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Colonel Colin Mackenzie and Javanese antiquities (met platen)

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COLONEL COLIN MACKENZIE AND JAVANESE ANTIQUITIES

There has recently appeared in this country a full length biography of Mackenzie in which eight chapters are devoted to the years 1811-13 when he was in Java ¹⁾. The author has relied mainly on the *Journal* kept by Mackenzie ²⁾, and the direct quotations from this manuscript should interest Dutch readers. But generally the account of Mackenzie's activities during those years is most unsatisfactory. There are minor inaccuracies throughout, and at least one serious error. The author cites extensively on pp. 164-7 from what he describes as Mackenzie's "final report" on the findings of the Land Revenue Committee. But this was not the final report, nor indeed written by Mackenzie at all. It was a reply of F. von Winckelmann to queries Mackenzie addressed to him concerning native land tenure ³⁾.

The point of the present communication, however, is not concerned with Mackenzie's work on the Land Revenue Committee, but rather to indicate to Dutch scholars a valuable collection of pencil and ink drawings and several watercolours contained in three volumes in the India Office Library, London. These volumes were not catalogued by Blagden ⁴⁾, but De Haan referred to part of them ⁵⁾.

¹⁾ Mackenzie, W. C., *Colonel Colin Mackenzie: First Surveyor-General of India*, Edinburgh & London, (1952).

²⁾ *Mackenzie Collection, (Private)*, Vol. 14, No. 15, in the India Office Library, London.

³⁾ „*Statistic Memoir on Java — Reply to certain Queries proposed by Lieut. Col. Mackenzie relative to the tenure of Lands, right of possession, services &c prepared by Colonel Mackenzie for Brigadier Von Winkelmann Sept. 1812*”, *Ibid.*, Vol. 13, No. 14.

⁴⁾ Blagden, C. O., *Catalogue of Manuscripts in European Languages Belonging to the Library of the India Office. The Mackenzie Collections*, Volume I, Part. I, Oxford University Press, (1916). See however, Wilson, H. H., *Mackenzie Collection: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Oriental Manuscripts . . .*, Calcutta, (1828), Vol. II, ccxxiii.

⁵⁾ De Haan, F., „*Personalia der periode van het Engelsch bestuur over Java 1811-1816*”, in *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde van Nederlandsch-Indië*, Volume 92, Part IV, p. 603.

The first of the volumes entitled *Antiquities & Costume(s) of Java, 1812-13*, contains over 100 pen drawings, pencil sketches, and one-tone watercolours of various sculptures, stone-reliefs and inscriptions. Many of the subjects appear in Raffles' *History of Java*, Volume II, although they are different drawings. What are possibly more interesting are 31 watercolours illustrating the Javanese life of the period. They are not of the standard of the coloured plates in Raffles' *History*, although occasionally the colourings are as brilliant, and often give a more informal view of native life during the time of the British administration.

Some of the watercolours carry titles, for example:

"Embarkation on the River Solo", February 4, 1812.

"Water Drawers".

"The Vaeroon or Temporary Coffee Stall", May 31, 1813.

"View of the Kampong Batoe Toelies with a Pondoppo or shed near it under which stands a stone Image called Kiai Poerwa Kalie". (Plate 1).

"Ancient Monument & Inscription from Malang with the costume of Muntries (!) & other Official Servants", Bangil April 2, 1812 (Plate 2).

"Buitenzorg Procession of Regents", November 20, 1811.

Some of these were executed by John Gould and John Newman⁶⁾.

Volume II entitled "*A Collection of Monuments, Images, Sculptures &c. illustrative of The Ancient History, Religion & Institutions of the Island of Java and of the Adjacent Isles: Taken under the immediate Inspection & Direction of Lieutenant Colonel Colin Mackenzie in the course of a Tour & of different Excursions through the Island of Java in the years 1811-1812 & 1813*", contains 160 fine pen drawings of similar subjects to those in Raffles' *History*, and repeating in a more finished form many of the drawings contained in the first of the Mackenzie volumes. There are one or two poor watercolours, and a few one-tone paintings of sculptures.

In the third volume *Views, Plans and Maps on the Island of Java*, there are 52 loose drawings of which the majority are rough pencil

⁶⁾ See De Haan p. 603 for a reference to Newman. There is an original letter of Mackenzie's addressed to L. R. Burke written in March 1812 in the *Mackenzie Collection, (Miscellaneous)*, which instructs him to take Newman to Bangil to make various drawings, including a sketch of an inscribed stone „lately arrived from Malang". The watercolour executed by Newman is reproduced here.

Plate 1. The View of Kampong Batoe Toelies was copied by Pedralall.

Plate 2. This Monument is probably the "Minto Stone", so-called because it was sent by Raffles to Lord Minto, Governor-General of Bengal. The Stone was found at Ngéndat, and is 1.61 metres high.

sketches of complete drawings in the other two volumes. However, there are some particularly good plans of Prambanan executed by I. H. D. Knops⁷⁾ under the direction of Major Cornelius⁸⁾ in 1812, and drawing of stone images, inscriptions (including the Batoe Toelis) and plans of the Buitenzorg area by J. Flikkenschild⁹⁾.

For specialists on Javanese antiquities these volumes should prove interesting and perhaps valuable, especially if they happen to contain drawing of antiquities which have since disappeared. They certainly deserve careful examination.

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⁷⁾ See De Haan, pp. 591-2.

⁸⁾ Ibid., pp. 517-522, & 603. See also Raffles, *The History of Java*, London, (1817), Volume II, p. 17, footnote.

⁹⁾ See De Haan, p. 544. It is possible that some of these plans appear in Sophia Raffles' *Antiquarian, Architectural and Landscape Illustrations of the History of Java*, London, (1844), to which I have not been able to refer. But from a list of contents kindly sent to me by Professor dr. W. Ph. Coolhaas of the Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen, I cannot identify any. It is perhaps also worth mentioning as a closing note that there is a volume of Thomas Horsfield's pencil and ink sketches of Javanese antiquities and various native studies in the India Office Library. (*Mss. Eur. F. 54*). This volume includes an interesting watercolour map of Java showing its geological features drawn by Horsfield in 1812, and a very fine folding watercolour measuring about four feet showing a Javanese (religious?) procession.