

**THE HOLLANDERS IN  
NOVA ZEMBLA [1596-  
1597]: AN ARCTIC POEM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649605743

The Hollanders in Nova Zembla [1596-1597]: An Arctic Poem by Hendrik Tollens & Daniel van Pelt & Samuel Richard van Campen

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**HENDRIK TOLLENS & DANIEL VAN  
PELT & SAMUEL RICHARD VAN CAMPEN**

**THE HOLLANDERS IN  
NOVA ZEMBLA [1596-  
1597]: AN ARCTIC POEM**





“ \* \* \* High her bow  
Points to the sky, her stern the meanwhile fixed  
Within the frozen vice—”

*Page 66.*

THE HOLLANDERS IN  
NOVA ZEMBLA

[1596-1597]

AN ARCTIC POEM

TRANSLATED FROM THE DUTCH OF HENDRIK TOLLENS

BY

DANIEL VAN PELT, A.M.

WITH A PREFACE AND AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

BY

SAMUEL RICHARD VAN CAMPEN, F.R.G.S.

Corresponding Member of the Dutch and American Geographical Societies; Author of "The Dutch in the Arctic Seas," etc.

---

INCLUDING NOTES

---

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS

NEW YORK: 27 & 29 WEST 23D ST.  
LONDON: 25 HENRIETTA ST., COVENT GARDEN

1884

---

COPYRIGHT BY  
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS  
1884

*Press of*  
*G. P. Putnam's Sons*  
*New York*

1103196-291

## CONTENTS.

---

	PAGE
PREFACE TO THE TRANSLATION . . . . .	v
TRANSLATOR'S NOTE . . . . .	xv
HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION . . . . .	i
THE HOLLANDERS IN NOVA ZEMBLA :	
CANTO I.—THE PROJECT . . . . .	53
" II.—TEMPEST . . . . .	58
" III.—SHIPWRECK . . . . .	64
" IV.—NOVA ZEMBLA . . . . .	68
" V.—THE BUILDING OF THE HUT . . . . .	74
" VI.—NIGHT . . . . .	81
" VII.—EVENING HOURS . . . . .	87
" VIII.—AURORA BOREALIS . . . . .	91
" IX.—DEATH . . . . .	95
" X.—DAY . . . . .	100
" XI.—ADRIFT . . . . .	104
" XII.—HOMEWARD . . . . .	109
NOTES . . . . .	115



## PREFACE TO THE TRANSLATION.

---

THE interest which has ever attached to the story of Arctic adventures—though usually associated as these adventures are with prose narration, and seemingly ill-calculated through want of romance for poetic description—may fairly render any apology for the appearance of this little work unnecessary with the reader ; however, it may not, perhaps, be out of place to explain the circumstances which have led to its appearance.

The labors of the writer, in his zeal for the renewal of Dutch Arctic research, until lately so long abandoned, and his incident investigation as to the past work of Holland in the field of Northern enterprise, led him early upon the story of the voyages of Barents and his companions three hundred years ago, so thrilling and so justly famous ; but the instinct of the Dutch to celebrate poetically the eloquent passages in their history was found to have made no exception even of this sombre episode, and it was soon discovered that their most

esteemed poet of the century had told the story in charming verse of the "Overwintering" of the Hollanders in Nova Zembla.

So struck was I, indeed, with this poem of Hendrik Tollens, that at the time of my writing (1876) I even sought a translation of it from a gifted hand in London. In this endeavor, however, though encouraged at first I was disappointed finally, and was obliged to content myself with the wish, expressed in the preface of my book, "that some poet, with the daring requisite to attempt the translation of this *chef-d'œuvre* of Dutch poesy, and possessing something of my own enthusiasm for Holland, would yet place at my disposal an English version of it in order that it might find a place in our language as a further contribution to this subject."<sup>1</sup>

But my efforts did not cease here; for on returning from England, two or three years later, the matter was still kept in mind. Among those whom I then consulted in confirmation of my views—both as to the merits of the poem and the desirability of seeing it translated into English—was that learned critical student and writer, the Librarian of the American Geographical Society, whose letter relating to the subject I venture to give here, and whose encouragement of the present undertaking, in-

---

<sup>1</sup> "The Dutch in the Arctic Seas." (London, Trübner & Co., 1878.) Third Edition. Preface, p. xxziv.

deed, has been agreeably the reverse of doubtful. The letter was as follows :

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY,  
No. 11 West 29th Street,  
NEW YORK, April 12, 1879.

DEAR MR. VAN CAMPEN :—I return to you with best thanks "De Overwintering der Hollanders op Nova Zembla," by Tollens, to which you allude in the preface of your book, and which I have read with the greatest pleasure. With the occasional assistance of the very inferior English translation I have been enabled to read it in the original Dutch. This poem, relating the sufferings of the heroic Hollanders on the inhospitable shores of the Arctic seas, abounds in poetical beauties of the highest order. It would indeed be a boon to all lovers of true poetry if this noble work were to be rendered into English in a manner worthy of the original ; and the poet who would undertake this task would earn both the gratitude of English-speaking people for making them acquainted with one of the finest foreign poems of our times, as well as that of the kindred race of the Dutch, who would be glad to see a work upon which they look with national pride and delight made familiar outside of their own country.

Yours very truly,

LEOPOLD LINDAU.

S. R. VAN CAMPEN, Esq.

This masterpiece of Hendrik Tollens had long since been translated into French by the accomplished Belgian poet, Auguste Clavareau<sup>1</sup> ; and the translation has gone

---

<sup>1</sup> "L' Hivernage des Hollandais à la Nouvelle-Zemble, 1596-1597." Traduit de Tollens. Par Auguste Clavareau, Membre correspondant de l'Institut des Pays-Bas, des Sociétés de Littérature de Leyde, de Gand, de Liège et d'Archéologie d'Athènes, Chevalier des Ordres de Lion Néerlandais et de la Couronne de Chêne. Quatrième Edition. Utrecht : 1851.