



'Graves at the Oude kerk with an Indonesian link'

Graves at De Oude Kerk with an Indonesian link

De Oude Kerk, in addition to its existence as an ancient monument, is also an internationally oriented platform for contemporary art. It presents art in a historical location with an appeal to the art lover and those interested in heritage and contemplation. The 13th-century church is the oldest building in the city and has a collection of objects and paintings. The 15th-century choir stalls, stained glass windows, graves, the famous Vater Muler organ and regent rooms adorn the church. A highlight is the tomb of Saskia van Uylenburgh, Rembrandt's wife.

This research paper consists information about buried individuals in the Oude Kerk with a link to Indonesia. This document is intended to supply basic information about the persons of interest. Curators can use this document as background information in their search for a performance artist in Indonesia. In context of the Europalia festival.

- For extra information about buried individuals in the Oude Kerk, visit:
<http://gravenopinternet.nl>

Table of contents

Overview persons of interest	3
2.0 specified information	4
2.1 Jacob van Heemskerck	4
2.2 Abel Tasman	4
2.3 Salomon Sweers	5
2.4 Nicolaes Witsen.....	6
2.5 Maria Cornelia van Blommenstein	6
2.6 Maria Johanna Elisabeth Wijnmalen.....	6
2.7 Orontes van Timor	7

Overview persons of interest

Person of interest	Summarized information
Jacob van Heemskerck	Navy admiral
Abel tasman	Explorer from Lutjegast. Married twice at de Oude Kerk on December 27th, 1631. Headed afterwards to Batavia and further.
Salomon Sweers	Merchant among many other things. Location tomb: Snijderskapel 388
Nicolaes Witsen	Mayor and explorer of Indies
Maria Cornelia van Blommenstein	Born half dutch, half Indonesian. Married the son of a known Governor- General. Location tomb: Middenschip 38
Maria Johanna Elisabeth Wijnmalen	Born in the Residence Passaroeang (East Java).
Orontes van Timor	Location tomb: Middenschip 61

2.0 specified information

2.1 Jacob van Heemskerck

“Jacob van Heemskerck, (born March 13, 1567, Amsterdam, Netherlands—died April 25, 1607, Bay of Gibraltar, off Spain) Dutch naval commander and merchant remembered for his voyage in the Barents Sea region in search of an Arctic passage to India and for his victory over the Spanish fleet off Gibraltar, which led to an armistice between Spain and the United Provinces of the Netherlands and brought about the Twelve Years’ Truce (1609–21).



Under the direction of the Dutch navigator Willem Barents, van Heemskerck was master of a vessel that penetrated the Barents Sea in search of a northeast route to the Indies. After rounding Novaya Zemlya the ship became trapped in the ice, and the men were forced to spend the winter of 1596–97 on the island. Living in a hut made of driftwood, they were the first Europeans to survive a winter in the Arctic. They abandoned their still-icebound ship in June 1597 and left in two of the ship’s open boats. Although van Heemskerck led most of the crew to safety, Barents died on the journey.

In 1598, van Heemskerck accompanied Jacob van Neck, a commercial representative of the Verre Company, on a trade mission to the East Indies. After van Neck returned home, van Heemskerck took over the fleet and established trade relations with the rulers of Ternate, Banda, and Amboina. In 1603 he captured the Portuguese treasure ship *Santa Catarina* in the Straits of Malacca. Appointed commander of the entire fleet of the United Provinces in 1607, he was killed while directing an attack that resulted in the dispersal of the Spanish fleet off Gibraltar.”¹

2.2 Abel Tasman

“The Dutch navigator Abel Tasman was employed by the Dutch East India Company (VOC). He is particularly famous for the mapping of (parts of) Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and, named after him; Tasmania. He was the first European to sail around the whole Australian continent. Tasman was born in 1603 in Lutjegast in Groningen.



From early age the Dutch East India Company employed him where his career began as a seaman shipmate and eventually to command multiple ships. In 1632 he married Jannetje Tjaers. The following year he moved from Amsterdam to Asia until August 1637 only to return again. Abel Tasman extended his contract with the Dutch East India Company for ten years and took his wife in April 1638 along to Batavia.

In 1639 he was second man under Matthijs Quast on an exploration expedition to Japan, the Philippines, China, Korea and Siberia. This trip gave the East India Company a lot of information about the area.

The first great expedition of Abel Tasman as commander took place in the years 1642 and 1643. This trip would give him the fame he today owes its fame to. As commander of the yacht

¹ Jacob van Hemskerck. (n.d.). In Encyclopaedia Britannica. Retrieved 24 10, 2016, from

Heemskerck and Zeehaen, a flute, he and his crew through the following places in Batavia, Mauritius, Tasmania (Antonie van Diemen's Land), New Zealand (Staete Landt), the Tonga Archipelago, The Fiji and Solomon Islands and New Guinea.”²

2.3 Salomon Sweers



“BROTHER OF ADMIRAL ISAAC Sweers: in 1632 in Persia, Ambon, Banda, Batavia, China and Japan. Salomon Sweers (Nijmegen, June 15, 1611 - Amsterdam, March 2, 1674) was a 'council of the Indies'. He was the older brother of Isaac Sweers employed by the Admiralty of Amsterdam and the brother of Jeremias van Vliet and Cornelis Beeckman, mayor of Nijmegen.”³

“Salomon Sweers was the son of Aernout Swerts and Alida van Bronckhorst. His father had claimed a position in the town council of Nijmegen in 1618. Around 1628 they moved from Nijmegen to Amsterdam relatives when his father represented the Gelderland region in the VOC Amsterdam. The 17-year-old Salomon joined the East India Company as a clerk or accountant. In 1632 he moved to the East, along with Antonie van Diemen who would protect him. He served in Gujarat, where he met Johan van Twist, Persia, Japan, China, Ambon and Banda.

He married in 1638 in Batavia Catharina Jans, a widow from Hoorn, and brought with her to visit the homeland. In 1639 he was appointed sheriff of Texel. In 1640 he undertook a second trip to Batavia with his sister Catherine, when he was appointed extraordinary council of the Dutch Indies. Along with Cornelis Witsen he took command of the fleet. Not long after he was charged in Batavia private commercial and temporarily suspended from office.

Sweers was Antonie van Diemen, Cornelis van der Lijn and Joan Maetsuycker involved in the preparation of the two expeditions of Abel Tasman, which has an island named after him near Tasmania that they had gotten around November 25, 1642 in sight. In 1802 is named after him by Matthew Flinders an island in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

In 1645 he had a fierce argument with Cornelis van der Lijn while dining in the house Sweers. Sweers was again accused of private trade and was suspended. To all appearances he had a social institution because Sweers remained in charge of the orphanage and master of the hospital rains. In 1646 he moved with his wife to the Netherlands. Frederick Coyett was his agent.

In 1649 he bought a house on the Keizersgracht canal, called *Het wapen van Nijmegen*; his neighbour was John Rensselaer, patron of New Netherlands. In 1653 he became guardian of the children of Jacques Specx.

In 1661 his wife died. He appointed the children of his sisters Judith and Catherine to heirs. He remarried in 1662 to Elisabeth Bicker, daughter of Andries Bicker. The couple had two children. He was regent of the Dolhuis the Kloveniersburgwal and churchwarden of the Noorderkerk. When she's second wife died after four years, remarried in Rotterdam with the widow Josina Bataille.

² Rooijackers, W. (2008, July 20). Ontdekker van Tasmanië en Nieuw-Zeeland. Retrieved from <http://historiek.net/abel-tasman-1603-1659/1766/>

³ Salomon Sweers, (n.d.). In Graven op Internet. Retrieved 24 10, 2016 from <http://gravenopinternet.nl/en/zoek/inforecord.php?ID=1545&i=13>

Sweers introduced himself as an opponent of the VOC and was probably involved in the attempt by François Caron set up a French East India Company.”⁴

2.4 Nicolaes Witsen

“Born in the year of 1641, son of Cornelis (1605-1669). Studied: mathematics, astronomy, literature and etching; was (amateur) scientist and geographer, shipbuilding, writer, artist and engraver, collector, patron, diplomat and governor. Married Catharina Hochpied (1654- 1728), in the year of 1674, daughter of a Walloon preacher. Had four daughters, all young deceased. Designed with Burg. Johannes Hudde sluiswerker in Amstel and IJ. At his request, there was coffee planted in Java; introduced it in Europe.”⁵



2.5 Maria Cornelia van Blommenstein

In GOI Graf - Middenschip 38. Maria, half Indonesian / half Dutch, married the son of a famous GG / Governor General.

2.6 Maria Johanna Elisabeth Wijnmalen

Maria Johanna Elisabeth was born in the Residence Passaroeang (East Java), with view on volcano Smeroe. Lithography by Abraham Salm and Abraham, J.C. Greive Jr, 1872.⁶



⁴ Salomon Sweers. (n.d.). In Wikipedia. Retrieved 10 13, 2016, from https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salomon_Sweers

⁵ Nicolaes Witsen, (n.d.). In Graven op Internet. Retrieved 24 10, 2016 from <http://gravenopinternet.nl/en/zoek/inforecord.php?ID=5534&i=17>

⁶ A contribution from Herbert van Hasselt]

2.7 Orontes van Timor

“Orontes was laid to rest at de Oude Kerk under an old 16th century tombstone, on July 1, 1836, still quite young. How he came to Amsterdam? Had its origins Dutch East Indies - his Orontes roots can be found on the island of Timor.

He married Conpang of America and a daughter was born on December 4, 1820: Anna Timor.

About its origin: The island of Timor (long 476 km wide 102 km) has long been politically divided into two parts: West Timor, which was known as Dutch Timor, or residence Timor and dependencies of the mid-17th century until 1949, with the capital Koepang now Kupang, when it became Indonesian Timor, part of the state of Indonesia. And East Timor, which was called Portuguese Timor, from the mid-16th century until 1975, the main place Lifao, from 1769 Dili. Border dispute between the Netherlands and Portugal were settled in various treaties, and finally settled by an Arbitration Convention in 1913 (final verdict: June 25, 1914).

After the Indonesian annexation of East Timor in 1976, the island was briefly known as Timor Timur or Tim-Tim. It was considered by Jakarta as twenty-seventh province of the country, but this was never recognized by the United Nations. After a referendum, which was held in 1999, in the context of the V.N. sponsored agreement between Indonesia and Portugal, East Timor gained independence in 2002.

According to local mythology, the island of Timor was a giant crocodile. On the island are relatively rare mammals. The only rodents that occur with certainty a little rat *Rattus timorensis* and the shrew *Crocidura tenuis*. There may be some other species of the genus *Rattus* and *melomys* and possibly three generations related to the genus *Coryphomys*. There is also a well-known fossil of the extinct ratty *Coryphomys buehleri*.

Two endemic songbird species are eligible for Timor: the Timor Flycatcher (*Ficedula timorensis*) and timorlederkop (*Philemon inornatus*).

The stories in these hidden tombstone, about Orontes America, Anna and the animal / bird on Timor, they are intriguing.”⁷



⁷ Orontes van Timor, (n.d.). In Graven op Internet. Retrieved 24 10, 2016 from http://gravenopinternet.nl/en/zoek/index_record.php