

**Johannes Rach 1720 – 1783**  
**Author Dirk Teeuwen**

**This article consists of an introduction and fifteen pictures.  
Pictures are available on request.**



The Koninklijk Bataviaasch Genootschap (Royal Cultural Society of Batavia / Jakarta) edited a beautiful jubilee volume (above) dedicated to Johannes Rach and his work in 1928. Johannes Rach was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1720. His father was an innkeeper. Rach worked as a painter in Russia, Sweden and in Denmark. In 1750 he moved to The Netherlands and worked as a painter in Haarlem.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Johannes Rach'.

In 1756 he married Maria Valenzijn and later a daughter was born. Because of poverty he left for Asia in 1762 to serve as a gunner with the "Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie" V.O.C. (Dutch East India Company, V.O.C. for short). His wife and daughter stayed behind, he

never saw them again. Rach made a career in the military hierarchy. In 1779 he became a major with the artillery in Batavia / Jakarta.

Rach died in 1783 and left behind:

- a house along Rua Malacca in Jakarta Kota,
- cash money,
- registered securities,
- furniture, carriages, horses, slaves, paintings, gold, silver, clothes and a lot of wine.

He was a member of the Bataviaasch Genootschap voor Kunsten en Wetenschappen, predecessor of the Koninklijk Bataviaasch Genootschap.



Picture collection Dirk Teeuwen  
www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl

Water Castle, at the eastern end of Sunda Kelapa, Jakarta / Batavia 1772



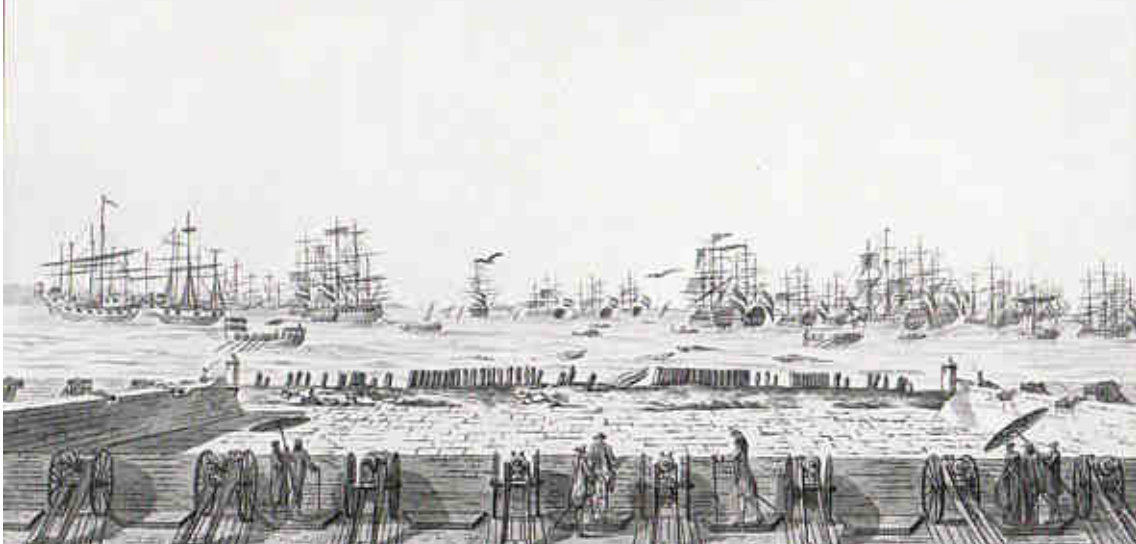
*Gezigt naar het Waterkasteel gelegen aan de oostzijde der Haven van Batavia, naar te. J. de Witt, 1772.*

Joh. Rach 1

*HET GEZICHT VAN DE REED VAN BATAVIA AF TE ZIEN VAN HET  
WATER KASTEEL VANDENNE ZIENDE INT VERSCHIEET ONROST AANZICHT*

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View from the VOC-castle to the south, Java Sea, Jakarta / Batavia, Sunda Kelapa, 1772



Joh. Rach 2

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Joh. Rach 3

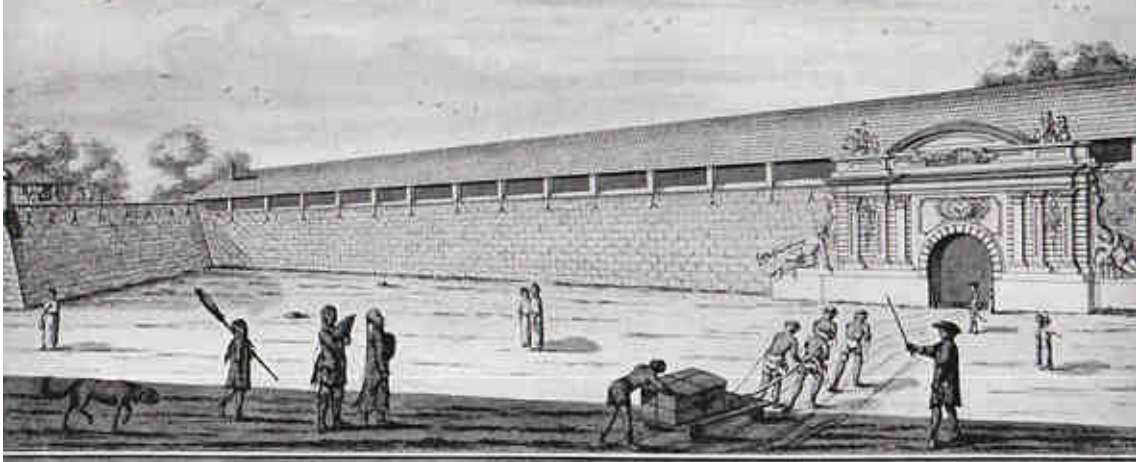


Joh. Rach 4



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The VOC-castle from south to north, the so-called Water Gate opposite the formerly very short beaches and opposite Sunda Kelapa. The main gate on behalf of food / non-food supplies, as well as fresh soldiers, house slaves and so on.  
Jakarta / Batavia 1772



*HET GEZICHT VAN HET CASTEEL TE BATAVIA TE SIEN  
VAN DE WAETER-POORT TOT AEN DE PUNT DE SAPHIER.*

Joh. Rach 5

*HET GEZICHT VAN HET EDELE COMP. GEAN/MAERTZEN  
VANACHTERSTE ZIEN VANDER PUNDE SAPHIER TOT AAN DE  
PUNT AMSTERDAM TOT BATAVIA.*

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View of the VOC-castle from the east: Jl. Lodan Raya / Heeren weg, Jakarta / Batavia 1772



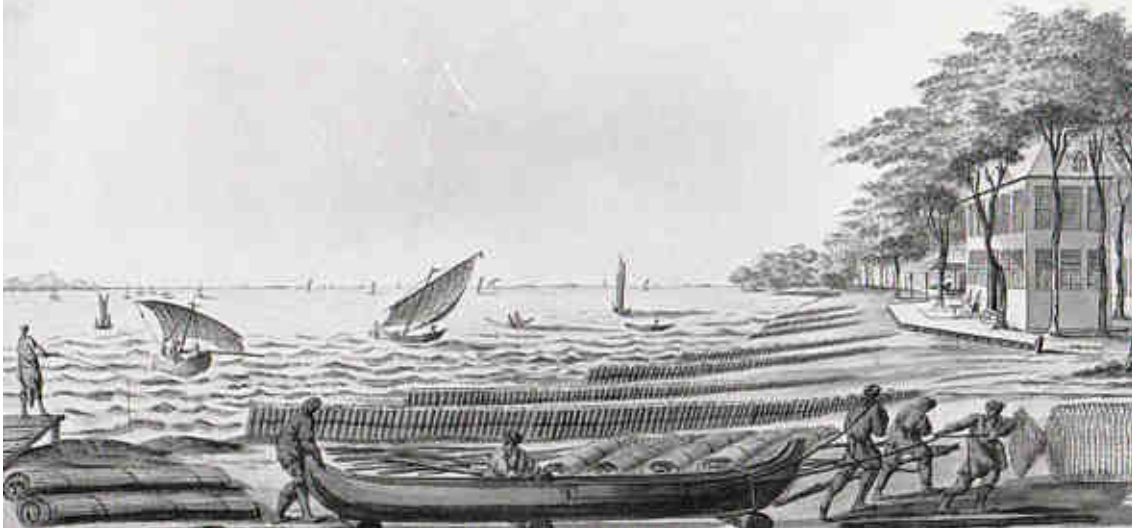
Joh. Rach 6

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*HET GEZICHT VAN HET SCHOON HUIS VAN DE HEER ADRIAAN VAN HAEFTEN  
VAN ZEESTRAND AF ZIEKENDS MET DE REEDERIJEN BUITEN EN OM LIGGENDE  
EN LAYNDE TUSSEN BUJTEN BATAVIA EN NAAS GENAAMD DUNON ZIGGEL*

Picture collection Dirk Teeuwen  
[www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl](http://www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl)

The guest house of Adriaan van Haeften around Tanjung Priok,  
at the western site of the (later) first harbour railway station.  
Jakarta / Batavia 1772



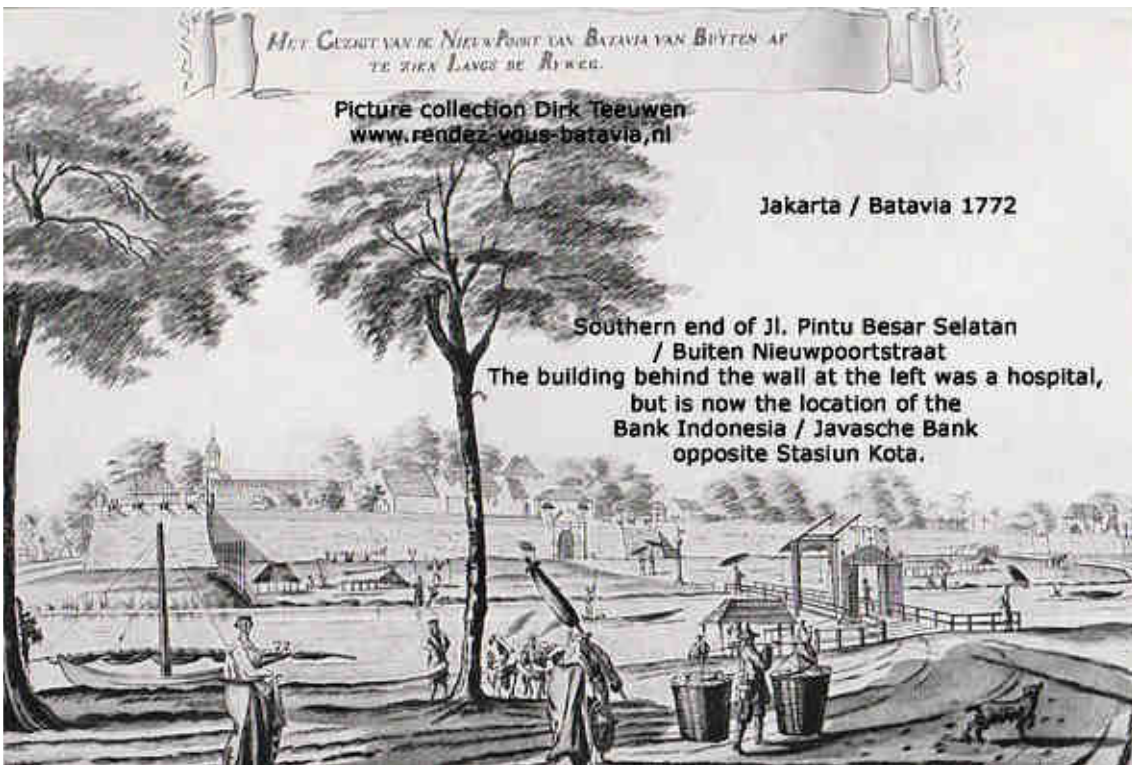
Joh. Rach 7

*HET GEZICHT VAN DE NIEUWPOORT VAN BATAVIA VAN BUJTEN AF  
TE ZIEN LANGS DE RIJWEG.*

Picture collection Dirk Teeuwen  
[www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl](http://www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl)

Jakarta / Batavia 1772

Southern end of Jl. Pintu Besar Selatan  
/ Buiten Nieuwpoortstraat  
The building behind the wall at the left was a hospital,  
but is now the location of the  
Bank Indonesia / Javasche Bank  
opposite Stasiun Kota.

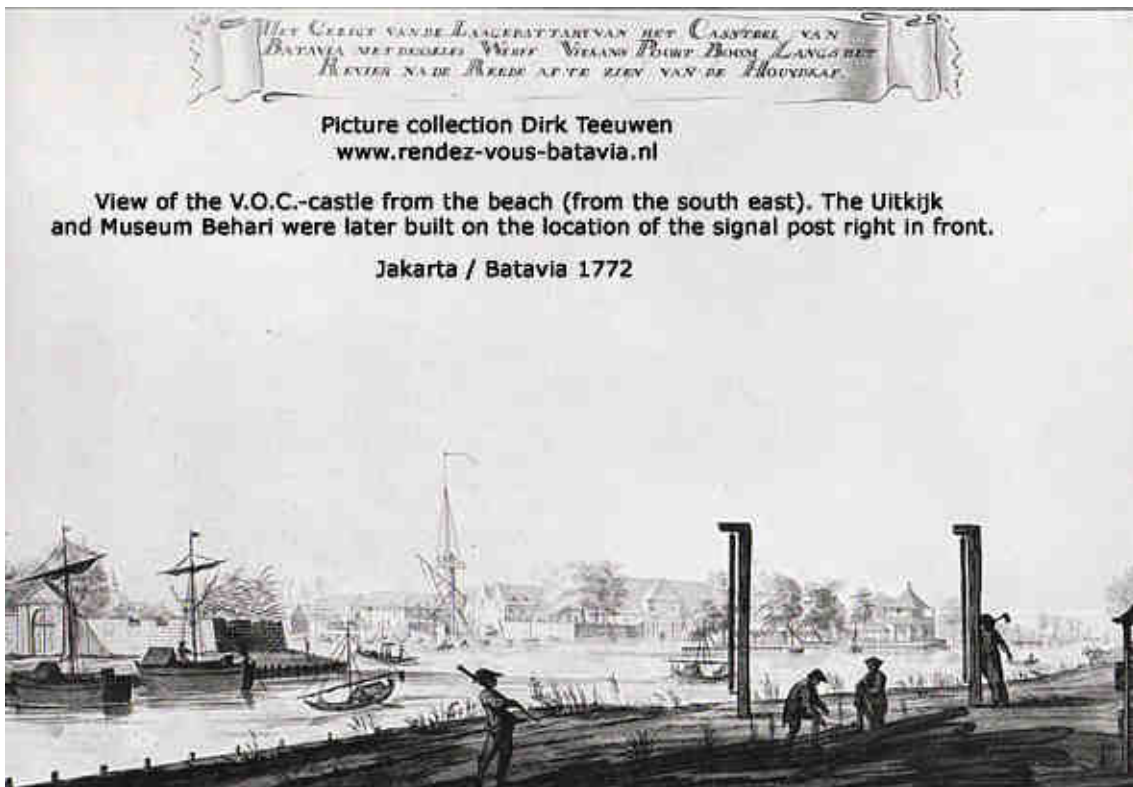


Joh. Rach 8





Joh. Rach 9



Joh. Rach 10

*HET GEZICHT VAN HET KANSTEL VAN BATAVIA OP 'T ZIEN VAN DE  
HOOFDINGVAARD, WAATENPOORT, NEDERSELS WERF EN VILLAGANE POORT.*

Picture collection Dirk Teeuwen  
[www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl](http://www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl)

The V.O.C.-castle from the south. The logging area was part of the beach.  
Jakarta / Batavia 1772

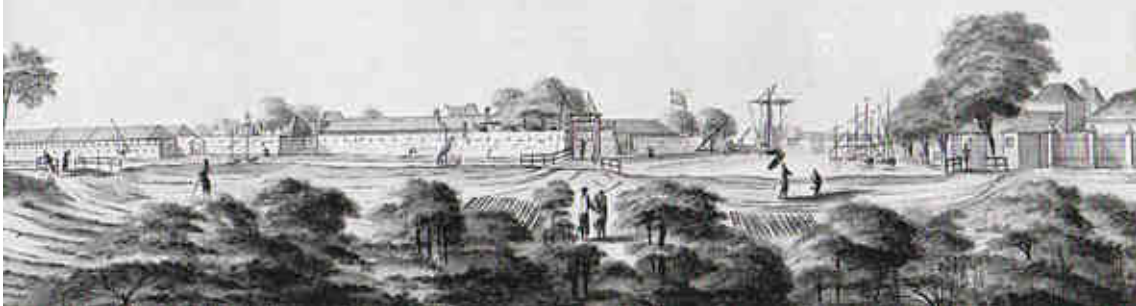


Joh. Rach 11

*HET GEZICHT VAN HET KANSTEL VAN BATAVIA VAN ACHTEREN MET  
DESELS RYST PAKHUYZEN EN HOOFDVAARD OP 'T ZIEN VAN DE GEBOUNE  
VAN DE LABRAND ZIENDE IN 'T VERSCHIEDEN VILLAGANE POORT.*

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View of the V.O.C.-castle from the south east (east from the logging area).  
Jakarta / Batavia 1772



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View of the V.O.C.-castle (Amsterdam Gate) from the north, from Jl Cengke.  
Jakarta / Batavia 1772



Joh. Rach 13

*Met Gezicht van de Rust Angke van de Rywegt af te zien  
Liggende in Paalen Buiten Batavia.*

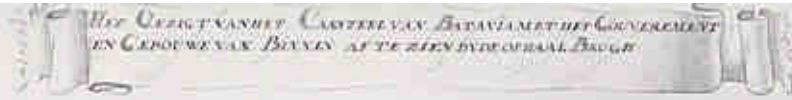
Picture collection Dirk Teeuwen  
Fortress Angke along Jl Pangeran Tubagus Angke  
Jakarta / Batavia 1772



Joh Rach 14

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Inside the V.O.C.-castle. We are looking south and standing with our back to the Amsterdam Gate (Jl Cengke). In front: at the other side of the draw bridge we can see the government buildings around the inner court.

Jakarta / Batavia 1772



Joh. Rach 15

*Johannes Rach*

End of the article

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