



Jakarta-Kota Touring *Old Batavia* Dirk Teeuwen, MSc

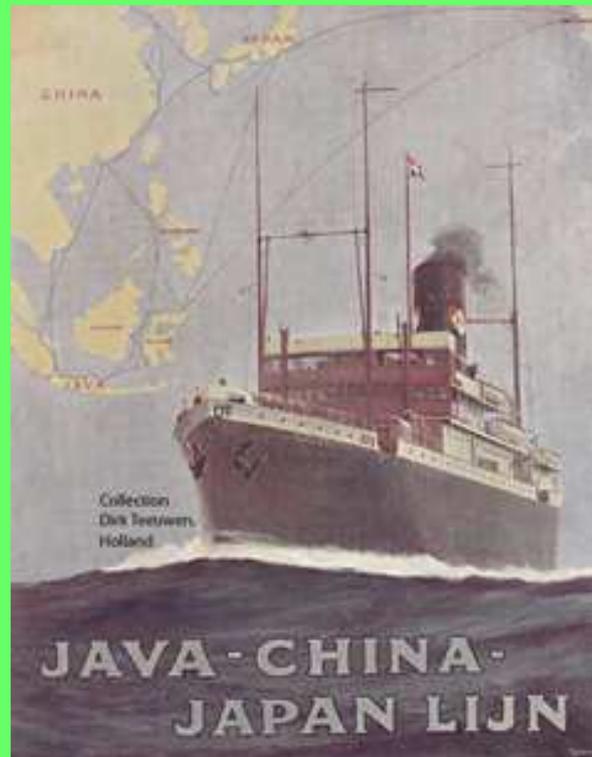


Introduction

Raden Ajeng-Aju Kartini 1901>>>
Dutch East-Indian/Indonesian writer and philosopher
1879-1904

<<< Lieutenant Hans Christoffel 1906
Dutch Jungle Commando 1865-1962

Sources: last page

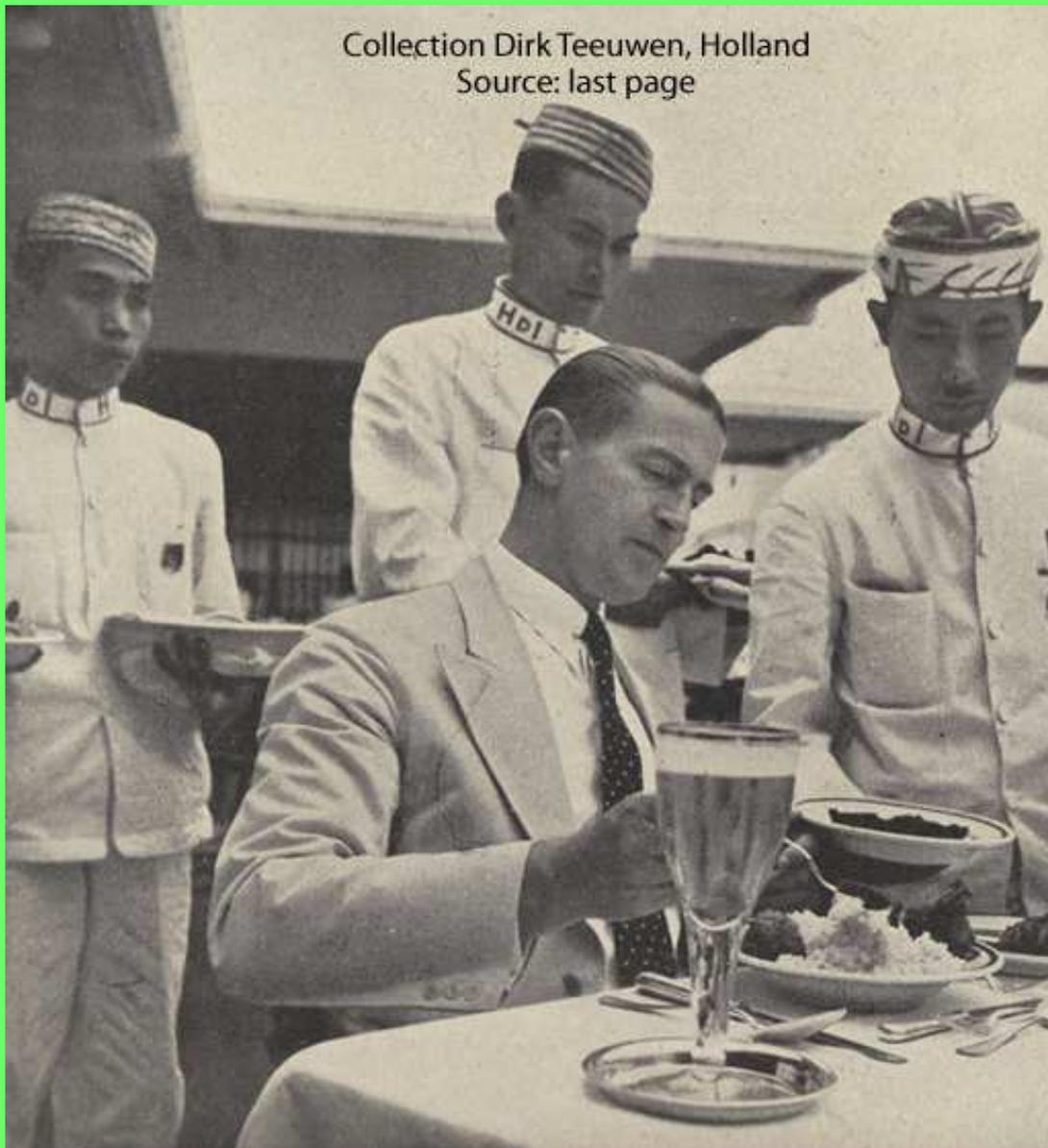


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1. Jakarta Heritage, History Travel

History travel has nothing to do with "history of travel", it is more a sort of travelling in time. It is a type of travel - to a country, a region, a city, etc. – concerning a search for explanations of today's reality abroad. A "common tourist" looks at the outside only whatever it is, which is nothing more than intellectually cheap tourism to put it mildly.



Batavia/Jakarta, Hotel Des Indes 1936
A fine example of a colonial "common tourist". Nevertheless, however, with an undoubtely intellectual interest in haute cuisine.

A history traveller has the desire to understand a culture, its past and present. A history traveller tries to imagine himself c.q. herself in a culture, in a foreign way of life. As a consequence of all this, a history traveller wants to know as much as possible about, specially, historical backgrounds and is constantly looking for explanations of his/her observations.

In Jakarta this means, as an example, that a "common tourist" sees a wayang performance in Museum Wayang, one performance only, and then he jumps in a café - as soon as he can - to drink a beer or two because weather is hot and then this character travels on to Bali wherever it shows up on his map. How should he know? A "common tourist's so-called civilized curiosity" is not aroused whatsoever. A common tourist takes always his "home environment" with him, narrow minded as he is.

Otherwise, a history traveller would be curious about the history of the location, the building, its interior, the background of wayang and the relationship of this all with the Dutch Period. Such questions are the basis of this part of my site. We are going to tour around in Jakarta-Kota, Old Batavia, in "history travel style":

- Sunda Kelapa and vicinity, Museum Wayang, Museum Keramik;**
- Café Batavia, Jakarta History Museum (Dutch Town Hall);**
- Kali Besar, Stasiun Kota, Museum Bank, Gereja Sion (Sion Church), Bencon's Grave (1640), Tugu Village.**



**Office of the Regent of Cirebon, Java
A beautiful example of Dutch colonial architecture from 1865**



Yogyakarta, Java 1936, aristocracy from Solo and Yogyakarta

2. Some history, Sunda Kelapa

In the 4th century (and maybe before) there was a village, with a small harbour located at the mouth of River Ciliwung, West Java. This village and its harbour were a part of the Hindu Kingdom Tarumanegara (358-669). Centre of this Hindu Kingdom was Tugu. Nowadays Tugu is an urbanized village not far from Jakarta's Tanjung Priok Harbours. In the 5th century in Java, under Tarumanegara's ruler Purnawarman, the earliest known inscriptions have been made as in the National Museum (*Medan Merdeka). Purnawarman, a man with a vision, did much more.

Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
Jakarta History Museum
From: Cultureel Indie 1939
Hindu-Javanese jewelry
About 800 A.C.



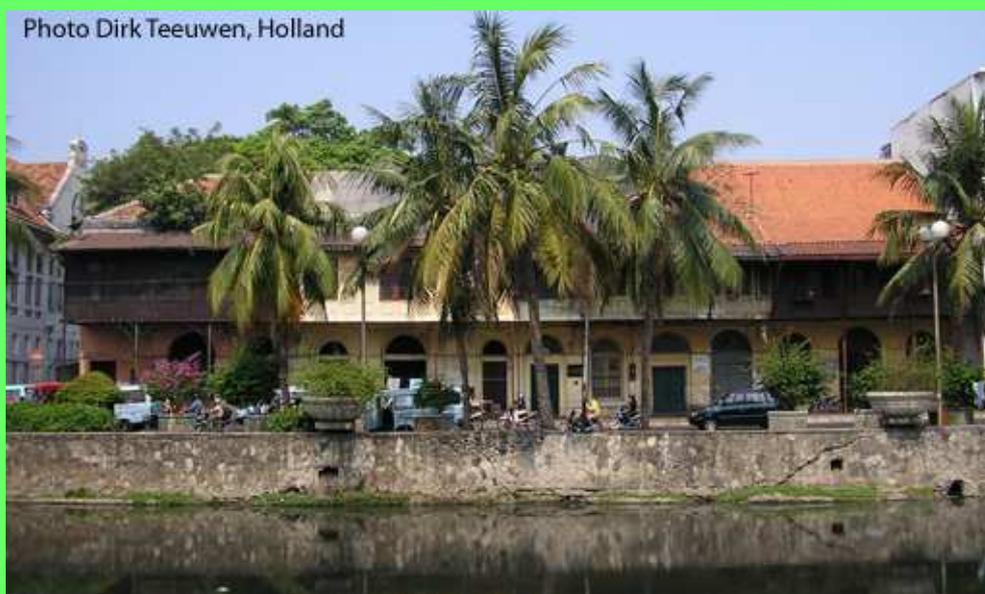
Hindu-Javanese Jewelry, Jakarta History Museum; Taman Fatahillah, Jakarta Kota

Among other things he ordered to drain a large coastal area to stimulate agriculture in his kingdom. Some of these inscriptions are exposed in the Jakarta History Museum (Taman Fatahillah) as well

Portuguese from Malaka arrived in the harbour of the small town Sunda Kelapa (Sunda Coconut Town) at the mouth of River Ciliwung in 1522. The town and the harbour were called Sunda Kelapa, but nevertheless the export of pepper was more important than the local coconut trade. In 1522 Sunda Kelapa was a part of the Hindu Kingdom Pajajaran. Its capital was Pakuan (now **Bogor). The Hindu ruler, Samiam, feared the growing, violently

Islamic influence which came from Sumatra. Because of that Samiam entered into an agreement with the Portuguese, who, probably, were more interested in pepper than in politics. The Portuguese returned in 1527 and they realized that the coastal area of Java was Islamized by force, by Fatahillah and his followers from Sumatra. Samiam was killed and so was everyone who had the courage to prefer Hinduism. Fatahillah (circa 1500-1550) blocked successfully the Portuguese fleet which then returned to Malaka. Fatahillah was the founder of the Sultanate Banten in West Java and he changed the name Sunda Kelapa in Jayakarta (Town of Victory) in 1527. His son Jussup conquered the rest of the Kingdom of Pajajaran in 1579. In 1600 the greater part of, what is now, Indonesia was Islamized, with exception of Balambangan in East Java, Batak people in Sumatra, Balinese Kingdoms, Dajaks in Borneo, Torajas in Sulawesi and the New Guinea peoples of course.

The Dutch arrived in 1596 in Port Bantam. Of course they were interested in pepper. In 1619 Governor-General Jan Pietersz. Coen successfully assaulted Jayakarta and founded Batavia, now Jakarta. Coen realized a rendezvous (a centre of administrative, commercial and military power) on behalf of the Dutch East-India Company. Coen was the founder of Batavia/Jakarta, Dutch East-India and its successor *Indonesia. The Japanese occupied Dutch East-India from 1942 until 1945 and destroyed its economy as well as its particular/special society with unbelievable cruelty. The Indonesians themselves suffered greatly, the period 1942-1945 was horrible for them.**



Dutch, colonial, trading offices from the 19th century along Jakarta's Kali Besar

Footnotes

***Medan Merdeka was called Koningsplein (King's Square) in the Dutch Period.**

****Bogor was called Buitenzorg (meaning: No Worries) in the Dutch Period.**

*****Indonesia's independency was ratified by the U.N. December 1949/January 1950.**

Sources

The following books and magazines are a part of the personal library of Dirk Teeuwen Holland.

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Photo Dirk Teeuwen 2002

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