

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](http://www.moranmicropublications.nl)

***Latin-French Manuscript Books of Hours  
in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek***  
*[National Library of the Netherlands], The Hague*



From KB ms.  
74F1, *Book of  
Hours (use of  
Paris)*  
Courtesy of the  
Koninklijke  
Bibliotheek  
(N.B. the  
microfiches are  
black and white)

Books of  
hours were  
devotional  
books  
designed to  
be used by  
the Catholic

laity in reciting prayers at the eight traditional “hours” of the canonical day, which ran from “matins” before dawn to “vespers” in the evening and concluded with “compline” at bed time. They were without a doubt the most important and widespread books of the Middle Ages throughout Europe. Originating in the thirteenth century they continued to be made well into the sixteenth century, first as handwritten manuscripts, which by the fifteenth century were increasingly mass produced in workshops in the Low Countries and France, and following the introduction of printing after 1480 also in that format. They were in Latin but also frequently contained material, such as prayers, rubrics, rhymes and calendars of saints’ days, in the vernacular. In general they followed a standardized pattern that usually began with a set

of prayers and readings in honor of the Virgin Mary (the so-called “Hours of the Virgin”) and also included the Hours of the Cross, the Hours of the Holy Spirit, the Seven Penitential Psalms and the Office of the Dead. Often material of a personal nature, such as favorite prayers, was inserted into the manuscripts. Marginal notes and jottings of a religious or more profane nature were common and books of hours were used to record family history, such as dates of births and deaths, but also to swear oaths and solemn vows, possession of the bible being still quite limited. If a person was likely to have any single book at all during this period, it would have been a book of hours. The KB’s collection contains 37 Latin Books of Hours that also contain parts in French, all catalogued by curator Anne S. Korteweg. The majority are from the fifteenth century. Virtually all contain varying numbers of miniatures and other forms of embellishment such as initials and border decorations. The microfiches reproduce the entire text of each manuscript, including all illustrations, in black and white. Their availability will further research into a variety of subjects in art history, history of religion and private life, manuscript studies and text studies.

*N.B. The miniatures and other illustrations of most manuscripts can be consulted in color on the website of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek:*

<http://www.kb.nl/webexpo/manuscripts-en.html>

***The Vernacular Press in the Netherlands Indies  
c. 1855-1925, a New Series***

After the successful micropublication in 2004 of the very rare Indonesian-language periodical *Tjahaja Sijang*. [The Light of Day], 1869-1925 in cooperation with the Library of the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) in Leiden, Moran and KITLV are now launching a new series to make more such rare periodicals in Malay and other Indonesian languages available on microfiche. The first six titles now available are: *Bintang Oetara* [Northern star]; *Bientang Timoor* [Eastern star]; *Tjahaja India* [Light of the Indies]; *Penghentar: soerat chabar Moluko* [Messenger, a missionary newspaper for the Moluccas]; *Soerat chabar soldadoe* [Soldiers’ newspaper]; and *Bandera Wolanda* [The Netherlands’ flag]. (continued on reverse)

## New projects in cooperation with the National Archives of the Netherlands, The Hague

### *The Colonial Economy in the Netherlands Indies Part 1: The Commission to Investigate the Sugar Manufactories on Java, 1854-1857*



*Sugar Manufactory Pangka, Tegal, Java by A. Salm, c. 1872, collection of the KITLV, Leiden, The Netherlands, 47D-4 (the illustration is not part of the microfiche collection)*

In the early 1830s the Dutch introduced the “*cultuurstelsel*” (cultivation system) into their East Indies colony of Java. This system amounted to forcing the native Indonesians to cultivate various cash crops, in particular sugar and coffee, to be paid to the colonial government, which would then sell them on the world market through the Dutch Trading Company (*Nederlandsch handelmaatschappij*) set up in 1824 under royal patronage. By 1840 the first famines provoked by increased exploitation were reported. By mid-century the system had brought great wealth to the colonial power, but was coming under more and more criticism both in Indonesia and the Netherlands. By the 1850s circumstances led the minister of the Colonies to order an extensive investigation into the system of government sugar cultivation. Its records now on microfiche contain a wealth of information on sugar cultivation itself and on the social situation of the native population in the sugar-producing areas and will excite broad interest among historians of colonialism.

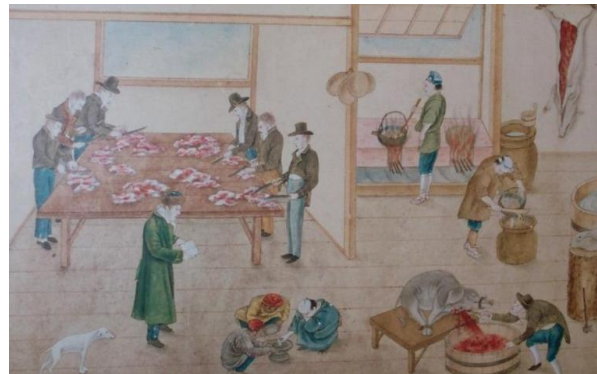
### *The Colonial Economy in the Netherlands Indies Part 2: The Commission for Industrial Development in the Netherlands Indies, 1915-1926*

In spite of the opening up of the Netherlands Indies to investment by Dutch and foreign capital from about 1870 onwards, the colonial economy remained largely agrarian into the opening decades of the twentieth century. The stagnation of world trade and shipping that followed the outbreak of World War I soon made it painfully apparent just how dependent the Netherlands Indies still were on imported manufactured products and turned the colonial government’s mind to developing industry there. In 1915 a special commission was established to investigate setting up industries to process raw materials,

which would at the same time provide employment for the growing indigenous population. The commission’s records on microfiche provide valuable sources for the economic history of the colony and the history of development policy in a colonial context.

### *Dutch Trade in Asia: Part 2: Papers of Jan Cock Blomhoff on Japan, c. 1817-1829*

Jan Cock Blomhoff (1779-1853) succeeded Hendrik Doeff as director (*opperhoofd*) of the Dutch trading post (*factorij*) at Deshima in the harbor of Nagasaki, Japan in December 1817 and served there until 1823.



*Kitchen scene at Deshima, courtesy of Nagasaki Municipal Museum (photo Moran Micropublications)*

This small, but interesting collection of papers includes Dutch translations of dispositions and other official documents, letters to him in Dutch from Japanese people, bills and other documents concerning goods handled by the factory, repairs to its buildings and notes concerning customs and mores in Japan and other places.

#### **Travels**

In spring 2007 Moran attended the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) meeting in Boston and in October the Frankfurt Book Fair for discussions with trade colleagues. In 2008 we will be attending the AAS in Atlanta (April 3-6).

With kind regards and season's greetings,

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