

Material Possessions – Coenraad Cloete 1703

The objects listed in the auction after Cloete's death in 1703, give an interesting glimpse into the lifestyle and daily activities on the farm during those early years. Reading the list evokes the sense of sight, touch and smell: of feather beds and pillows, timber chests, and small shiny luxury objects like a mirror or copper tobacco boxes in the house. In the kitchen there were iron objects such as a grate, a pot and a clothes iron. There were wooden items such as shelves, an ash scoop, a table and two chairs. There were tin items such as a cake pan, 12 plates, and two dishes. There was a copper kettle and pan, and other metal objects, such as a meat fork, and old pot. In the barn/ cellar we find a wooden scale, a clay pot, empty bags, vats (some full; most empty), leaguers, a wine flask, carpenters' tools, old ironwork, old ropework, 'rommelrij' (miscellaneous junk), a pick axe, garden forks and sickles. For security, three daggers, a long rifle and a pistol. His livestock counted 22 cattle, 26 sheep and four horses. Also listed among his 'material possessions' are two slaves, Hendrik van Batavia and Adriaan van de Kust. Hendrik van Batavia, together with the farmland of Diamant, was sold to Johann Schöpping at the auction, while Adriaan van de Kust was sold to Barent Burgert/ Burcherdt Bernt, owner of Landskroon farm in Agter-Paarl.

Reference:

Auction list of Koenraad Kloeten 17 September 1703 (MOOC 10/1.30)