The Kong Koan Archives of Batavia
Oxford EASL conference
10 September 2015
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Leiden University Library
Kong Koan 公館 Archives 1761-1969

- Arrived in Leiden in 1995, brought by Professor Leonard Blussé
- Organised by Wu Fengbin 吳鳳斌 (Xiamen), continued by Chen Menghong 陳萌紅 (Leiden)
- About 20 m, of which 13 m is catalogued, filmed in 2002, film scanned in 2013-14
- Support from Toyota Foundation, Friends of the Kong Koan Archive, Metamorfoze
Early History

• 1619 first captain (*kapitein*) of the Chinese, later also lieutenants, unsalaried headmen
• 1742 Chinese Council in Batavia, 1750 salaried secretary
• Assisted by ward masters (*wijkmeester*)
Functions

• Indirect rule over the Chinese: proclaiming government regulations, making translations; advisor; registry of Chinese population

• Administering justice: civil and minor criminal cases
Later History

1837: new rank: majoors / mayor
- Prestige diminished around 1900
- Corruption
- Abolishment of opium tax farming
- Deeper Dutch encroachment
- Chinese nationalist movement
- 1930s: abolished in Semarang and Surabaya
- 1942 Japanese invasion, Chinese officers in Batavia detained
- Some functions continued until 1969
Archives

- Minutes of Council meetings between 1787-1964, 32 volumes Chinese, 9 volumes Malay (after 1909-1920)
- Marriage registers 1772-1919, 72 volumes (effective 1717-1919)
- Cemetery registers 1811-1935 (1960s), 22 vols
- Sources of income: sale of land for graves, rent of land for housing
- Large collection of ledgers, account books
- Smaller archives: census, immigration, taxation, schools, temples, vaccination
Published archives


- Two more volumes are expected.
- Malay minutes typed out, not yet published.
- Databases for marriage and cemetery registers (Alden Library, Ohio University)
- Digitised version of minutes, marriage and cemetery registers in Leiden (not public).
Linguistic problems 1

(緞)挨寔嗹，大澹，大淡 (tuan) oe-sít-diên, toā tām, toā tâm, Resident, (tuan) residén
亞寔顛挨寔嗹，副挨寔嗹，副淡 a-sít-tien oe-sít-diên, fu-tâm, Assistent-Resident, asistén-residén
嘧喳勞with 口, bit-cha-la, raad/council (talk, meeting), bicara
公勃低 kong-pút-te, gecomiteerde/commissioner
君厘書 kun-lî-sî, conditions/conditions, kondisi
Linguistic problems 2

甲必丹 kap-pit-tan, kapitein/captain, kapitan
雷珍蘭 luî-tin-lân luitenant/lieutenant, litenan
馬腰 má-io, majoort/major, mayor
默氏 bék-sī, wijkmeester/ward master, bék
朱葛礁 tsu-koah-ta, 
secretaris/secretary, sekertaris
Websites

- [www.leiden.edu](http://www.leiden.edu) or Libraries.leiden.edu, Catalogue, type Kong Koan, then there appears as the first item Collection guide, click View online, scroll down and click the inventory number

- Gallery from [www.kongkoan.nl](http://www.kongkoan.nl)
遵奉

為婚約事

男家何才生年二十一歲
女家王玉娘年二十一歲
媒妁鄭東娘合和琴瑟締結朱陳案

甲必丹全羅珍蘭列位大人前察奪成

註冊存案給照準此

乾隆三十七年四月十一日卽同開年五月十三日

住全羅港內
Other East Indies materials

- Kongsi letters from Borneo (1850-1855)
- Account books 1910-1930
- Translations of Dutch laws (1870-1900)
- Miscellaneous materials