



2022

# *The year in review*

Belasting & Douane Museum

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belasting  
& douane  
museum



All year, the focus at the museum was on the 425th anniversary of Customs. The museum celebrated its anniversary with a great many activities, beautiful exhibitions and the Douane Experience – [Customs Experience] an interactive journey that uses spectacular projections to bring the rich history of Customs to life.

One of the year's highlights was the inclusion of the museum in the Canon of the Netherlands with no fewer than three collection pieces. The two temporary exhibitions were also special: the FIOD-Fraudebestrijding [FIOD – Fighting Fraud] exhibition was so successful it had to be extended twice. Many visitors enthusiastically took to social media to share their experiences of the exhibition's escape rooms. Enjoy reading and viewing this review of 2022 and don't forget to have a look at our website [www.bdmuseum.nl](http://www.bdmuseum.nl) and find out everything there is to see and do. We look forward to welcoming you to Parklaan!



## JANUARY

### First visitors of the year

The museum's year began on 26 January when we were allowed to reopen our doors after the third and final Covid-19 lockdown. On that day, the first visitors were greeted with our new museum bag complete with a tin of 'black money' and the book *Gekke geurtjes*.

We were also happy to welcome our first school group in the first week of the reopening.

### International Customs Day celebration

We gave our first Customs party to celebrate International Customs Day. It was an afternoon full of activities and presentations about the work of sniffer dogs and their handlers. Former Customs officer Leon Warnies, known for his always popular Customs walk-in sessions at the Museum, recounted his adventures as a sniffer dog handler at Schiphol Airport, where he started in the early 1970s. Children could also test their detection skills.





## FEBRUARY

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### **Douane Sport kids' tours**

We organized special tours for children during the Douane Sport [Sports at Customs] exhibition. Children aged 8–12 could go on a sporting tour of all the Customs sections of the museum. The small Douane Sport exhibition provided a glimpse into the long tradition of playing sports, training and annual skills tests at Customs.



## MARCH

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### **'Tussen Poen & Platzak'**

Money Week was also the last week of Tussen Poen & Platzak, an exhibition full of wallets with a story. Well-known and lesser-known people shared their experiences about dealing with money, from a very personal perspective. All the inspiring stories behind the wallets are now available online and can be viewed on our website (see the exhibitions archive).



## APRIL

### **Window artwork**

Artist Martinus Papilaja created a window artwork specially for the exhibition Belast Koloniaal Verleden [Heavy Colonial Past]. The artwork was funded by the Friends of the Museum.





## National Museum Week

An opium pipe was in the spotlight during this week, in keeping with the theme Open je wereld [Expand Your World]. At a lunchtime lecture, our curator discussed the use of this mind-altering drug and the monopoly the Dutch government had on the opium trade in the East Indies from the VOC era onward.



## Opening of Belast Koloniaal Verleden [Heavy Colonial Past]

On April 21, Carlos Gonçalves, president of the now defunct Rotterdam Council for Art & Culture, opened the exhibition Belast Koloniaal Verleden. The exhibition focused on the tax system in the Dutch colonial period. Special attention was paid to the oppression, exploitation and enslavement that went hand in hand with that system.

## MAY



## Memorial spot

In a year filled with celebrations, we also remembered. With two commemorative plaques, the museum created a place to reflect and remember all the customs officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The artwork is dedicated to the memory of colleagues Dyon de Jong, Jan Goemans and Jan Holm.



# JUNE

Podcast Lammie, de hasjkotter [Lammie: The Hash Boat]

The museum collaborated on Rik Bouman's podcast about what is known as 'the smuggling caper to end all smuggling capers'. A big chunk of hash from the ship's hold is on display in our smuggling section. There are also film clips of the chase with commentary by the customs officers present at the time.

## Museum Night summer edition

It was blisteringly hot but nonetheless, people queued up in the museum to solve fraud cases in the FIOD escape rooms. At the front door, people could look inside the FIOD coach, equipped with an interrogation room and all. In the garden, there were demonstrations with currency detection dogs. The fox hunt for the money mule and the 'cheatah' were especially popular. The counter stood at 559 by the end of the night



## Museum on location

On Rotterdam History Day, the Historisch Genootschap Roterodamum (Roterodamum historical society) celebrated its 75th anniversary. The museum was present with a market stall in the corridors of the Laurenskerk (Church of St. Lawrence). Some of the many people who visited our stall turned up again at the museum the very next day.



## Lecture & guided tour by Maarten Manse

In his lecture on taxation and forced labour in the Dutch East Indies, historian Maarten Manse provided a behind-the-scenes look at our heavy colonial past. A joint visit was also made to the exhibition Belast Koloniaal Verleden [Heavy Colonial Past].



# JULY

## **Belast Koloniaal Verleden [Heavy Colonial Past] vlog**

Commissioned by the diversity programme Musea Bekennen Kleur, the culture vloggers from Shot of Culture filmed at the Belast Koloniaal Verleden [Heavy Colonial Past] exhibition. Their experiences were displayed on our website.



## **Summer fun on Parklaan**

Children could enjoy many activities during the summer break with the Youth Holiday Passport. Our two Doerakjes (little sniffer dogs) worked overtime to guide all the young visitors. The children also received a craft kit to make their own Doerak tow dog at home.



## **A jewel from the depot**

During the summer months, a piece of Customs history was told through various paintings with scenes depicting levying excise duties, protecting borders and combating smuggling. To this end, the painting Port View of Dordrecht by Dirk Kuipers was retrieved from the depot. This impressive canvas now has a permanent place in the museum.



## **Informal visit**

State Secretary for Tax Affairs and the Tax Administration Marnix van Rij visited the museum with his wife. The director-general of the Tax Administration also joined them.



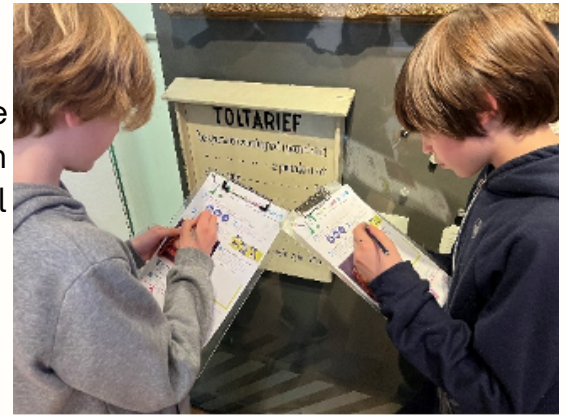


# AUGUST

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## Voyage of discovery

Many children went on a voyage of discovery through the museum's permanent exhibition. The scavenger hunt, with a variety of tasks, offered families a fun and educational experience.



# SEPTEMBER

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## School visit

In the week of World Port Days, special lessons were given by real customs officers.

11 schools attended these lessons. In total, we welcomed 142 school groups. Of our range of museum classes, the educational lessons Veilige Haven [Safe Haven] and Betrapt [Caught] were the most popular.

## Heritage Days 2022

During Heritage Days our, historic buildings on the Parklaan 14-16 could be visited free of charge. In a free tour, visitors were told about how the two former houses became a museum.

## Inclusion in the Canon of the Netherlands

It was on Prinsjesdag (the state opening of parliament) in 2022 that the museum joined the network of the Canon of the Netherlands with the very first budget box as one of the three key pieces. In 1946, then Finance Minister Lief tinck purchased this case to present the first post-war budget in style. The other key pieces are a statue of an Indonesian tax official, which symbolizes our burdened colonial past and a customs officer's sleeping bag, which is part of the story of butter smuggling between the Netherlands and Belgium in the pre- and post-war periods.



## OCTOBER

### **Weekend van de Wetenschap [Weekend of Science]**

During the busy Weekend of Science, the museum was bursting with Customs activities. Specialists from the VGEM team (safety, health economy and environment), researchers from the Customs Laboratory and sniffer dog demonstrations gave visitors a unique glimpse into the world of Customs. It was also the last weekend of the FIOD exhibition.



### **National History Month**

Michiel Adriaanszoon de Ruyter had the lead role at our museum during National History Month. Visitors could play the Michiel de Ruyter game at the museum café. They were also treated to a fascinating and humorous lecture by Frits de Ruyter de Wildt, a 12th generation descendant of Michiel de Ruyter. He shared an intimate look at his ancestor's family life and delved into their finances. Children had the chance to transform themselves into admirals.



## NOVEMBER

### **DG Customs opens Precious Goods**

Director-general of the Customs Administration Nanette van Schelven opened the provocative exhibition Precious Goods on 30 November. Those present included the makers, loaners, Customs representatives, partners involved and organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund and the No Wildlife Crime Foundation. In her speech at the opening, the director-general stressed the importance of the work Customs does in the fight against illegal trade in protected animals.



### **Workshops Net Echt! [Like the Real Thing workshops]**

For the duration of the Precious Goods exhibition, children will be able to create their own beautiful versions of precious goods in Net Echt! workshops. The first workshops were held at the end of 2022: making a piece of coral or snakeskin, or a colourfully painted butterfly to hang on the wall instead of a dead one bought online.





# DECEMBER

## Vriendendag [Friends Day]

Friends Day was delightfully busy. Our curator gave a tour of the museum past the smuggling section, the Precious Goods exhibition, and our Friends got a taste of the Douane Experience.



## Douane Experience [Customs Experience]

Customs' celebratory anniversary year ended with the start of a new audio-visual presentation in the museum's permanent collection: Douane Experience. Over four centuries of Customs' history are brought to life in spectacular projections.

And visitors can experience the development of Customs from the late 16th century to the present day. The audio-visual journey takes visitors past historic milestones and groundbreaking events that have influenced – or are still influencing – Customs and its work.



**Port View of Dordrecht, Dirk Kuipers (ca. 1760)**

This impressive painting depicts a quayside scene in Dordrecht. At the centre of the painting, an official of the Convoy Tax & Licence Fees agency, the forerunner of Customs, is taking a sample from a barrel. It was necessary to measure the alcohol percentage and the volume of the contents of the barrels to determine import and excise duties. The painting was restored in 2022 using funds provided by the Friends of the Museum.

Curious about the exhibitions and activities planned for 2023?

Or would you like to learn more about our exhibitions and permanent collection?

Simply visit our website.

You can also stay up to date by signing up for our digital newsletter. And you can do that on the website too.

[www.bdmuseum.nl](http://www.bdmuseum.nl)