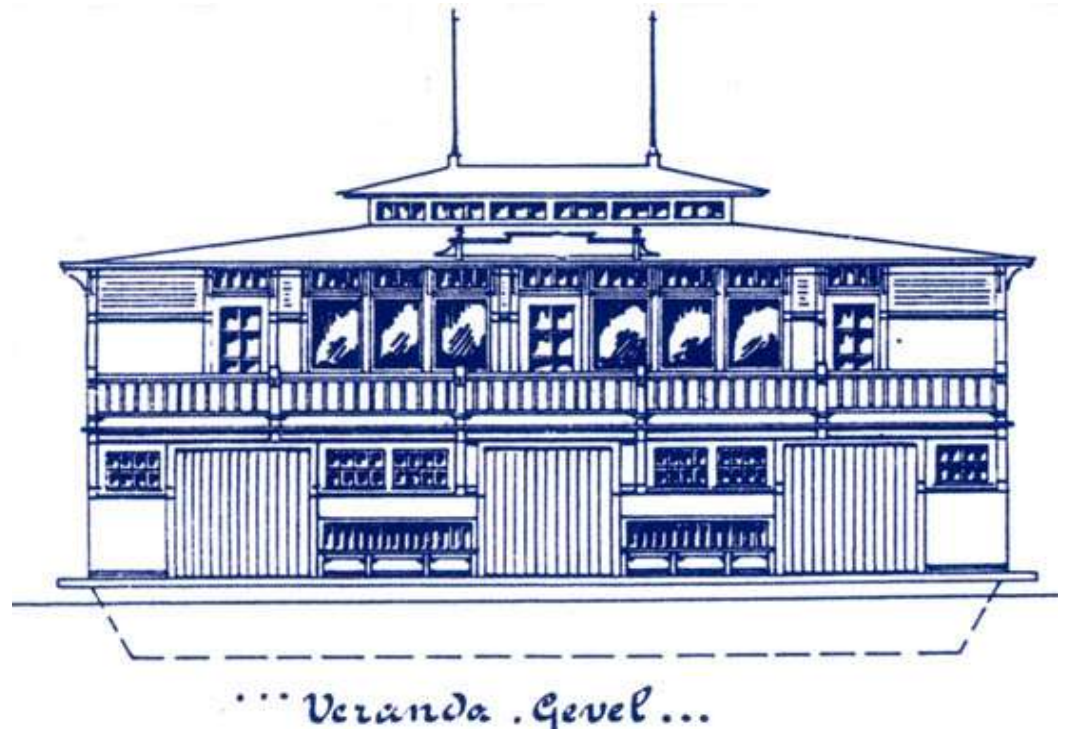
**A former college barge of 1927 in England, which survived as a houseboat and conference centre**



## Ad 2 - An interesting cultural heritage

### Reinforced concrete vessels

Due to mooring conditions of the rowing club, Groningen 1912, the administrator had to leave his home on board....



## **Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours**

**It has to do with:**

- 1. An open mind**
- 2. Converted and new ships**
- 3. Re-use or the digging/creation of new harbours**



## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

**Open mind: boat people are not pirates**



## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

**Open mind: do not demand a license for all**



## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

**Open mind: do not exclude certain types of vessels**





## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

**Ships' interiors of 1920. On the left a museum ship Nij-Beets; On the right the Zwerver (wanderer)**



## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

### **Ships' exteriors 1920.**

**On the left Nij-Beets and on the right the Zwerver**



## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

On the left a sailing ship and on the right a stationary one





## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

**New design in ships, it all floats...**

**Left the Grooz and right the Hertzberger**



## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

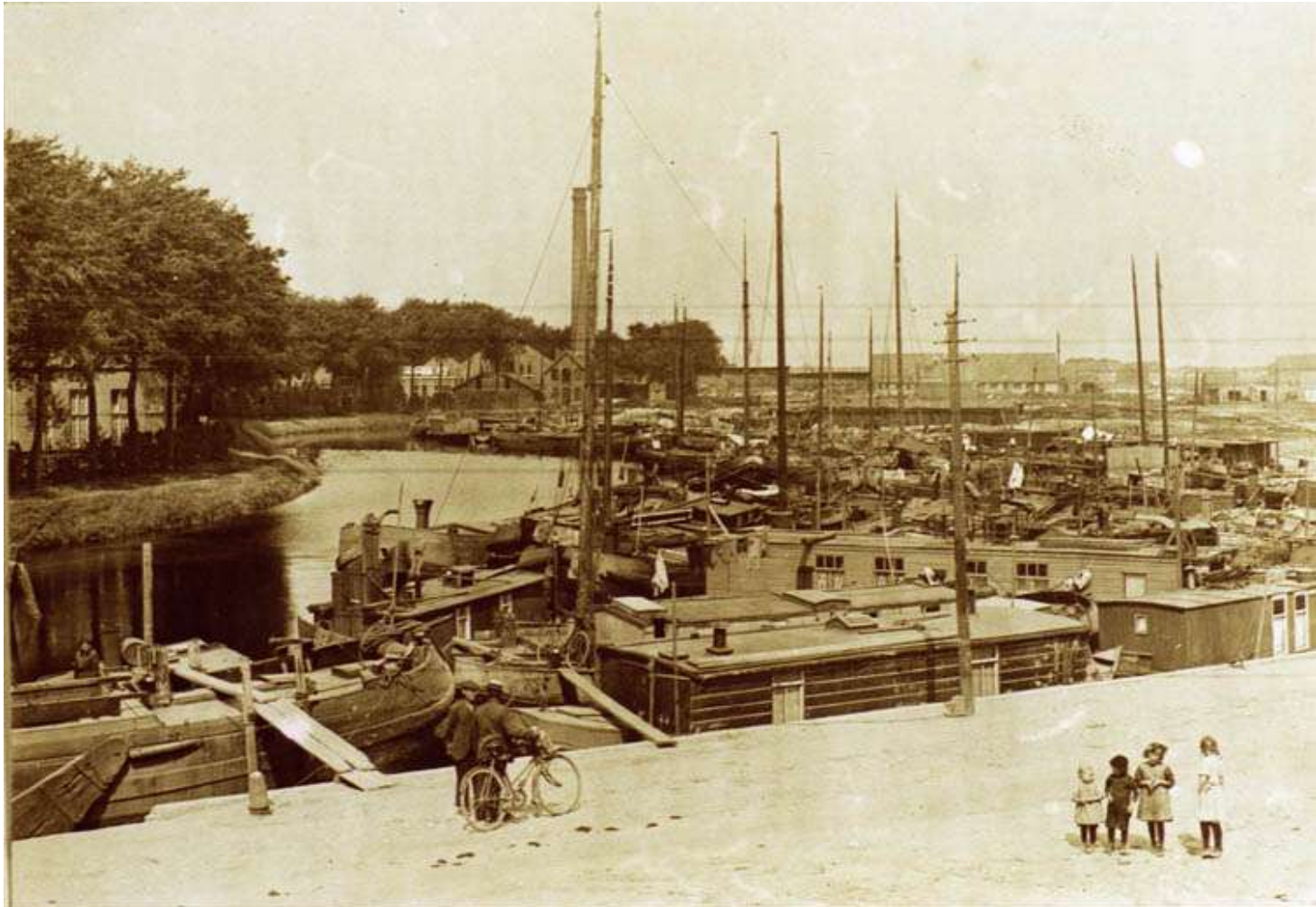
### Do ships have an impact on the environment?





## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

### Houseboats in the harbour in Groningen 1915





## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

### Houseboats in the harbour in Groningen 1925



## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

**Continue using old harbours with freedom of berth,  
Noorderhaven in Groningen**





## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

**Continue using old harbours with zoned fixed berths**





## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

**Make new harbours, like the one in IJburg, Amsterdam**



## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

**Be aware of the consequences of planning;  
individual commissioning on the left,  
or a developer on the right, IJburg**



## Ad 3 - Opportunities for old and new boats and harbours

### Or dig new harbours in the countryside, example in Leeuwarden





## **Living on water**

### **Planning and revitalization**

**So remember:**

- 1. There is a very long history of 'houseboating'**
- 2. There is a lot of interesting heritage**
- 3. There are many opportunities to expand living on water**

# Living on water

## Planning and revitalization

Contact Frank Bos

- [www.flhbos.com](http://www.flhbos.com)
- [www.lwoorg.nl](http://www.lwoorg.nl)

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