

Gotthard Schuh in Dutch East-India

1940

A short choice from his black-and-white photography

drs (Msc) Dirk Teeuwen

Account

The aim of this article is to attract attention to the work of Gotthard Schuh and specially to his album "Islands of the Gods". I tried to illustrate the magnificent beauty of this book. For the purpose of this intention I included some photographs as examples in this article. I hope that I can give a clear contribution to the importance of Schuh's work for Dutch East-Indian and Indonesian history. Nothing in this article is available on request. Nothing is available for reproduction.

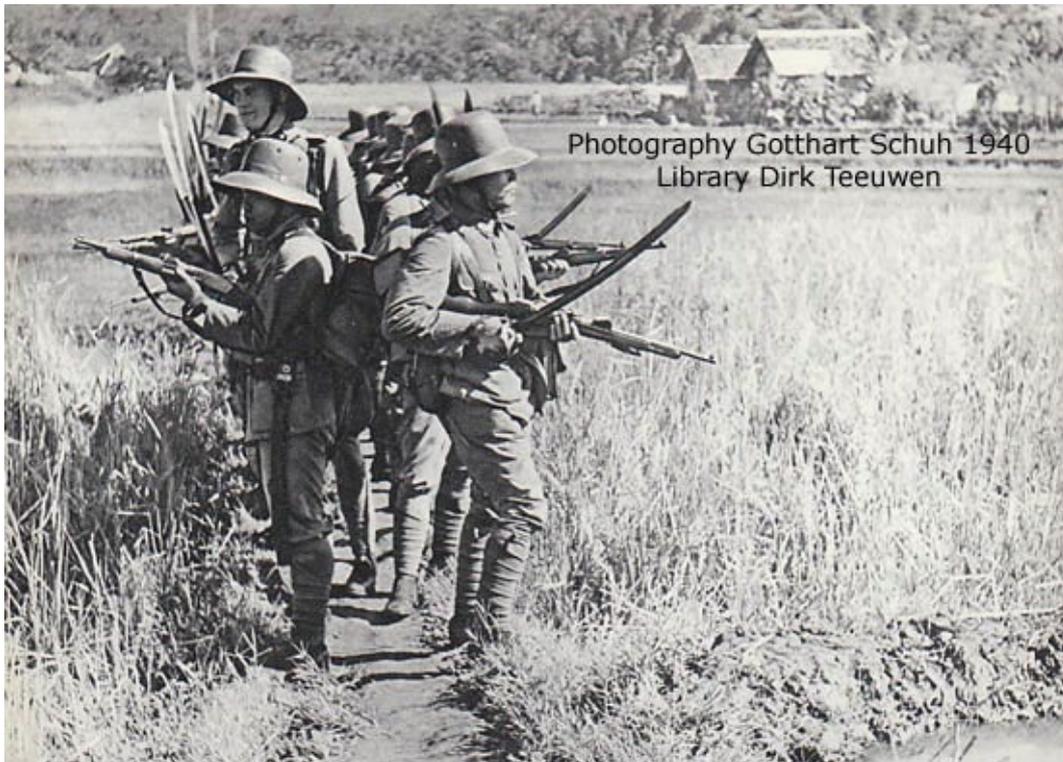
**Schuh, Gotthard: Eilanden der Goden (Islands of the Gods); Amsterdam 1943
For sale in antiquarian bookshops in The Netherlands**

Gotthard Schuh

Gotthard Schuh was born in Berlin as a son of Swiss born parents December 22nd 1897 and died in Küsnacht, Switzerland, December 29th 1969. In 1902 the family moved to Arau, Switzerland. In Arau Gotthard Schuh went to primary school as well as high school. During his high school period Schuh began to paint. Finally he graduated from Vocational School in Basel in 1916. In 1917-1918 Schuh was enlisted as a soldier in the Swiss army. From 1919 he lived as a painter in Basel, Geneva and Italy. After his marriage in 1927 he moved to Zürich and started to photograph for magazines such as Zürcher Illustrierte, Paris Match and Life. His work led him throughout Europe. In 1937-1938 he paid a visit to Dutch East-India (Indonesia) and published the photographic results of this journey afterwards. In 1960 he started to paint again.

He was interested in daily life and social reality. He tried to create sober and factual documentation. In 1937-1940 his "Islands of the Gods", a photographic journey through Dutch East-India, was created and ultimately published in 1940.

A collection of his work, paintings as well as photographs, can be admired in Winterthur (Switzerland) in the "Schweizerische Stiftung für die Photographie" at that place.



1. Soldiers from the Royal Dutch East-Indian Army exercise "carbine and klewang".
(A klewang is a razor sharp short sword.)

Photography Gotthart Schuh 1940
Library Dirk Teeuwen

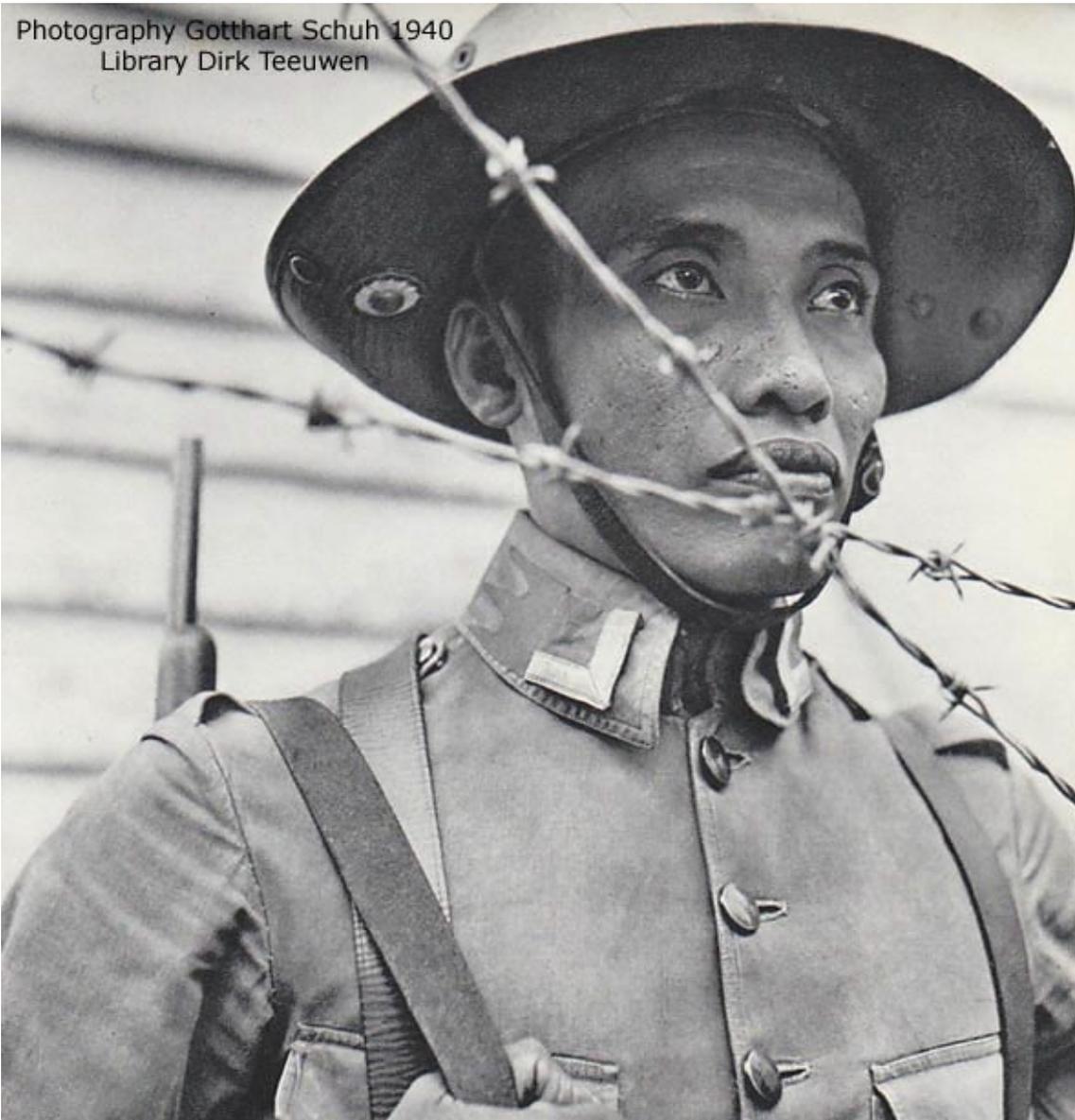


2. Royal Dutch East-Indian Air Force, observation-post in a bomber.

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3. Royal Dutch East-Indian Army, soldier on guard in Takengon, North Sumatra

Photography Gotthart Schuh 1940
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Below on page 4

4. Serene, proud and inaccessible Asian beauty: Raden Adjeng Indrasapoetra, born in Soendanesse West Java, at the age of seventeen. She was Schuh's interpreter.
My favourite "Schuh picture" !!
5. Legong dancer dressed in gilt leather and silk. The flowers, part of her head-dress, were made of gold-leaf.



Photography Gotthart Schuh 1940
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4^ 5



Photography Gotthart Schuh 1940
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Photography Gotthart Schuh 1940
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6. Unknown Bali woman

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Photography Gotthart Schuh 1940
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7. Festival to honour the birth of Mohammed in Yogyakarta, bowmen of the Sultan's Kraton Guard
(Kraton means palace-fort.)

Below on page 7

8. Sumatra, Samosir Island: old Batak sarcophagus

9. Governor-general of Dutch East-India, Jhr A. W. L. Tjarda van Starckenborch Stachouwer (left)

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8^ 9



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Photography Gotthart Schuh 1940
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10. Sultan Hamengkoe Boewono VIII leads his guest, the Governor of Yogyakarta, to his pendopo.
(Pendopo means reception pavilion.)

End of this article