

Hubert Leufkens' colonial impressions

Photo's of Batavia in 1934

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1. Vrouwelijke koelie (woman-labourer) 1934

The aim of this article is to attract attention to Hubert Leufkens (1894 – 1962). Leufkens was an inspired Dutch photographer and film maker, born in Heerlen Holland in 1894. Leufkens loved the scenery of the Dutch province of Limburg and wanted to capture the beauty of the region before it was engulfed by modern times. But he also had an eye for the beauty of industrial design. He responded to developments in his environment such as Catholicism, tourism and of course expanding industry. Leufkens created a wonderful photographic work dealing with the start of the mining industry (first half of the twentieth century) in Prov. Limburg, Holland, The Netherlands.

He also photographed the landscape of Java, Dutch East India - Indonesia, extensively during his nine-year stay there. He published 'Mooi Java' (Beautiful Java) in 1933 and "Impressies van Batavia" (Impressions of Batavia-Jakarta) in 1934.

In 1926 Leufkens and his wife moved to Java to work as teachers in Poeworedjo, Yokyakarta, Indramajoe, Blitar and Meester Cornelis (Mester, Jakarta).

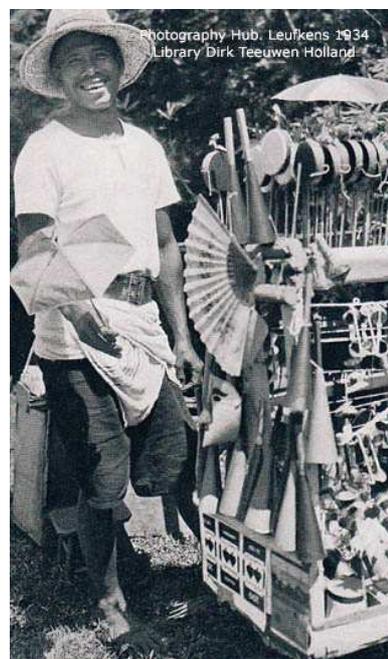
In 1926 Leufkens and his wife moved to Java to work as teachers in Poeworedjo, Yokyakarta, Indramajoe, Blitar and Meester Cornelis (Mester, Jakarta). Leufkens and his family returned to Holland in 1935. He died in 1962 and passed erroneously into oblivion. His photography albums are for sale in Dutch antiquarian bookshops and at Dutch antiquarian book markets.

More information about Hubert Leufkens could be obtained from:

- Museum Het Domein (Sittard, Prov. Limburg, Holland),
- Limburg Regional History Centre (Maastricht, Prov. Limburg, Holland),
- Centre for Architecture in the Maas-Rhine Euroregion Vitruvianum (Heerlen, Prov. Limburg, Holland),
- Limburgs Museum Film- en Video Archives LIFVA (Venlo, Prov. Limburg, Holland).

To give our visitors some idea of Leufkens' work, I made a photographic selection from "Impressies van Batavia" (Impressions of Batavia-Jakarta), 1934. There are no photographs available.

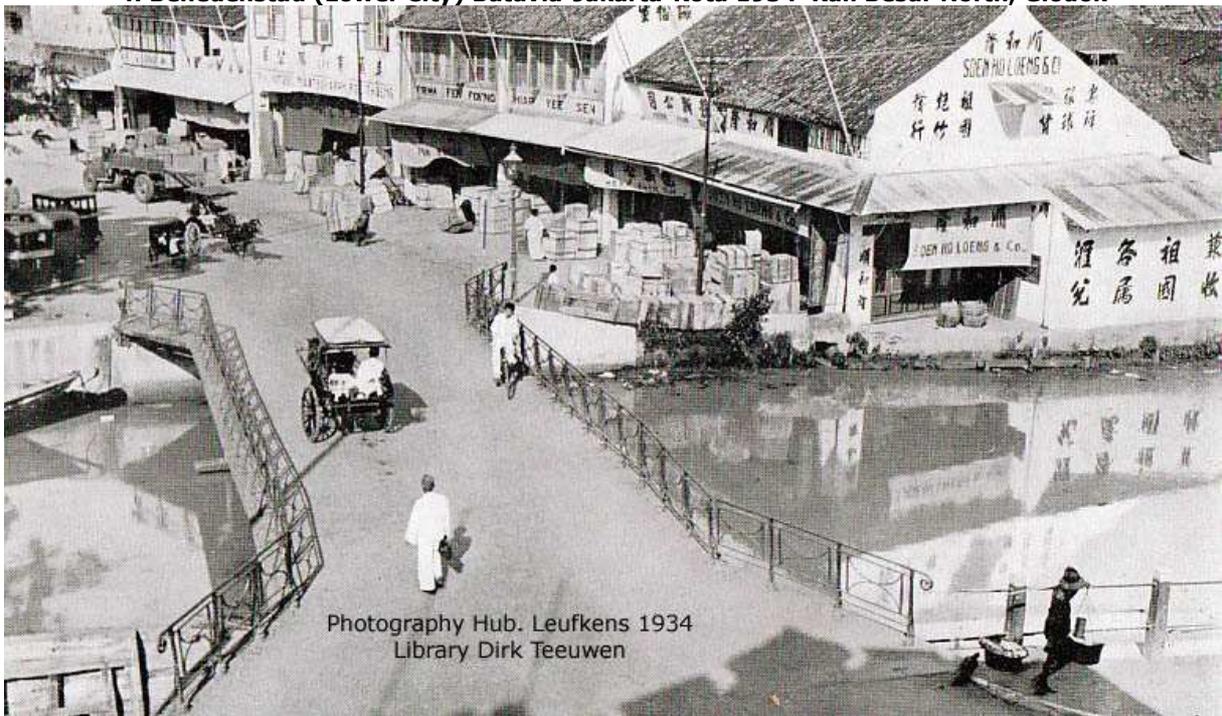
2. Verkoper van speelgoed (Toy-Vendor) 1934 >>>>





3. Harmonieplein (Harmoni-Square) Batavia-Jakarta 1934

4. Benedenstad (Lower City) Batavia-Jakarta-Kota 1934 Kali Besar North, Glodok





**5. Van Heutsz Monument (Van Heutsz Memorial) Van Heutsz Boulevard – Jl Teuku Umar
Demolished by the Japanese in 1943.
Batavia – Jakarta**

Note!

Johannes Benedictus van Heutsz (1851-1924) was an general in the Dutch East-Indian Army and brought the Sultanate of Aceh under Dutch control in 1903. He was governor-general (1905-1909) of the Dutch East-Indies. He was every inch a soldier. But he was also the founder of modern Indonesia: creating its external borders and starting more social colonial politics.

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Photography Hub. Leufkens 1934
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**6. Atjeh Monument (Aceh Memorial) Waterlooplein-Lapangan Banteng, Wilhelmina Park – area Demolished by the Japanese in 1943. Today we can find Istiqlal Mosque on this spot.
Batavia - Jakarta**

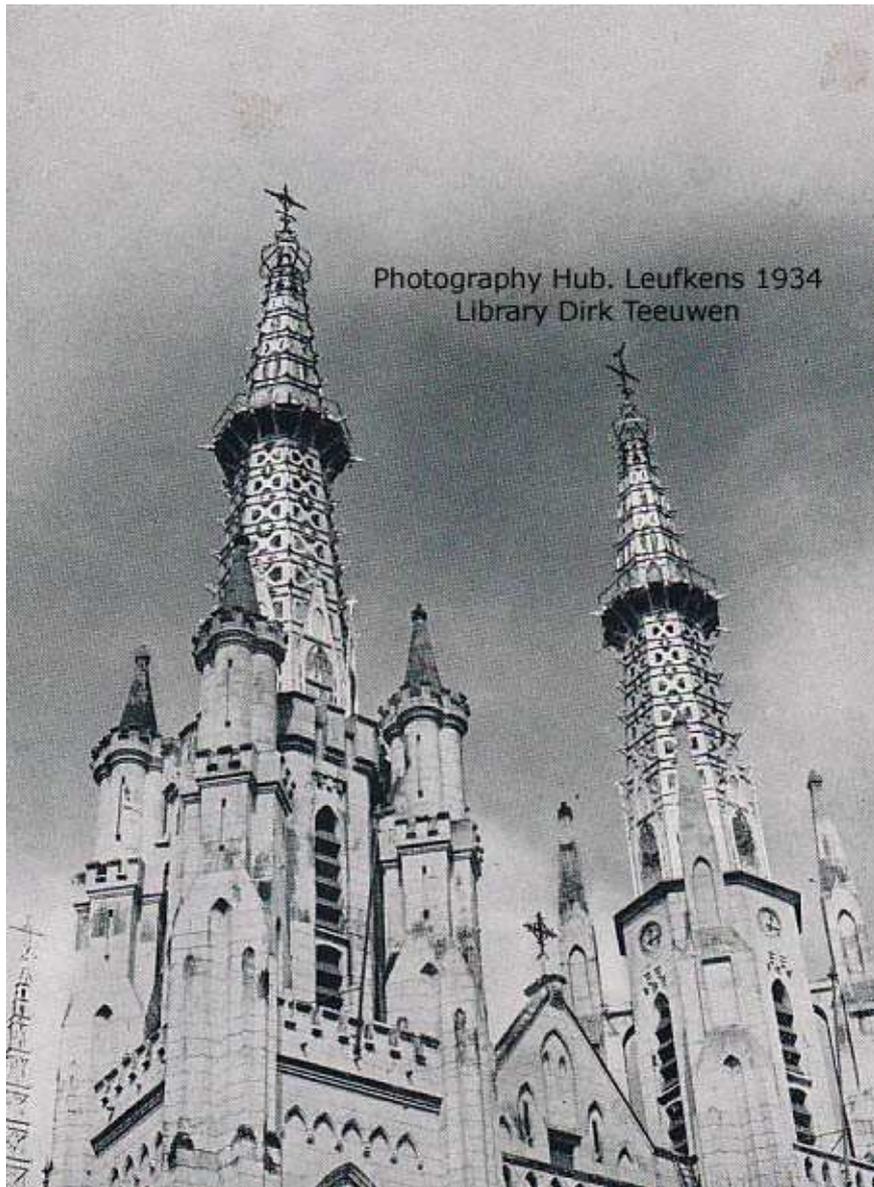
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Photography Hub. Leufkens 1934
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**7. Portugese Kerk (Dutch-Portuguese Protestant Church) Jakartaweg - Jl Jayakarta
Built 1696.
Batavia - Jakarta**

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**8. Katholieke Kathedraal (Roman Catholic Cathedral)
Built 1910.
Waterlooplein – Lapangan Banteng
Batavia - Jakarta**

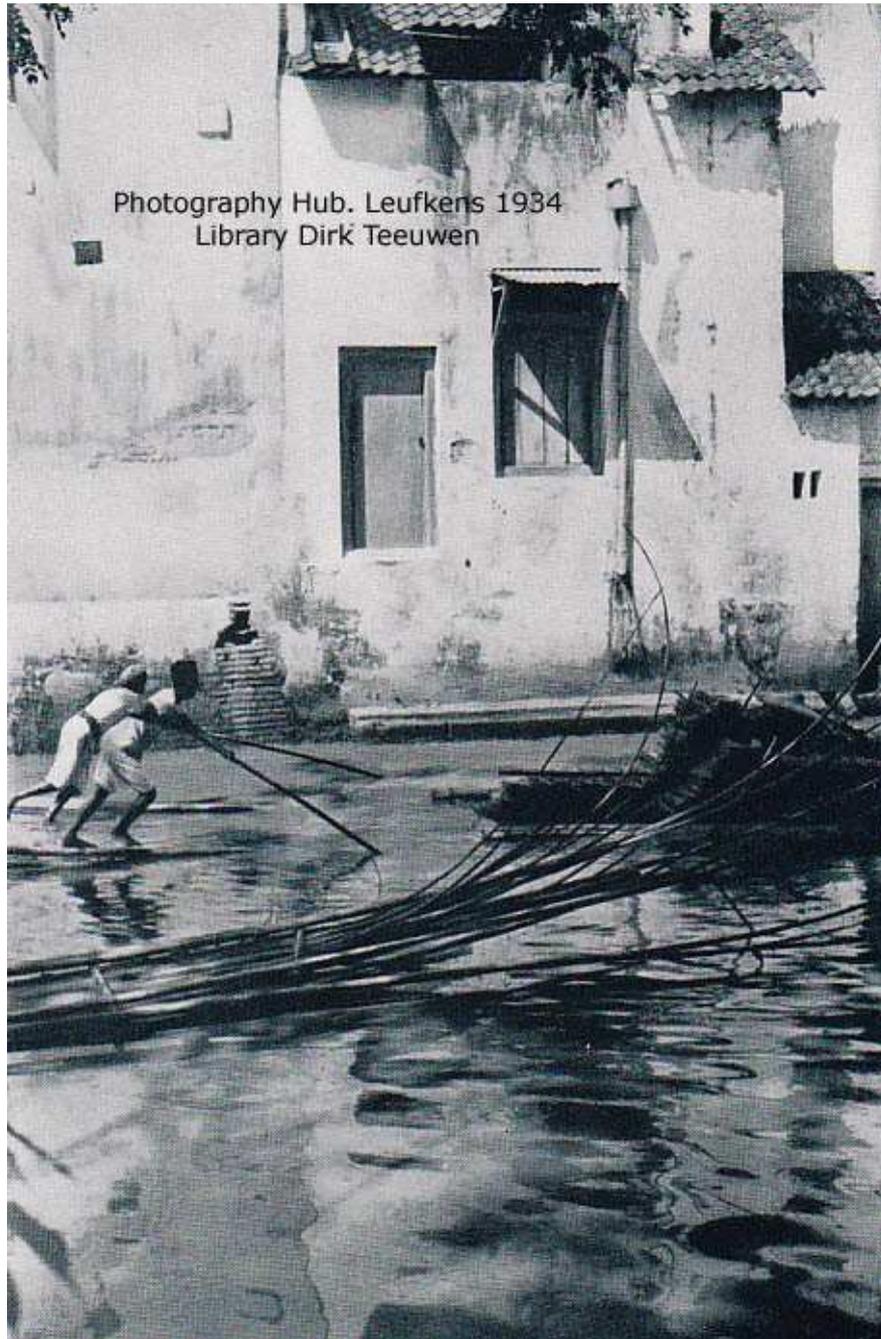
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Photography Hub. Leufkens 1934
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**9. Theater (Music Hall) left and Aneta Radio Hall (from middle to right)
Near Pasar Baru.
Batavia - Jakarta**

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**11. Oud Batavia – Jakarta Kota (Old Dutch houses, Dutch colonial atmosphere)
Batavia-Jakarta**

End of the article.

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