APPENDIX XIII

Letters written by Dipanagara from Batavia (1830) and Makassar (1837)

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The following two letters were probably written by Dipanagara from Batavia before his departure on 3 May 1830.¹ They were addressed to close members of his family and are the only letters known to exist which were written in his hand and not by a scribe. The unusual carelessness of the handwriting, the unnecessary doubling of the letters (aksara) in some places, and the occasional grammatical errors, all confirm Dipanagara's later admission to Lieutenant J.H. Knoerle that 'he wrote Javanese very defectively' (Knoerle to Van den Bosch, 9 July 1830 in De Oosterling, volume 2 (1835), page 172). The originals are on Dutch government paper and were found by the Dutch scholar, J.J. de Hollander, in a file of correspondence between Javanese bupati, post-commanders and Dutch authorities relating to the Java War (1825-1830) in the archive of the Royal Military Academy at Breda. De Hollander published them in Javanese script with Dutch translations in Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde 25:192-6. He retained the original spelling and included copious corrections in his notes which have not been reproduced here. This is the first time the letters have been published in Romanised script with English translations.

(i) Dipanagara to his eldest son, Pangéran Dipanagara the Younger, n.d.

Sawusé salam dunganingsun Kulup Dipanegara marang sira apa déné marang adhinira Basah Mertanegara Basah Gadakusuma apa déné

¹ The letters may have been given to Captain Johan Jacob Roeps to take back to south-central Java when Dipanagara took leave of him on board the Corvette Pollux in Batavia harbour on 3 May 1830, Knoerle, ‘Journal’, 2. A passage in Dipanagara’s autobiography suggests that he gave Roeps special instructions to keep an eye on his children at this time: BD (Manado) IV:320, XLIII (Maskumambang) 272-4. ingsun banget lega yekei sira mulih mring Mentaram. 273. pan dènbisa sirèku ngopèn-opèni/ mring kang kéri pada/ sabab bocah padha meksih/ tanggung pesthi kēh kurangnya. 274. ingkang pikir. Roeps' departure on leave for Holland in July 1830 may have meant that he was never able to deliver the letters, see Louw and De Klerck 1894-1909, II:283 note 2.
adhinira kabèh aja padha mikir marang ingsun sawab ingsun wos dadi karemnaningsun bakal sun tutugaken olé ingsun lelana karu déné manahé Sibèng Jayakusuma bangten temen welasing sun iku yèn pareng padha sarjuné duaupna karu adhènira Basah Gadakusuma aja tanggung olèhira dowé sadulur apa déné olé ingsun duwé anak apa déné sira kabèh wus aja na kuwatir sawab wus sun titepaké marèng Gupermèn karo déné manahé pamanira Kapitan Rup iku bangeng pracayaningsun wekasingsun marang sira Dipanegara Mertanegara Gadakusuma yèn ana keng dadi kasusahan atènira becik pamanira Kapitan sira ajak kar erembungan.

English translation:

After my greetings and prayers to you my son, Dipanagara, and also to your younger brothers Basah Mertanagara and Basah Gandakusuma and to all your younger brothers and sisters, do not concern yourselves about me because I am well content to continue my wanderings. Moreover, for your younger sister, little girl Jayakusuma, great indeed is my heart’s concern. If they agree to it, marry her to your younger brother Basah Gandakusuma. Do not neglect to care for your siblings, my children, and do not be concerned, all of you, for I have entrusted you to the [Dutch] government. Furthermore, my heart has the fullest trust in your uncle Captain [Johan Jacob] Roeps and I order you Dipanagara, Mertanagara and Gandakusuma that if there is anything troubling your hearts, it is good that you ask advice from your uncle the Captain.

(ii) Dipanagara to his mother, Radèn Ayu Mangkarawati, n.d.

Sampuning sembah kula ingkang kathah-kathah katura ing sampéyan

2 Ali Basah Ngabulkamil Mertanagara (earlier Lurah Jayapermadi) was the eldest son of Radèn Adipati Danureja II (in office 1799-1811) by an unofficial wife, Mas Ayu Pulangyun. He followed Dipanagara throughout the war and by the end had become one of his most trusted advisers, especially after his marriage to one of Dipanagara’s daughters, Appendix IV. He was later an influential figure at the Yogya court and was close to the Crown Prince, Pangéran Mangkubumi (later Hamengkubuwana VI, reigned 1855-1877). But this influence was tempered by general revulsion at his immoral behaviour, Dj.Br. 18, Valck, ‘Geheime Memorie’, 31-3-1840; Appendix IV, pt. 1 note 5.

3 Ali Basah Abdul Mahmud Gandakusuma (earlier Lurah Sukapja) was a younger brother of the above. He also became a trusted adviser and army commander of Dipanagara at the end of the Java War, but declined marriage with Dipanagara’s widowed daughter, marrying instead the favourite sister of Hamengkubuwana V, Mandoyokusumo 1977:38 no. 8. He later became patih of Yogya with the title Radèn Adipati Danureja V (in office 1847-1879), after serving for long as senior administrator of the royal domains (bupati pamajegan-Dalem).

4 On Radèn Ayu Jayakusuma see Appendix IV.