

# The Dik Trom Museum



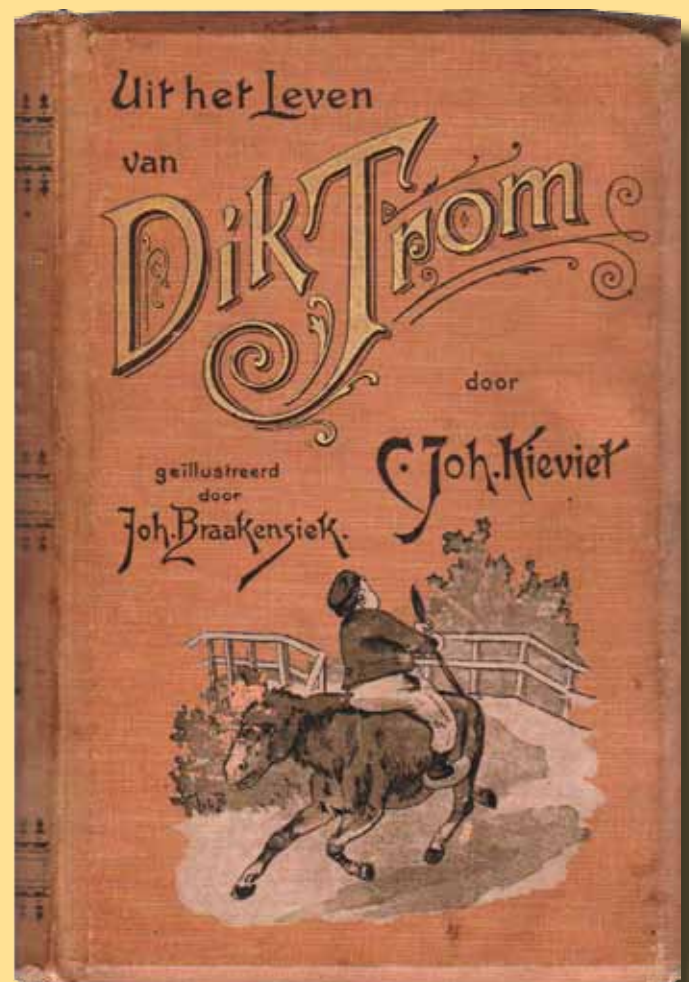
The Dik Trom Museum is located in the tiny village of Etersheim, which adjoins the village of Oosthuizen in North Holland, the Netherlands. Etersheim has a population of approximately 60 people, a handful of houses and scant

facilities consisting of a small church and the museum.

The museum is actually a former school which consists of one classroom and a teacher's living quarters, both of which are contained in the same building. Construction began in 1882 and the school opened for classes one year later. The first teacher was a young man by the name of C. Johan Kieviet, who was born in 1858. The students in the school ranged in age from six to fourteen and were either residents of Etersheim or the nearby village of Schardam. Attendance varied, but it generally ranged between twenty and thirty children.

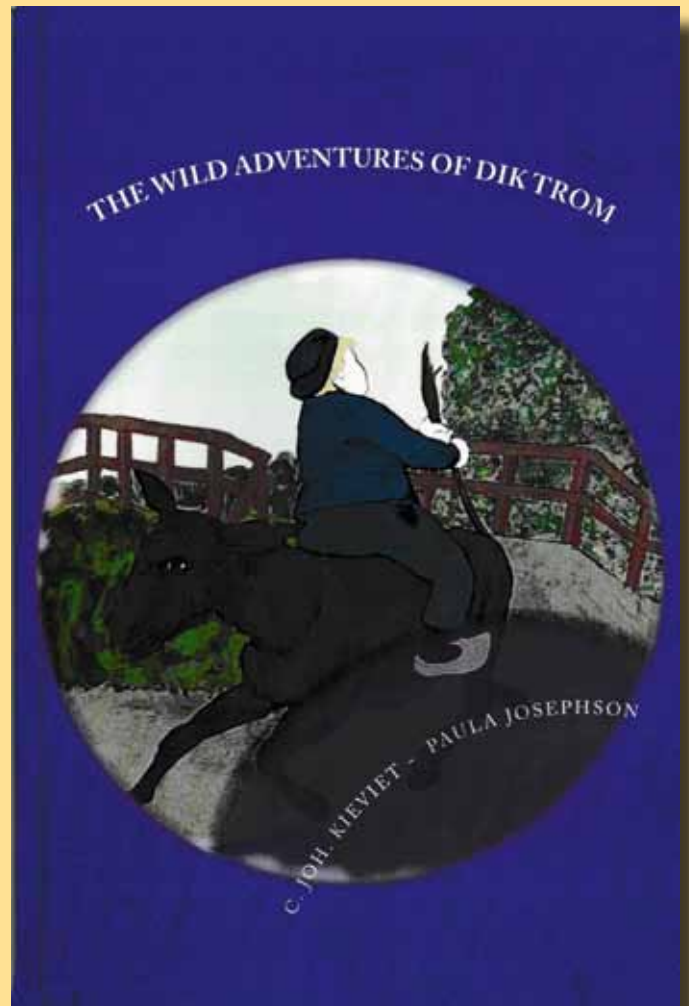


Even though Kieviet was born and raised elsewhere in Holland he and his wife, Gesina Louise Veldhuijzen, settled quickly into life in the tiny village. The couple resided in the living quarters of the school where in fact their children were later born. During the first years of teaching in Etersheim the idea of writing children's books came to Kieviet. In those days children's books were nearly always about well-behaved and obedient children. Kieviet however, decided to go against the grain and write about a naughty boy who fell into ditches, got dirty and stole apples from the farmers. To add a noble twist to the story, the boy would give the stolen apples to the poor, but naturally he'd eat a few as well.





Kieviet began writing the actual story at night in a room above the school about a mischievous boy he called Dik Trom, writing about ten pages per evening. He thought it important that the children in the school had their say as to what was written and would therefore read the new text to the students the next day in class. The parts the children laughed at he'd leave as is, but would change the text the children didn't find funny. Only when he heard laughter, indicating their approval, would he stop revising the text. After he felt he had enough text and the story was completed he started looking for a publisher for his book. At first it was difficult to find a firm who would publish, but luckily one was found in 1891. The book was not an immediate success however and Kieviet continued writing more books. He wrote more than fifty books, not including translations of books. Among others, Kieviet translated Gulliver's Travels into Dutch.



Around 1899 the publisher decided to add an attractive illustration to the cover of Dik Trom and additional illustrations inside the book. After those changes, sales of the book began to take off and it became a huge success. Only recently the book was translated in English and now available for sale in the museum.

The volunteers in the museum find it a pleasure to welcome visitors and to fill them in on the "revolutionary" ideas of the teacher and writer, C. Johan Kieviet!

### Museum opening hours

The museum is open on Saturday and Sunday from 11 to 16.

High season (April - October) also on Wednesday and Friday from 11 to 16.


### Het Schooltje van Dik Trom

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