



GRAVESTONES ON THE ISLANDS OF NORTH FRIESLAND

On the Islands of North Friesland, especially Amrum, there are gravestones, which delight all connoisseurs. Not so very long ago they were lying about in a tumble-down condition, half-buried in the ground and so covered with dirt as to be hardly legible. What craftsmanship and intense artistic feeling these headstones to seamen, millers, carpenters and councillors evince. The individuality of the lettering and the artistic excellence in the composition of both text and ornament bear witness to the imagination and skill of the Frisians. The initials in the inscriptions with their ingenious flourishes and spirals and lavish ornament are wrought in Weser sandstone. It is all to the artists' credit that, for the sake of their craft, they rejected the simpler method of employing bare lettering. These artists were stone-masons and carpenters, sons of the soil who perfected themselves in the use of the means their age placed at their disposal and also sailed with the Greenland whalers. The traditions of their race and individualistic conception of their work made it possible for so many monuments of artistic merit to arise in those thinly populated districts.

The stones often tell a life-story. On the top of Captain Harck Nicklesen's is his ship „Der bran-