

# 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.

## 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

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

## Primary sources

Archive:

NL-HaNA 2.09.46

*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: NL-HaNA 3.17.13.03

*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: NL-HlmNHA 476 811

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

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

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<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](#)

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## Relevant Data

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