

# Using numbers to unravel the history of your old Dutch barge

Old Dutch barges will have one or two identification numbers. These numbers help to find the history of the ship.

Firstly a **measurement number** and secondly the **registration code** of the Dutch Land Registry Office.

## 1. Measurement number (*Dutch: 'meetnummer' or 'ijkmerk' or 'ijk'*)

The ship is measured to find the maximum safe submersion and hence the tonnage, length and width of the ship. A ship has to be measured as soon as modifications are made that influence the dimensions.

The number was chiseled in the side of the ship at minimum 4 places - about 1/5th from the rear end and from the bow at both sides, in a rectangle of which the bottom indicates the maximum submersion. Nowadays only the rectangles are applied and the number only in one place somewhere near the stern of the ship.



See the number, R3876N, below the rubbing strip ('berghout')

The ijk rectangles on this barge are painted white.

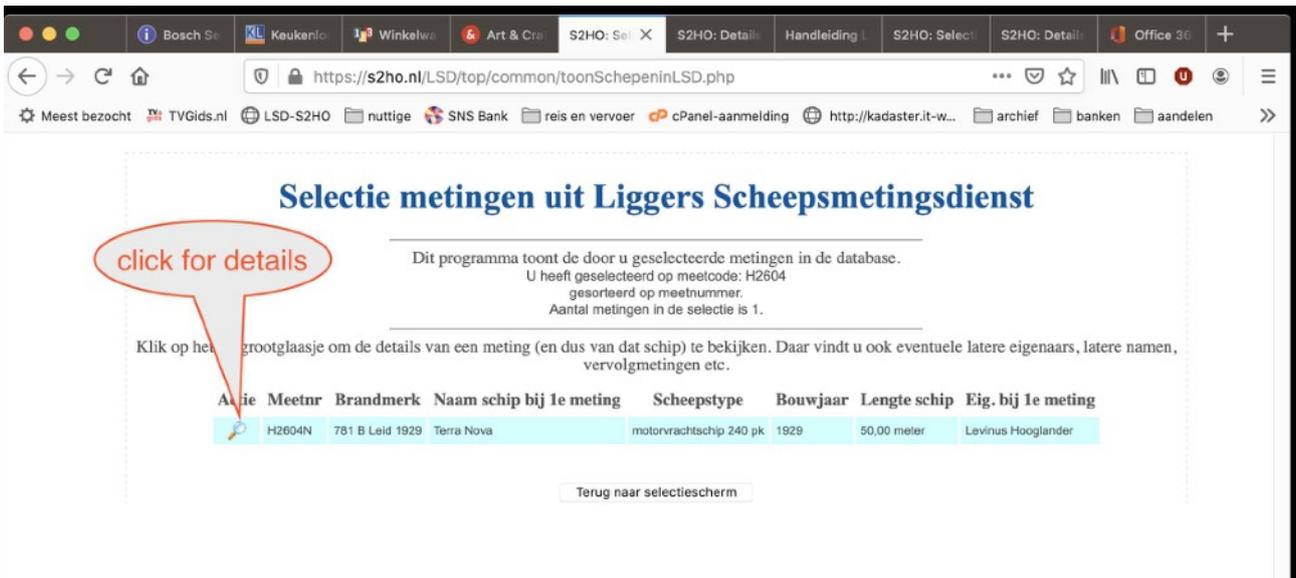


The ijk consists of a letter (short for the place where the office of the Government agency executing the measurements was situated e.g. H stands for The Hague), a sequence number like 2604 and N for Nederland so you should see H2604N in the rectangle.

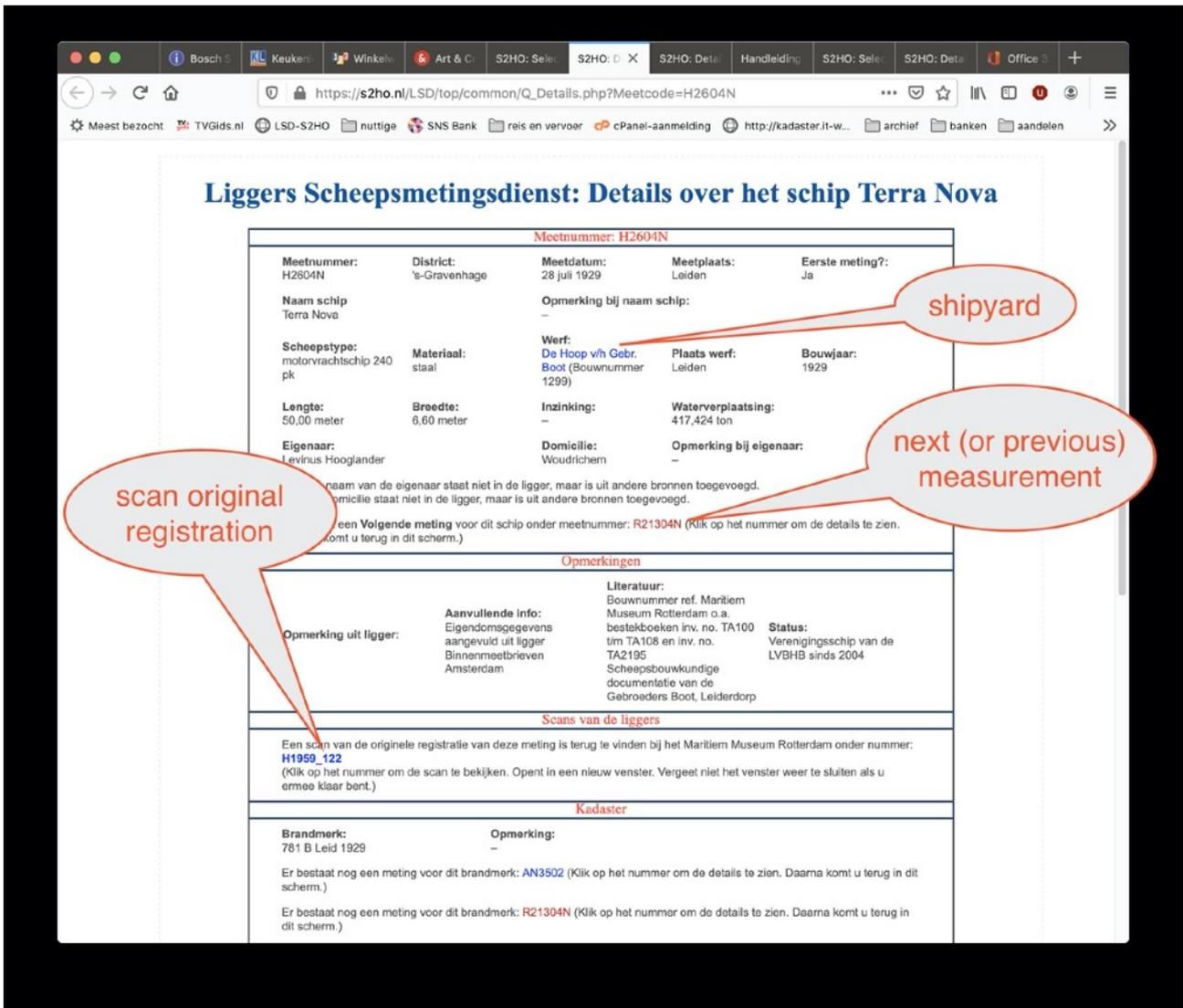
With this number (or even part of it) you can find the data of the measurement in [the LSD database](#) :

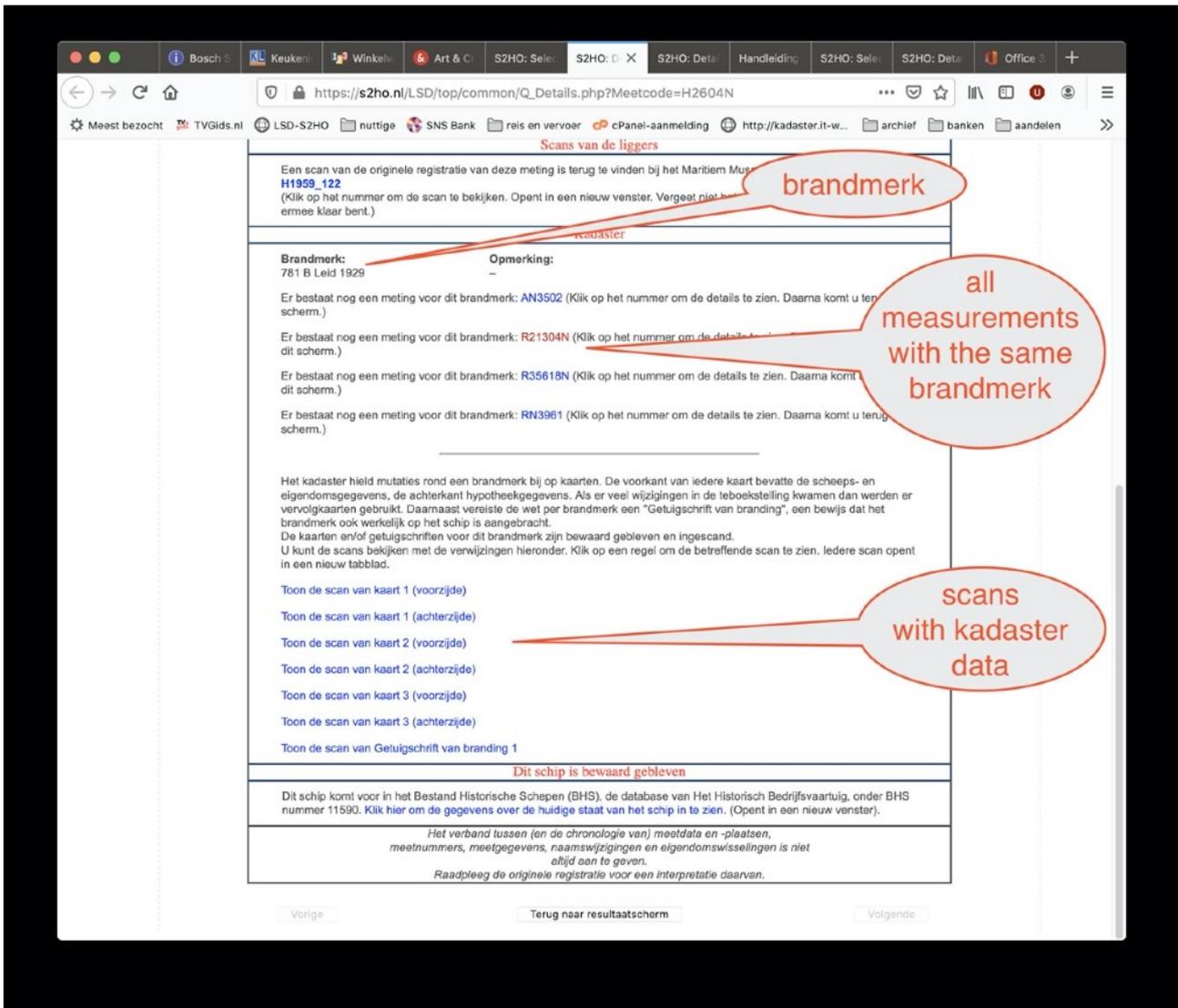
Fill in in the first field and find the data of the measurement and hence the particulars of the ship including very often the owner at the date of measurement, the shipyard and the year of building.

In the case of **H2604N** you'll find a ship named Terra Nova, firstly in an overview.



Click on the magnifying glass to see the details...





Here is the [actual LSD entry](#) for the barge.

**Click on the name of the shipyard and find the particulars of the yard.**

**Click on previous ('vorige') or following ('volgende') measurement and find more of the history.**

**Click on H1959\_122 and view the scan of the original registration in the ledger of the Agency.**

**At the end of the result screen you'll find the 'brandmerk', the registration code of the Kadaster (see next) if available.**

**Note that you can search with other data than the measurement number. If the number is unknown you can for example search on the dimensions, the year of build, the shipyard etc.**

## **2. Registration code (Dutch: 'Brandmerk') with which the ship is registered at the Kadaster (Land Registry Office).**

This number is usually chiseled somewhere near the stern of the ship, on the wheelhouse for example, a hatch, near the rudder, on the back of the deckhouse, but never on the side of the ship!



Example of a 'brandmerk'.

The Brandmerk consists of a sequence number, an indication of the type of ship, an abbreviation of the place the Kadaster office was situated and the year of registration e.g. 781 B LEID 1929 so the 781st ship registered in LEIDen, an inland vessel (B for Binnenvaart) registered in 1927. Recently scans of the registration data have been linked to the measurement data. You can search via the database with (part of) the brandmerk.

The Kadaster wrote a summary of the data for each registration on a card. The front was for details on the ship and the owner, the back contained data on mortgages. Also a special report was made up when the 'brandmerk' was applied to the ship. This report, called Getuigschrift (Certificate) sometimes recorded the previous (pre-1927) 'brandmerk'.

It takes a bit of deciphering but all relevant info is there. However it is as good as it is supplied to the Kadaster: they only recorded what was sent to them, they did not actively searched for data. An annotated example can be found here: front, back and certificate.

Front of Card:-

12-1-54 dom. ~~Alblaas~~ 21/69 1/81  
 16-3-65 dom. ~~Alblaas~~ 207  
 1-3-65 dom. ~~Alblaas~~ 507 4/94 B. LEID

Gebrand in: 1929 **G** N° 1/81 **B.**

12 Juni 1919 **G** Verplaatsing: 400 ton

**Serra** **branding** **description of vessel**

schipswaas **registration date** **tonnage**

00-240 **name**

Eigenaar: 5/6/29 **owners** **description of vessel**

16-5-1950 "Het Molenschip" "Uitk" Coöp. Schipvaartvereniging te Rotterdam 13/133

12-1-54 Hooglandse schippers door Alblaasden 40 2/60

16-3-64 Hooglandse Peter Cornelis schipper door Alblaasden 47/174

1-3-65 Gouweelma Jan schipper te Ouderhoek aan de Juseel 49/143

24-6-70 Gas **description of vessel** 4/192

~~c. Borkhouder 3-4-1984 Gas Adrianus schipper geb. 24-4-1959 gedom. Hardinxveld-Giessendam 632/83~~

Huurder: \_\_\_\_\_

~~Belegc. GEK. DOM. 3-4-1984 Rivierdijk 507, 3372 DB Hardinxveld-Giessendam 632/84~~

Doorhaling beslag: \_\_\_\_\_ **miscellaneous** **new names**

Vordering tot levering: \_\_\_\_\_ Doorstaad: \_\_\_\_\_

Naamsveranderingen: Later: Onderaaning 4/192 24-70 06.03.1991 "Virginia" 781/59

Daarna: \_\_\_\_\_

Doorhaling der te boekstelling: \_\_\_\_\_ **date crossed out**

S. 1 **description of vessel** L. 150-7939-20

Back of Card:-

Nummer van het dag-register.	Dag-teekening der inschrijving.	Deel.	Num-mer.	Naam, voornamen en gekozen domicilie van den schuldeischer.	Bedrag der schuld.	Nummer en dagteekening der doorhaling.	Aanteekeningen, cessie, pand, enz. Bedrag der gedeeltelijke ontfellingen.
2/300	8/7/29	3	94	Rotterdamsche Scheepshyp bank N.V. R/dam dom hyp kantoor Leiden	110.000	N=850 7-1-1940	
14/272	16-3-65			Coop. Raiffeisenbank verbond tot Papendrecht dom hyp kant. Leiden	40.000	M 3011 12/16	
15/29	1-3-65	27	4	N.V. Veenkoloniale Bank voor Hypotheek en Leij verband tot Dappeneice dom hyp kant. Leiden	75.000		
15/31	2-3-65	27	5	Ned. Middenstandsbank terdam dom hyp kant. Leiden	40.000	1854 1/8 70	
14/103	19-5-70	14	112	Gebrueders Bank N.V. Krimpener 700 3000 dom kant. R/dam te Ouderkerk op de Aa dom hyp kant. 1.700	40.000		
14/599	24-6-70	14	132	Coop. Raiffeisenbank dom hyp kant. Leiden	10.000	2/12-1974 27 AUG. 1980	

day register

amount

lender

mortgage date

repayment date

mortgage register

Certificate:-

Nº. 439

*608*

*4*

*11727*

DISTRICT

*s. Gravenhage*

# GETUIGSCHRIFT

van aanbrenging van de merken aan ten hypotheek gestelde schepen.

**official**

Ik ondergeteekende, *Rubbert Frank, heidigde,*  
scheepsmeter te *s. Gravenhage*  
verklaar op heden, ten verzoeke van *Revinus Hooglander,*  
*Scheppe, gedomineerd te Woudrichem*

**name vessel**

**owner**

en ter voldoening van *de* van het Koninklijk besluit van 28 December 1928  
(*Stsblad* n<sup>o</sup>. 518), in (de bouwplaats van) het schip genaamd

**branding**

*Ferra Nova*

zijkant *waarschip, groot volgens opgave 400 ton*  
liggende te *Reiden*, de volgende

merken te hebben <sup>ingebreed</sup> <sub>ingebeiteld</sub> te welen: *781 B. Reid. 1929*  
*acht op het schip, op het buitenvlak van het achter-*  
*ruut van de roef, ongeveer in het midden van waarmeld vlak*

**location branding**

en zulks in overeenstemming met de daartoe strekkende *mij* vertoende opgave  
van den bewaarder der hypotheek te *Reiden*  
gedagteekend *5 Juni* 19*29*

Waarvan deze verklaring wordt afgegeven om te kunnen dienen zoo en waar  
het behoort.

Te *s. Gravenhage* *12 Juni* 19*29*

**previous branding**

## SPECIFICATIE DER KOSTEN

Aanbrenging van de merken	<u><i>10</i></u>
Reis- en verblijfkosten	<u><i>250</i></u>
Totaal	<u><i>1250</i></u>

*P.S.!*  
*By de goet zijn vane*  
*andere merken van bronzen te*  
*hachtstelling van hypotheek-*  
*kantoor heeft land geveenden*  
*Me vorey*  
*to s. Gravenhage*  
*Frank*

\*) Hier steeds mede te vermelden de plaats, waar de merken zijn aangebracht. Zie voorts Verz. 3043.  
N.B. Dit getuigschrift moet ten spoedigste bij bovengenoemden bewaarder worden  
ingelevd.

*Geto Frank*

### 3. Scheepsmetingsdienst and Kadaster

The Government agency executing the measurements is called the **Scheepsmetingsdienst** and was situated in various places across the country. This list gives the places and abbreviation of the name of the town. Eventually (the measurements started in 1898) all offices were merged and moved to Rotterdam. Nowadays it is part of the 'Inspectie Leefomgeving en Transport' (**ILenT**) (<https://www.ilent.nl/>). Note that the earlier Amsterdam measurements might have 'Am' as abbreviation. Later on it became just 'A'. In the database only 'A' is used. As of 1989 measurements are stored in the computer of the Scheepsmetingsdienst en not all of these data can be found in the database LSD.

The **Kadaster** (Land Registry Office) was situated in various places across the country and eventually all offices for the registration of vessels were concentrated in Rotterdam and no office abbreviation is used anymore. Find a list of offices and abbreviations. The registration of all vessels started in 1927 and as of 1994 the registration is no longer on paper so not directly available via the database LSD.

Note that the official 's-Hage and 's-Bosch has been abbreviated to sHag en sBosch in the database so when searching e.g. for "25 B 's-Hage" use "25 B sHage" and for "17 B 's-Bosch 1927" use "17 B sBosch 1927".

### [Kadaster offices](#)

For an example of a ships history see Blue Flag 132 December 2018 and Blue Flag 133 Februari 2019.