

Dear Colleague:

Again this year **Moran Micropublications** continued its work of making unique historical materials available for research in cooperation with archives, libraries and other institutions in the Netherlands and elsewhere. With this newsletter we take the liberty of informing you a bit about these important new publications, for which complete details can be found on our website: www.moranmicropublications.nl

The Sound Toll Registers, 1497-1857

The Sound (*Øresund* in Danish) is the long narrow body of water separating Denmark from Sweden that forms the passage from the North Sea to the Baltic Sea. For centuries it has been one of the busiest waterways in the world. Tolls were exacted there going back to approximately 1429.



Baltic trade routes and the Sound

From 1497 until it was abolished in 1857 the details of the Sound Toll levied by the Kingdom of Denmark, which actually consisted of several different types of charges, were recorded in registers by Danish customs officials that are now available from Moran on 377 reels of 35 mm microfilm in cooperation with the State Archives Filming Centre, Viborg, Denmark.

New series on Decolonization

The end of the Second World War in August 1945 sounded the death knell of Dutch colonialism in Indonesia. The proclamation of the Republic of Indonesia by Sukarno and Hatta on 17 August ushered in a confusing and complicated period of anticolonial struggle, civil war, military action by the Dutch and negotiations between the parties that ultimately

led to the transfer of sovereignty to the Republic on 27 December 1949. The first three parts of a new series of micropublications on the end of Dutch colonialism in Asia being planned and carried out in cooperation with the National Archives in The Hague are now available. The series can be regarded as the continuation of the now dormant series “War and Decolonization” by MMF Publications.

Focus of series

The series has as theme the *Dutch political conflict with the Republic of Indonesia*, not only in the pivotal years 1945-1949, but also extending into the early 1960s in order to cover the process of decolonization of Netherlands New Guinea, over which the Dutch had refused to transfer sovereignty at the end of 1949, and reaching back into the 1930s and the years of war and occupation (1942-1945) to provide the necessary background to the crisis that ensued in their aftermath.

Part 1: Secret Archive

The first documents chosen for micropublication are from the Secret Archive of the General Secretariat of the Netherlands Indies Government and the Cabinet of the Governor-General. The General Secretariat was the administrative apparatus that assisted the Governor-General in his task from 1816 until its dissolution in 1950. Its secret archives, formed in Indonesia, contain a virtually complete account of the political activities and statecraft of the Netherlands Indies Government in the decisive years 1945-1949.



Captured Republican pamphlet from Part 1: “Beware, the Dutch are asking for land!—to colonize”

Part 2: Dutch Civil Administrators (*bestuursambtenaren*)

The backbone of Dutch colonial rule in the East Indies was formed by the *Binnenlands Bestuur* manned by professional civil administrators of various ranks known as *bestuursambtenaren*. Often graduates of the special program in "Indology" at the University of Leiden, they were trained in the local cultures and languages as well as in economics, administration and customary law (*adatrecht*) in order to function well in their posts at local and regional levels. The *papers of five civil administrators who worked in various parts of the Indonesian archipelago in the period 1930s to 1950s* have been selected for micropublication.

Part 3: The General Commission for the Netherlands Indies, 1946-1947

This commission was set up by act of Parliament in September 1946 and charged with the temporary exercise of government power in the Netherlands Indies and more specifically with preparing a new (federal) political structure for the colony. The Commission was chaired by former prime minister Willem Schermerhorn; the highest Dutch official in the Indies, Lieutenant-Governor-General Dr. H.J. van Mook, joined the Commission *ex officio*. It sat in Batavia, capital of the Netherlands Indies. The Commission reopened negotiations with the Republic of Indonesia proclaimed by Sukarno and Hatta but not recognized by the Dutch although it held power in many areas of Java, Madura and Sumatra. These talks soon led to a draft agreement between the parties signed at Linggajati in the mountains near Cirebon on Java's north coast on 15 November 1946. The agreement recognized the Republic's authority *de facto*, but not yet *de jure* in the areas it held and called for the founding of a democratic, sovereign United States of Indonesia, of which the Republic would be one of the states, alongside others such as "East Indonesia" and Borneo. This federal system would form a union with the Netherlands under the Dutch queen. The agreement soon proved impossible to implement, but marks a crucial turning point in the process of decolonization.

French Medieval manuscripts

The Koninklijke Bibliotheek was founded in 1798. The basis of the library, the book collection of the former stadholders, contained a large number of medieval manuscripts in French from the southern Netherlands and France itself that had been in the possession of the counts of Nassau, ancestors of the present royal family of the Netherlands, the house of Orange-Nassau.



Illustration courtesy Koninklijke Bibliotheek,
ms. 72A22, Augustine, La cité de Dieu

In keeping with the collecting tastes of such noble libraries, the manuscripts cover a wide range of genres and subjects. They are now available on 35 mm microfilm.

Travels

In spring 2005 Moran Micropublications attended the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) meeting in Chicago and visited major libraries there and on the east coast of America. In October Moran made the annual trip to the Frankfurt Book Fair for discussions with trade colleagues. In 2006 we will again be attending the AAS, this time in San Francisco from April 6-8. As of writing a return



Model of Dutch trading post Dejima, Nagasaki, Japan
visit to Japan before or after that is also being planned.

With kind regards and season's greetings,

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