

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

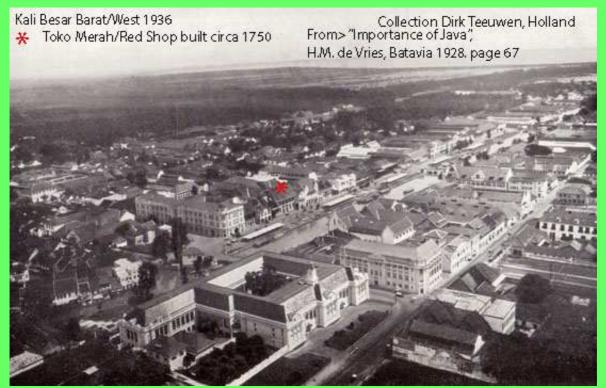
# 3. Jakarta/Batavia Kali Besar Barat Kali Besar West II Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

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Asian elegance, photo DT

References/sources of images: see images Consulted literature: see last page



Left side of the picture, Kali Besar Barat (West) in 1936

## Introduction

We continue our walk. Standing on the crossing of Kali Besar Barat and Jalan Kopi we have a look to the left, into Jalan Kopi. In the Dutch period this road was called Utrechtse Straat, Utrecht Street. Utrecht is a town in The Netherlands. At your right (to the east) you see Jalan Kopi Bridge, called Middelpunt Brug or Halfway Bridge in the Dutch Period, and some 300 meters to the north you

discover the one and only Dutch drawbridge left now in Jakarta. Have a look at the pictures first.

This part of the Kali Besar Tour can be done within 30 minutes

# **List of pictures**

1. Northern side of Kali Besar Barat, 1927

Left to right: Toko Merah; Reiss & Co, now Bank Sinarmas; Hongkong Shanghai Bank, now Tax Office; an old small office; a 19<sup>th</sup> century Dutch house, now a Maybank office; a smaal old office; the large (white) office of the daily newspaper "News of Today in the Dutch East-Indies", now a discotheque.

2. Right from Toko Merah

See picture 1, a detail.

3. Part of Kali Besar Barat/West in 1929

A detail of 2. Now the Old City Nightclub, formerly a Dutch newspaper office "News of Today in the Dutch East-Indies".

4. Drawing from 1929

Office, "Nieuws van de Dag in Nederlandsch-Indië" ("News of Today in the Dutch East-Indies").

- 5. Office of the German (from Bremen) firm C. Bahre & G. Kinder Location: corner of Jalan Kopi and Kali Besar Barat. A fine example of the local atmosphere in 1865.
- 6. View from Middelpunt Bridge, Jalan Kopi Bridge, in 1770 View to the west into Utrecht Street, now Jalan Kopi. Left, at the other side of the bridge there is a guard house. Right: the Dutch Portuguese Church inside Batavia.
- 7. Gereja Sion, Sion Church in 2006

This church is located outside Old Batavia, near Stasiun Kota, Jakarta Kota Railway Station. Inauguration 1696.

- 8. Front of Hotel Omni Batavia, now Hotel "Rivier" ("River")
- 9. Hotel Omni Batavia, now Hotel "Rivier" ("River")
- 10. Office McLaine & Watson, about 1890

Demolished in 1952, location: Kali Besar Barat, northern end, near the railway.

11. Office McLaine & Watson, shipbrokers, in 1936



1 Part of Kali Besar West in 1929



1a Toko Merah in 2015 Two Dutch houses from circa 1750



1b Toko Merah in 1936



2 Right from Toko Merah in 1936



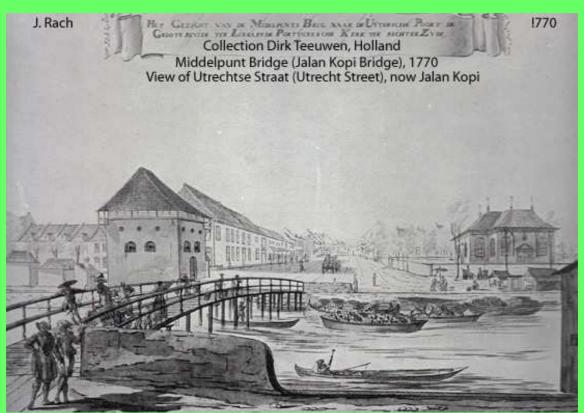
3 Right from Toko Merah Office of the colonial newspaper "Nieuws van de Dag", 1929



4 Office of the colonial newspaper "Nieuws van de Dag", 1929



5 The southern corner of Jalan Kopi and Kali Besar Barat, circa 1860 The office of the German (from Bremen Town) company "Bahre&Kinder)



6 The southern corner of Jalan Kopi and Kali Besar Barat (left), 1770
Middelpunt Bridge, view of Jalan Kopi/Utrechtse Straat



7 Gereja Sion in 2006, built 1695



8 Hotel Rivier in 1998



9 Hotel Rivier in 1998



10 Corner of Kali Besar Barat and Jalan Tiang Bendera in 1865
The office of the McLaine and Watson Company



11 Corner of Kali Besar Barat and Jalan Tiang Bendera in 1936
The office of the McLaine and Watson Company

#### **Tour**

Stand still before Toko Merah for a while. (For pictures of Toko Merah, see picture 1a and 1b. Directly left from Toko Merah, the Red Shop, you see a nice, but old, office from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, picture 1. Before 1932 this office was a branch of the cotton traders "Sirtorius & Co". Now it is a lawvers' office and nicknamed Gedung Banteng, Buffalo Building. Why Buffalo Building? I don't have the faintest idea. Directly right from the Red Shop there is an office of Bank Sinarmas, formerly the merchant's office of the Reiss & Co Company, dealers in steel, picture 2. Right from Bank Sinarmas you find an Indonesian Governmental Tax Office, called Kantor Pajak. This is a monument from 1912 and is recognizable by its two dormer windows. Formerly, before 1942, it was an office of the Hongkong Shanghai Bank, Once, from the year of 1864, the Hongkong Shanghai Bank financed sugar and coffee industries. The Hongkong Shanghai Bank is now an important commercial bank in the Far East.

Nr 19 is a neo-classical Dutch patrician house from the year of 1895. It is the now a beautiful office of the Maybank (identifiable by the ATM sign). Nr 22 on picture 3 and 4, an entertainment centre, is quite close. This night club, called "Old City" is established in an Art Deco Style building dating from 1929. In 1929 it was the head office of the colonial daily newspaper "Nieuws van de Dag van Nederlandsch-Indië", in English "News of Day in the Dutch East-Indies". Now you pass two buildings and then you discover the Qur Hotel, a renovated Dutch merchant's office from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Let's continue our walk again. You reach the southern corner of Jalan Kopi and Kali Besar Barat. Jalan Kopi was called Utrechtse Straat - Utrecht Street in English, Utrecht is a town in The Netherlands. On this southern corner you can observe the saddening remains of the office of the Bahre & Kinder Company, picture 5. Bahre & Kinder was a trading and shipping company from the seaport town of Bremen in Germany. The office served a consulate as well. To the right - that is: to the east - you see Jalan Kopi Bridge, formerly the Dutch Middelpunt Brug ("Halfway Bridge" in English). Before the year of 1800 there was a small guard house at this side, the western side, of the bridge. Right in front of you once a protestant church was located, picture 6. So, this church stood near the northern corner of Jalan Kopi and Kali Besar Barat, This protestant church - the, so-called, "Inner City Dutch Portuguese Church" - burnt down in 1808. On the same spot there is now an ugly modern building, coloured in white and blue. The old protestant Dutch Portuguese Church located outside Old Batavia, picture 7, is still there, on a location not far from

Jakarta Kota Railway Station. Portuguese means here: people of mixed Dutch-Portuguese-Javanese blood.

Cross Jalan Kopi and continue your walk along Kali Besar Barat. At a distance of about 100 meters you see three buildings in a sort of Art Deco Style. The first one is a low, small, building in Dutch classical colonial style from about 1910. The second one was built in 1919 on behalf of the John Peet & Co company and is a two storey Art Deco building with a small tower in the centre. It is now a Toshiba office. Then you pass another Art Deco building, dating from about 1925. It has a small tower (marked with a "S"). This Samudera Logistics Company - the office address is nr 39 so far we can remember - is situated at the left side of the Hotel Batavia "Rivier" (this means River in English). In the Dutch Period the Samudara building was an office of the traders Maintz & Company. At the northern end of Kali Besar Barat once stood the premises of the Mc Laine and Watsen Company (ship brokers), picture 10 and 11. On this spot, on the corner of Kali Besar Barat and Jalan Tiang Bendera, you will find Bank BRI now (source Binturu Hoepoedio, see "consulted literature").

Then, of course!, you jump into Hotel "Rivier", location nr. 44 of course, picture 8 and 9. This is a beautiful modern hotel (with a wonderful interior) built on the spot of the Kraton, the palace, of the rulers of Jayakarta. The Jayakarta Princes (from the Sultanate of Bantam) ruled before the year of 1619, before the foundation of Batavia by the Dutch. Run into the bar for a drink.

## Suggestion

Stay in Hotel "Rivier" for a while. Drink a beer and enjoy your snacks. After that we are going to visit the Dutch drawbridge. We are going make a strong appeal to your imaginativeness.

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Kali Besar, view at the south, circa 1870
Background left \*\*: the small dome (cupola) of the old Dutch
Town Hall of Batavia/Jakarta. The most nearby bridge \* is
Middelpunt Bridge near Jalan Kopi, formerly Utrechtse Straat.

From: Vries, J. J. de: Jaarboek van Batavia en omstreken (Yearbook of Batavia/Jakarta and vicinity) 1927; Batavia-Weltevreden 1927, p. 533 Kali Besar to the south, Batavia/Jakarta 1870

