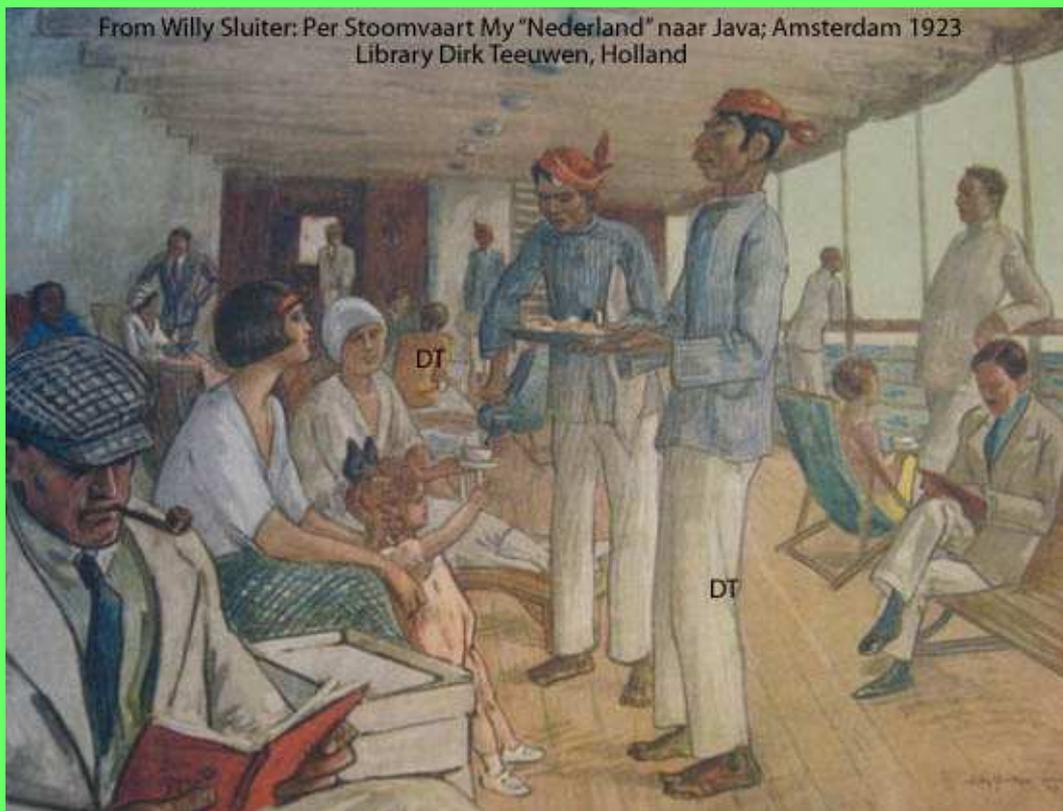




8. Jakarta History Museum, Taman Fatahillah, ground floor

Dirk Teeuwen MSc



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General introduction

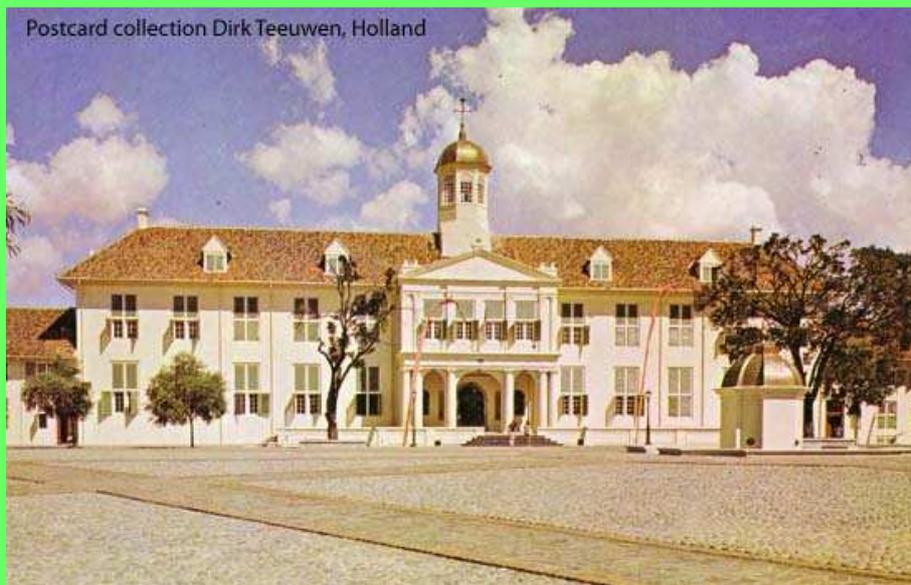
This tour draws your attention to the most interesting displays of the Jakarta History Museum. The Museum is the former Dutch Batavia Town Hall.

In 1619 the Dutch East-India Company (VOC), under the command of Jan Pietersz. Coen, destroyed the coastal town of Jayakarta in the Sultanate of Banten in Java. The Dutch assault was unexpected and rather violent, but not very bloody. Coen did so with good reasons from his point of view. The Dutch East-India Company, VOC, wanted to build a commercial and administrative centre in the Far East and in Java specially. The reason was that troubles with Banten – troubles with Portuguese and English as well - never came to an end. Governor-General Jan Pietersz. Coen was a thoroughgoing person. He built a new town and called it Batavia, now Jakarta. Inhabitants were called in Dutch "Batavianen", "Batavians" in English and in Indonesian Orang Betawi.

A Betawi atmosphere is certainly present in Museum Seraja Jakarta. This Museum along the former Dutch "Stadhuisplein" or "Town Hall Square" is worth a visit. The square is called now Taman Fatahillah. The Museum is a bell-towered building. It is an architectural reminder of the Dutch East-Indies, completed in the 18th century.

The tours are composed by Dirk Teeuwen in The Netherlands. He owns most of the pictures.

The Jakarta History Museum is closed on Mondays and holidays.



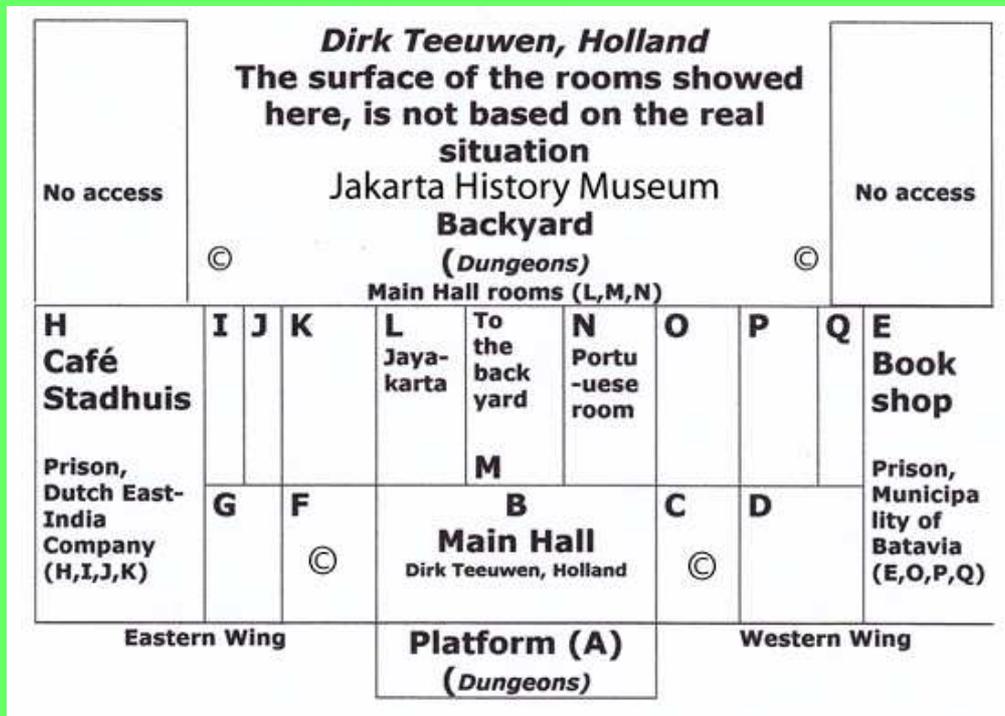
1. Jakarta History Museum, main hall

1.1 Introduction

Look around on the ground floor of the Town Hall and have a look at my floor plan. The surface of the rooms on my drawing is not based on the real situation.

The larger part the collection of the Museum was brought together by the Dutch "Koninklijk Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen" (the "Royal Batavian Society of Arts and Sciences") and was exposed in their "Museum of Old Batavia", now Museum Wayang. The Japanese stole pieces from the collection and so did the locals after the Japanese surrendered in 1945. The "Royal Batavian Society of Arts and Sciences" was founded in 1778 and disbanded in 1962. In 1817 the Society also set up the "Botanic Gardens" around the Summer Palace near Bogor, 50 km south from Jakarta. The Botanic Gardens are open to public. In 1779 the Society established the National Museum, next to Jakarta's Medan Merdeka.

Most of the former collection of the Society houses now in Museum Nasional and in the Jakarta History Museum. The author is not going to tell you about all there is inside the Jakarta History Museum. A selection was to be made. So, there is more to see!



1.2 Pictures

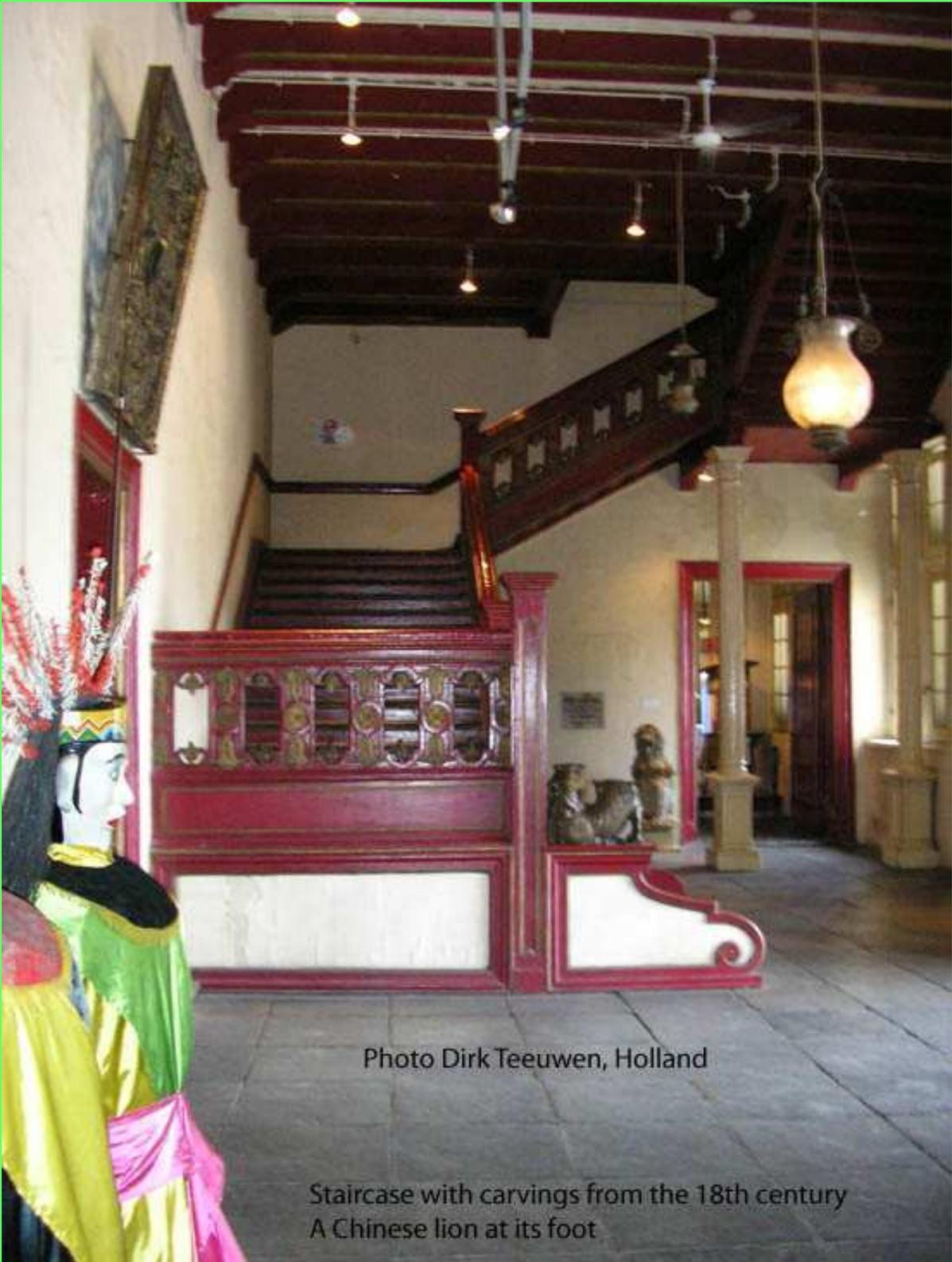


Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

Staircase with carvings from the 18th century
A Chinese lion at its foot

1. Staircase in the Main Hall
Photo Dirk Teeuwen Holland, 2002

A 17th century wooden room divider
From the former Batavia Castle

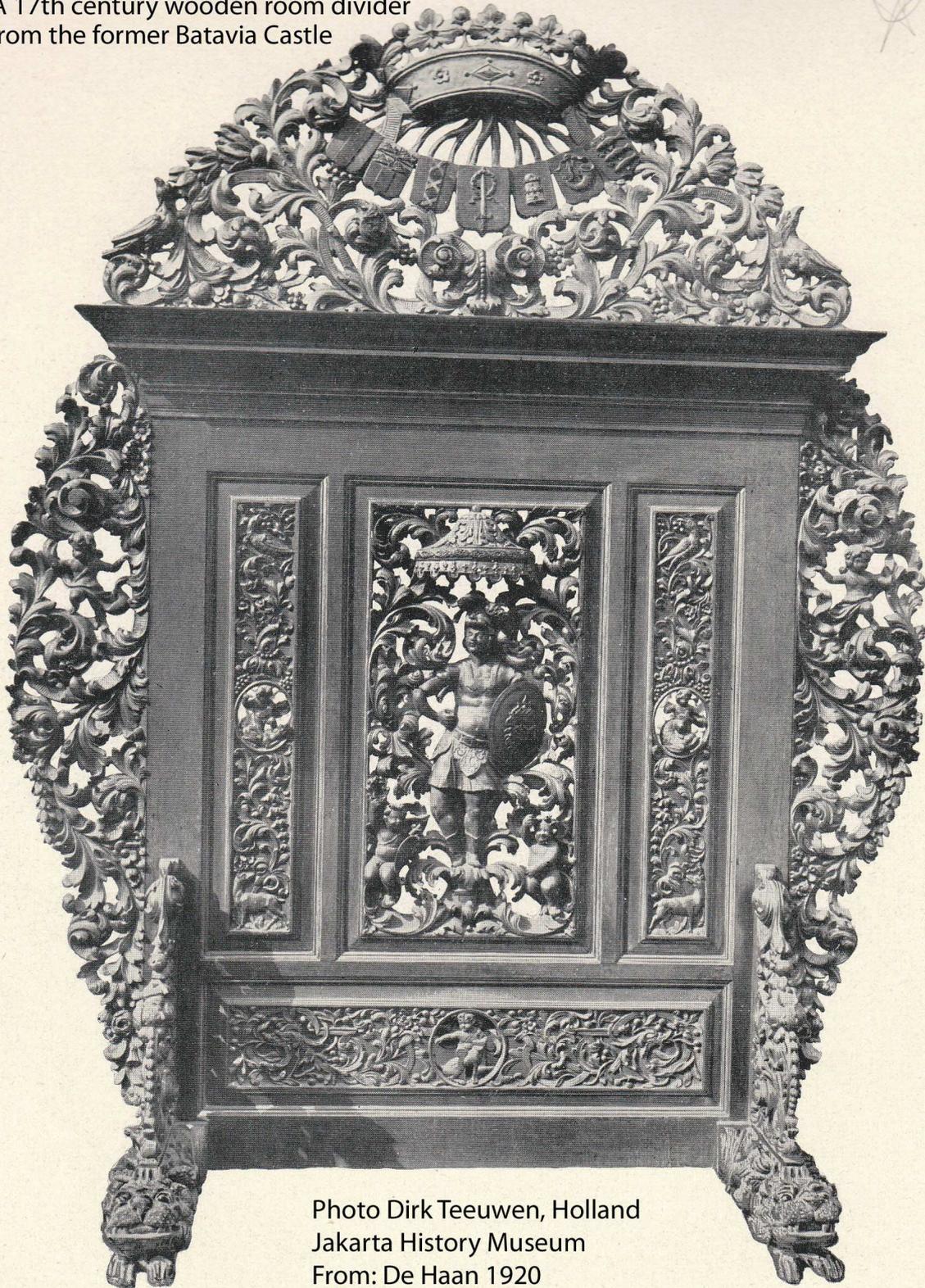


Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
Jakarta History Museum
From: De Haan 1920

2. Room divider from Batavia Castle, 17th century, maybe this one (showing Pallas Athena) has been moved to the upper floor

From dr. F. de Haan: Gedenkboek Oud Batavia Volume III, Platenalbum; Batavia 1923

A Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
Portuguese
padrao,
a cross
from stone
with
inscriptions

From
about
1510

Jakarta History Museum

From: De Haan, 1920

3. A Portuguese padrao (cross from stone with inscriptions) from about 1510, found north from Taman Fatahillah by construction workers in 1936; Jakarta History Museum, room N

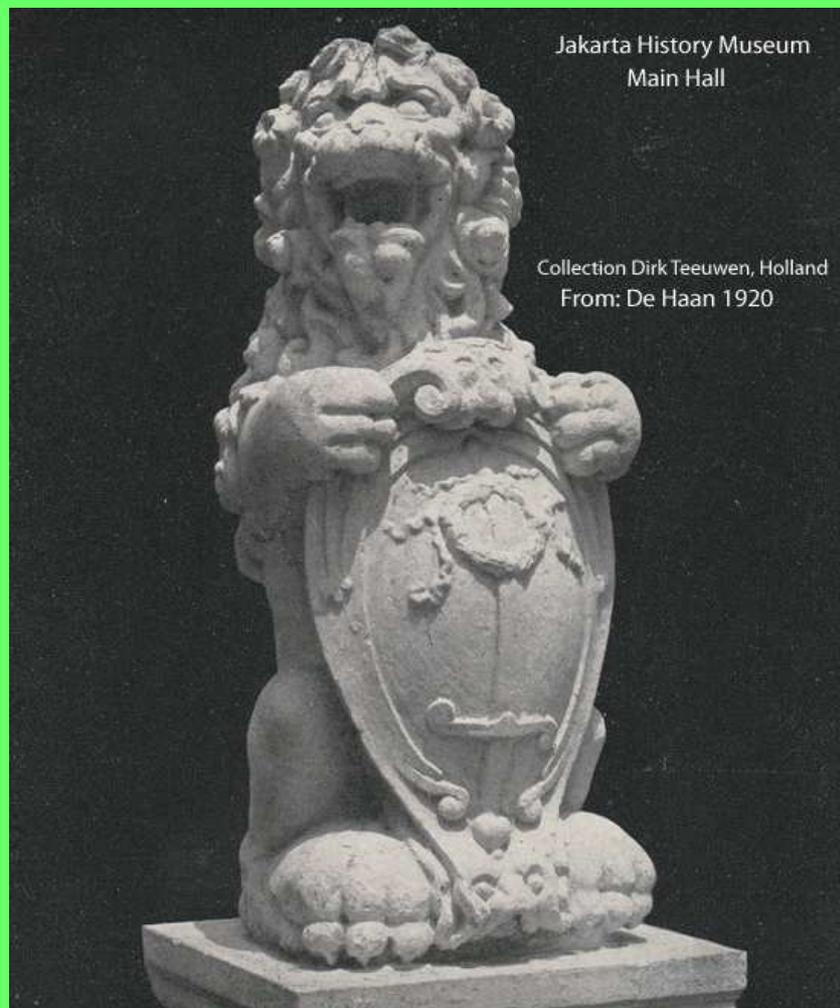
From dr. F. de Haan: Gedenkboek Oud Batavia Volume III, Platenalbum; Batavia 1923



Jakarta History Museum, Main Hall

4. **Memorial stone, remembering the construction of the second Town Hall 1707 (start, Governor-General Joan van Hoorn)-1710 (finish, Governor-General Abraham van Riebeeck)**

Photo Dirk Teeuwen Holland, 2002



Jakarta History Museum
Main Hall

Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
From: De Haan 1920

5. **Dutch lion, a symbol from stone, 18th century, originally placed in the backyard of the Town Hall and later in front of the Dutch Military Headquarters (Jalan Pemjambon)**

From dr. F. de Haan: Gedenkboek Oud Batavia Volume III, Platenalbum; Batavia 1923

1.3 Tour guide

The following is based on experiences of the author; maybe the expositions have been changed since then.

The main hall (B) on the ground floor shows a carved wooden staircase with Chinese lions near the first step. Maybe the lions are still there. In the main hall there ought to be an old wooden screen displaying Pallas Athena, painted in black and gold. In case you miss the screen, most certainly you can find it in hall Z on the upper floor. Pallas Athena was the Greek goddess of art, of crafts, as well as the goddess of war strategy and much more. On top of this screen some coat-of arms of the Dutch East-India Company are visible. The screen stood in a governors' meeting room in Batavia Castle once.

Opposite the main entrance there are three rooms. Room N is the so-called Portuguese room displaying remains of the important Javanese Sunda Kingdom in relation to its encounter with the Portuguese. In this Portuguese room a so-called padrao is very special; this is a Portuguese memorial stone from 1522. This stone keeps alive the memory of an agreement between the Javanese Hindu Kingdom Pajajaran and the Portuguese.

Room N is devoted to Prince Fatahillah as well. The Muslim Fatahillah came from Sumatra originally. The Prince defeated a Portuguese fleet in 1527 near Jayakarta and was responsible for the killing of thousands of Javanese Hindus.

The small room in the centre (the one which leads to the backyard) shows a wooden tablet with a text recalling the construction of the third Town Hall from 1707 until 1710. Have a look and you see a Dutch lion of stone. Sometimes this Dutch lion is placed in the main hall. In the colonial past this animal stood in front of the colonial military headquarters: now the so-called Pancasila Building on Jalan Pejambon (or Pejambon Street), not far from Medan Merdeka.

Room L displays information Jayakarta and its Bantam rulers. Jayakarta was destroyed by the Dutch in 1619. The Dutch built a new town and called it Batavia (now Jakarta).

In case you miss Pallas Athena and other screens, don't despair! You could see them on the upper floor later. Please walk into the western wing of the ground floor first.

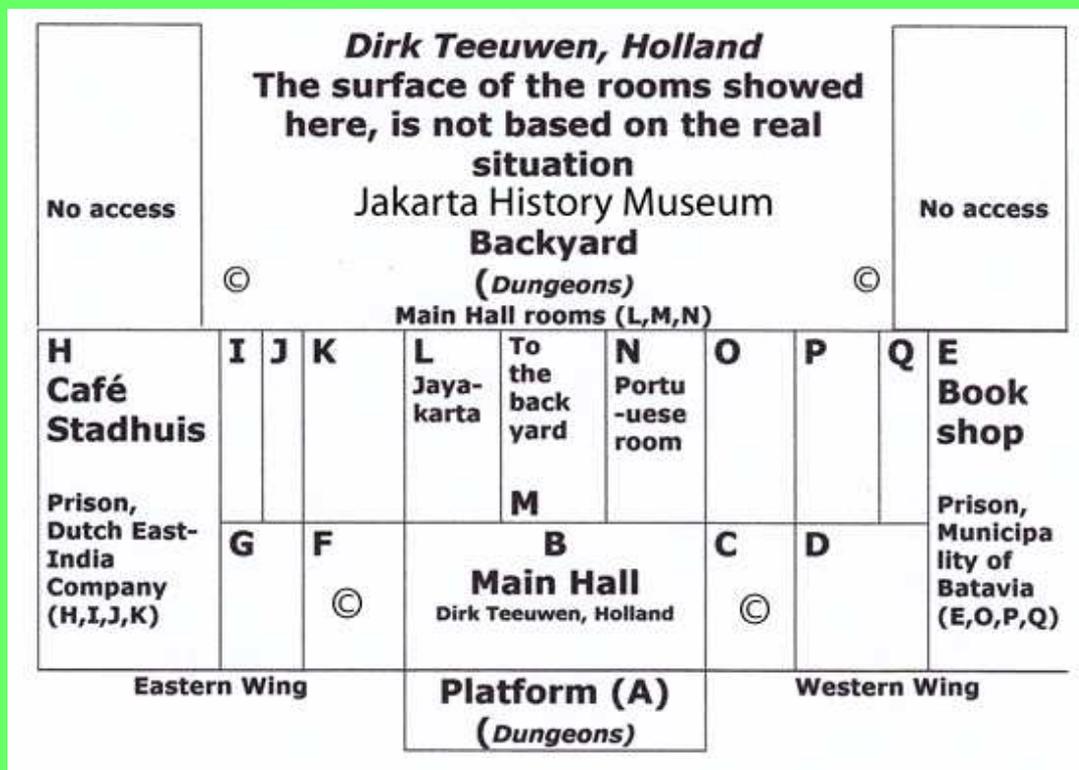
2. Jakarta History Museum, ground floor, western wing

2.1 Introduction

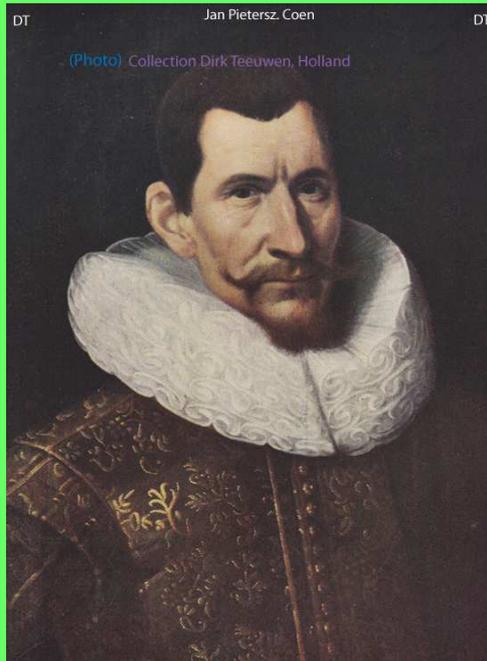
The surface of the rooms on our drawing is not based on the real situation.

The western wing consists of five accessible rooms. Room E is a bookshop. Rooms O, P, Q were prison cells of the Municipality of Batavia meant for taking into hostage of frauds and bankrupt people.

You can find there old inscriptions, Javanese Hindu remains (from before about 1530), a prehistoric collection, information about the old seaport Jayakarta (that is, information from the 16th century) and its harbour Sunda Kelapa. There are memories of Batavia's early history and old maps of Batavia.



2.1 Pictures



1. Jan Pietersz. Coen, Governor-General 1618-1623 and 1627-1629

From dr. F.W. Stapel: *Geschiedenis van Nederlandsch-Indië*, vol. III; Amsterdam 1939 p. 118

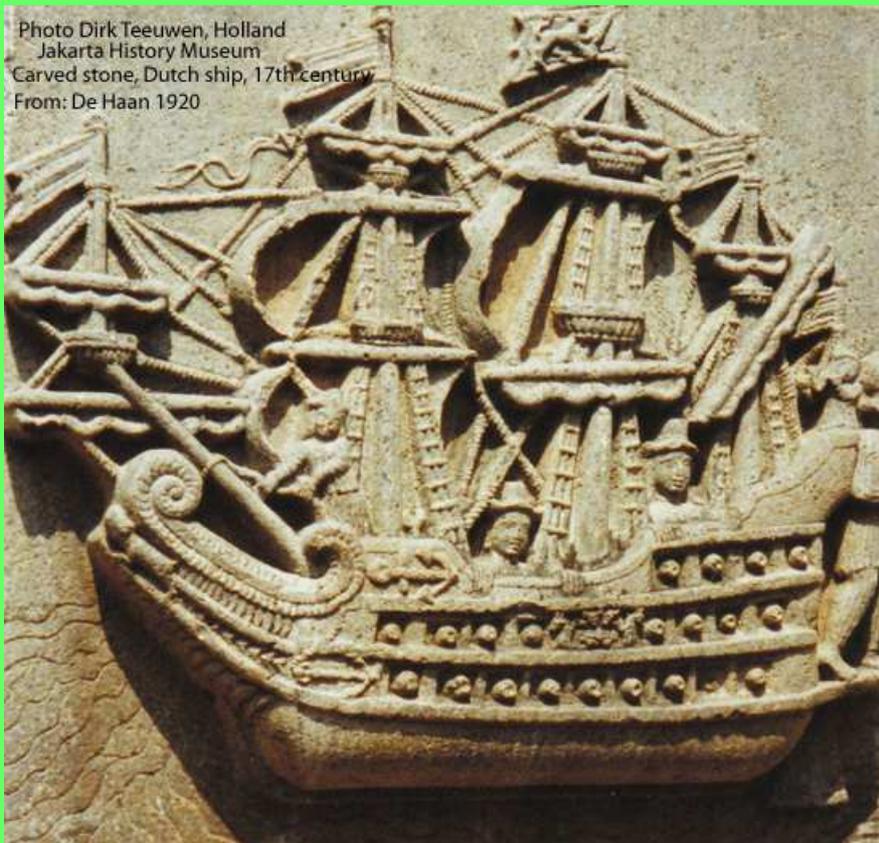
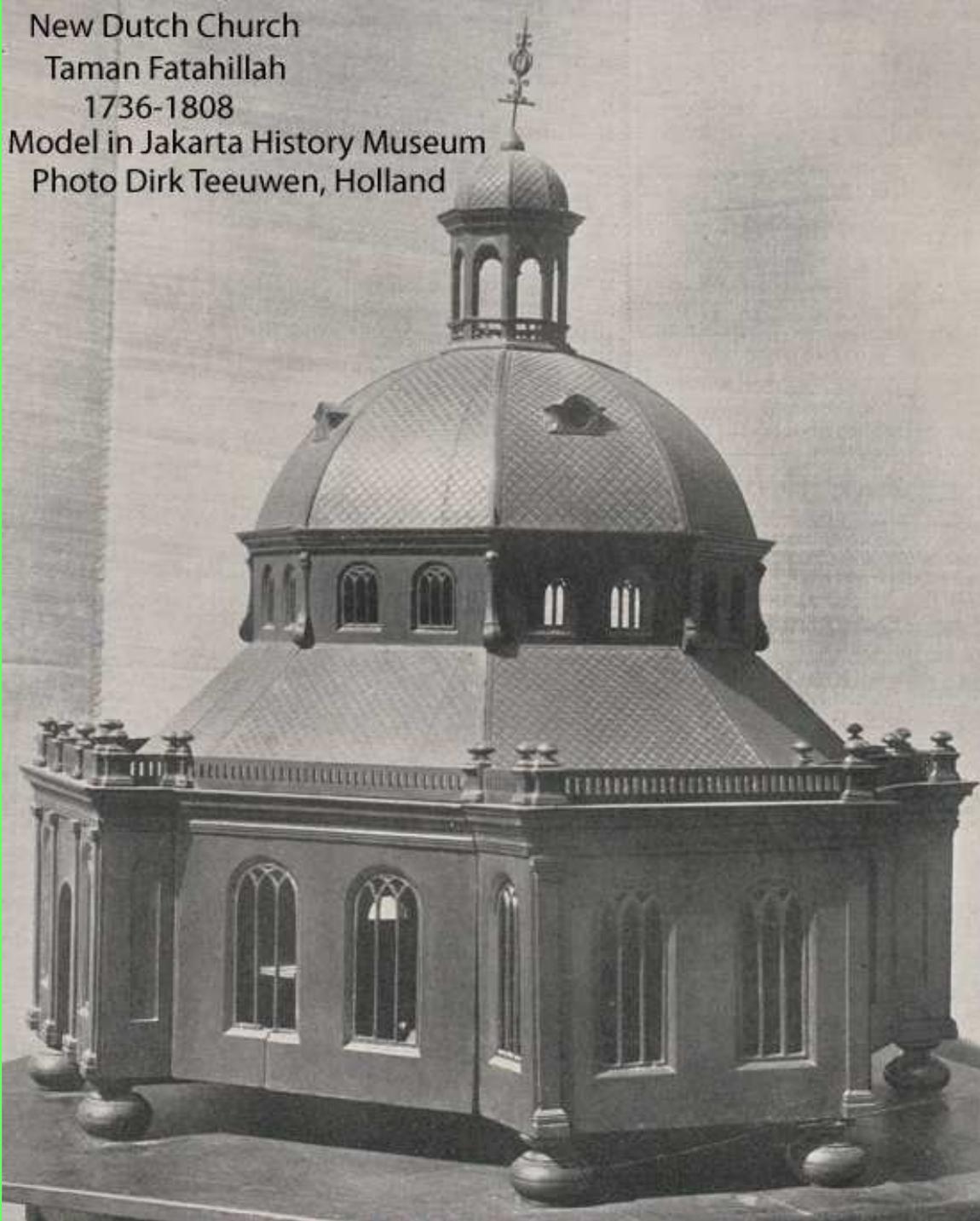


Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
Jakarta History Museum
Carved stone, Dutch ship, 17th century
From: De Haan 1920

2. Carved stone, Dutch ship 17th century

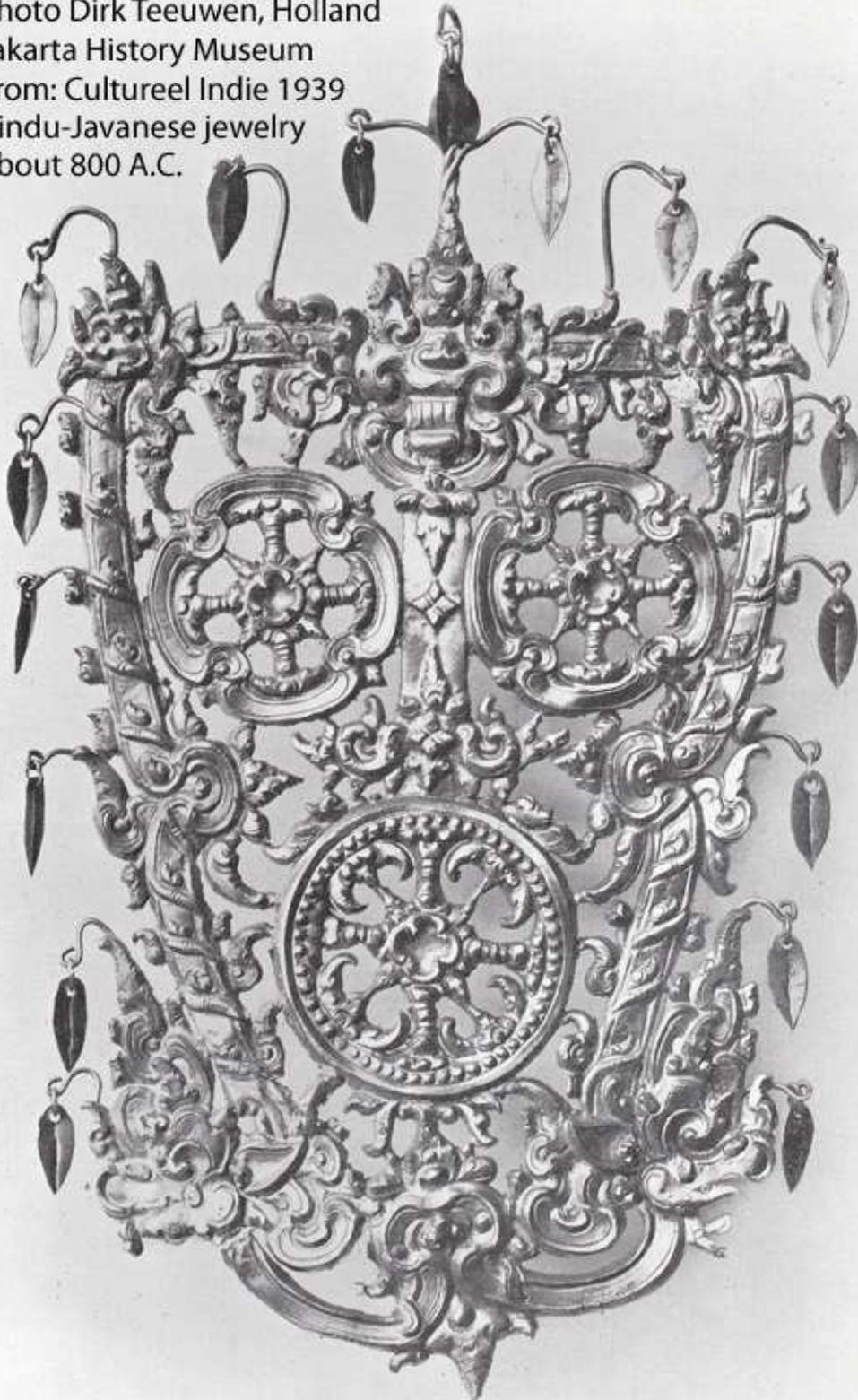
From dr. F. de Haan: *Gedenkboek Oud Batavia Volume III, Platenalbum*; Batavia 1923

New Dutch Church
Taman Fatahillah
1736-1808
Model in Jakarta History Museum
Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



3. A model of the New Protestant Church, once on Taman Fatahillah, 1736-1808
From dr. F. de Haan: *Gedenkboek Oud Batavia* Volume III, Platenalbum; Batavia 1923

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



4. Hindu-Javanese jewelry, about 800 A.C

From dr. F. de Haan: Gedenkboek Oud Batavia Volume III, Platenalbum; Batavia 1923

Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
Jakarta History Museum

Baptismal font, 1695
From: De Haan 1920



5. Dutch baptismal font, 1695

From dr. F. de Haan: *Gedenkboek Oud Batavia Volume III, Platenalbum; Batavia 1923*

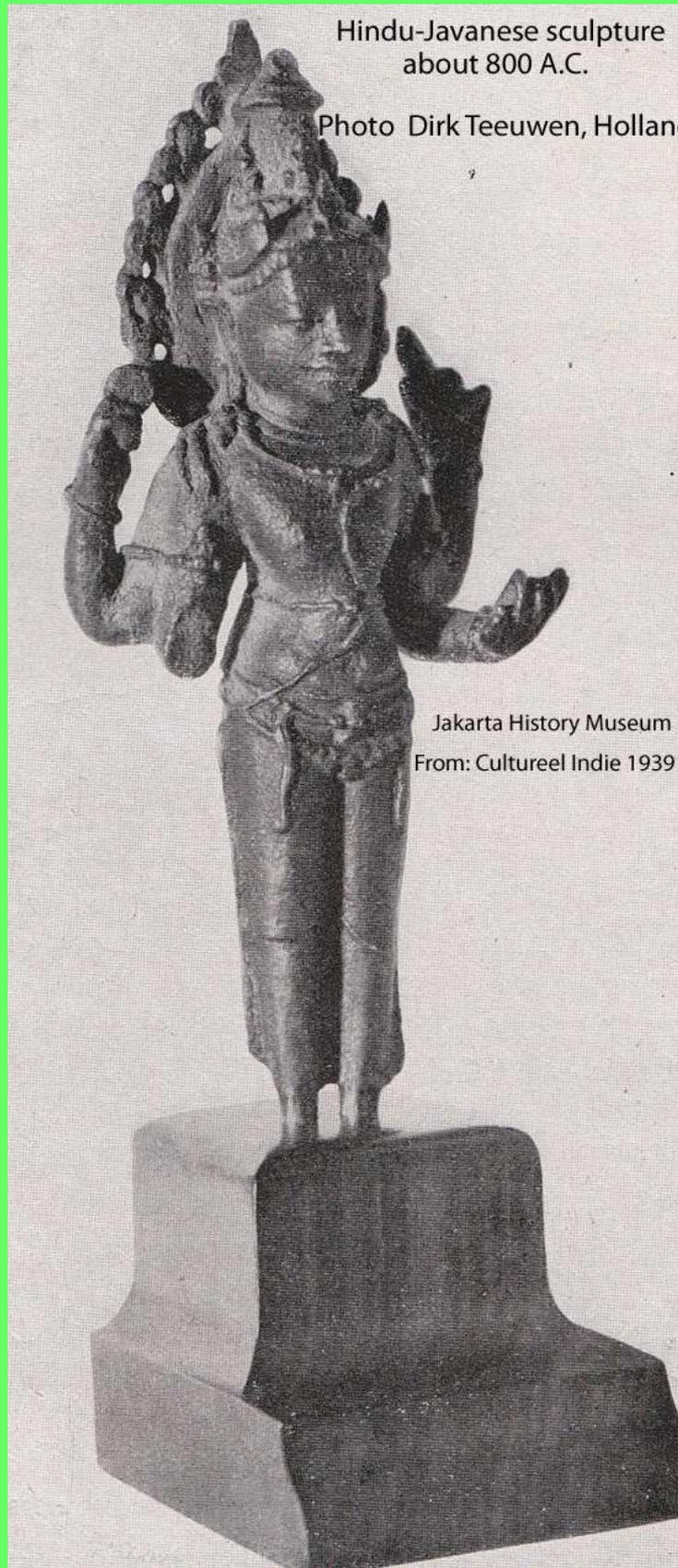
Picture collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



Jakarta History Museum, from Cultureel Indie 1939
Hindu-Javanese chronogram, about 800

6. Hindu-Javanese chronogram, about 800 A.C.

From dr. F. de Haan: *Gedenkboek Oud Batavia Volume III, Platenalbum*; Batavia 1923



Hindu-Javanese sculpture
about 800 A.C.

Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

Jakarta History Museum
From: Cultureel Indie 1939

7. Hindu-Javanese sculpture, Vishnu, about 800 A.C.
From dr. F. de Haan: Gedenkboek Oud Batavia Volume III, Platenalbum; Batavia 1923

Wikipedia

Jakarta, Museum Nasional
Tugu inscriptions
About 650 A.C.



8. Tugu inscriptions, about 650 A.C.; in Museum Nasional, Jakarta
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tugu_inscription#/media/File:Prasasti_tugu.jpg

2.1 Tour Guide

You are back in the main hall on the ground floor. Walk into the rooms left from the main hall. The following is based on experiences of the author; maybe the expositions have been changed since then.

You are in the western wing now. You can walk through five rooms, but please walk into room D in the first place. In room D you will find ceramics, from the 14th until the 20th century. These ceramics came from China as well as from Europe. In room D you also see some ceramics from Batavia, from the 17th and 18th century. However, it is fair to admit: most Batavia ceramics were made in China, nevertheless produced with the greatest care.

In the other rooms C, Q, P, O mainly prehistoric and Hindu utensils, as well as weapons from those early days, are exposed. These objects were excavated mostly in the western part of Java on the location of the former Kingdom of Taruma. The Taruma Negara, or Taruma Kingdom in English, was a Sundanese Hindu Kingdom. This Taruma Kingdom enclosed the greatest part of West-Java. The Kingdom enclosed, what is now, the western part of Jakarta as well as all of the Bantam Provinces. After about the year of 1500 A.C. Hinduism has been destroyed by Muslims in the greater part of Indonesia. Taruma's 7th century ruler Purnawarman (about 650) gave orders to produce the oldest inscriptions which you can admire in the Jakarta History Museum, as well as in Museum Nasional, west from Medan Merdeka. Some of the inscriptions are known as "the Javanese Tugu inscriptions". Tugu is in fact, nowadays, a very old small village within the urbanized area of Jakarta, not far from the Jakarta harbours of Tanjung Priok. You can find there an old church from about 1700 and population of a mixed blood, originating from the olden days of Batavia.

Back to King Purnawarman! The Tugu inscriptions tell us that this King ordered to built canals with the aim to drain the coastal area. He did so to handle floods as well as to stimulate agriculture. Many Tugu inscriptions are displayed in Museum Nasional also. Museum Nasional, don't miss it, west from Medan Merdeka.

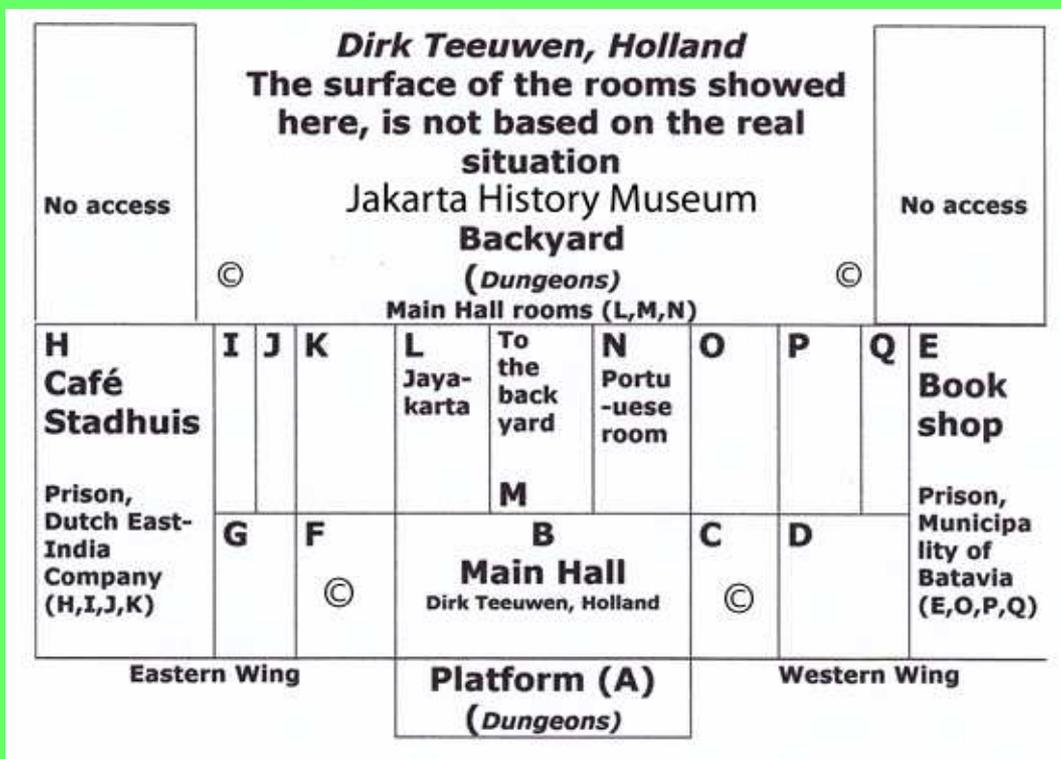
The earliest known inscribed stones from the Kingdom of Taruma are called "prasasti" in Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian language, beter know as "Malay").

3. Jakarta History Museum, ground floor, eastern wing

3.1 Introduction

The surface of the rooms on our drawing is not based on the real situation.

The eastern wing consists of five rooms. In these rooms you will find old carvings, pictures of Old Batavia, a model of old Batavia, weapons (including a 17th century's executioner's sword) and old, remarkably stylish, furniture, in different styles and from different periods,) from Holland, from the Dutch East Coast of India and from the Dutch East-Indies (from Indonesia) itself of course. In general: in the left wing the history of Batavia in the 17th and 18th century is treated.



3.2 Pictures



1. Java 1600, a Javanese ruler goes out for a walk.

From I. Commelin: *Begin ende voortgang van de Vereenigde Nederlandsche Geoctroyeerde Oost-Indische Compagnie*; Amsterdam 1646 nr. 22



2. A view of Batavia Castle, 1662

From dr. F.W. Stapel: *Geschiedenis van Nederlandsch-Indië*, Vol. III; Amsterdam 1939 p. 497



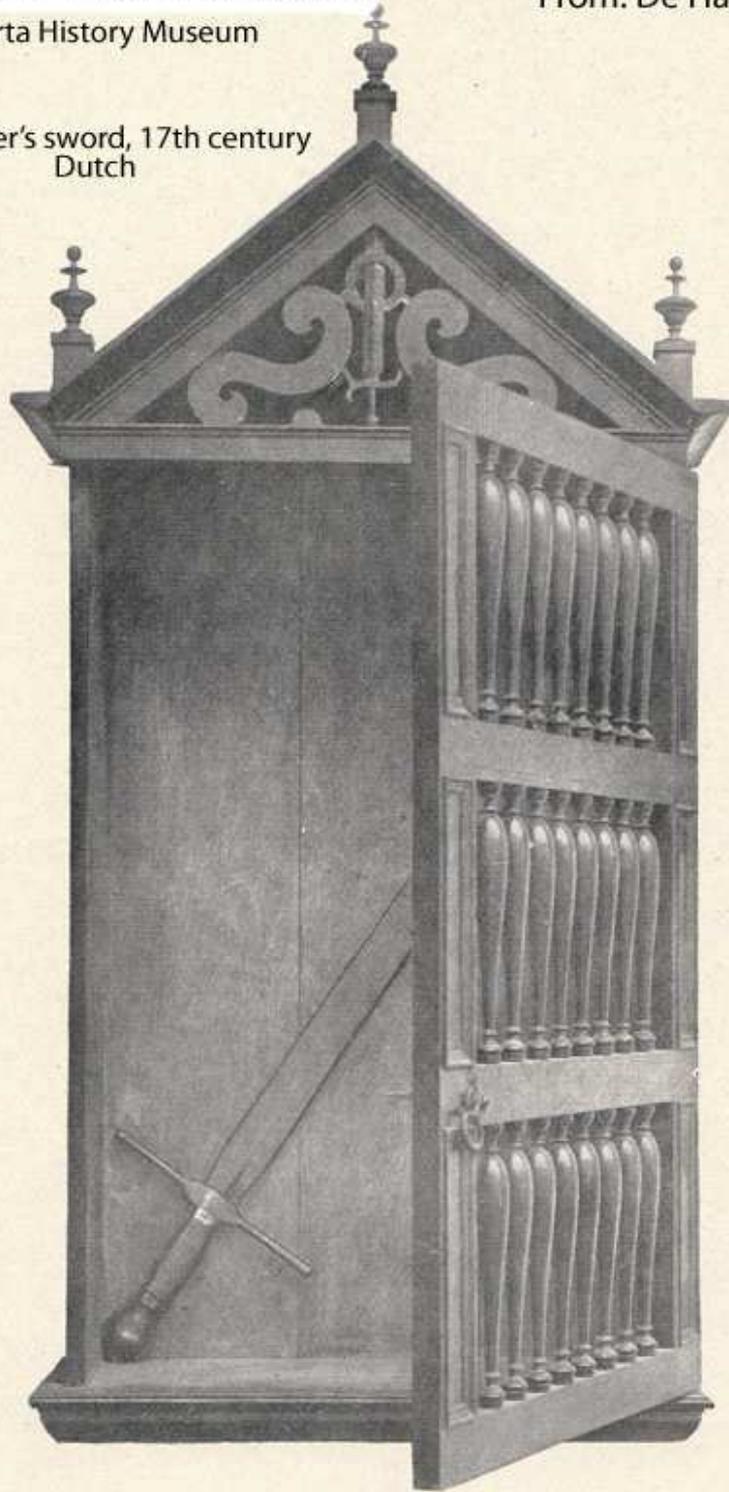
3. Batavia-Jakarta 1619, the start of the building of an empire
From dr F. de Haan: Oud Batavia, Vol. I; Batavia 1922 page 36

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland (photo)

Jakarta History Museum

From: De Haan 1920

Executioner's sword, 17th century
Dutch



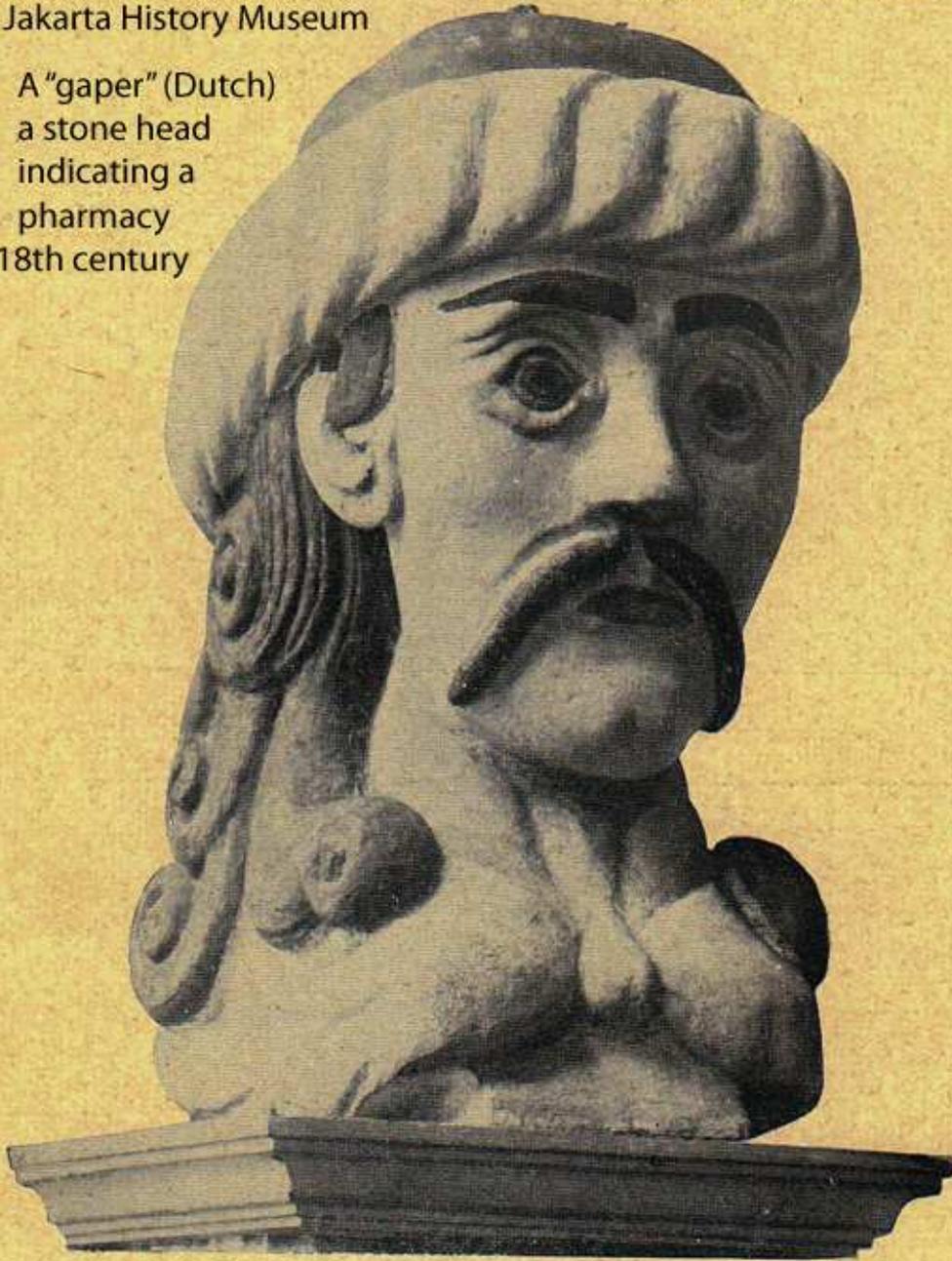
4. Cabinet, executioner's sword, 17th century

From dr. F. de Haan: Gedenkboek Oud Batavia Volume III, Platenalbum; Batavia 1923

Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
Jakarta History Museum

From: De Haan 1920

A "gaper" (Dutch)
a stone head
indicating a
pharmacy
18th century



5. A "gaper", a Dutch head from stone indicating a pharmacy, 18th century
From dr. F. de Haan: Gedenkboek Oud Batavia Volume III, Platenalbum; Batavia 1923

3.3 Tour Guide

The following is based on experiences of the author; maybe the expositions have been changed since then.

In room F an abominable painting demonstrates the siege of Batavia by Sultan Agung of Mataram in 1628. Room F is devoted to this inhuman brute, Agung. The Dutch defeated Agung gloriously in 1628 and 1629. Room G shows us a survey of the urban development of Batavia-Jakarta in history. Room F and room G are furnished with furniture from the 17th and 18th century. Most furniture came from Dutch territory on the east coast of India as well as from Ceylon/Sri Lanka.

Rooms I, J, K are devoted to the Dutch East-India Company, VOC. In room I a sword, once used by colonial executioners, is visible in a cabinet. In room J a portrait of Governor-General Jan Pietersz. Coen hangs on the wall. This Dutchman was the founder of Batavia-Jakarta. In 1619 he destroyed Jayakarta. In room J you can admire also a copy of a painting of the Castle of Batavia from 1662. This is a copy of a painting by Andries Beeckman. In room K there is a lot of colonial furniture.

Sometimes executions were carried out on the square. As a consequence ghosts of punished persons wander around every night in Old Batavia. It can be rather spooky in Old Batavia in the evening. Sundown has given the author the creeps every time he was there. For the time being, stay in the main hall of the Town Hall, take a seat, have a look at Town Hall Square. Stay where you are, close your eyes. Listen and shiver while learning about the ups and downs of Miss Sara Specx's life.

Ending