

# History of the Archives

G.L. Balk, F. van Dijk, D.J. Kortlang

*Translation by Rosemary Robson-McKillop, BA (Hons)  
Sydney*

Little is known about the fortunes of the archives in the era of the High Government. They were kept in Batavia Castle, the seat of the High Government and for a long time the residence of the Governors-General. As the result of various wars almost nothing at all survives of the pre-1620 documents.<sup>1</sup> On 29 July 1641, The High Government passed a resolution decreeing that all the old papers which were present in a locked Portuguese chest in the office of the Governor-General be 'visited' (examined) by a committee led by Pensionary J. Maetsuycker. Responsibility for the archive rested with the Chief Clerk of the General Secretariat. After 'flaws and imperfections' had been ascertained, in 1735 this responsibility was handed over to two archivists, the Merchant Gerardus Kluysenaar and Assistant Carel Anthony le Vasseur de Rocques.<sup>2</sup> They were ordered to compare those lists which had already been compiled with the actual state of affairs. In 1739 the archive cupboards and the rooms in which they stood were filled to overflowing and a former warehouse was cleared to serve as the archive room.<sup>3</sup> By 1768, this room was also brimful and it was decided to destroy the duplicates (the minute letters to the branch offices, the daily index on the minutes, the enclosures and so forth).<sup>4</sup>

In 1770 an inventory of all the archive documents was compiled, and while this was being done, a record was made of all the documents 'damaged by white ants and other vermin' which could be destroyed.<sup>5</sup> In the course of the eighteenth century the work of the General Secretariat increased to such an extent that the Chief Clerk to the High Government submitted a remonstrance containing a request asking that the number of scribes (then around thirty-four) in the General Secretary be increased. Among the matters reported by the Chief Clerk was that the number of chapters of the *Korte Notulen* (Short Minutes) had expanded from 51 to 261 in the span of one century. In 1781, those records which had suffered insect damage were once again weeded out.<sup>6</sup> In 1791 the secretary once more submitted a memorandum about the work in the writers' office where an enormous back-log had built up. He also remarked that the supervision of the archive left a great deal to be desired.

He thought it high time the archivists compiled an inventory.<sup>7</sup> Two years later, this inventory was presented in 1793. At that juncture it was again decided to get rid of unusable documents (especially the correspondence with the branch offices).<sup>8</sup> On 8 May 1801, the High Government appointed a commission 'to take stock of the archive and library of this Government'. Once again this commission advised disposing of the unusable papers (in particular correspondence received from the branch offices, the enclosures to the resolutions 1678-1797, and documents submitted by the director of fortifications, buildings, and waterworks, F. Reimer) be destroyed.<sup>9</sup> But the new (very incomplete) inventory was available only in 1804 and it greatly displeased the High Government.<sup>10</sup>

The arrival of Governor-General Daendels ushered in the winds of change. Daendels had little affinity with archives. As far as he was concerned the rag paper was excellent material for manufacturing blank cartridges for the army exercises. In 1808 he abolished the position of archivist. He also thought the number of clerks in the writers' office could be drastically reduced. Consequently, when Batavia Castle was demolished, there was an enormous spring-cleaning of the archives which were kept there. Evidence of this is available in the inventory of the documents to be found there compiled at the behest of the English Government in 1812 (see inv. nrs. 4481-4482 *Archief Hoge Regering*).

In the period of the English Interregnum (1811-1816) and thereafter, the Reverend P. Wedding (librarian of the *Bataviaasch Genootschap*) was the official keeper of the archive, but in actual fact between 1816 and 1826 this work was assumed by the Clerk of the Archive, D.A. Tempel. By Decree No. 19 of the 19 February 1819, the old archives were placed under the direct supervision of the General Secretary. This situation remained unchanged up to 1892 when the National Archivist, Van der Chijs, was appointed. In 1819, it was also decided to remove all the older Dutch records from Government House on the Molenvliet to the attics of the Provisions Store (*Provisiemagazijn*, the Eastern and Western Warehouses) in the lower city. In 1825, Tempel produced what might pass as an inventory of these transferred archives.<sup>11</sup>

In response to a recommendation made by Commissioner the Reverend G. de Serrière, the archives were split up. In 1825, one part which was considered might still be of importance to the administration was moved back again to the premises of the General Secretariat,<sup>12</sup> first in Rijswijk and then in 1827 on Waterlooplein. The rest was left to its fate and after Tempel retired in 1826 no longer had any keeper. In 1832 Commissioner Van Schmidt compiled an inventory of the archival documents in the General Secretariat. As had the old archive of the General Audit Office (and also perhaps the archive of the College of Aldermen and the notarial records from the attic of the former town hall), in 1822 this had been transferred to warehouses in the lower town. In the period 1832-1827, an inventory of this archive was compiled, but this was also eventually lost. In view of the fact that it referred to a 'copious volume' and the archive which still survives is highly fragmentary, it may be assumed that there were some archival documents described in the inventory which had nothing at all to do with the General Audit Office. In this same period, the archives from former possessions 'on the mainland of India' (now the Archive of Dutch Possessions in India) were transferred to Batavia. A significant quantity of them was later transported to The Hague (as was the older part of the archive of the factory in Japan).<sup>13</sup> In 1837, the General Secretariat established a Statistics Bureau (renamed Historical Bureau in 1858) and among its tasks was to collect all manner of archival documents which would be needed for the study of the Netherlands Indies. However, it tended to concentrate primarily on post-1816 material. In the period which followed both W.R. Baron van Hoëvell and P.P. Roorda van Eysinga made pleas arguing that a National Archivist should be appointed and that the old archives should be better looked after. These addresses fell on deaf ears.<sup>14</sup> In 1854 Van Hoëvell made yet another attempt, this time as a member of the Second Chamber of Parliament he sketched the deplorable state of the archives in Batavia. In fact, he was talking about the archives in the keeping of the General Secretariat, and not the sadly neglected files in the attics of old warehouses.

In 1860, Jacob Anne van der Chijs, former inspector of native education in the Netherlands Indies was finally given a joint commission with H.D. Levyssohn Norman to investigate the importance of a huge amount of archival material which was stored in the attics of various warehouses. After some time, they had to admit defeat because of the 'intolerable heat in the

afore mentioned attics'. However, in 1862 and 1863 fifteen chests containing archive material were dispatched to the Netherlands (the present collections of the High Government, the Bookkeeper General, and the College of Aldermen in the *Nationaal Archief* in The Hague) and there were plans afoot to send all the old archives to the Netherlands. This plan was thwarted by the *Bataviaasch Genootschap*. At the end of 1872 the Governor-General appointed a commission headed by N.P. van den Bergh to commence an investigation into the historical value of the government archives stored in warehouses. Everything judged worthy of being preserved during the preliminary investigation was taken to one of the buildings of the *Bataviaasch Genootschap* on Koningsplein (King's Square). The commission presented an inventory on 31 December 1872.<sup>15</sup>

By a decree issued by the Government of the Indies on 29 May 1880, the lawyer J.A. van der Chijs was recommissioned to 'catalogue and classify' the old archive<sup>16</sup> dating from the period 1602-1816 in collaboration with Messrs D. Koorders, N.P. van den Berg, and L.W.G. de Roo. The inventory, which was published in 1882, was the fruit of the tremendous effort made by Van der Chijs.<sup>17</sup> In the introduction to the inventory he describes the state of utter chaos in which he found the archive. He gave all bundles and volumes, 18,387 in total, a provisional number, and only then did he put them in order and number them definitively.

As a matter of fact, the inventory contains no numbering and was in fact a confused mixture of an inventory and a catalogue. The principles Van der Chijs adopted in his arrangement and description of the archive dated from before the basic principles for archive work introduced by the Dutchmen Muller, Feith, and Fruin in 1898: the principle of provenance ('respect for the sources') and the 'destination principle'. Van der Chijs interpreted the concept of 'origin' of the archival documents in a completely different, idiosyncratic manner. In his introduction he says: 'As a rule it has been decided to give the documents a number according to their place of origin, for example letters from Batavia to Bantam under the classification Batavia and vice versa, letters from Bantam to Batavia under the classification Bantam...'. As a child of his time, Van der Chijs was interested in subjects and not in creators of archives which are used in modern archive science to determine the structure of an inventory.

Despite the objections which may be raised against the principles adopted by Van der Chijs, it has to be acknowledged that it is thanks to his enormous efforts and to his having taking care of

the archive as it existed at his time it is still here today. For instance, he ensured that in order to protect them all loose papers were bound. Moreover, Van der Chijs was conscious of the fact that his work was far from finished: 'Therefore this inventory should be considered as nothing more than a provisional one...'. On 28 January 1892, Van der Chijs was appointed the first 'national archivist' of the Indies by Government decree.

His successors did little to continue the classification of the conglomeration of the VOC archives described by Van der Chijs. However, in the archive of the High Government a large number of volumes containing incoming and outgoing correspondence were provided with tables of contents (in pencil). The National Archivist F. de Haan (1905-1922) extracted around 1200 maps and drawings from the old archive, thereby creating the De Haan Collection. He also compiled a placement list of the baptismal, marriage, and funeral registers which was handed over to the National Archive in 1917. A great number of volumes and parts of volumes were also rebound, which was a not unimportant step for their preservation. The Deputy Archivist Bloys van Treslong Prins did great service in making all sorts of series (wills, baptismal, marriage, and burial registers) more accessible from a genealogical point of view; the famous collection consists of some 400,000 index cards.

In 1925 the archives were moved to a new location the former country estate of Governor-General De Klerk. The upper storey and the old slave quarters were renovated to make an archive depot. In the Japanese period the archives remained relatively undamaged. The Acting National Archivist, Ph. E. Coolhaas, could only assume responsibility for it again in July 1947 and he continued to exercise this function until the Transfer of Sovereignty in 1949. Since then, the Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia (ANRI) has been in charge of the archives from the VOC period.

The archives described in this collective inventory were moved from the Reinier de Klerk House in 1975 and taken to a new archive location in Jalan Ampera Raya. ANRI has prepared a series of placement lists and inventories for parts of the archival documents which were described in Van der Chijs' inventory, including a large number of series which once together formed the archive of the High Government, and for almost all of the other archives which were included in Van der Chijs' inventory. This has indeed sometimes facilitated the accessibility but the efforts have not restored the internal cohesion

between the series in the context of the archive of the High Government.<sup>18</sup>

## Compiling the Inventory of 2001-2006

### *The Motive*

In September 2000 the Director-General of ANRI and the Director of the *Nationaal Archief* of the Netherlands, signed a co-operative agreement for the purpose of improving the preservation and the accessibility of the Dutch-language archives in ANRI which date from the seventeenth to the twentieth century. The agreement also provided for the training of a group of archivists from ANRI in the Dutch language, Dutch palaeography, archive science (ISAD), and the institutional knowledge needed for managing archives. Archivists from the *Nationaal Archief* were sent on secondment to Jakarta to carry this programme out. On 1 May 2001 the reconstruction of the archive of the Governor-General and Councillors of the Indies (the High Government), which forms the backbone of the VOC archive in Jakarta, was commenced. The collaboration has led to the present collective inventory of the archives of the *Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie* and the local administration(s) of Batavia and covers the period 1612-1811.

### *Method*

#### The Archives of the High Government and the High Commission

The inventory compiled by Van der Chijs and the later sub-inventories made by ANRI did not provide access which met modern requirements. Therefore the chief purpose of this re-inventorization was seeking out and describing all the archive material which pertained to the archive of the Governor-General and Councillors of the Indies and their successors (High Government) throughout the period 1612-1811, thereby reconstructing this archive. The quality of the inventory and of the storage of the archive materials had to comply with internationally recognized standards.

Three dates are of importance pertinent to the establishment of the High Government in what was then Bantam (and from 1619 Batavia). On 1 September 1609, the Heren XVII (, the Board of Directors of the VOC in the Netherlands) decided that a Governor-General should be appointed in the Indies (Asia) and, on 14 November of that same year, the same board decreed that a Council of the Indies (Asia) should operate alongside the

Governor-General. The actual appointment of the first Governor-General, Pieter Both, was made by the States-General on 27 November 1609. The oldest (original) document dates from 28 April 1612 and is a letter received from the Gentlemen Seventeen (inv. nr. 2678).

As the cut-off date for the remaking of the inventory, 11 September 1811 was chosen. In the Netherlands, the old VOC structure had already been drastically altered some time earlier with the arrival of the French army of occupation, but continuity in the Indies was much more marked. Nevertheless, on 11 September 1811 the former administrative organizations were abolished through the intervention of the English who had conquered Java a short while earlier and had declared the territory part of the Honorable East India Company. Therefore it is this date which marks the definitive end of the VOC, in particular the eclipse of the High Government, the linchpin of the VOC in Asia for more than two centuries.

As is usual, the re-inventorization commenced with such general series as the minutes, resolutions, *besognes* (resolutions dispatched to branch offices), daily journals, incoming and outgoing correspondence, and the contemporary keys to these series. These series were fairly easy to locate in the depot, but during the making of the inventory it was not long before it became apparent that many of the documents had not been properly described in the past and had been incorrectly edited, wrongly dated, with a misleading ontogenesis or outward appearance. A large number of collections in which the archival documents had also been lumped together under one subject such as 'Batavia', 'Government', 'Militaria', 'Voyages/Journeys', and 'Varia' and these were combed through in search of archive material pertaining to the High Government. The material discovered was physically removed from the collections and described in the new inventory. Pertinently, the maps and drawing in the De Haan Collections, which fell into this category, were described in the new inventory, but on account of their special storage were not removed from the De Haan Collection. In total thirty-eight collections of archive material were transferred to the reconstructed archive and the new inventory of the High Government. For the most part the meant the end of what were known as subject collections. (See Appendix 9 for a list of the lapsed inventories).

When this sifting stage had been accomplished, the archival documents were described by the project staff. They noted not just the archival characteristics, but also material damage. In making the descriptions, the Dutch tradition and

the International Standard for Describing Archives ISAD(G) was followed. In the editorial work, the regular Dutch archive terminology was used. The familiar old designation *resoluties* for decrees was maintained but, for instance, the antiquated, less familiar term *realia* was replaced by *repertorium* (index, table, catalogue). Most of the descriptions have been subject to the new editing to which the old term has been added in parenthesis. The archival descriptions were then checked and entered in a relational data base which was later converted to XML, using the international standard Encodes Archival Description (EAD). After this, the described documents were packed in acid-free files and boxes.

During the compilation of the inventory, not least because of the researches of the staff, a great deal of attention was devoted to the elucidations to the classifications and collective descriptions in the series. These elucidations facilitate the ease with which the inventory can be used and contain information on such matters as the relationship between the various series, the methods of contemporary (earlier) entries, and the global content.

Those archival documents which were the product of the combined meetings of the High Government with the High Commission (the Commissioners-General S. Nederburgh and S. Frijkenius) in the period 1793-1799 are described in the inventory of the High Government, although it is no longer possible to ascertain if the documents were indeed once part of the archive of the High Government or were from the archive of the High Commission. A separate inventory was made of the archive of the High Commission.

#### Other Archives in Jakarta

The methods described were also applied to the archives of the notaries, the College of Aldermen, the Court of Justice, the Orphan Chamber, and the Trustees of Deceased Estates. All the documents which could not be placed in these designated archives have been put in a collection entitled 'Loose Documents'. This collection has not been included in the present inventory, because the composition will change in the course of the years as a consequence of the re-inventorization of other archives and collections held in ANRI. Not included in this collective inventory are the collections Overseas (*Buitenland*) (archival documents from branch offices outside Indonesia) and the Family Papers Collection (a collection built up by the Deputy-National Archivist Bloys van Treslong Prins, principally derived from testamentary records

from the Orphan Chamber). It was also decided not to transfer those documents from the High Government kept in what are known as the regional archives. This enormous collection of archival documents lumped together by province contains a mixture of documents from the VOC and from the nineteenth century in a virtually inextricable confusion and separate inventories should be made of these.

Deviating from the usual cut-off date for the VOC period (1811, respectively 1816) the inventories of the ecclesiastical archives continue up to 1855 (see Niemeijer about the Ecclesiastical Boards), that of the notarial records relating to the outer areas to 1828 and the retroactive civil registry to 1827 (the inception of the Civil Registry).

### Project Staff

The archivists at ANRI who were involved in compiling the inventory of the archives of the High Government and the Notaries were: Dra. Dwi Mudalsih, Dwi Nurmaningsih, Dra. Esti Kartikaningsih, Dra. Euis Shariasih, Isye Djumenar, Iyos Rosidah, Dra. Kris Hapsari, Drs. Langgeng Solistyo Budi, Mira Puspita Rini, Drs. Risma Manurung, Sutiasni, Triana Widyaningrum, Drs. Sunarto, Syarif Usman and Dra. Widiyanti.

The member of depot staff who assisted were: Adip Nurdiana, Ahmad, Edi Mardiyanto, Endang Suhendar, Hardy, Isro Aliudin, Ma'mun, Nadi, Riswanto, Sahidi, Satimin, Suhardi, Supryadi, Sutarno, Suwono, Tasum and Wakidjo.

The ANRI archivists who worked on the inventories of the other archives were: Risma Manurung, Dwi Nurmaningsih, Triana Widyaningrum, Kris Hapsari and Euis Shariasih. The last-mentioned also compiled inventories on their own: Drs Manurung the archive of the *Amphioen* Society; Mrs Nurmaningsih the Batavia District Council (*College van Heemraden*); Mrs Widyaningrum the Auction Office and the General Audit Office, and Mesdames Hapsari and Shariasih the Engelhard Collection.

The co-ordination and coaching of the compilation work of the inventories of the High Government and the High Commission were undertaken by the archivists Louisa Balk and Frans van Dijk, who were seconded to Jakarta from the *Nationaal Archief* in the Netherlands from 2001 to 2003. For the other archives, this work was done from 2003 to 2007 under the leadership of the subsequent seconded archivist Diederick Kortlang.

### Related Archives in the Netherlands

In the nineteenth century several archives and sections of archives were transferred from the Netherlands Indies to the Netherlands. In the case of the notarial records and parts of the archive of the College of Aldermen, there is a relevant reference in the inventories themselves. This was not the case with the archive of the High Government. The archive holding of the Orphan Chamber in Batavia to be found in the *Nationaal Archief* in The Hague contain no documents which pertain to the Orphan Chamber in Jakarta, but are copies sent to the Netherlands. Parts of some archives have also ended up in the Royal Institute for Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) in Leiden (the Netherlands).<sup>19</sup>

### The Material Condition

#### Archives of the High Government and High Commission

Since the 1970s many volumes and parts of volumes have been laminated by ANRI. This entails pasting heated synthetic oil on the pages. This was carried out on the series minute-decrees, general and secret decrees, appendices to the general decrees, and the daily journals. The softeners in the synthetic oil later caused some of the pages to stick together. This restoration technique did not halt the decay. Under the laminate the ink damage was not halted and the ink continued to fade. Moreover, during these operations a large number of bundles and sections of pages were incorrectly bound, that is to say upside-down and in the wrong place or one or the other. A number of volumes and parts of volumes still contain the original parchment binding dating from the VOC time (for instance the series *net-generale besoignes*, final-general proceedings).

During the re-inventorization from 2001 to 2007 the nature of the damage (binding and cover damage, mechanical damage, chemical damage, insect damage, and damp damage) and the seriousness of this damage (none, moderate, serious) was noted on forms. The category serious was applied to those documents of which the condition was so bad that any consultation by users could lead to irrevocable loss of information. These data became the basis for the list of priorities for the ANRI restoration programme. Determinants for a place on this list were: the uniqueness of the document, the 'importance'. And the technical possibility of restoration in the case of very seriously damaged documents.

## Other Archives

Generally speaking, what has been said of the lamination treatment and its consequences can also be applied to the other archives. To some extent the archive of the church communities form an exception as, even in the eighteenth century, the church had already taken measures to protect its archives. In the period 2005-2006, one part of the church archive was restored. Nevertheless, a large part of this archive is suffering from ink deterioration and acidification.

## The Completeness

### Archive of the High Government

The present archive of the High Government certainly does not contain the whole sum of the administration that it once did. The present inventory reveals only a meagre representation from the seventeenth century, a reasonable representation from the eighteenth century, and an abundant representation from the nineteenth century. Van der Chijs said that, as far as size was concerned, the archive of the Government in the period 1602-1816 had originally been much more extensive (three to four times so) than what he found in 1880. To some extent this incompleteness can be explained by the transference of sections to the *Rijksarchief* (now the National Archive) and the KITLV in the Netherlands. In the foregoing description of the fortunes of the archives, the reasons for the physical disappearance have already been mentioned: warfare, climate, removals, insects, deliberate destruction, and ink damage caused by the use of oak gall to make ink.

The loss continued even after Van der Chijs, because many of the documents he described in 1882 were not found during the re-inventorization between 2001 and 2007. One part of the lost archive material has been absorbed into the collection 'Provincial Archives' in ANRI and this was possibly also the fate which befell other parts. Earlier it was mentioned that the Provincial Archives contain material from the VOC era and from subsequent periods. This material, which was produced in or is connected to the former branch offices in the Indies Archipelago, was in fact catalogued not by origin or archive-former but thematically per geographical subject. (See Appendix 7 for a list of these archives).

## Other Archives

All the other archives in the present collective inventory are also incomplete. The first and

foremost reason is that throughout the centuries they have succumbed to the tropical climate and the insects. It can be deduced from older inventories that, in the eighteenth century, large sections from the archives were destroyed because they had been attacked by white ants among other pests. Some of the notarial records which disappeared were simply. In the nineteenth century parts of the archives of the College of Aldermen were transferred to the Netherlands. The archives of the Trustees of Deceased Estates and the Batavia District Council are only a fraction of what they once were.

## Directions for the User

### Researching the Archive of the High Government

The archive of the High Government is largely built up of 'general', chronologically arranged series. 'General' means that the documents cover more than one subject. The back bone consists of the large series of minutes, resolutions (decrees), appendices to the resolutions, *besognes* (decrees affecting the branch offices), announcements/proclamations, daily journals and the various series of incoming and outgoing correspondence (*missiven*). This series is partially accessible using contemporary (compiled by the VOC) tables of contents, indexes, and *repertoria* (elaborated indexes). The archive is supplemented by a quantity of loose documents which at on time or another were taken out of this series.

In the inventory the following specific descriptions are used<sup>20</sup>: **algemeen/general** referring to more than one subject, **bijzonder/specific** referring to one single subject, **general** (ordinary/regular) and **secret** (secret, classified).

The bulk of the documents in this archive are written in Dutch in characteristic seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century handwriting. There are some documents in such other languages as Javanese, Malay (in Jawi/Arabic script), Buginese, and Chinese. A small number of the documents have been printed.

In compiling the inventory a great deal of attention was devoted to the elucidations to the classifications and the collective descriptions of series. These elucidations contain information on such matters as the relationship between the different series, which contemporary (compiled by the VOC) entries to use and the way they work, the broad content of the material and suchlike. Such an elucidation can be found, for example, in a part of the series final general resolutions (from the highest to the lowest level): in the classification decision making, ratification/enactment, general

decrees/resolutions, in the collective description of final general resolutions and in the description of the section itself. The descriptions at each of the different levels are usually unique in their content and in principle are not repeated elsewhere.

### **Practical instructions**

#### **Would you like to do research in this archive but do not yet know which subject or matter you would like to choose?**

To obtain a good and complete idea of the work of the High Government, using the publication *Realia*<sup>21</sup> is a handy first step towards finding some inspiration for research. The publication is a repertorium (elaborated index) of the general resolutions and *besognes* (the decrees of the High Government to the branch offices) for the period 1632-1805. The references are extremely detailed and you will be amazed by the many disparate aspects of the Company. The *Realia* indicate the particular dating of the decrees and those decrees affecting the branch offices. To find the decrees and the *besognes* yourself refer to the table of contents of this inventory, which will give you further indications.

#### **Do you wish to consult an archival document of a certain date from a specific, general series?**

Let us say that you wish to consult the final general resolution of 16 October 1756. Look in the table of contents of this inventory under the classification *General Resoluties* with the series final general resolutions which is described in the inventory numbers (inv. nrs.) 853-1182. Having done this proceed to the precise date within the series. (Please pay attention to the references at the top of the pages!). Each series begins with the oldest resolutions and is arranged chronologically. The date you seek can fall under inv. nr. 1021 (1756 July 1 – 1756 December 31).

#### **Do you wish to do research on a particular subject or a certain matter?**

In the first instance, you are advised to make use of a number of printed publications of series provided with indexes on series from this archive which are available in the Reading Room. The use of such handy aids can expedite your research considerably and offer you potential clues to further research in the archive itself. The published source materials are:

- 1 *Realia*. This is a *repertorium* (elaborated index) on the General Decrees and those affecting the branch offices in the period 1632-1805.
- 2 Daily Journals.<sup>22</sup> These contain the texts of the

daily journals (daily reports of what was happening in Batavia) with an index for the period 1640-1682.

- 3 *Plakkaten*<sup>23</sup> (placards, public announcements, proclamations, edicts), containing the texts of the placards (prescriptions, decrees, laws) and an index for the period 1602-1811.

- 4 Letters sent to the *Heren XVII* in the Netherlands (*patria*),<sup>24</sup> containing the texts of the letters dispatched from 1610 to May 1750 (with the exception of the period 1737-1742) and an index.

- 5 Contracts<sup>25</sup> containing the texts of the contracts concluded by the Company with rulers within the chartered territory, from 1596, with an index.

Ad.1 This publication covers only the general decrees and decrees pertaining to the branch offices. For the secret general decrees and similar secret papers relevant to the branch offices you should consult the contemporary (that is compiled by the VOC itself) indexes: *Repertoria op de onderwerpen uit de secrete resoluties (realia)* (Elaborated indexes on the subjects in the secret decrees), inv. nrs. 2246-2247, period 1740-1770. For the periods 1612-1631 and 1806-1811 you can consult the contemporary indexes: *Repertoria op de onderwerpen uit de general resoluties (realia)* (Elaborated indexes on the subjects in the general decrees) (*realia*), inv. nrs. 2169-2223. All indexes mentioned refer to data in decrees and decrees sent to the branch offices, which you can locate and request with the help of the table of contents in this inventory.

In its own time, the High Government kept a limited number of archival documents on diverse subjects separate. These are described in the inventory under the heading *Bijzondere Onderwerpen* (Special Subjects). You are advised not to restrict your research to this classification because it certainly does not give a rounded picture of a particular subject. Nevertheless, it may possibly offer a few clues. Two examples are the subject *Amphioen* (opium) and *Chinezen* (Chinese). *Amphioen* or *amfioen* as a subject does not occur at all in the classification Special Subjects, but the *Realia* publications offers around 100 references from the period 1700-1803. The subject Chinese does occur in the classification Special Subjects (4 inventory numbers). However, the *Realia* publication offers 402 references during the period 1619-1805 (*Chinesen*), but this is apart from such classifications as ‘Chinese hospital’, ‘Chinese rebellion’, ‘Chinese laws’, and ‘Chinese matters’.

Hopefully, consultation of the publications mentioned and the classification Special Subjects will yield enough material for you to be able to pursue your research in the archive itself.

## Do you wish to research the careers of the Company officials?<sup>26</sup>

For this consult the contemporary (that is compiled by the VOC itself) series of indexes: *Repertoria* ('*Personalia*') under the names of the Company officials relating to their career in the general decrees and the decrees for the branch offices (inv. nrs. 2224-2245). The surnames of the Company officials are arranged alphabetically, for the period 1610-1795. If you know the period of the career of the person, you can also look in the series indexes: *Repertoria* (*Korte Notulen*/Short Minutes) on subjects from the general minutes and – in part – the secret minutes (inv. nrs. 2101-2168), covering the period 1672-1810. Included in these annual indexes are the classifications '*Aangestelde dienaaren*' (Officials Appointed), *uyt den dienst gedegradeerde dienaaren* (officials dismissed from service), and *Geplaatste zee-officieren* (qualified naval officers).

All the indexes mentioned refer to data in decrees, minutes, and decrees/dispatches to the branch offices, which you can locate and request with the help of the table of contents in this inventory.

Other data about the careers of Company officials can be found in the *acteboeken* (deed books) (inv. nrs. 4422-4424). They cover the period 1689-1691, 1773-1777, and 1802-1806. For soldiers you can consult the wage books for the years 1798-1809 (inv.nrs. 4135-4151).

## Research in the archive of the Court of Justice

The data preserved in Jakarta date exclusively from the eighteenth century. There is a much more extensive holding from the Court of Justice (inv. nrs. 9129-9540) in the VOC archive in The Hague, consisting of letters, copies of the civil and criminal law rolls, copies of sentences, and copies of case records.

## Research in the Notarial Archives

The user should be aware that in the eighteenth and at the beginning of the nineteenth century mistakes were made when the indexes of a few series of seventeenth-century records were rebound. Consequently, the dating of the records can be incomplete or else that deeds/instruments from the same period have been divided up over several indexes.

As the decrees and placards of the High Government have revealed, some notaries tended to be rather cavalier with their records.

Especially in the period before the introduction of consequent numbering there are all sorts of omissions. During the re-inventorization, every possible effort was made to check whether for instance a record of conveyancing really does contain only this. Nevertheless, every so often it can happen that, despite all this, in a record of one act there may also be one of some other sort of instrument. Sometimes two completely different deeds have been bound together in one volume (for example deeds together with attestations/affidavits). Finally in almost every notarial archive there is a record with various deeds. This usually concerns deeds which had to be executed only infrequently, but there can also be deeds which actually belong in the present series.

There are gaps in the series of records. In part, this can be blamed on loss in the course of the centuries throughout which they have been preserved (including a theft in the eighteenth century). Another cause might be the absence of a notary. Sometimes he retired from his profession for a while – for instance to go home briefly – only to return later to pursue his profession.

At a certain moment, notaries in Batavia were permitted to draw up and execute deeds outside Batavia. Some notaries established new records to deal with these. Later special notaries were appointed for the district of Batavia (the *Ommelanden*).

In finding a deed, it is important to know by which notary it was drawn up and the date on which the execution took place. Various elaborated indexes are scattered throughout the archive, but these are usually compiled chronologically, not alphabetically or lexicographically. There are also general elaborated indexes for more than one notary (often a firm or a number of successors in a practice). For this see the classification entries at the beginning of the inventory.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> On 5 August 1621, Governor-General J.P. Coen wrote to the Gentlemen Seventeen: 'All my principal documents and papers have been burned as have been the commission in triplicate given us by the High and Mighty Lords of the States-General, His Excellency, and Your Excellencies.'

<sup>2</sup> Resolutie Hoge Regering 11 January 1735.

<sup>3</sup> Resolutie Hoge Regering 4 August 1739.

<sup>4</sup> Resolutie Hoge Regering 31 May 1768.

<sup>5</sup> Resolutie Hoge Regering 10 April 1770.

<sup>6</sup> Resolutie Hoge Regering 9 January 1781.

<sup>7</sup> Resolutie Hoge Regering 24 April 1792.



- <sup>8</sup> Resolutie Hoge Regering 19 April 1793.
- <sup>9</sup> Resolutie Hoge Regering 29 December 1801.
- <sup>10</sup> Resolutie Hoge Regering 19 June 1804.
- <sup>11</sup> Just as other old inventories, these are now untraceable. The *Landsarchief* did once have a collection of old inventories, but this has been lost, at least since 1949.
- <sup>12</sup> These were the original general resolutions, the *besoignes*, the decrees of Daendels and Janssens, the *dagregisters* (daily journals), the original letters to and from *Patriase* (the home country) and Indian letters, the *Realia*, the end of term of office reports of governors, the contracts with indigenous princes, Nederburgh and Daendels' papers, the *positieve orders* (final definitive orders), recommendations from members of the High Government, the papers of the Commission-General of 1822/1823, and papers from 1811. Left behind in the warehouse were: the short minutes, enclosures with the resolutions, draft resolutions, letters from the Netherlands and the Indies with enclosures, correspondence with the branch offices, Personalia and Miscellanea, instructions, defence documents, the archive of the General Audit Office (including sections of the Orphan Chamber archives, the Paymaster General's Office, the *Amphioen* Society and documents pertaining to the English Inter-regnum).
- <sup>13</sup> The rest can be found in de "*Collectie Buitenland*".
- <sup>14</sup> The only direct result was the copying of the series of contracts with indigenous rulers in 1848.
- <sup>15</sup> Inventaris van de Gouvernements archieven, vroeger in 's-lands pakhuizen te Batavia geborgen. (Inventory of the Government archives, earlier preserved in the government warehouses in Batavia).
- <sup>16</sup> The old archive as described by Van der Chijs was a composite of a great number of archives, principally of institutions from the VOC period: Governor-General and Councillors of the Indies (High Government) and the branch offices in the Indonesian Archipelago, Commissioners-General Nederburgh and Frijkenius, the Court of Justice, archives of the English Inter-regnum, Amphioen Society (later: Amphioen Directorate), Batavian Loan Bank (later: Deposit Bank Loan Bank), General Audit Office, College of Aldermen, Batavia District Council and so forth.
- <sup>17</sup> Inventaris van 's Lands Archief te Batavia (1602-1816). Samengesteld en uitgegeven op last van de Nederlandsch-Indische Regering door Mr. J.A. van der Chijs. Batavia, 1882. See inv.nrs. 4483-4484 for the inventory.
- <sup>18</sup> The same can be said for the series of deeds of sale and wills from the archive of the College of Aldermen and that of the Orphan Chamber.
- <sup>19</sup> Zie: 'Catalogus van de Westerse Handschriften van het Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde, door H.J. de Graaf. Den Haag 1963'.
- <sup>20</sup> For more VOC terminology see: VOC-glossarium. Verklaring van termen, verzameld uit de Rijks Geschiedkundige Publicatiën die betrekking hebben op de Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie. Instituut voor Nederlandse Geschiedenis. Bewerkt door: M. Kooymans en J. Schooneveld-Oosterling (Den Haag 2000)
- <sup>21</sup> *Realia*. Register op de generale resolutiën van het kasteel Batavia. 1632-1805. Uitgegeven door het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen. Drie delen. (Leiden 1882-1886)
- <sup>22</sup> *Dagregister int Casteel Batavia vant passerende daer ter plaatse als over geheel Nederlands-India*. Uitgegeven door het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen, met medewerking van de Nederlands-Indische Regering en onder toezicht van mr. J.A. van der Chijs (o.a.) (Batavia/Den Haag 1887-1931)
- <sup>23</sup> 'Nederlandsch-Indisch Plakaatboek. 1602-1811. Door Mr. J.A. van der Chijs. Uitgegeven door het Bataviaasch Genootschap. (Batavia/Den Haag 1885-1900)
- <sup>24</sup> Coolhaas, W.Ph., en J. van Goor eds., *Generale missiven van gouverneurs-generaal en raden aan Heren XVII der Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie*. Rijks geschiedkundige publicatiën, grote serie 104, 112, 125, 134, 150, 159, 164, 193, 205, 232, 250, 257 en 258 (13 delen; 's-Gravenhage 1960-2007).
- <sup>25</sup> Heeres, J.E., en F.W. Stapel eds., *Corpus Diplomaticum Neerlandico-Indicum*. Verzameling van politieke contracten en verdere verdragen door de Nederlanders in het Oosten gesloten. Bijdragen van het Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde 57, 87, 91, 93 en 96 ('s-Gravenhage 1907-1955).
- <sup>26</sup> Apart from this index, there is a twentieth century access by name. These entries on cards are known as 'Bloys van Treslong Prins' and can be consulted on micro-film. This contains not only the names in the 'Personalia', but also others from such collections as Batavian wills, the Orphan Chamber, and the civil registry.