

Javasche Bank, the Old Dutch City Hospital of Batavia-Jakarta and the Mandiri Bank Museum by drs (MSc) Dirk (Dick) Teeuwen

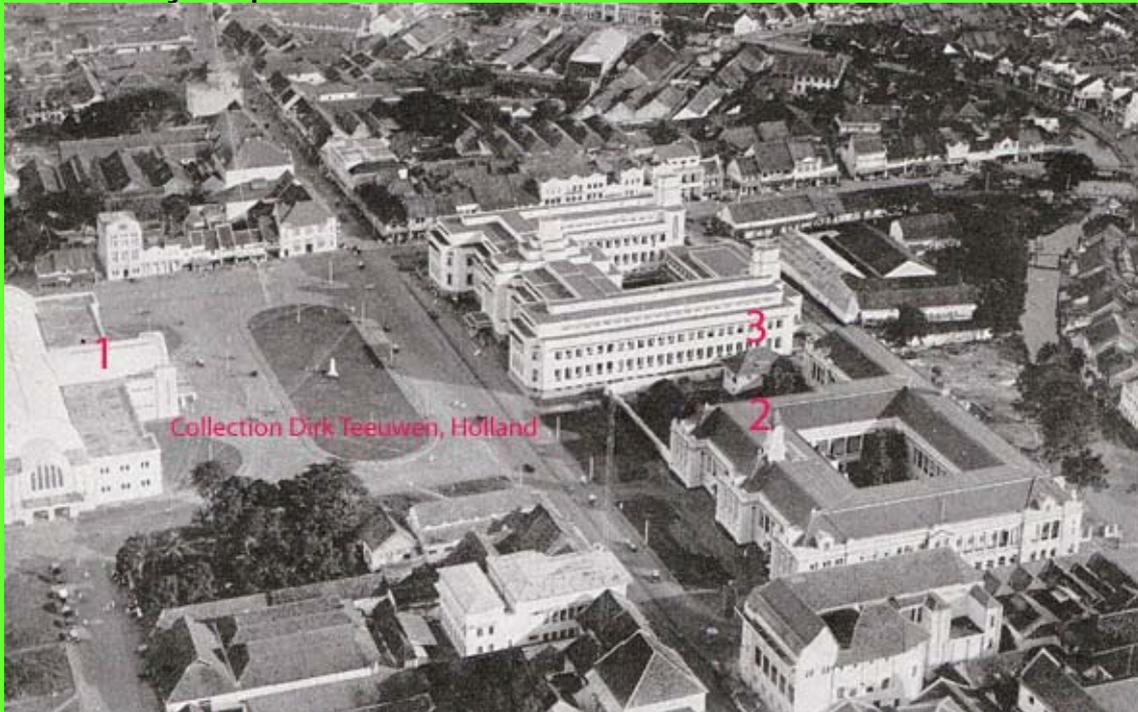
Quotation of sources, acknowledgements page 26 and 27

Foreword

The centre of our interest in this article is the office (2)! This building was the main office of the Javasche Bank in the Dutch East-Indies, later Bank Indonesia and next to, what is now, Mandiri Bank Museum. Once the Dutch *V.O.C. Inner Hospital, or City Hospital, I could be found here (2). V.O.C. means Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie, Dutch East India Company (1602-1800).

The hospital's expanse was at least as large as the area of the Javasche bank. Between (3) and (2) one of the last remains of the Inner Hospital, a small house, is clearly visible. I always felt a fascination with this location. I mean the Railway Station (1) Square in Oud Batavia (Colonial Dutch V.O.C.-Batavia) /Jakarta Kota and its vicinity.

In my article I try to take a closer look at the former Javasche Bank and at the V.O.C. City Hospital.

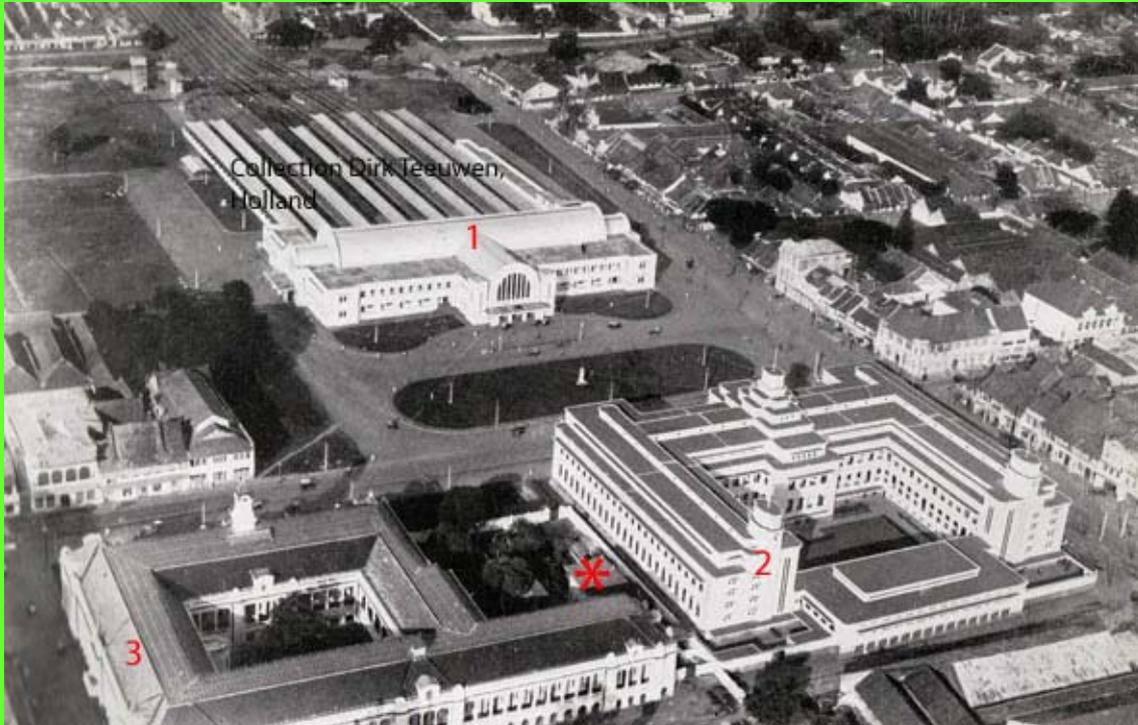


Stationsplein (Railway Station Square), Medan Stasiun Kota (1), Dutch Trade Company - Mandiri Bank Museum (3), Javasche Bank – Bank Indonesia; Old Batavia-Jakarta Kota 1936

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1. Javasche Bank



1.1 A part of Oud-Batavia (Old Batavia); Batavia-Jakarta Kota 1937

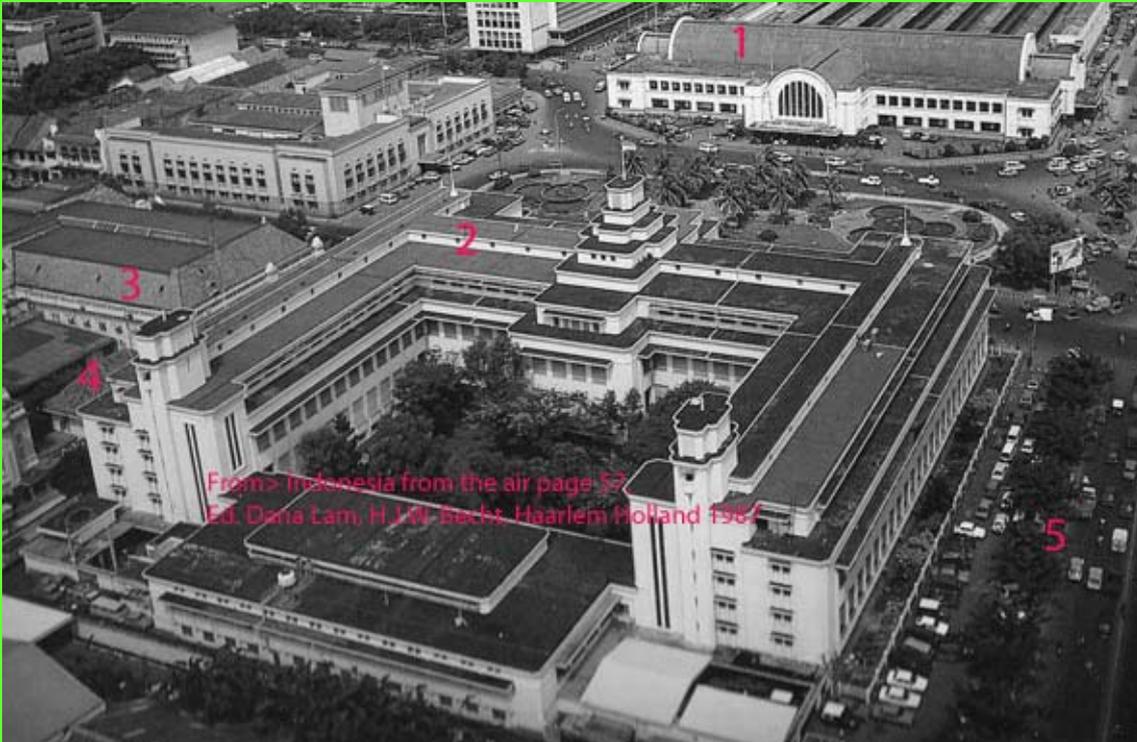
On 1.1 opposite the Railway Station (1) Batavia-Zuid (Batavia-South), now Stasiun Kota, we perceive the head office (2) of the former Dutch Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij NHM (Dutch Trading Company) from 1929, now Mandiri Bank Museum (2). Left from the NHM we see (3) the Head office of the Javasche Bank, later Bank Indonesia. The road in front of the buildings two and three is the colonial Binnen Nieuwpoortstraat (Newgate Street), now Jalan Pintu Besar Utara.

In this article we go into some aspects of the history of the location of building (3), the headquarters of the Javasche Bank in the olden days. The second inner court of this bank shows us some small brick constructions and one of them, marked with a red star, in particular. The marked construction is clearly visible, the rest is hidden in the shade. In this court we observe the last remnants of the old *Batavia Inner City Hospital, functionally during the 17th and 18th century.

The bank office - designed, with Javanese elements, by Eduard Cuypers 1859-1927 - has been built in 1909 and was rebuilt in 1926. As a result of this renovation a second inner court has been created. This is the court with the star on picture 1.1.

*Hollandse V.O.C. Binnen Hospitaal means Dutch V.O.C. Inner Hospital, here named Batavia Inner City Hospital
"Inner" is: inside the Batavia city walls.

(Text is continued on page 9.)



From > Indonesia from the air page 53
 Ed. Dana Lam, H.J.W. Eecht, Haarlem Holland 1987

1.2 A post war view at Railway Station Square; Batavia-Jakarta Kota 1987
Sub 1.2 Stasiun Kota (1), Bank Mandiri (2), Bank Indonesia (Javasche Bank, now Museum Bank) (3), remnant of the Inner Hospital (4).
See my survey of sources on the last page.

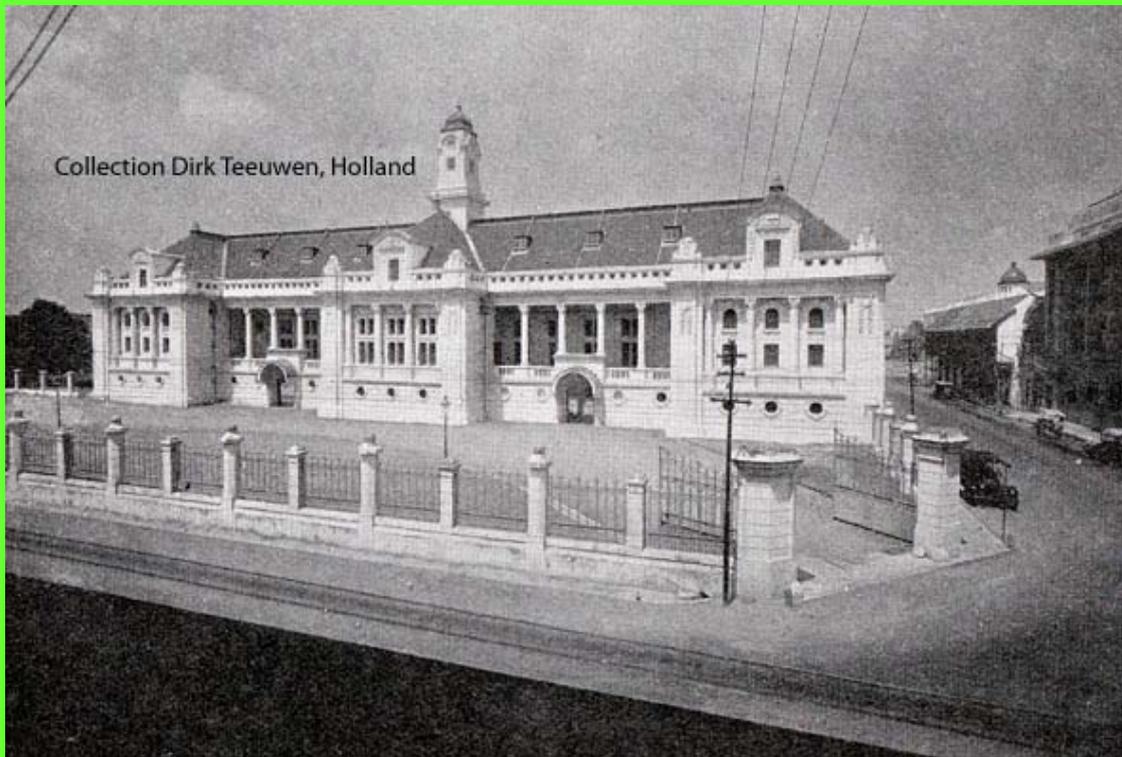


Batavia
 1008. Gebouw Javasche Bank
 Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

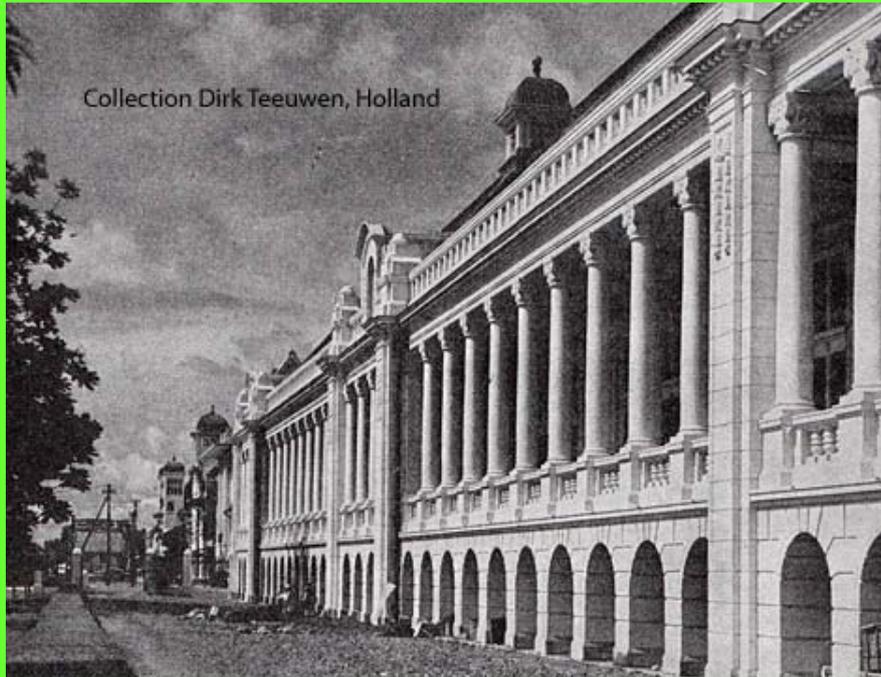
1.3 The headquarters of the Javasche Bank; Batavia-Jakarta 1912
Sub 1.3 The small building with the red star a remain of the Inner Hospital.



1.4 The headquarters of the Javasche Bank; Batavia-Jakarta 1917
Sub 1.3 This is the corner of the Buiten Nieuwpoortstraat (left) and the Bankstraat (right), that means resp. Jalan Pintu Besar Utara (Gate Road) and Jalan Bank (Bank Road). Behind the building there is the Kali Besar South.



1.5 The headquarters of the Javasche Bank; Batavia-Jakarta, 1921
Sub 1.4 One more picture of the bank from the olden days. Bankstraat (Bankstreet) / Jalan Bank, formerly Hospitaal Straat at the right side.



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

1.6 The Javasche Bank once more; Batavia-Jakarta 1934

Sub 1.5 Now we have a look at the western side of the Javasche Bank along Kali Besar South part of River Ciliwung. Left on the photo, to the north along the Kali beyond the crossing Jalan Bank and Kali Besar East, some buildings with small domes, cupola's are visible. These were offices of trading companies and the office of the Bataviaas Dagblad, the Batavia Daily Newspaper.



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

1.7 The Javasche bank, office of the bank's cash management; Batavia-Jakarta 1919



1.8 The Javasche Bank, main entrance; Batavia-Jakarta 1919



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

1.10 The Javasche Bank, one of the galleries (west side) at Kali Besar South; Batavia-Jakarta 1919

Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



1.11 The Javasche Bank, bookkeeping office; Batavia-Jakarta 1919

Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



1.12 Just a little something! The charisma of Java's principal banking officials; Batavia-Jakarta 1909

Sub 3.4 Number 8 was Mr Gerrit Vissering, president of the Javasche Bank; number 2 was Jan Gerritzen, director-secretary of the Javasche Bank.



1.13 A bank note from the Javasche Bank, the circulation bank of Dutch East-India; Batavia-Jakarta 1939

The Javasche Bank was founded in 1828 and became later the circulation bank of the Dutch East-Indies. The bank continued its operations until 1953. In that year the Javasche Bank was transformed into the, nationalized, Bank Indonesia. Bank Indonesia is the Indonesian central bank until today.

In 1881 an office of the Javasche Bank was opened in Amsterdam. Later followed the opening of an office in New York. In 1930 the bank owned sixteen offices in the Dutch East-Indies: Bandung, Cirebon, Semarang, Yogyakarta, Surakarta, Surabaya, Malang, Kediri, Banda Aceh, Medan, Padang, Palembang, Banjarmasin, Pontianak, Makassar, Manado.

The Javasche Bank was a circulation bank and operated as a private bank also. Individuals as well as industry etc. could get help in the bank's offices.

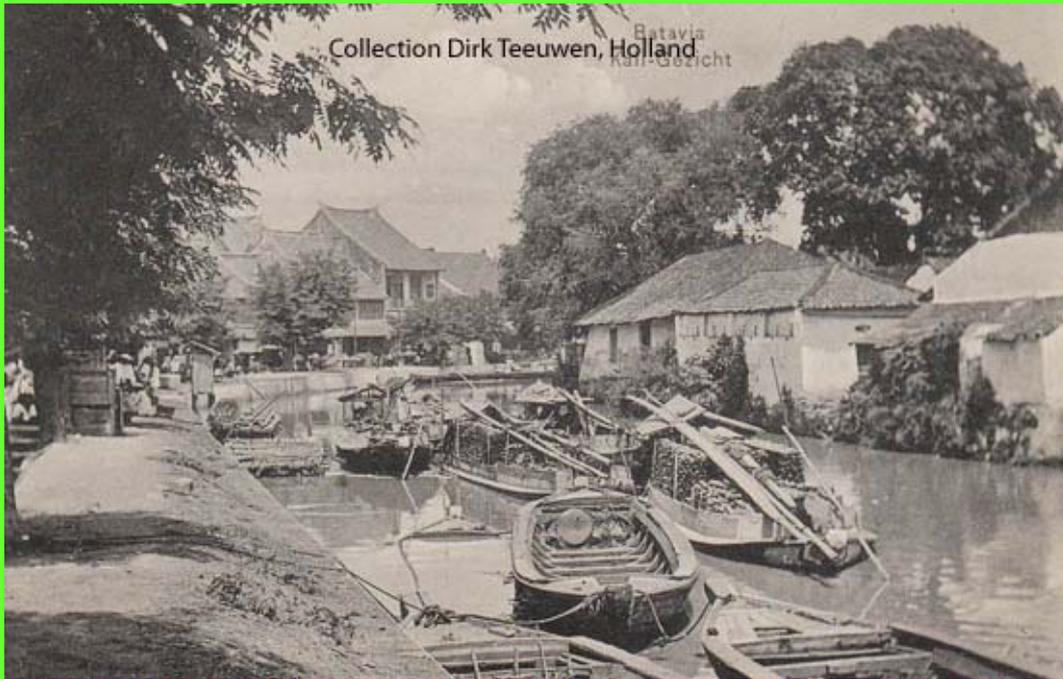
Among many others the bank served a lot of Chinese entrepreneurs and the bank employed a lot of Chinese because of their supposed reliability.

The head office was from the start established on a piece of land east of Kali Besar South (River Ciliwung) opposite the Chinese quarter. In the 17th and 18th century, on the same premises, the fellow workers of the old V.O.C. City Hospital did their humanitarian work. Never mind, whatever views and mentalities in those days.

In 1801 the remains of the City Hospital were sold to the trade firm Mac Quoid Davidson & Co. The Javasche Bank hired the building in 1827 and bought it in 1831.

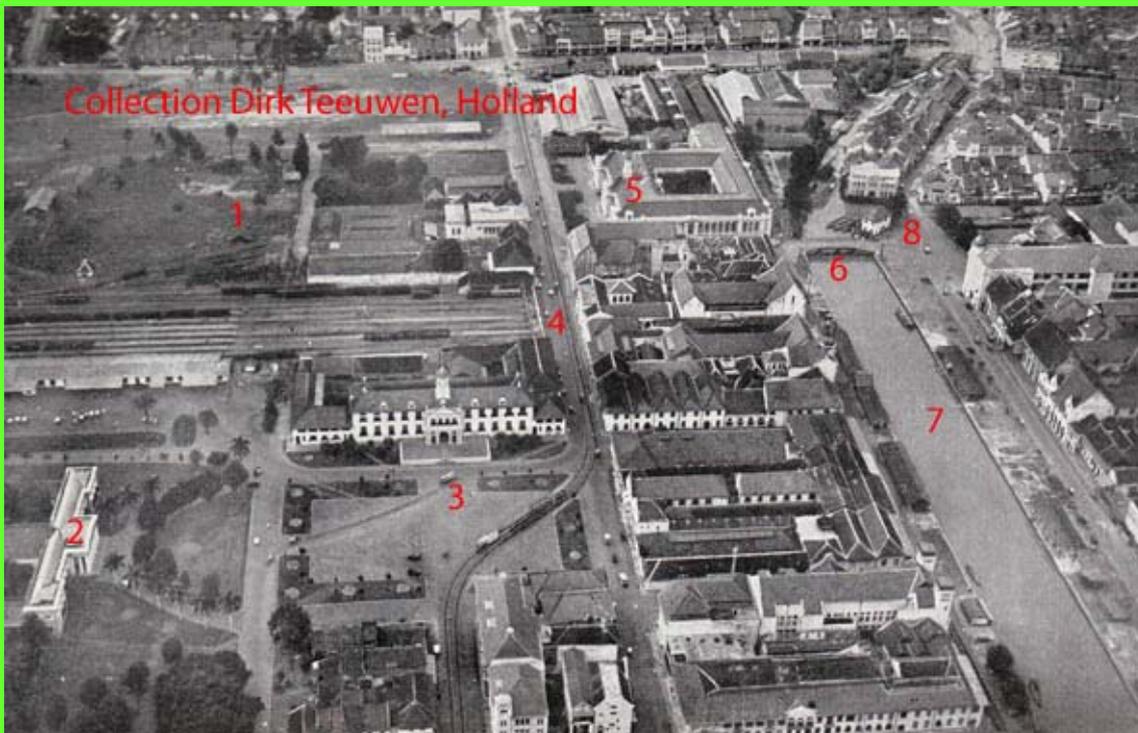


1.14 Javanese ornaments at the front of the Javasche Bank: Bandoeng-Bandung 1919



1.15 South from the western side of the Javasche Bank, a part of Kali Besar South (Ciliwung River); Batavia-Jakarta 1908

2. Surrounding area



2.1 Bird's eye view of a part of the old city; Batavia-Jakarta 1925

Picture 2.1 was taken from a plane of the Royal Dutch East-Indian Air Force. From about 1920 until 1942 a lot of photographs like this, from all over Dutch East-India, Indonesia, has been published by the Dutch. They show us a lot of information. Now we are looking for the location of the Inner Hospital and the Javasche Bank, specially its vicinity. Let's have a look at some details.

The position of the downtown railway station (1) once called Station Batavia-Zuid (Railway Station Batavia South). Later in 1933 the railway tracks, clearly visible on picture 2.1, have been replaced to the south. In 1935 the construction of the new Station Batavia-Zuid, now Stasiun Kota, was completed. The building (2) of the former Court of Justice (1870) serves as a museum, Museum Keramik, at present. Before 1870 the Court of Justice had its seat in the old Dutch V.O.C. Town Hall.

The Hollandse Stadhuis (Dutch V.O.C. Town Hall) / Balai Kota is today's Jakarta History Museum (3). The first town hall on the same spot was built in 1620 and demolished in 1681. In 1682 a new town hall was brought into use. The town and its square witnessed public executions of supposed criminals (mostly before 1840), but there were also more cheerful events like ceremonies, markets and city fairs.

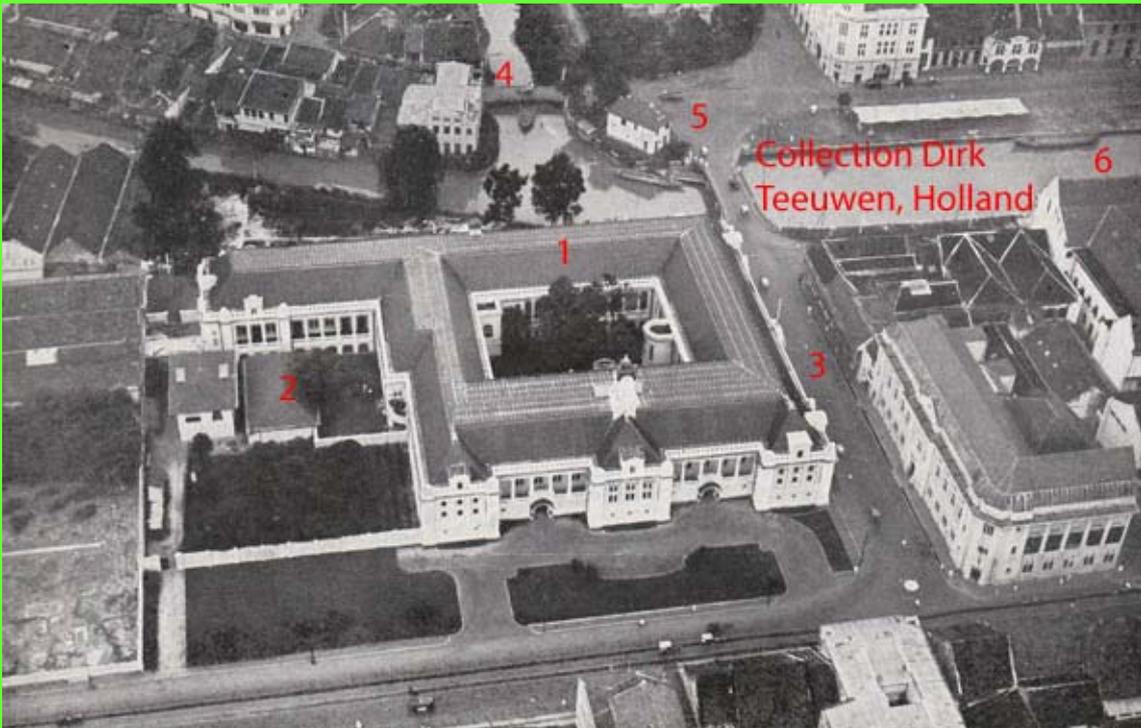
The Binnen Nieuwpoortstraat (Inner Gate Road) / Jalan Pintu Besar Utara is one of the oldest colonial streets in Indonesia (4). The headquarters (5) of the Javasche Bank, specially its location, arouses our interest. Like I said before in this article, the V.O.C. Inner Hospital could be found on the same spot from 1640 until 1798. From its year of foundation 1828 the headquarters of the bank had its seat in the renovated building of the former hospital until 1909.

In our imagination we walk from Bank Straat (Bank Street) / Jalan Bank and than further across Bank Bridge, formerly Hospital Bridge (6). At the other, western, end of Bank Bridge. Here we could walk to the left 100 meters into Pintu Kecil (Pintu Kecil Street) over (8). This was the site of the Diest Poort (Diest City Gate) / Pintu Kecil 1635 – 1802, a small V.O.C. city gate near the city moat south of it. The moat has been filled up and is now Pasar Pagi, Telpon Kota. Pintu Kecil means Small Gate.

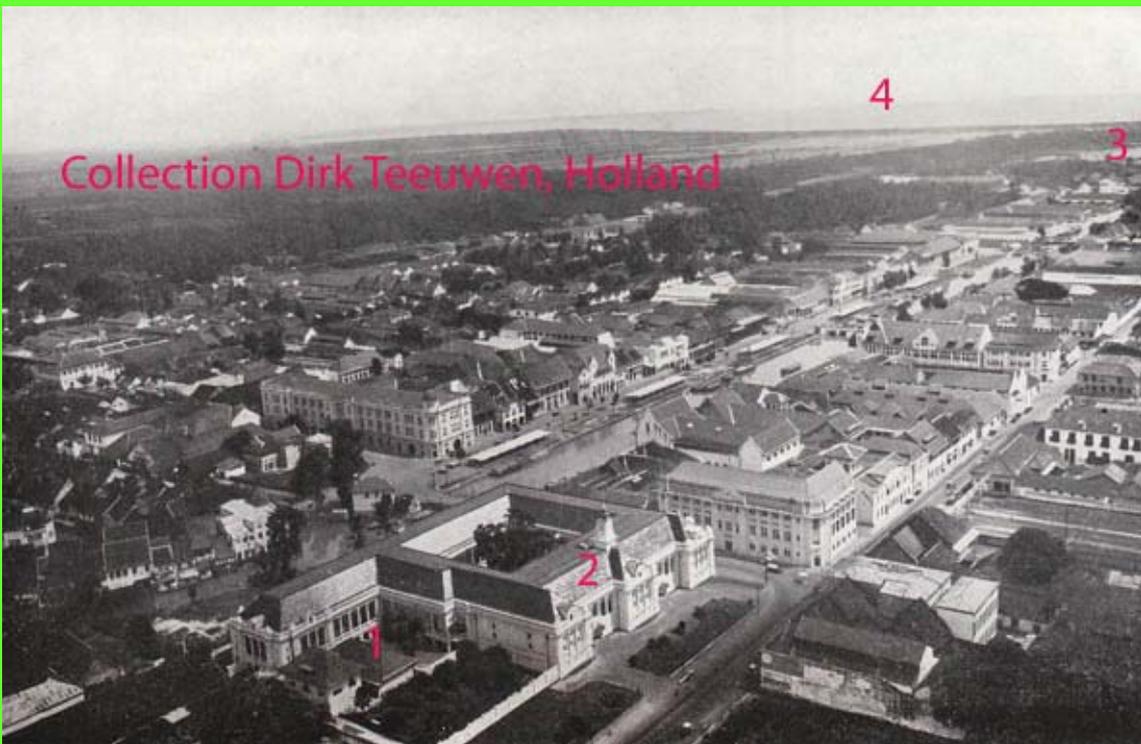
Right from the bridge on the corner under (8) there was a V.O.C. Dutch military guardhouse. This is the house right from the other side of the bridge on picture 2.4. The Kali Besar, the Ciliwung River, is indicated by (7).

On picture 2.2 below Kali Besar (6) flows through to old town and finally into the Java Sea. On 2.2 we can recognize the location of Bank Bridge and Diest City Gate (4) again as well as the situation of the former guardhouse on the corner right from the western end of Bank Bridge (5), aforesaid. Page 7 on 2.3 left from the Javasche Bank (2) we see the remnants (1) again: two small houses, part of the former hospital. The Dutch so-called Lookout Tower, 1830, near Sunda Kelapa Harbour stands under (3), hardly visible I am afraid. Java Sea, Rede van Batavia (Batavia Roads), finds itself under (4).

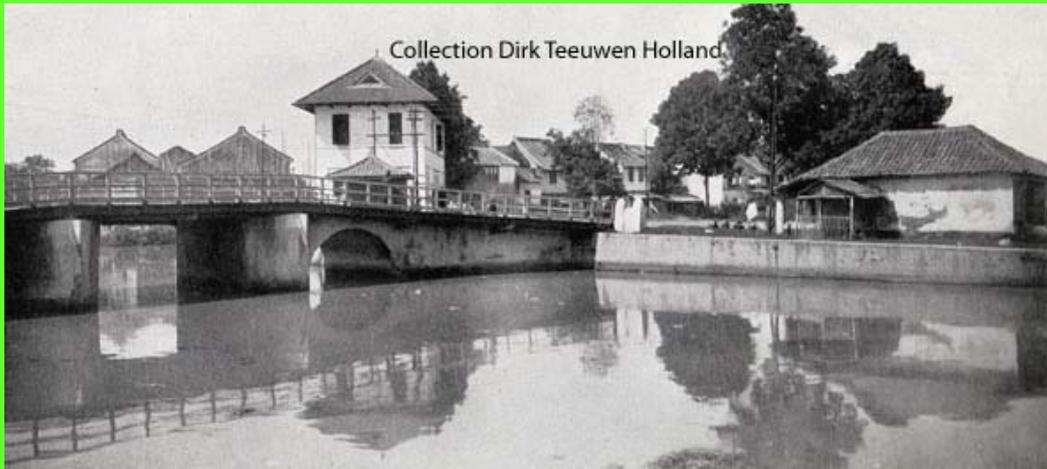
Page 13 and 14. Bank/Hospital Bridge (2.6) in 1770 shows a construction with arches. In 1921 (2.4) the middle of the bridge has been reconstructed, while the left as well as the right side still are carried by the old arches. In 2006 (2.5) I have seen that everything has been changed without any feelings about the historical beauty of the old hospital bridge.



2.2 Javasche Bank and remains of the V.O.C. hospital; Batavia-Jakarta 1925



2.3 Kali Besar (1) to the Java Sea (3); Batavia-Jakarta 1925



2.4 Hospital Bridge, later Bank Bridge; Batavia-Jakarta 1923

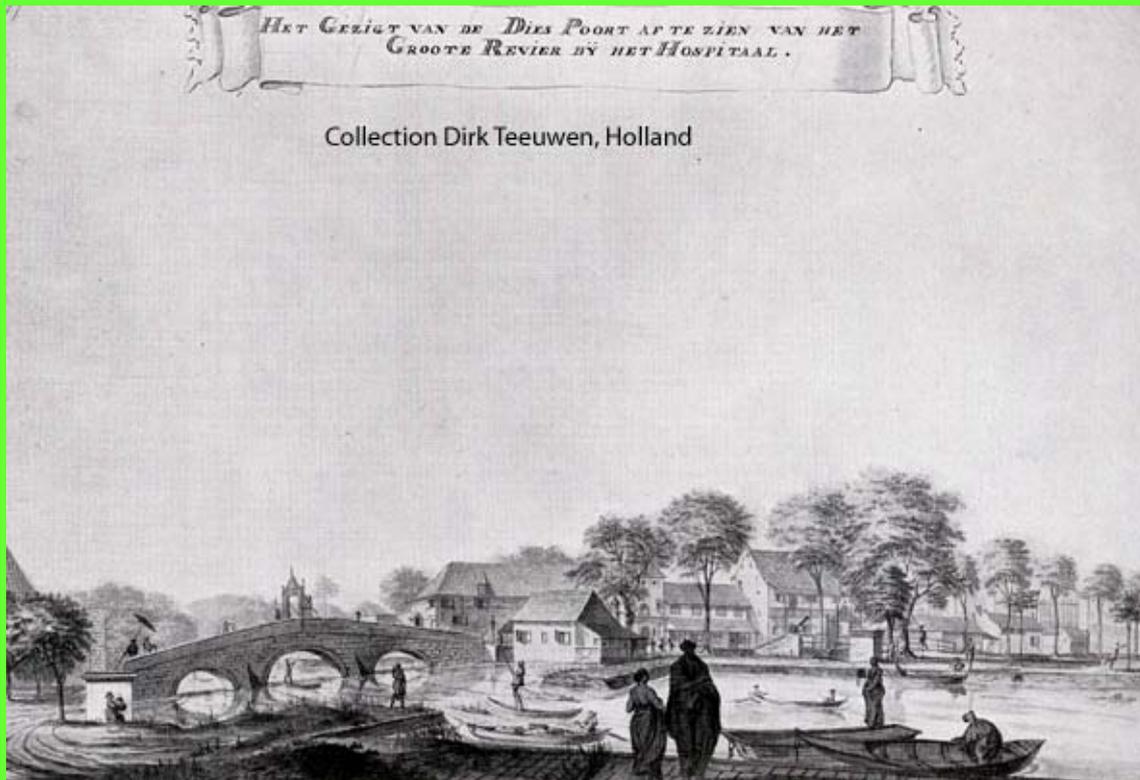
Right from the big white house, 100 m. to the north once the V.O.C. Diest City Gate / Pintu Kecil or Small Gate could be found here in front of a bridge across the Stadsbuitengracht (City Moat). This City Moat is has been filled up and si called now Jalan Telpon Kota (Telephone Road).

The gate was built in 1638 and demolished about 1820. The Large Gate, or Nieuwpoort (New Gate) was added to the city wall in 1631. This Large Gate stood on the spot where now Binnen Nieuwpoortstraat / Jalan Pintu Besar Utara (Inner New Gate Street) becomes Buiten Nieuwpoortstraat / Jalan Pintu Besar Selatan (Outer New Gate Street).

The colonial street of the same name, Pintu Kecil, is situated here even in our days. More or less behind this house at the southern side of the street. On this picture the old military guardhouse is still present. It is the building, right on the picture, across the Kali Besar. See my text about 2.1 and 2.2.. On these photo's there is no guardhouse any more. Demolished in 1924.



2.5 Hospital Bridge, later Bank Bridge; Batavia-Jakarta 2006

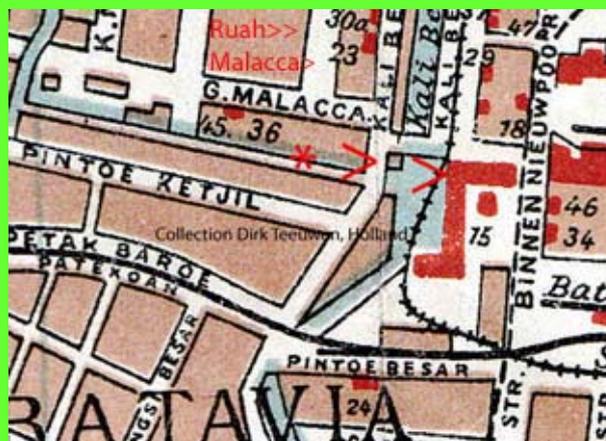


Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

2.6 Bank Bridge, formerly Hospital Bridge; Batavia-Jakarta 1770
Sub 2.6 In the middle of the drawing, right from Hospital Bridge, we see the guard house. Directly right from the tree behind the guard house Diest Gate or Pintu Kecil is a little bit visible.

Across the new bridge on 2.5 we could turn right and then further along Kali Besar West. But some meters to the west, walking via Gang Malacca, is Roeah Malacca parallel with Kali Besar West. We could, in our imagination, stroll into old Roeah Malacca (Malacca Alley). In the Dutch period Roeah Malacca was a beautiful canal bordered with nice houses in Dutch Javanese colonial style. At present we experience an architectural disaster.

This detail of a tourist map is from 1905. Nr 15 (follow the red star) is Javasche Bank. Ruah Malacca has been indicated by me also: in red.



2.7 Javasche Bank and direct vicinity; Batavia-Jakarta 1905
Nr 15!



2.8 A typical colonial house at Ruah Malacca; Batavia-Jakarta 1905

3. The old Dutch V.O.C. Inner Batavia Hospital

The Inner Hospital in Batavia – later the capital of the Dutch East-Indies - was constructed in 1640 on exactly the same location where later, in 1909, the office of the Javasche Bank - later Bank Indonesia - has been built. The hospital, meant for servants of the V.O.C. and its sailors in particular, stood, in the early days, on a relatively “idyllic” location during the first hundred years of its existence. There was a lot of space. Patients could walk around in a garden and could take a bath in the Kali Besar. The water in the Kali was not as filthy as it is now anno 2012.

“Idyllic” compared by contrast with the harrowing circumstances later. After approximately 1730 the location was overcrowded with patients. About 200.000 people died in this building, of whom 130.000 after 1730 until the city government had shut down the hospital gradually during 1780 until 1798. After 1730 more than 500.000 servants of the V.O.C. travelled from Holland to, what is now, Indonesia. More than a quarter of them died in the Inner Hospital. It could not surprise anyone that this nursing home earned itself nicknames like “murderers’ den”.

In 1808 the building has been partially demolished. However most of it (of the construction of course) survived. In 1744 the Outer Hospital, which was constructed as a sanatorium, with the same V.O.C. target group, opened its doors in a more healthy and cooler environment close to Batavia’s citadel.

Later the citadel and its direct vicinity along River Ciliwung has been transformed into Mosque Istiqlal after World War II.

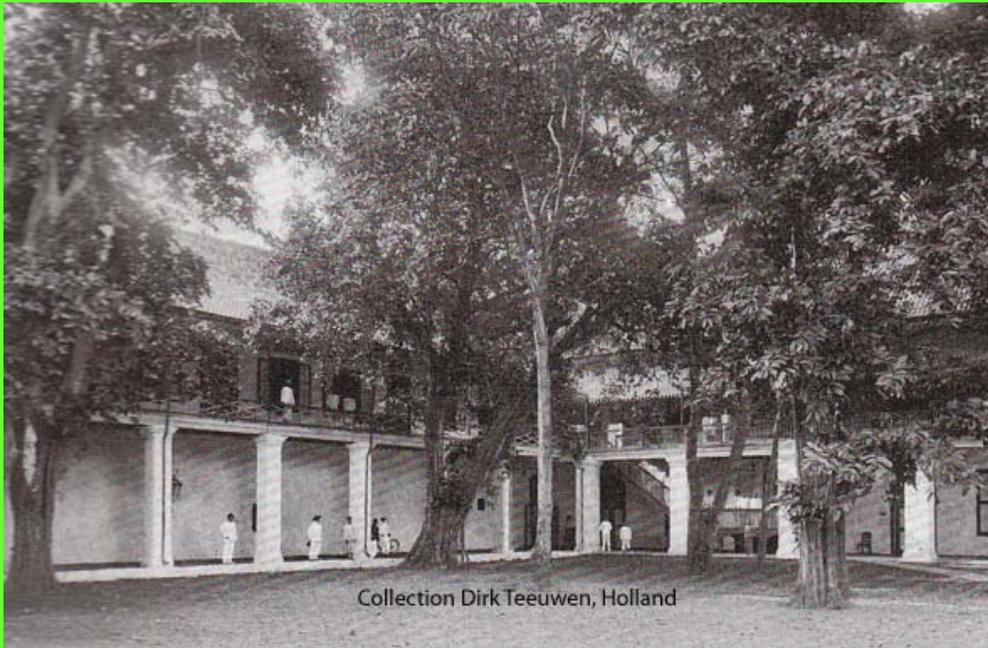
In 1780, after withdrawing the Inner Hospital largely from service, the V.O.C. brought into action a transformation of the Outer Hospital into the most important medical institution of Batavia. A result of initiatives by V.O.C. Governor-General Van Imhoff.



3.1 Bankstraat / Jalan Bank, formerly Hospitaalstraat / Hospital Street; Batavia-Jakarta 1996

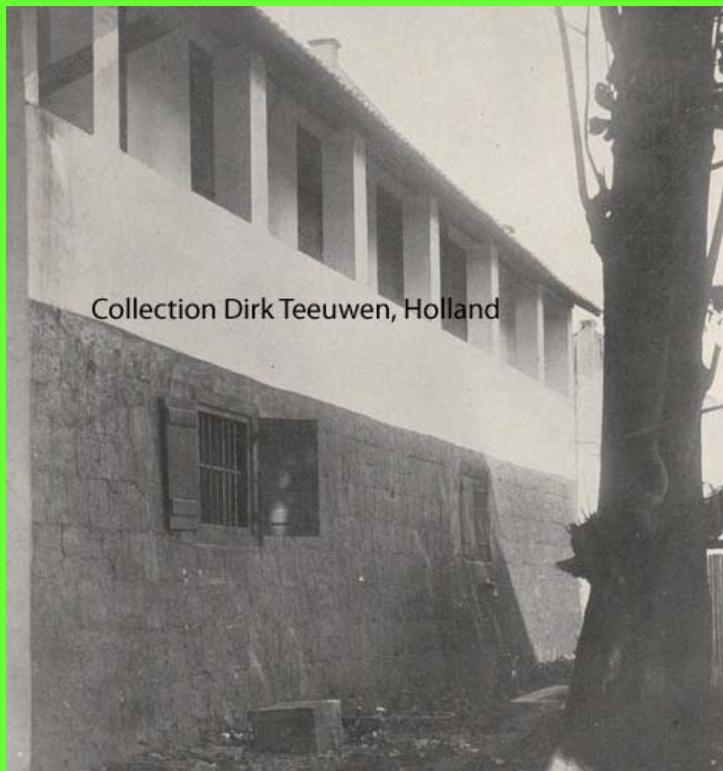


3.2 Bankstraat / Jalan Bank; Batavia-Jakarta 1887



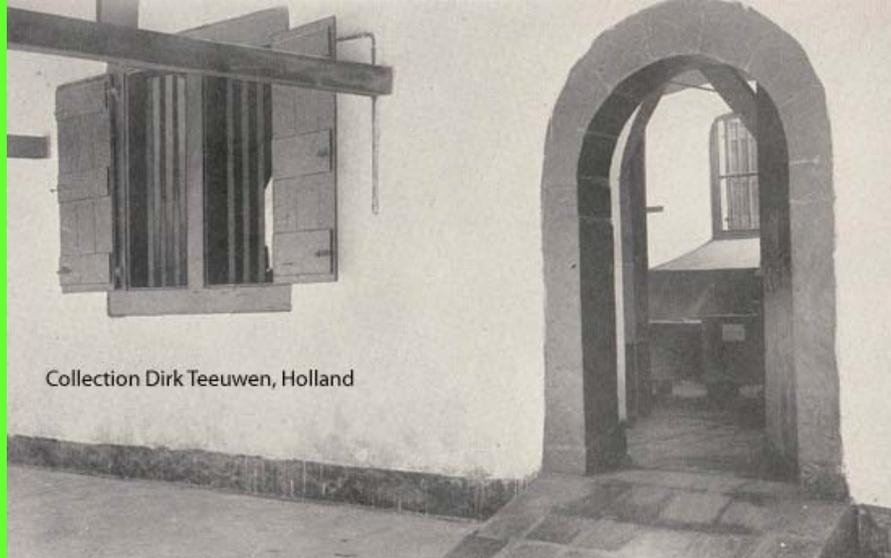
3.3 The yard of the Javasche Bank; Batavia-Jakarta 1906

Sub 3.3 What we see here is a part of the redeveloped inner court of the old V.O.C. City Hospital, realized about 1860. Although the Javasche Bank bought the hospital building in 1831 – maybe, in spite of the renovation - this picture could give us an impression of appearance of the hospital court in far-off days.



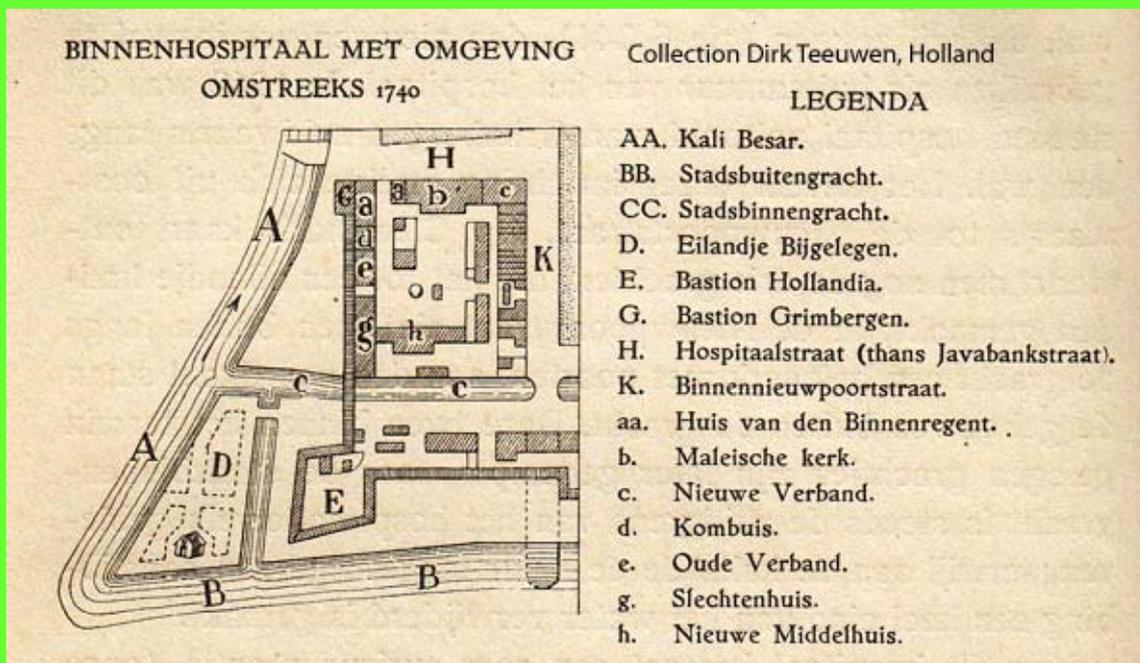
See page 18.

3.4 View from the west - along the Kali - at the most southern part of the old buildings of the City Hospital, from 1827 Javasche Bank; Batavia-Jakarta 1882
 Sub 3.5 The outside wall was a part of the city wall, see 3.2 as well. We have a look at the "slechtenhuys" (lit. bad way house), meant for incurable, dying patients. See also my annotations to picture 3.8 on page 12 and 13.



3.5 Door at the inner court of the City Hospital (Javasche Bank)"; Batavia-Jakarta 1882

Sub 3.6 View at the entrance to a southern room of the "oude verband" (old connecting building of two, in the past, freestanding houses). Through the opening we see a part of a window with bars. Outside this window flows the Kali Besar South, see 3.5 and 3.2.



3.6 V.O.C. Binnen Hospitaal (the old Batavia City Hospital) location from H to cc, Batavia-Jakarta 1740

Legend:

- AA. Kali Besar South (west from the hospital)
- BB. City moat south
- CC. City moat (part of an older one)
- D. "Nearby" Island
- E. Bastion Hollandia
- G. Bastion Grimbergen
- H. Hospital Street, Now Bank Street, Jalan Bank
- K. Jalan Pintu Besar Utara, New Gate Street
- aa. House of the hospital inside-regent (sort of managing director)
There were also so-called outside regents, the supervisory board so to say.
- b. Malay Church
- c. New connecting building (connecting two formerly freestanding houses)
- d. Kitchen
- e. Old connecting building (see 3.6)
- g. "Bad way house" (see 3.5)
- h. "New House in the Centre"

After 1827 the management of the Javasche Bank ordered to demolish the eastern side of the hospital, left from K. As a result the inner court (see 3.3) was, after several renovations, open at the eastern side close to the Binnennieuwpoortstraat, Jalan Pintu Besar Utara (New Gate Street).

Below, on 3.8, we see the Malay Church left on the picture under the small domed bell tower. The bell called patients to church on Sundays. The Malay Church is recognizable as b on 3.7. Drawing 3.7, from 1670, mark c makes clear the spot of the new connecting building.

Right on 3.8 one could note the house of the hospital inside-regent (aa on 3.7). Right from this residency, a part of Bastion Grimbergen with its sloping Javanese roof - near Hospital Bridge or Bank Bridge - is visible (G on 3,7).

The outbuildings of the regent's house (invisible) stood alongside Kali Besar as a continuation of this residency. The city wall, parallel with the Kali, stood behind these outbuildings as a continuation, to the south, of Bastion Grimbergen. Against the city wall the Dutch built the hospital kitchen as well as hospital wards in the Oude Verband and the Slechtenhuis See 3.7 and its legend. The kitchen and wards had a flat roof at first because of military reasons as part of a line of defence. Later those walls were raised and completed with sloping roofs on top (see 3.5).



3.7 The City Hospital along Hospital Street, Jalan Bank; Batavia-Jakarta 1670



3.8 The Inner Hospital; Batavia-Jakarta 1770

On 3.8 We are looking into Binnennieuwpoortstraat / Jalan Pintu Besar Utara (Inner Gate Street). Right in front, a little bit far away, we observe the Nieuwpoort / Puntu Besar Utara (New City Gate).

The house with the fence - corner Inner Gate Street and Hospital or Bank Street - behind the group of people, was the so called Nieuwe Verband with hospital wards (see 3.7 nr c).

Right from the Nieuwe Verband we see the Malay Church. The rest of the buildings along Hospital Street, such as the regent's residence, can not be observed on this drawing, but they were certainly there.

The houses left from the Nieuwe Verband at the right side of the Inner Gate Street are a bandage shop, the hospital pharmacy, a parsonage, some surgeons' (doctors in those olden days) houses, and a laboratory. The gentleman, with the gigantic white hat, is the city pharmacist. He is chatting with the neighbours in front of his big house (far left partially visible on 3.9).

At least one time a day ambulatory patients were forced to go for a "health walk" through town. They did so under the supervision of hospital servants armed with bamboo sticks. On 3.9 we see them walking on bare feet, as the picture makes obvious.

On 3.9 we observe a carriage. The owner of this sort of taxi / hackney cab in those days, could exploit his business, his shop, from one of the buildings at the left side of Inner Gate Street. The house fronts at the left of Inner Gate Street closed off the backside of the gardens owned by the much richer residents living along Tijgersgracht (Tiger's Canal) / Jalan Pos Kota also Jalan Lada.

Tiger's Canal ran east from Inner Gate Street and parallel with it. Some of the mansions at Tiger's Canal bordered on Inner Gate Street with their gardens and coach houses.

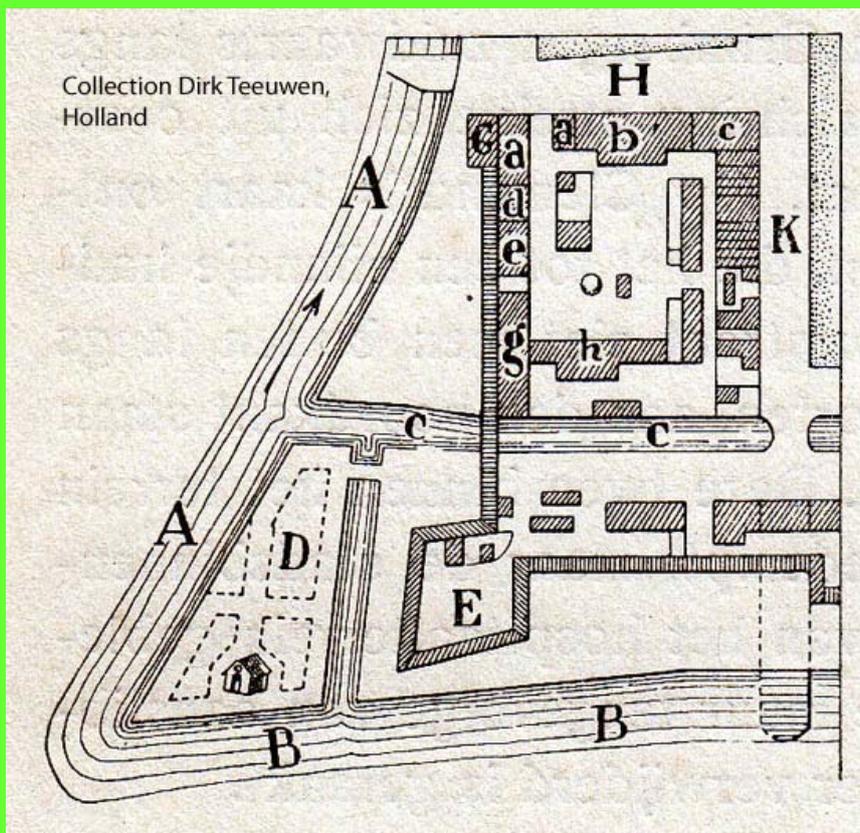
Our carriage owner at Inner Gate Street earned his money in a socially minor, but well-to-do environment. Probably he had a dwelling, a coach house as well as his carriage maker's workshop along the left side of his street.

4. Selection of maps



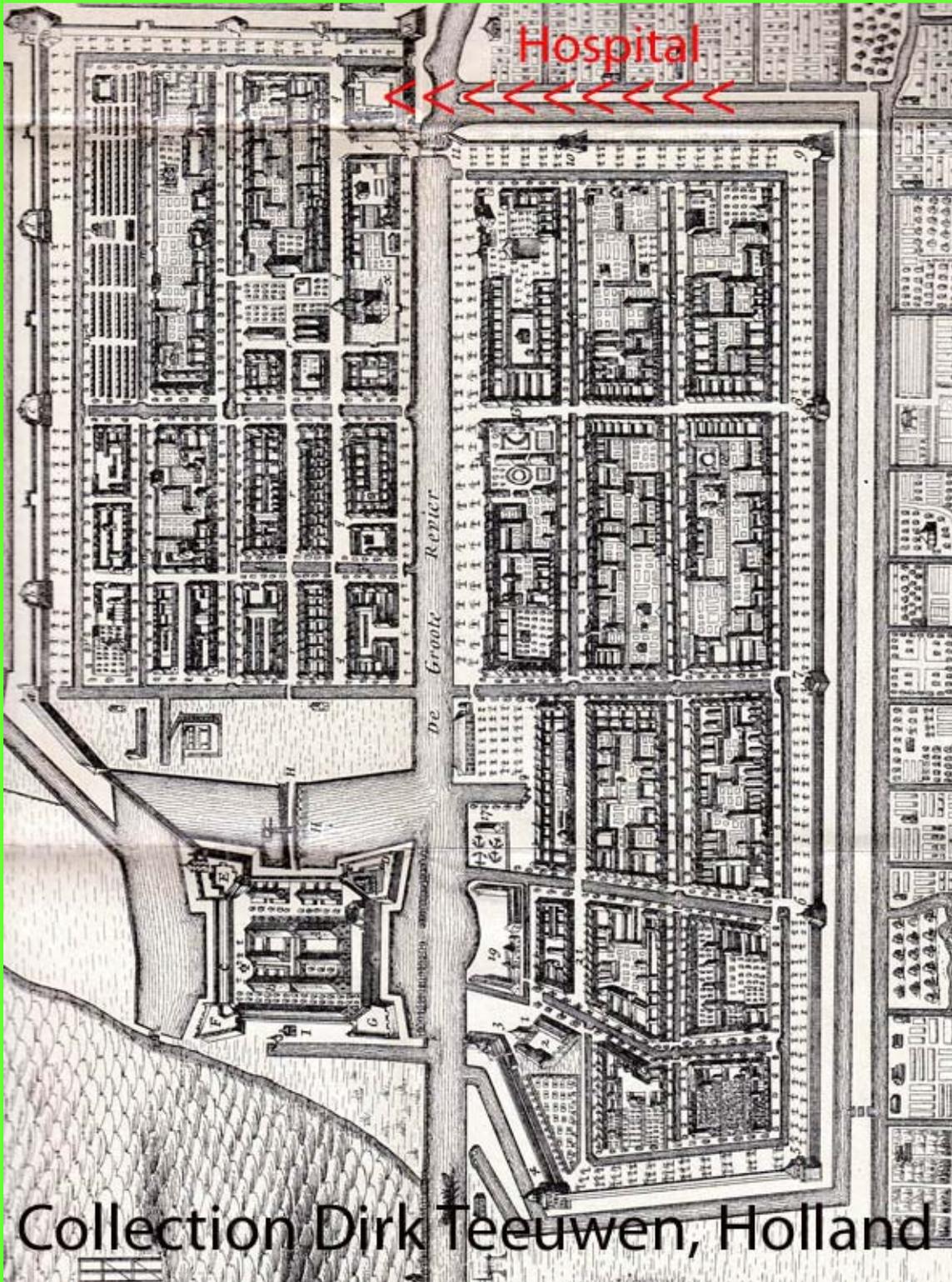
Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

4.1 Batavia 1650, Inner Hospital

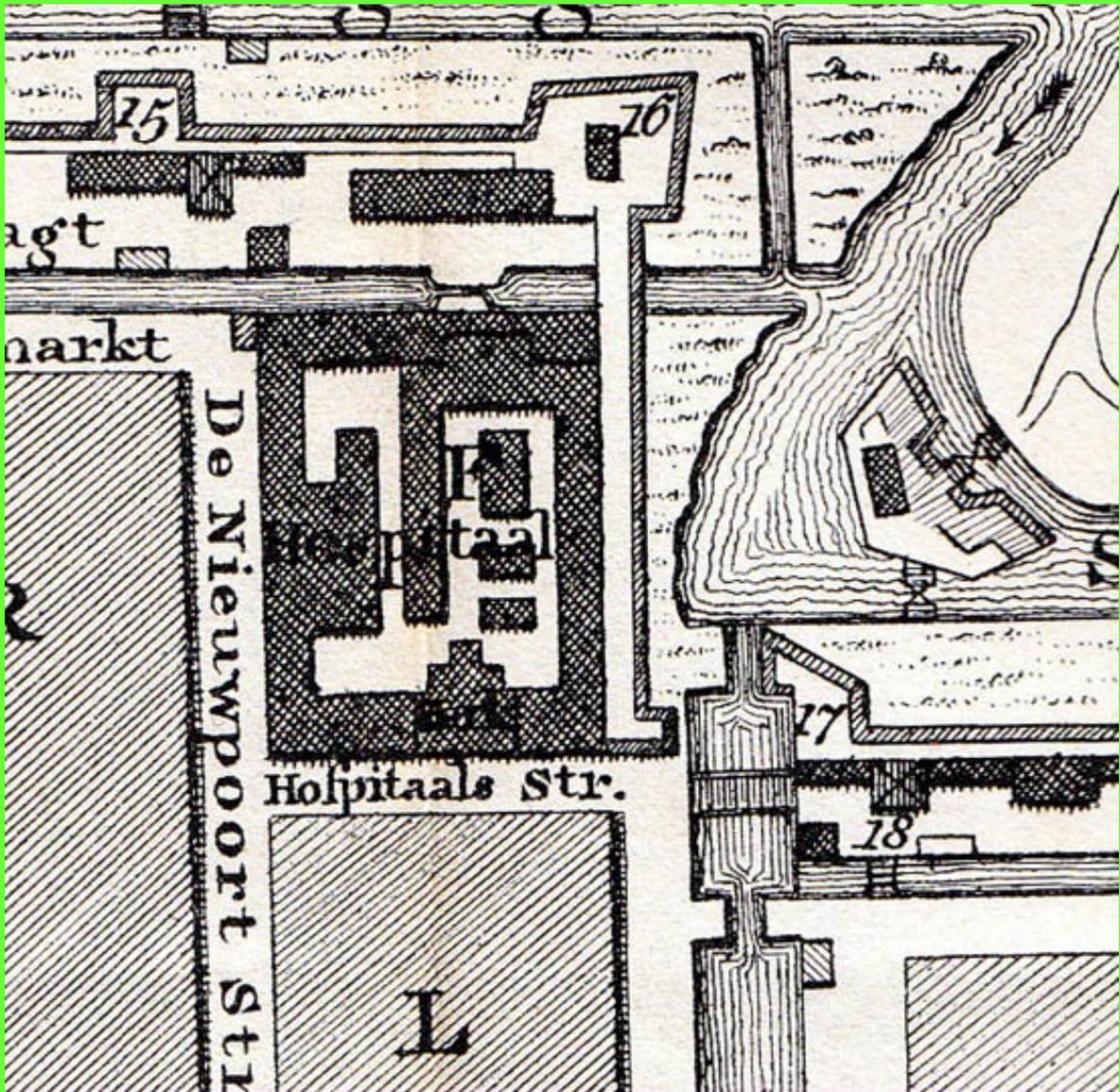


Collection Dirk Teeuwen,
Holland

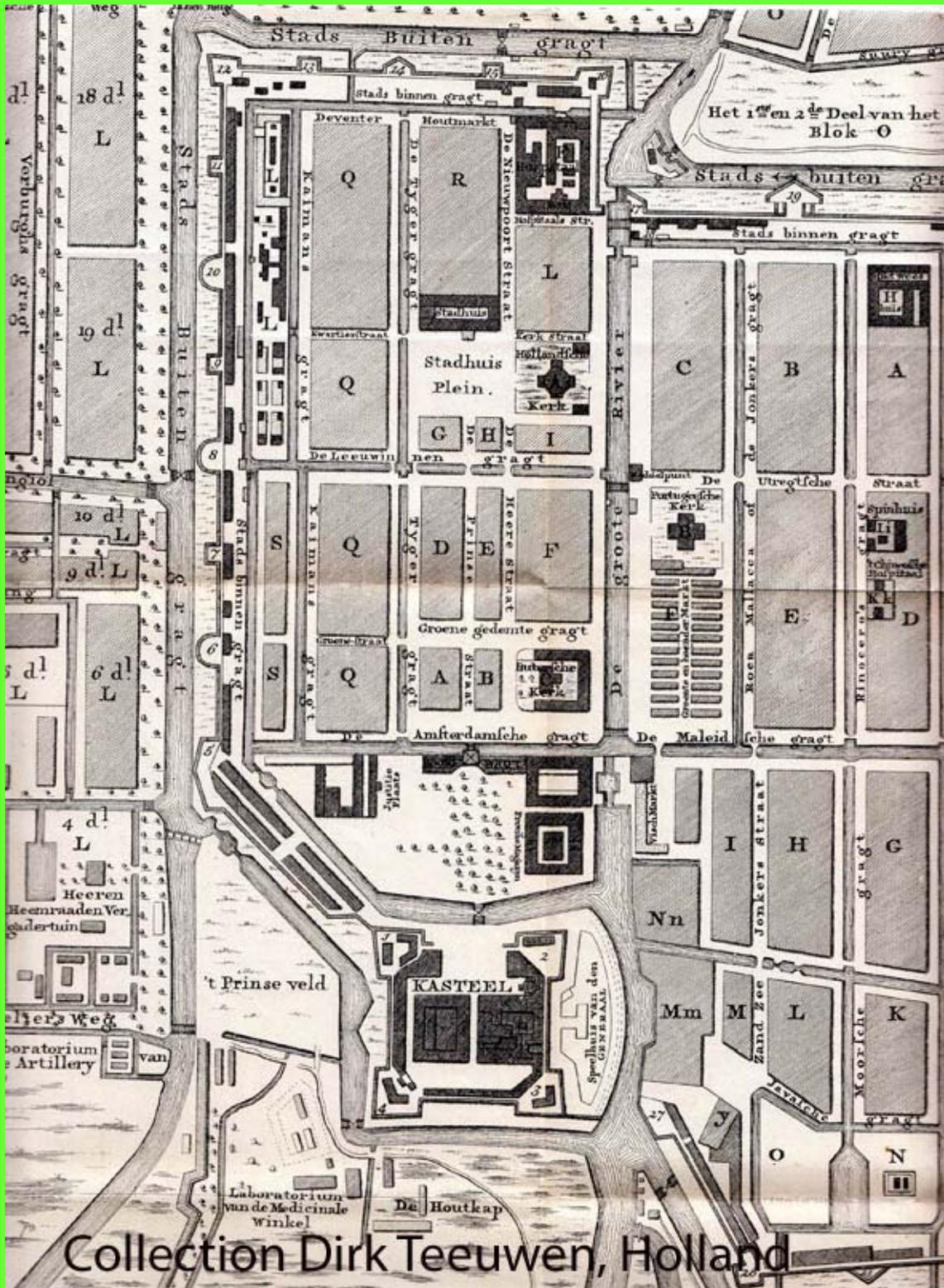
4.2 Batavia 1740, Inner Hospital
See legend on page 19.



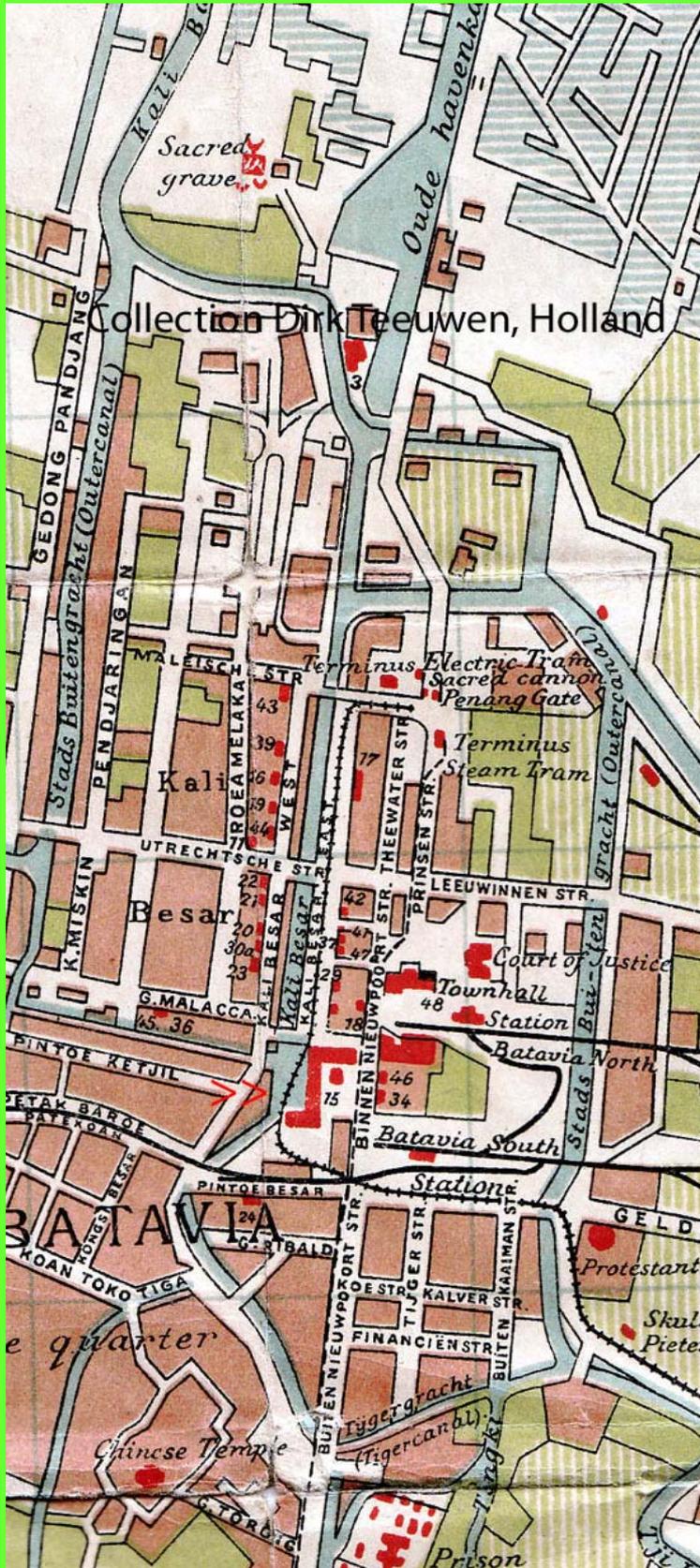
4.3 Batavia 1770



4.4 Batavia 1780, Inner Hospital



4.5 Batavia 1780



4.6 Old Batavia – Jakarta Kota 1914
 Nr 15 Jvasche Bank, former Inner Hospital

Quotation of sources, acknowledgements
Pictures and maps

Frontpage

Helsdingen, Master of Laws (Dutch mr juridisch) W.H. van: Daar werd wat groots verricht...; Amsterdam (Elsevier) 1941 p. 128

- 1.1 Wormser, dr C.W.: Zo leven wij in Indië; Deventer (W. van Hoeve) Holland 1943, p. 140
- 1.2 Lam, L. ed.: Indonesia from the air; Haarlem (H.J.W. Becht) Holland 1987, a colourless fragment of a picture on p. 58
- 1.3 Postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
- 1.4 Postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
- 1.5 Postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
- 1.6 Helsdingen, Master of Laws (Dutch mr juridisch) W.H. van: Daar werd wat groots verricht...; Amsterdam (Elsevier) 1941 p. 127
- 1.7 Tetrode, Master of Laws (Dutch mr juridisch) P.J.C.: De Javasche Bank, oud en nieuw
(from the periodical Nederlandsch-Indië Oud&Nieuw); Amsterdam (N.V. Tijdschrift Nederlandsch-Indië) 1919, p. 314 etc.
- 1.8 Tetrode, Master of Laws (Dutch mr juridisch) P.J.C.: De Javasche Bank, oud en nieuw
(from the periodical Nederlandsch-Indië Oud&Nieuw); Amsterdam (N.V. Tijdschrift Nederlandsch-Indië) 1919, p. 316 etc.
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- 1.10 Tetrode, Master of Laws (Dutch mr juridisch) P.J.C.: De Javasche Bank, oud en nieuw (from the periodical Nederlandsch-Indië Oud&Nieuw); Amsterdam (N.V. Tijdschrift Nederlandsch-Indië) 1919, p. 320 etc.
- 1.11 Tetrode, Master of Laws (Dutch mr juridisch) P.J.C.: De Javasche Bank, oud en nieuw (from the periodical Nederlandsch-Indië Oud&Nieuw); Amsterdam (N.V. Tijdschrift Nederlandsch-Indië) 1919, p. 322 etc.
- 1.12 Wright, Arnold, Editor-in-Chief: Twentieth Century Impressions of Netherlands India; London (Lloyd's Publishing Company) 1909, p. 127
- 1.13 Coin Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
- 1.14 Wright, Arnold, Editor-in-Chief: Twentieth Century Impressions of Netherlands India; London (Lloyd's Publishing Company) 1909, p. 317
- 1.15 Postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
- 2.1 Vries, H. M. de: The importance of Java seen from the air; Batavia (G. Kolff & Co) Dutch East-India / Indonesia, p. 71
- 2.2 Vries, H. M. de: The importance of Java seen from the air; Batavia (G. Kolff & Co) Dutch East-India / Indonesia, p. 66
- 2.3 Vries, H. M. de: The importance of Java seen from the air; Batavia (G. Kolff & Co) Dutch East-India / Indonesia 1928, p. 30
- 2.4 Haan, dr F. de: Platenalbum Oud Batavia; Batavia (G. Kolff & Co) Dutch East-India / Indonesia 1923, picture A.6
- 2.5 Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
- 2.6 Loos – Haaxman, J. de: Johannes Rach en zijn werk; Batavia (G. Kolff en Co) Dutch East-India / Indonesia 1928, p. 83
- 2.7 Detail from a tourist map; Batavia (G. Kolff & Co) Dutch East-India / Indonesia 1910
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4.3 Haan, dr F. de: Oud Batavia Platenalbum; Bandoeng 1934, inset

4.4 Detail of 4.5

4.5 Haan, dr F. de: Oud Batavia Platenalbum; Bandoeng 1934, inset

4.6 Single map, collection Dirk Teeuwen