

First Settlement of Meetings in Europe

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THE number and early origin of meetings of Friends in Holland and Western Germany is a matter of interest. Local records are mostly wanting, and the work of William I. Hull which would have told us more was left unfinished. For this reason the following summary, which was evidently known to him,¹ seems worth publishing in full.

In 1770 London Yearly Meeting appointed a committee to visit Friends in North Holland and parts of Germany. They found only one meeting remaining, viz. at Amsterdam ; but they took pains to compile an account of the beginnings and times of holding meetings in these parts in more flourishing times. The latter looks like a kind of directory such as existed quite early in other places. Their statements are usually quite definite, perhaps based on records not now available.

Their report, dated 4th of 8th mo., 1770, was given to London Yearly Meeting the following year, and this memorandum, though not apparently part of the report, bears date Fifth Month 23rd, 1771, the day on which the report was received by Yearly Meeting.

ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF MEETINGS IN HOLLAND, AND PARTS ADJACENT

At Amsterdam the Meeting was first established in the year 1656, and held on the 1st and 4th day of the week.

The Monthly Meetings of men and women were held in the year 1677. The Quarterly Meeting was settled the same year, and the Yearly Meeting the next year, to be held about three weeks after the Yearly Meeting at London.

At Rotterdam the Meeting was settled about the year 1658, and held the 1st and 4th days of the week.

The Monthly Meetings of men and women were first settled in the year 1677.

¹ *The Rise of Quakerism in Amsterdam*, 1938, 116 f. ; *Benjamin Furly and Quakerism in Rotterdam*, 1941, 213, 294. Whether Hull, like the present writer, knew the document only from *The Yorkshireman* IV, 1836, 276 f., I do not know. No MS. list as printed in *The Yorkshireman* is now known at Friends House Library.

At Haarlem, a Meeting was first held in the year 1662, on the First-day, and likewise on the 5th day of the week.

At Alkmaar, a Meeting was first held about the year 1660, on the First-day and fifth day of the week.

At Lansmeer in Waterland, a Meeting was first held about the year 1665, on the First-day of the week.

In Friesland: At Leeuwarden, about the year 1670, a Meeting was settled and held on the first and fourth days of the week.

At Harlingen, the Meeting was first settled in 1670, and held on the first and fourth days. And the Men's and Women's monthly Meeting were first held in the same year.

At Lippenhuyzen and Gorredyk the Meeting was held on the first-day and the fourth day.

At Dantzic, a Meeting was first held about the year 1671, on the first and fourth days of the week.

The Men's and Women's Monthly Meeting was first settled about 1682.

And a Yearly Meeting appointed to be held, six weeks after the Yearly Meeting at Amsterdam in 1683.

At Hamburg, the Meeting was first settled in 1659, and a Monthly Meeting held first, 1683.

At Frederickstadt, the Meeting was settled, 1663, and the Men and Women's Monthly Meeting first held in the year 1677.

At Embden, a Meeting was first established in the year 1674.

At Groningen, a Meeting began to be held in 1669, on the first and fourth days.

At Crevelt, the Meeting was first settled in 1679, and held on the first and fourth days of the week. Their Monthly Meeting was first held 1682.

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For earlier lists of continental groups of Friends one may consult for 1677 the *Short Journal of George Fox*, pp. 237-254; for 1684, *Jnl. F.H.S.*, vi, 1909, p. 37; for 1686, Colchester MSS. 131 (C. Fell Smith, *Steven Crisp*, p. 18); for 1690, *Jnl. F.H.S.*, xxxvii, 1940, p. 18. On the London delegation of 1770 see *The Eliot Papers*, edited by Eliot Howard, I, 1893, pp. 89-91, and Luke Howard MSS. 26 (*Jnl. F.H.S.*, xxxviii, 1946, p. 43). Perhaps one of these accounts explains the insertion of the item in *The Yorkshireman* of which Luke Howard was editor.