

# Groote Koninklijke Bazar

## Abstract

The Groote Koninklijke Bazar (Big Royal Bazar) was a department store in The Hague. Dirk Boer, the owner of the company, started trading in Asian arts from 1825. In 1843, he opened his store at the Zeestraat.

## History

The Groote Koninklijke Bazar was a department store for Asian wares in The Hague. Its owner [Dirk Boer](#) (1803-1877) began selling goods in 1825 and opened a store on Zeestraat in 1843. The store sold Asian items, mainly from [Japan](#), [China](#), [Persia](#) and the [Ottoman Empire](#), as well as from [the Dutch East Indies](#). The buyers were private individuals, including King [Willem II](#), as well as museums, such as the [Royal Cabinet of Curiosities](#) and the then [Rijks Ethnografisch Museum](#). After Boer's death, the business continued under new owners. It finally closed its doors in 1927.

## Provenance research

It is not known whether the business records of Groote Koninklijke Bazar have been preserved. Separate archive documents are held in various archives. The [Municipal Archives of The Hague](#) has some photographs of the store's interior showing many objects. The [Wereldmuseum Leiden](#) archive contains correspondence with Groote Koninklijke Bazar regarding purchases.

## Related Aids

- [The trade in objects from a colonial context](#)
- [Royal Cabinet of Curiosities](#)
- [Wereldmuseum Leiden](#)
- [Kunsthandel Van Lier](#)

## Primary sources

Archive:

*Nationaal Archief 2.09.46 Inventaris van de dossiers Naamloze en Besloten Vennootschappen van het Centraal Archief Vennootschappen van het Ministerie van Justitie, opgeheven vóór 1983, 1820-ca. 1945 When public and later private limited companies were formed, their articles of association required approval by the Ministry of Justice. The content of the files could range from a single opinion to a pack of documents comprising articles of association, appeals, opinions, royal decrees and correspondence.*

<https://www.nationaalarchief.nl/onderzoeken/archief/2.09.46/invnr/%40index>

Archive:

*Nationaal Archief 3.17.13.03 Inventaris van het archief van de Kamer van Koophandel en Fabrieken voor 's-Gravenhage: Handelsregister 1921-1969 Documents from the Business Register (Chambers of Commerce) of the province of South Holland. Business name: Koninklijke Bazar voorheen D. Boer en Zonen NV, Groote. File number HA-000014 /1. Includes a set of commercial files.*

<https://www.nationaalarchief.nl/onderzoeken/archief/3.17.13.03/invnr/%401>

Archive:

*Noord-Hollands Archief 476 Rijksmuseum en rechtsvoorgangers - inventory number 836-839 Declarations of goods and services supplied, 1813, 1824-1831. The Royal Cabinet of Curiosities purchased items from Dirk Boer, which are mentioned in this archive.*

<https://hdl.handle.net/21.12102/567C414E21CB4FC48C35085331D8A768>

Archive:

*Stadsarchief Rotterdam / Collectie Th. Haanebrink en Alex de Haas 4062 Poster of the Koninklijke Bazar from 1926.*

<https://hdl.handle.net/21.12133/8F98F272DE4045309EA6FA218A2664FC>

## Secondary sources

Article:

*Dam, Peter van. "The Royal Bazar of Dirk Boer: early Japonism in The Hague around 1840." Andon 7 no. 25 (1987): 16–19. Article about Dirk Boer's store from the Journal of Japanese Art.*

<https://rkd.nl/library/89731>

Article:

*Baird, Christina and Backx-Palsgraaf, Helen. "Viewing Japan and China through Dirk Boer's Panorama, 1835–1838." Journal of the History of Collections 32, Issue 1 (March 2020): 119–128. This article discusses Dirk Boer's activities that predate the Groote Koninklijke Bazar and highlights a Chinese/Japanese panorama as an illustration of the interest in China and Japan that existed in the Netherlands in the 1830s.*

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jhc/fhy052>

Book:

*Keblusek, Marika. Japansch Magazijn: Japanse kunst en cultuur in 19de-eeuws Den Haag. Leiden: Hotei, 2000. Book about a previous store owned by Dirk Boer.*

<https://search.worldcat.org/title/902181455?oclcNum=902181455>, [ISBN 9789074822251](https://search.worldcat.org/title/902181455?oclcNum=902181455)

Book:

Wap, J.J.F. *De Koninklijke Bazar van den Heer D. Boer aan de Scheveningsche Zeestraat te 's Gravenhage. 's Gravenhage: Belinfante, 1854. \_*

<https://search.worldcat.org/title/67736999>, [WorldCat 67736999](#)

Catalogue:

*Boer, Dirk. Kabinet van Japansche, Chineesche en Oostersche zeldzaamheden, antiquiteiten en rariteiten ter bezigtiging opengesteld te Scheveningen: voorafgegaan van eene schets der zeden en gewoonten der Japanners, en gevolgd door eene beschrijving van dit Kabinet. 's Gravenhage, 1841. Description of the Royal Bazar by Dirk Boer.*

<https://search.worldcat.org/title/67826958>, [WorldCat 67826958](#)

---

## Relevant Data

TO BE FILLED

*first edited by Wiebe Reints as original\_author on 2024-05-03*

*last edited by Wiebe Reints as original\_author on 2025-12-23*