

Jakarta's Kali Besar and the invaluable peculiarity of its Batavia monuments drs (MSc) D. Teeuwen

Contents

1. Introductory pictures and aim of the article
 2. Kali Besar from the air in 1928
 3. Pictures of special historical interest
 4. Old and new, the loss of an historical business quarter
 5. From the olden days of the Kali: some pictures of old offices
 6. Accounts, sources, notes
- Pages: 25 Pictures: 39

1. Introductory pictures and aim of the article (P 1.1 – P 1.12)

The aim of the article is to criticize the lack of interest in and the neglect of the historical business quarter, which once was Old Batavia / Old Jakarta. The importance of this quarter goes back to the foundation of Batavia, now Jakarta, by the Dutch on the location of Kampung Jayakarta at the mouth of the Ciliwung.

Jayakarta, belonging to the sultanate of Banten, was destroyed in 1619 by the Dutch, because they wanted to establish an independent trade centre for themselves in the Far East. After a difficult start from 1619 until 1640 the Dutch became more or less an accepted power on Java next to the sultanates of Banten and Mataram. Because of taking a side during the repeated sultan's family quarrels about succession the Dutch succeeded in increasing their influence at Java.

A reminder: not before the period 1800-1810 modern colonialism, so-called imperialism, started!

Until the opening of Tanjung Priok Harbour in 1885 sea going vessels necessarily had to be unloaded in the Bay of Batavia / Jakarta. Small sailing ships carried cargo to Havenkanaal / Sunda Kelapa and Kali Besar. Kali Besar was the inland harbour of Batavia.



1.1 Kali Besar East in 1936 with a mixture of old mercantile houses and, in those days, modern offices. Far left, with the two cupolas the, so-called, Internatio Building (International Credit Bank) and right the office (one cupola) of the Bataviasche Assurantie Maatschappij (Batavia Insurance Company). Its neighbour right is the office of the Borneo Sumatra Handelmaatschappij (Borneo Sumatra Trade Company). The buildings between the offices mentioned are from the middle of the nineteenth century.

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1.2 Kali Besar East, 1996. The former office (one cupola) of the Bataviasche Assurantie Maatschappij (Batavia Insurance Company) and its neighbour right the former office of the Borneo Sumatra Handelmaatschappij (Borneo Sumatra Trade Company). The large building, right, was the office of Bataviaasch Dagblad (Batavia Daily Journal).



1.3 Detail of the copula tower of the former office of the Bataviasche Assurantie Maatschappij (Batavia Insurance Company). Kali Besar East 1996

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1.4 More or less the same location in 1927
The large building in the middle is the office of Bataviaasch Dagblad (Batavia Daily Journal).



1.5 The same location in 2006

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1.6 The location of picture 1.5 in 2006



1.7 The southern end of Kali Besar West in 1918

The building with the cupola is the office of the Chartered Bank. The fourth building left from the Chartered Bank is Toko Merah (Red House) from 1760.

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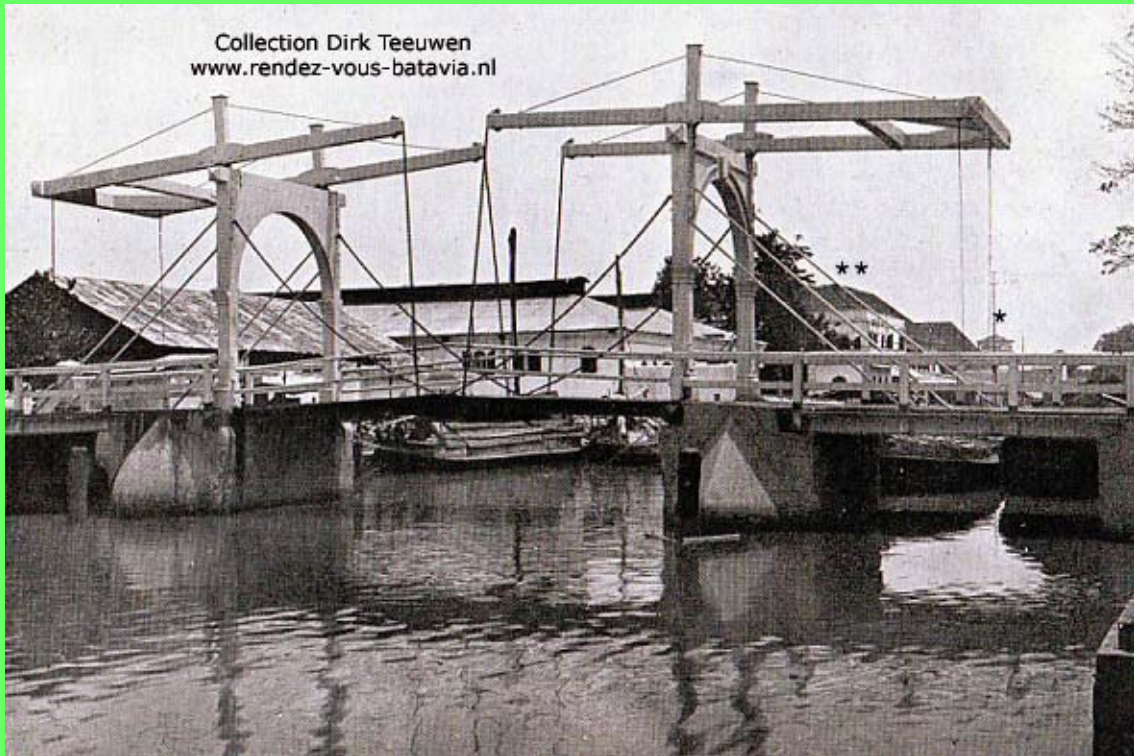
1.8 Kali Besar West in 1920



1.9 Kali Besar to the south in 1870 (more text below)

On picture 1.4 the visitor can see the cupola of the old city hall (Taman Fatahillah) left under the star. The bridge right from the middle of this picture (under the white star) is the Middelpuntbrug (Middle Bridge), now replaced by "Jalan Kopi Bridge". Middle Bridge could not be opened. This fact meant a lot of trouble with regard to the transit of commodities.

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1.10 Hoenderpasarbrug (Chicken Market Bridge), Kali Besar North in 1937
 This bridge is now the only Dutch drawbridge left in Jakarta. Under two stars the "Groote Boom", import-export customs office until 1850. Under one star, also hardly visible the "Uitkijk" or Syahbandar, the Outlook Tower and office of the harbourmaster.



1.11 The custom office "Groote Boom" in 1870, Kali Besar West. On this location now Hotel Omni Batavia can be found. In 1850 a new office was built on the eastern quay of Havenkanaal / Sunda Kelapa

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1.12 Kali Besar, Chicken Market Bridge, to the south in 1909

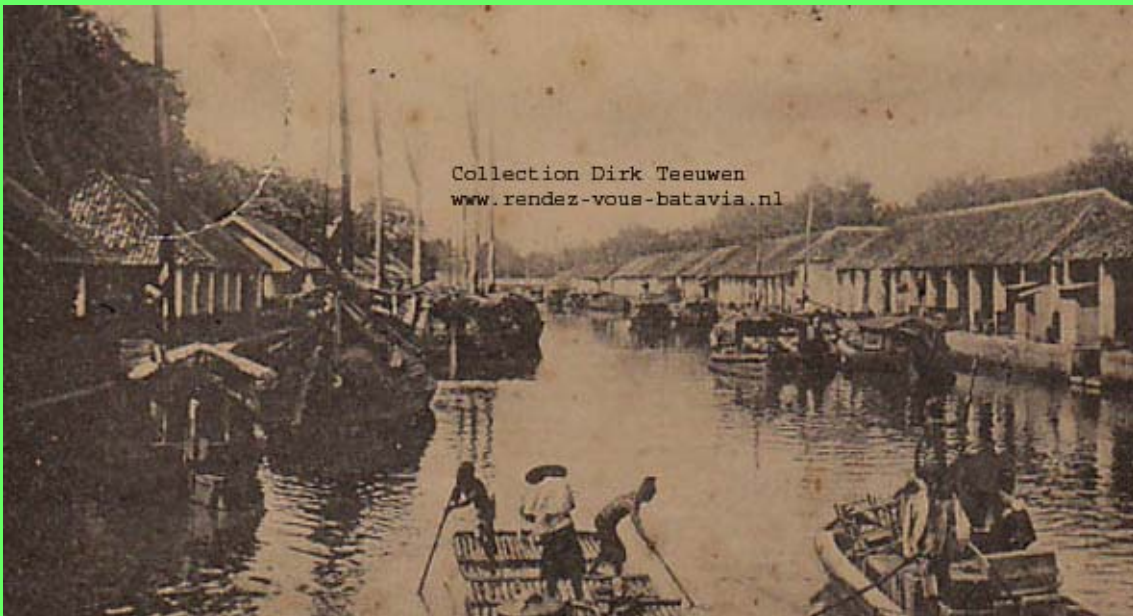


1.13 Kali Besar to the south in 1905

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1.14 Kali Besar to the north in 1916



1.15 Kali Besar to the south in 1890

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2. Kali Besar from the air in 1928 (p 2.1 – p 2.4)



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2.1 To the north in 1928

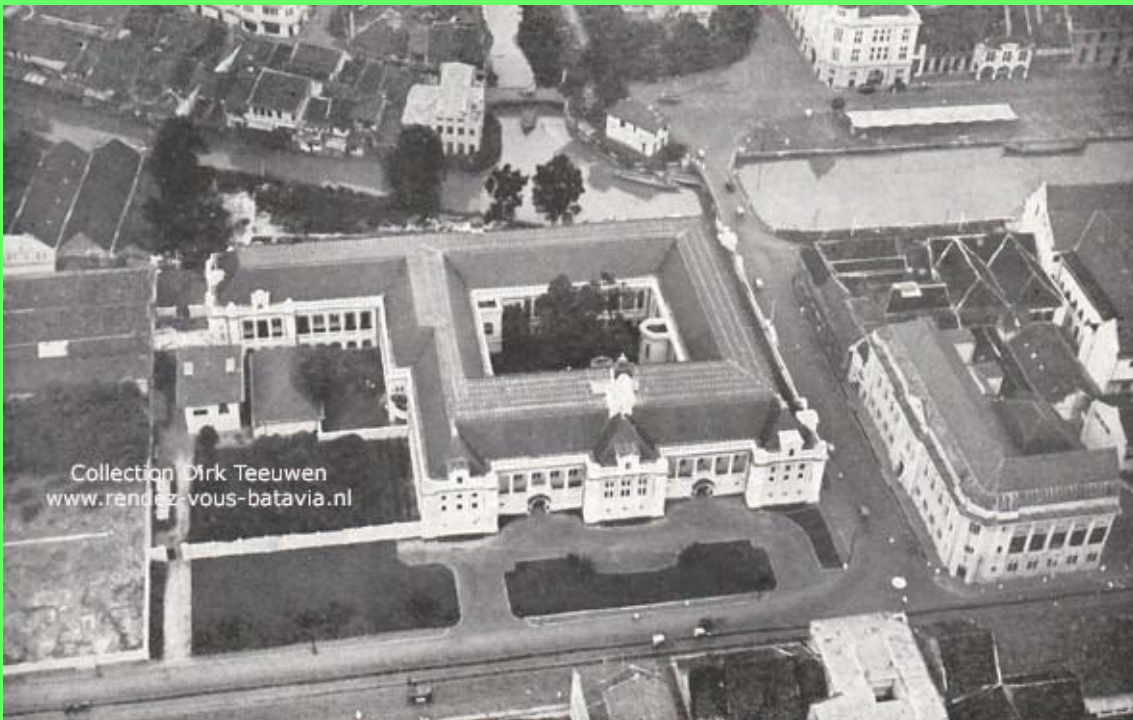


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2.2 Kali Besar, to the south in 1928

Notice the railway station south of the old City Hall. Stasiun Jakarta Kota, as it is there now, has been replaced to the left (east).

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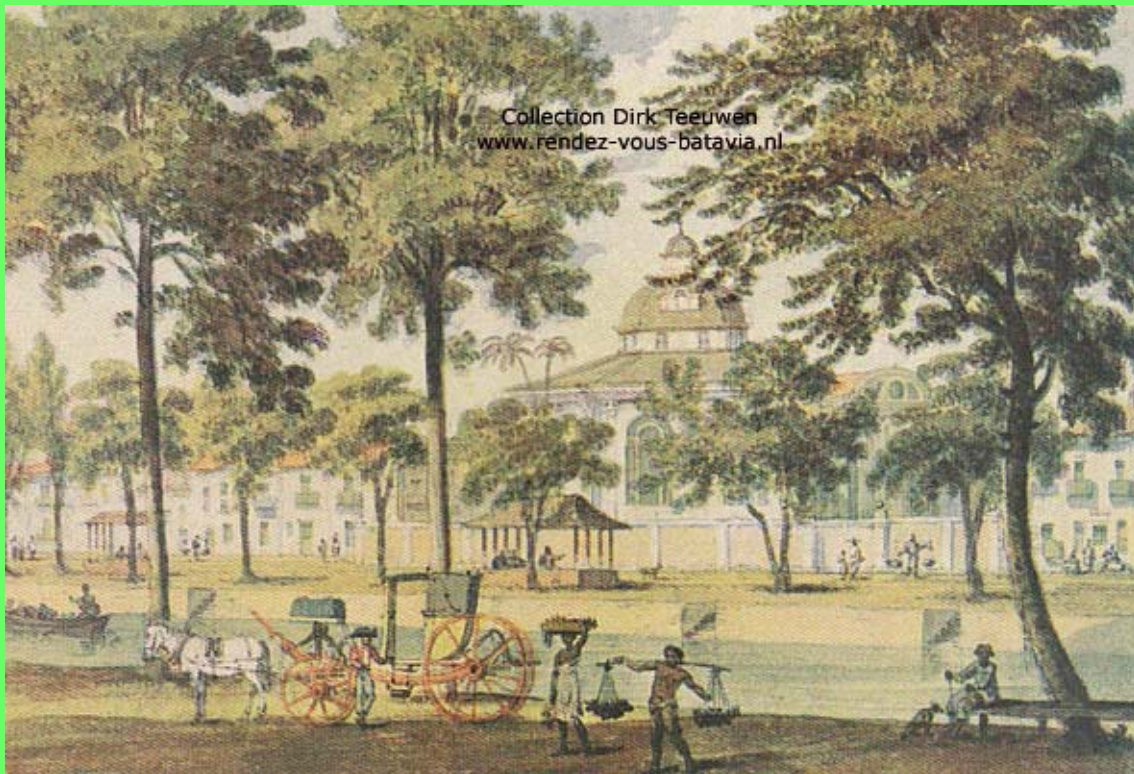
**2.3 Very far Kali Besar East, up right the Chartered Bank, west side
The canal (upper side right) is Ciliwung River / Kali Besar's main stream to
Below in the middle Javasche Bank/ Bank Indonesia, 1928**



**2.4 Kali Besar West in 1928
Far left Toko Merah (partly)**

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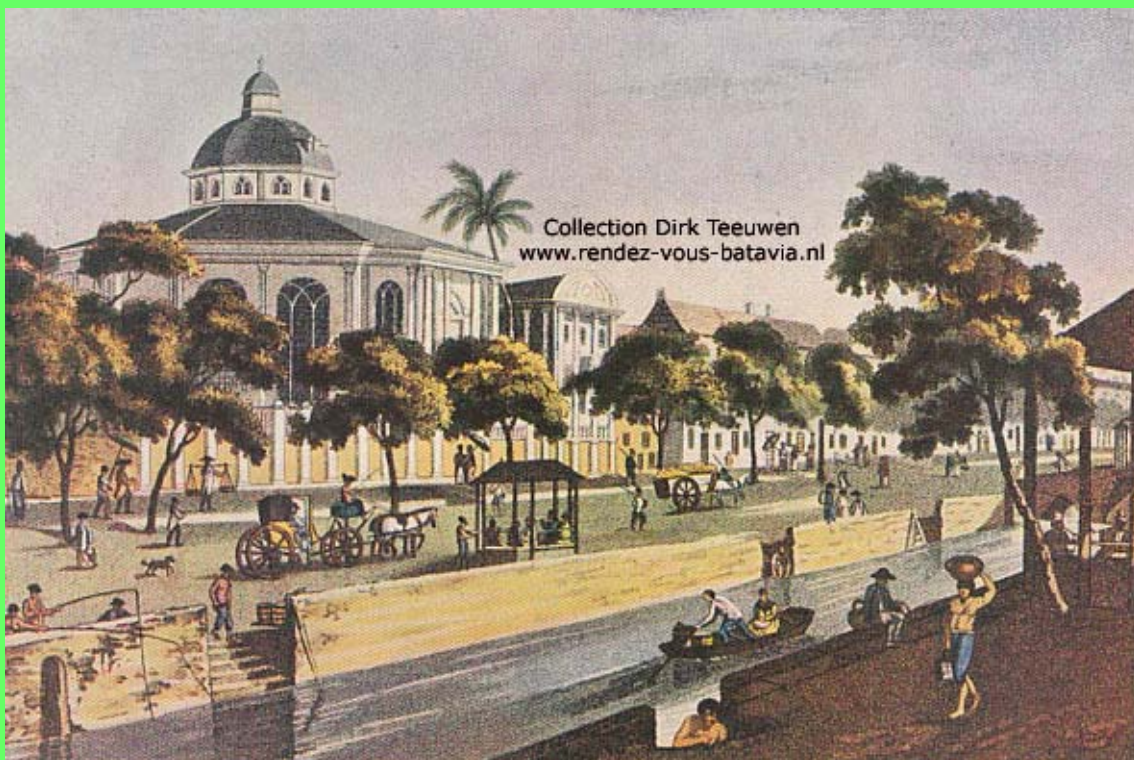
3. Pictures of special historical interest (P 3.1 – 3.4)



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3.1 Kali Besar East, 1795

In the middle: the domed building was the New Dutch Church. The church was demolished in 1808. Now we can find Museum Wayang on the same spot.



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3.2 Kali Besar East, 1780

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3.3 Kali Besar, 1656

In the middle at Kali Besar East the V.O.C.-castle which has been demolished in 1810. Left an old location of Pasar Ikan. Now we can find hotel Omni Batavia on this spot. Opposite Pasar Ikan there is a shipyard (proas and pirigues). A mounted escort leaves the castle. V.O.C. means Dutch East India Company (1600-1800).



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3.4 Mirror image;Havenkanaal / Sunda kelapa and Kali Besar, 1740
 Left is west and right is east.

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4. Old and new, the loss of an historical business quarter (P 4.1 – P 4.10)



4.1 A Dutch house from about 1750 in terrible state along Rua Malaka, to the west of Kali Besar.



4.2 This is all there is left from the “dispens”, food storehouse and food shop, of the former V.O.C.-castle (V.O.C. means Dutch East India Company), demolished in 1810.

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Pictures 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 are together.



4.6 Pierre Heyboer 1978, Kali Besar West (account and source see below)
Comparable picture5.2.

The mercantile houses on P 4.3 and P 4.5 are the same ones. Pictures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 show a lot of similarity. The mercantile house on the picture from 1870 (P 4.4) and the old mercantile houses , P 4.3 and P 4.5, have the same kind of iron columns to prop up the first floor. At the outside of the first floors on each one of these three pictures one can see foursquare panels made from wood. On P 4.4 the windows of the first floor have a bow. On P 4.3 and P 4.5 this is different.

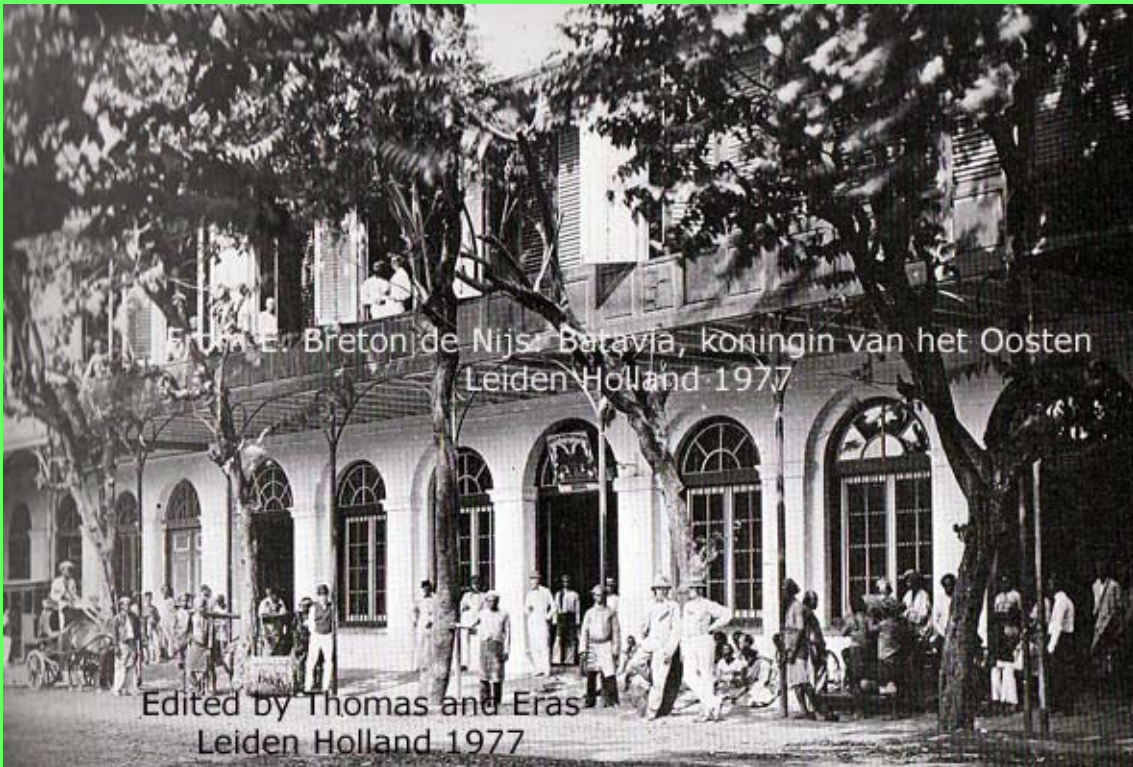
P 4.4 is from "Breton de Nijs, E.: Batavia, koningin van het oosten (Batavia, queen of the east); Leiden, Holland 1977, p. 24 (Leiden: Thomas & Eras, publishers / printers). This book is available in antiquarian bookshops only. It contains a lot of Batavia / Jakarta photographs originally taken by the photographers Woodbury and Page in 1870. The same picture can be found in "Merrillees, Scott: Batavia in nineteenth century photographs; Richmond Surrey England (Curzon Press) 2000, p 61." Scott Merrillees informs us on page 60 of his most wonderful book, that these are the premises of Bahre & Kinder, a German (Saxony) firm.

P 4.4 is published also by "Heyboer, Pierre: Reizen door een onvoltooid verleden tijd; Bussum Holland 1980, p. 19".



4.3 (Pictures 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 are together.)

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4.4 (Pictures 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 are together.)



4.5 (Pictures 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 are together.)

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4.7 Toko Merah, 2006



4.8 North from hotel Omni Batavia, 2006

Beautiful hotel Omni Batavia left, rubbish right. Rendez-vous Batavia emphatically recommends renovation of these old Dutch warehouses!!

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4.9 Hotel Omni Batavia, 2002

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4.10 Front door from 1750, Kali Besar 2002

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5. From the olden days of the Kali: some pictures of old offices (P 5.1 – 5.10)

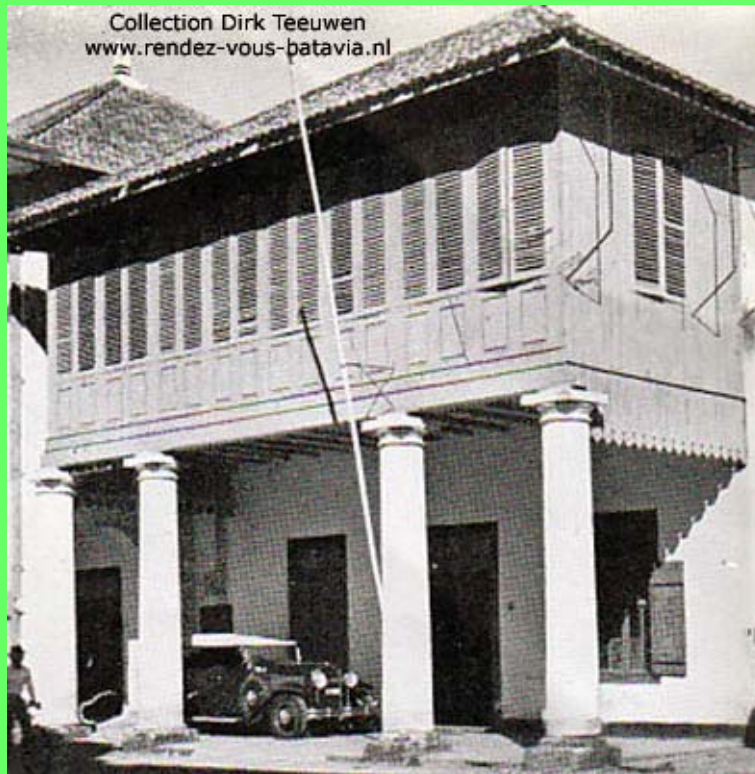


5.1 Office of "Dunlop and Kolff" Brokers, Kali Besar East, 1936



5.2 Office of McLaine, Watson and Company Import Export Insurance, northern end of Kali Besar West, 1936 (See p 4.6.)

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5.3 Office of the "Java Export Maatschappij Batavia", Malakkastraat / Rua Malaka, 1936
Oils, tapiocas, cattle food, hats!



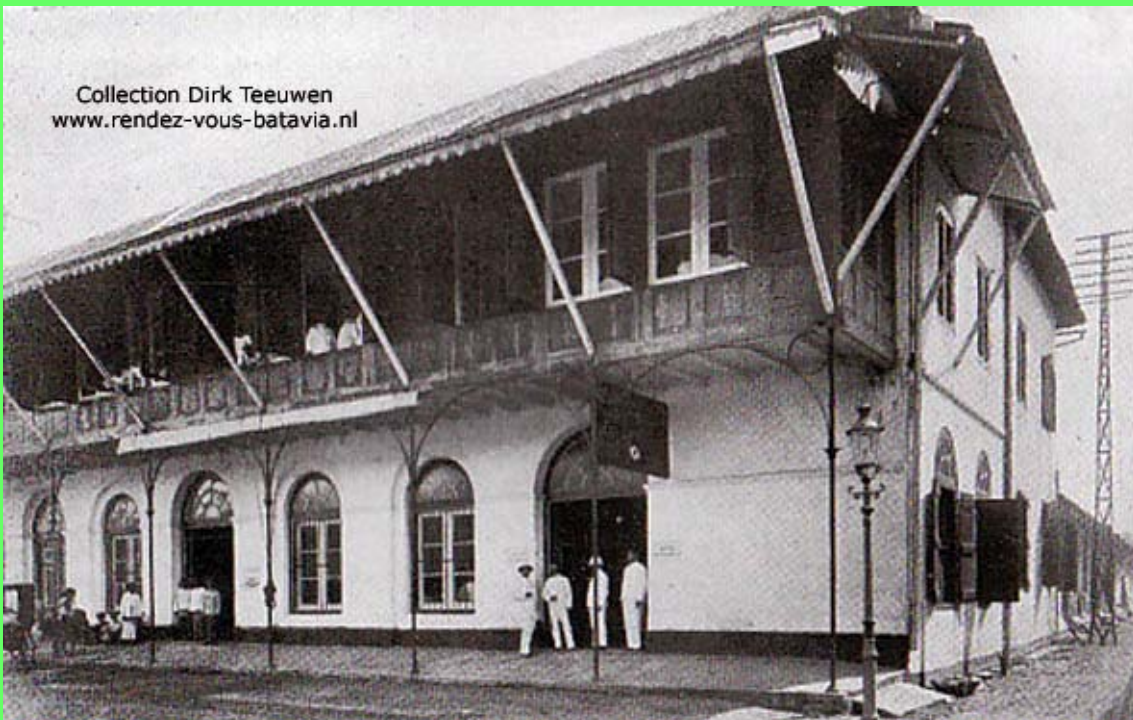
5.4 Office of Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij NHM at Batavia / Jakarta, Kali Besar East, 1910

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Collection Dirk Teeuwen
www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl

5.5 New office of Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij NHM / Bank Impor Expor at Batavia / Jakarta, opposite Station (Railway Station) Oud Batavia / Stasiun Jakarta Kota, 1936



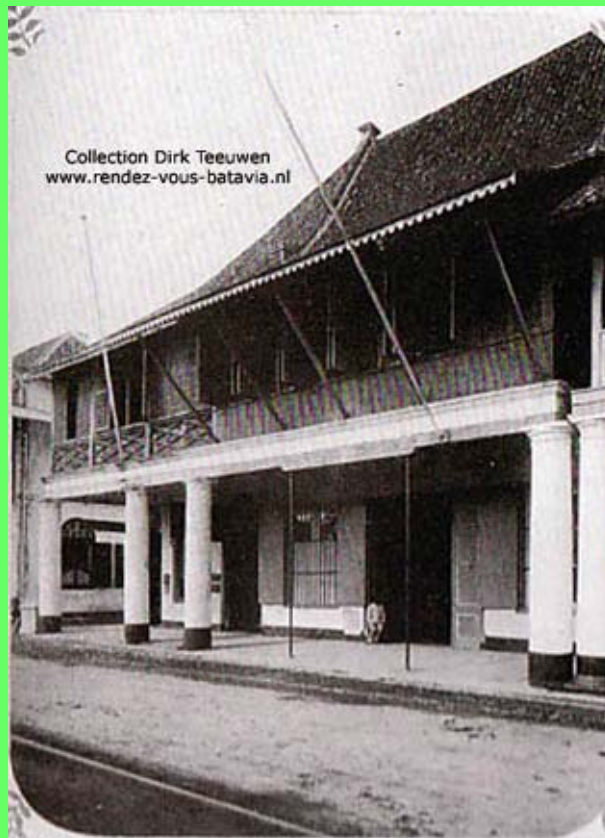
Collection Dirk Teeuwen
www.rendez-vous-batavia.nl

5.6 Scheepsagentuur / Shipping Agency "Rotterdamsche Lloyd", Kali Besar East, 1909

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5.7 Kali Besar East, 1909



5.8 Gumprich and Strauss (import export), Kali Besar West, 1909

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OFFICES OF GUMPRICH AND STRAUSS.

5.9 Gumprich and Strauss (import export), Kali Besar West, 1909



5.10 Office and location unknown, Kali Besar, 1877

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6. Accounts, sources, notes

1. Introductory pictures and aim of the article

- 1.1 Municipality Batavia (yearbook): Batavia als handels-, industrie- en woonstad; Batavia / Jakarta 1936, p. 45
- 1.2 Photo Dirk Teeuwen, 1996
- 1.3 Photo Dirk Teeuwen, 1996
- 1.4 Vries, J. J. de: Jaarboek van Batavia en omstreken (Yearbook of Batavia / Jakarta and vicinity) 1927; Batavia-Weltevreden 1927, p. 552
- 1.5 Photo Dirk Teeuwen, 2006
- 1.6 Photo Dirk Teeuwen, 2006
- 1.7 Vries, J. J. de: Jaarboek van Batavia en omstreken (Yearbook of Batavia / Jakarta and vicinity) 1927; Batavia-Weltevreden 1927, p. 553
- 1.8 Postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
- 1.9 Vries, J. J. de: Jaarboek van Batavia en omstreken (Yearbook of Batavia / Jakarta and vicinity) 1927; Batavia-Weltevreden 1927, p. 553
Kali Besar to the south, Batavia / Jakarta 1870
- 1.10 Elout, C. K.: Indisch dagboek; The Hague Holland 1936, p. 20
- 1.11 Postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
- 1.12 Postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
- 1.13 Postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
- 1.14 Postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
- 1.15 Postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

2. Kali Besar from the air in 1928

- 2.1 Vries, H.M. de: The importance of Java seen from the air; Batavia 1928, p. 49
- 2.2 Vries, H.M. de: The importance of Java seen from the air; Batavia 1928, p. 66
- 2.3 Vries, H.M. de: The importance of Java seen from the air; Batavia 1928, p. 70
- 2.4 Vries, H.M. de: The importance of Java seen from the air; Batavia 1928, p. 30

3. Pictures of special historical interest

- 3.1 Feith, Jhr (Esq.) mr P. R. Feith: Catalogus der verzameling boeken en prenten betrekking hebbende op de stad Batavia; Batavia 1937, nr. 90
Drawing by W. Alexander (1767-1816) 1795
- 3.2 Feith, Jhr (Esq.) mr P. R. Feith: Catalogus der verzameling boeken en prenten betrekking hebbende op de stad Batavia; Batavia 1937, nr. 92
Litho from about 1780, from Bertuch, Kinderbuch ???
- 3.3 Stapel, dr F. W.: Geschiedenis van Nederlandsch-Indië deel/part III; Amsterdam 1939, p. 496
- 3.4 Engraving, mirror image
Feith, Jhr (Esq.) mr (Master of Laws) P. R. Feith: Catalogus der verzameling boeken en prenten betrekking hebbende op de stad Batavia; Batavia 1937, nr. 78d
Engraved by Bergmüller, around 1740. (I don't know anything about him.) Original from > Bergmüller: Batavia, die Haupt-Stadt, Festung und Residenz des Holländischen Gouverneurs am Fluss Iacatra in Ostindien; Augsburg Austria about 1740

4. Old and new, the loss of an historical business quarter

- 4.1 Photo Dirk Teeuwen 2006, Holland
- 4.2 Photo Dirk Teeuwen 2006, Holland
- 4.3 Photo Dirk Teeuwen 2006, Holland
- 4.4 Breton de Nijs, E.: Batavia, koningin van het oosten (Batavia, queen of the east); Leiden, Holland 1977, p. 24 (Leiden: bij Thomas & Eras, publishers / printers)
- 4.5 Photo Dirk Teeuwen 2006, Holland
- 4.6 Heijboer, Pierre: Reizen door een onvoltooid verleden tijd; Haarlem 1980, p. 19
- 4.7 Photo Dirk Teeuwen 2006, Holland
- 4.8 Photo Dirk Teeuwen 2006, Holland
- 4.9 Photo Dirk Teeuwen 2006, Holland
- 4.10 Photo Dirk Teeuwen 2006, Holland

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5. From the olden days of the Kali: some pictures of old offices

5.1 Batavia als handels-, industrie- en woonstad: Municipality Batavia (yearbook); Batavia / Jakarta 1936, p. 239

Office of "Dunlop and Kolff", brokers, Kali Besar East (Timur)

5.2 Batavia als handels-, industrie- en woonstad: Municipality Batavia (yearbook); Batavia / Jakarta 1936, p. 248

Office of McLaine, Watson and Company, northern end of Kali Besar West (Barat)

Import, export, insurance

5.3 Batavia als handels-, industrie- en woonstad: Municipality Batavia (yearbook); Batavia / Jakarta 1936, p. 276

Office of the "Java Export Maatschappij Batavia", Malakkastraat / Rua Malaka

Oils, tapiocas, cattle food, hats

5.4 Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij: Gedenkboek / Memorial Book 1824-1924; Amsterdam 1924,

Picture 26

Office of Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij at Batavia / Jakarta, Kali Besar East 1910

5.5 Gemeente Batavia / Municipality of Batavia: Batavia als handels-, industrie en woonstad / Batavia as a commercial, industrial and residential centre; Batavia 1937, p. 47

5.6 Wright, Arnold, ed.: Twentieth Century Impressions of Netherlands India; London 1909, p. 178
Scheepsagentuur "Rotterdamsche Lloyd"

5.7 Wright, Arnold, ed.: Twentieth Century Impressions of Netherlands India; London 1909, p. 444
Kali Besar East

5.8 Wright, Arnold, ed.: Twentieth Century Impressions of Netherlands India; London 1909, p. 453
Offices of Gumprich and Strauss (import export)

5.9 Wright, Arnold, ed.: Twentieth Century Impressions of Netherlands India; London 1909, p. 453
Offices of Gumprich and Strauss (import export)

5.10 Maurik, Justus van: Indrukken van een totok; Amsterdam 1877, p.128



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End