P. Carey
A new acquisition for the library of the Koninklijk Instituut: transliterated copies of the John Crawford collection of Javanese reports, original letters and land grants from the Yogyakarta court (1772-1812)


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A NEW ACQUISITION FOR THE LIBRARY OF THE KONINKLIJK INSTITUUT:
TRANSLITERATED COPIES OF THE JOHN CRAWFURD COLLECTION OF JAVANESE REPORTS, ORIGINAL LETTERS AND LAND GRANTS FROM THE YOGYAKARTA COURT (1772—1812)

A set of transliterated copies of Javanese reports, letters and land grants originating from the Yogyakarta court and dated between 1772 (A.J. 1698) and 1812 (A.J. 1739) has recently been acquired by the library of the Koninklijk Instituut. These materials, which form part of the John Crawfurd collection in the British Library (London), have been entered as KITLV Or. 504.¹ They were collected by the British official, John Crawfurd, during his first period as Resident in Yogyakarta (1811—14) and were later sold by him to the British Library (then the British Museum) in February 1842.² The documents partly derive from the Yogyakarta Residency Archive and include many of the official replies of Sultan Hamëngkubuwana II (1792—1810/1811—12/1826—28) and the Yogya Crown Prince (later Sultan Hamëngkubuwana III) (1812—14) to John Crawfurd during the turbulent period between November 1811 and June 1812, when the Yogyakarta court was stormed by Raffles. The bulk of the materials, however, come from the secretarial office (gëdhong pacarikan) of the Yogya kraton, which was plundered by the British after the fall of the court.³ Amongst these papers, many of them dealing with administrative affairs in the Sultanate, is an important personal journal kept by the second Sultan and probably used by him as a handbook in making political and legal decisions. It is written on dluwang (Javanese treebark paper), as are some of the other administrative documents, and includes copies of legal texts (padu Pradata, Anggèr Agëng and Angger Arubiru), apanage grants, royal orders on etiquette (awisan dalëm) and copies of treaties between Yogyakarta, the Surakarta courts and the V.O.C.⁴

The documents mentioned above which relate to administrative and political affairs were transliterated in Yogyakarta in 1976—77 by the retired court official and local historian, K.R.T. Puspaningrat. The transliterations were made in connection with a project of the British Academy Oriental Documents Committee to publish historical materials of a non-literary nature. The Javanese MSS. covered by this project include the Crawfurd collection in the British Library and it is proposed
that a detailed descriptive list of this collection together with transliterations of some documents, probably those dealing with political matters, should be published sometime in the next few years. In the meantime, besides the copies deposited in the Koninklijk Instituut Library, various other libraries around the world have received transliterations or microfilms of the originals. A short typed handlist of one of the Crawfurd manuscripts (British Library Additional MS. 12341) has also been prepared and this has been bound with the other transcribed copies. Although this list will be of some help to researchers, it should be noted that the individual documents in the Crawfurd collection were bound in a completely haphazard order when they were received by the British Library and thus follow no chronological or subject arrangement.

Despite this drawback, the papers still constitute an invaluable source for the political, social and economic history of Central and East Java in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Most of the documents are dated and many appear to be originals, for the seals are still visible. Apart from Crawfurd's correspondence with the Yogjakarta court in 1811—12, the other political documents in the collection include letters relating to the Pakêpung (encirclement) episode in Surakarta (1790), relations with the Governors of Java's N.E. coast in Sêmarang (1791—6), a secret report to the Sultan on the disturbances in Cirêbon and the state of Java in c. 1803—6 (BL Add. MS. 12341, f. 125r—126r), and many documents concerning the administration and subsequent revolt of Raden Rangga Prawiradirja III of Madiun in November and December 1810. Even more important than these political sources are the numerous land grants accorded by the first two Yogya Sultans to members of the royal family and to various court officials between c. 1780 and 1812. These afford an insight into the nature of the Javanese apanage system, the enjoyment of usufruct land by court beneficiaries and the administrative changes amongst royal officials during these years. The land grants (piagêm) to the administrators in the eastern outlying provinces (mancanagara) are particularly interesting. These make a clear distinction between cacah urip (populated land) and cacah pëjah (depopulated land) which probably indicates a declining population in those districts in the late eighteenth century. Besides these land grants, there are also long lists of financial allowances to members of the Sultan's family, payments to court santris (men of religion), and various other petty accounts, such as the sums set aside for the upkeep of court hunting lodges (pësang-grahan), which give an impression of the household finance of the Yogya court at this time. In the same context, a number of documents refer to the debts owed by senior Yogya officials to the Sultan and to the periodic payment of interest. This widespread indebtedness seems to indicate that it was one of the means used by the Sultan for maintaining control of his more powerful subjects. Finally, there are various important letters referring to the tribute (pajêg) paid by the members...
of the royal family and the senior officials to the ruler, and the attempts by the Sultan to raise this income by obtaining more detailed cadastral information (see BL Add. MS. 14397, f. 62r). This later led to the Sultan's far-reaching tax revisions (pancas) in 1802 and subsequent years, which caused considerable difficulties in the countryside.7

There are many other minor topics, some of great interest, such as the dispatch of Yogyakarta court santris on pilgrimages to the north coast and to Mecca, which are covered in these papers. None of the documents have been used for research purposes by historians or scholars of Java. They are thus of great potential importance to future researchers. Whilst their effective use will probably have to await the publication of the British Academy list, it is hoped that this short notice will draw the attention of those who are interested in investigating the social, political and economic changes in the princely territories at the turn of the eighteenth century.

NOTES


2 Correspondence relating to Crawfurd's sale of the MSS. to the British Library in 1842 can be found in Bodleian Library (Oxford) MS. Eng. Hist. c. 155, 'Journal of Sir Frederic Madden' (1842), entries of 10 Feb.; 12 Feb.; 16 Feb.; 18 Feb.; 21 Feb.; 23 Feb. and 28 Feb. 1842. Crawfurd was paid £ 230 for the MSS. after he had offered them for sale unsuccessfully in Paris. He does not appear to have used them for his History of the Indian Archipelago (3 vols., Edinburgh, 1820) or for any of his subsequent publications.

3 An account of the plundering of the archive of the Yogya court in June 1812 can be found in BL Add. MS. 12330 (Babad Bëdhah ing Ngayogyakarta), f. 44r, XIII (Pucung), 7. catur di(n)tën dereng tlas pangusungipun mung sarapaning srat binêkta miring Laji këbun

The materials were divided up in the Residency house (Yogya) after they had been examined by Crawfurd and the translator, C. F. Krijgman. The most richly worked MSS. and babads (chronicles) were apparently taken by Raffles, whereas the remainder were divided between Crawfurd and the engineer officer, Col. Colin Mackenzie. Many of the latter are of great interest, see C.O. Blagden, Catalogue of Manuscripts in European Languages belonging to the Library of the India Office. Volume I: The Mackenzie Collections. Part I: The 1822 collection and the Private collection (London: Oxford University Press, 1916), p. xxviii and passim. The Crawfurd coll. in the British Library and the Raffles coll. in the Royal Asiatic Society Library (London) are fully described in Ricklefs & Voorhoeve, pp. 44-84.

4 See Ricklefs & Voorhoeve, p. 47.
The following libraries have received transliterations or copies of the originals: Arsip Nasional library (Jakarta), the library of the École des Hautes Études (VIe section) (Paris) and the British Library (London).

The descriptive list which will be published by the British Academy will be ordered under geographical and subject headings and will be arranged chronologically.

For a description of this cadastral reform, which reduced the size of Yogyakarta cacahs by about 20%, see G. P. Rouffaer, "Vorstenlanden", Encyclopaedie van Nederlandsch-Indië, vol. IV ("s-Gravenhage, 1905), p. 593. Rouffaer did not make use of the Crawfurd MSS. as source materials for writing his article.

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G. J. RESINK

HET VERBOND TUSSEN SULTAN MANGKUBUMI EN DE V.O.C.

In zijn bijzonder waardevolle boek Jogjakarta under Sultan Mangkubumi 1749-1792 heeft Dr. M. C. Ricklefs kennelijk niet altijd even goed weg geweten met belangrijke (rechts)begriffen als "leen" (fief, 73), "Capitulatie" (capitulation, 255), "Resident" (367) en "souvereiniteitsrechten" ("rights of sovereignty", 413), welke begrippen soms zelfs niet in de index voorkomen.

Nu zou er voor mij geen reden zijn om veertig jaar nadat ik voor het eerst in een juridisch vaktijdschrift aandacht heb gevraagd voor die termen en voor het verdrag van Giyanti, waarop het verbond tussen Sultan Mangkubumi en de V.O.C. gegrondvest was (Resink, 1939: dl. 149, 732-775, dl. 150, 1-21; voor de leenverhouding, de Residenten, de Sultanaatsverbanden en het gezantschapsrecht met betrekking tot Yogyakarta tot in deze eeuw toe zie Resink 1976: 463-467), hier daarop terug te komen ware het niet dat mijn beschouwingen toen en later de eindconclusie van Ricklefs over die relatie tussen Yogyakarta en de Compagnie beduidend versterken. Zijn slotsom luidt namelijk dat de "relationship... took the form of alliance rather than dependency" en dat "the Governor General in Batavia was a most serious and respected ally", die echter geen "rights of sovereignty in Mataram" had (Ricklefs 1974: 413).

In bovenbedoeld opstel nu heb ik mede op grond maar toch grotendeels in afwijking van de historische inleiding van P. W. Filets Leidse dissertatie De verhouding der vorsten op Java tot de Ned. Indische Regeering (1895), welk proefschrift Ricklefs ontging, kunnen aantonen dat Nicolaas Hartingh, "plenipotentiaris" der Hoge Regering in Batavia, op het laatste moment in het hem ter onderhandeling medeggeven concept-verdrag wijzigingen heeft aangebracht waardoor Mangkubumi niet aangetast werd in zijn "souvereiniteit", zulks omdat het "ons, daar infractie in willende maken, notoirlijk gehaat" zou maken (zie Resink 1939: dl. 149, 752).