



# 11. Jakarta History Museum, backyard

## Dirk Teeuwen MSc



### 5.1 Introduction

### 5.2 Pictures

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### 5.1 Introduction

In the backyard there is a lot to experience. This varies from dungeons to a statue of Hermes-Mercury, the Greek-Roman God of trade. Originally this statue stood on Harmoni Square at the southern end of Jalan Gayah Mada, formerly the Dutch Molenvliet (Mill Canal). Look around and listen.

### 5.2 Pictures

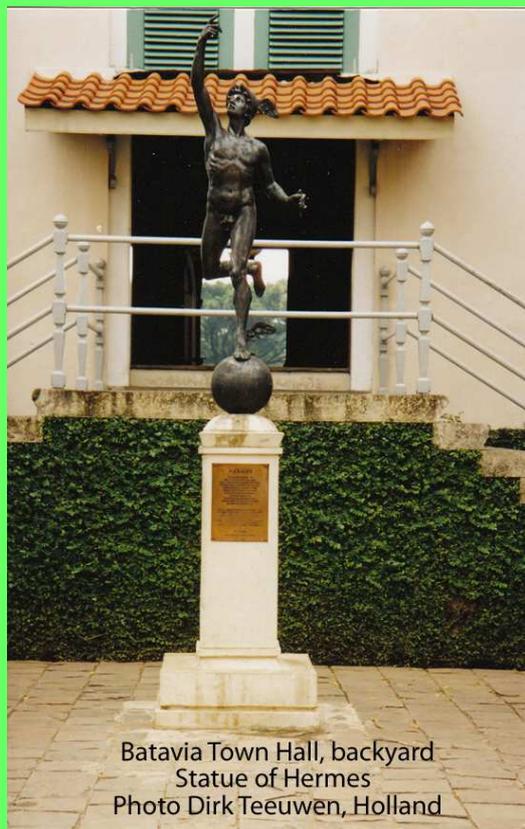


1. Jakarta History Museum, backside  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



Batavia Town Hall, backyard  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

**2. Detail from 1**



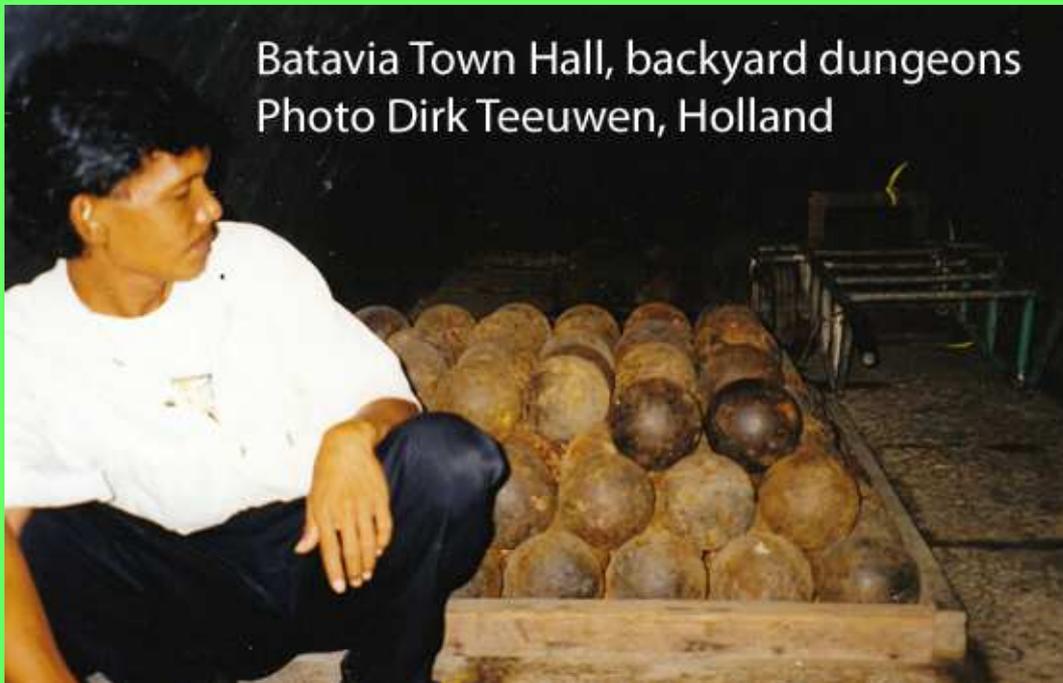
Batavia Town Hall, backyard  
Statue of Hermes  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

**3. Statue of Hermes, once it stood on Harmoni Square at the southern end of  
Jalan Gaja Madah, formerly Molenvliet (Mill Canal)  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland**



Collectie Tropenmuseum, public domain

**4. Fertility canon Si Jagur, now in the backyard of the Jakarta History Museum**  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:COLLECTIE\\_TROPENMUSEUM\\_Heilig\\_Kanon,\\_Si\\_Jagur,\\_met\\_offers,\\_Batavia\\_TMnr\\_60025943.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:COLLECTIE_TROPENMUSEUM_Heilig_Kanon,_Si_Jagur,_met_offers,_Batavia_TMnr_60025943.jpg) (2016)



Batavia Town Hall, backyard dungeons  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

**5. Inside the backyard dungeons**  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

Batavia Town Hall, backyard dungeons  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



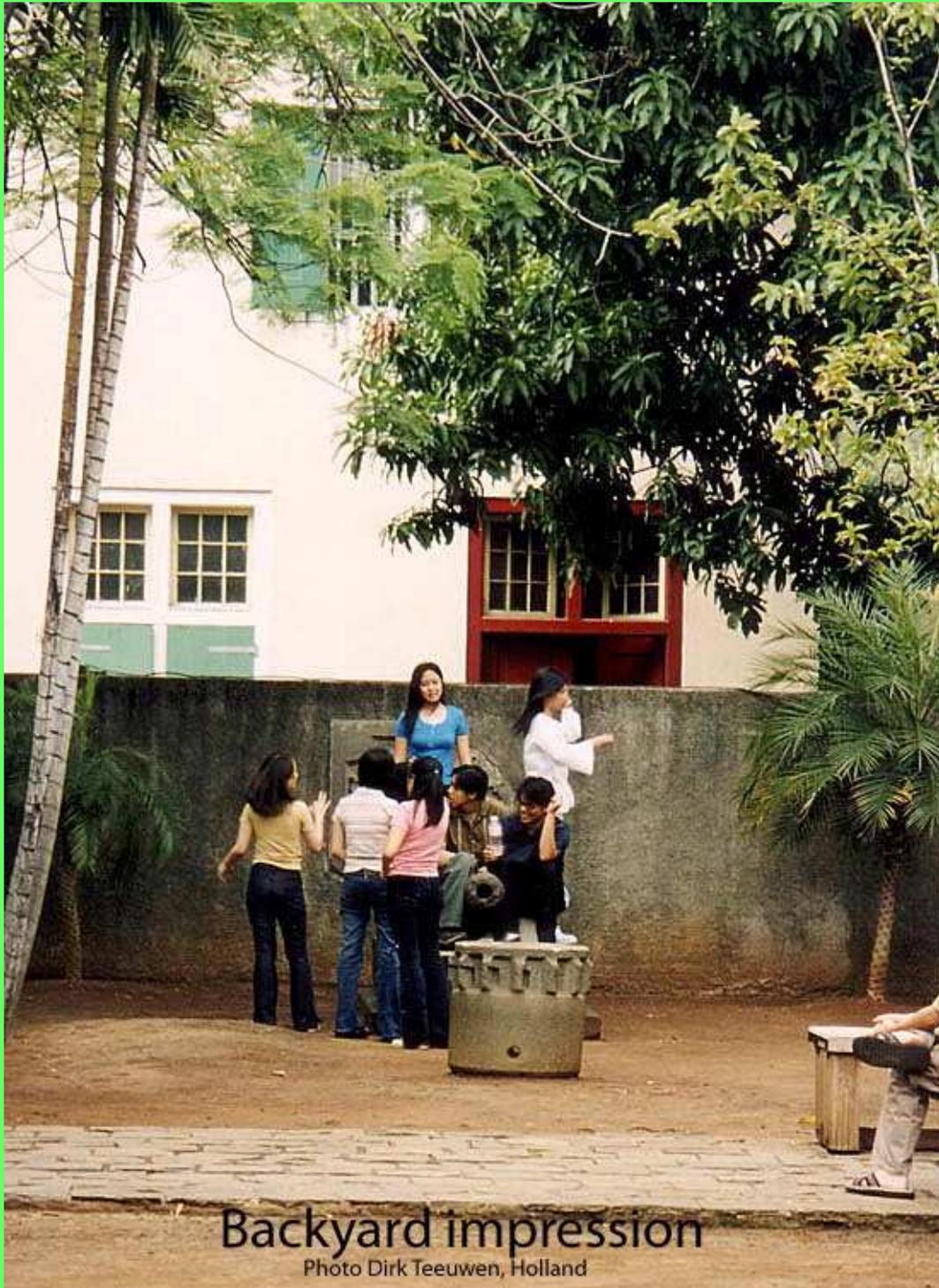
**6. To the backyard dungeons**  
Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



Wikipedia  
Tropen Museum,  
Amsterdam

Photo Woodbury and Page, Batavia 1870  
Erberfelt Memorial along Jalan Jakarta

**7. Poor Pieter Erberfelt, only his head, on a memorial, was left.**



**8. Backyard impressions; larking about in the backyard of Balai Kota in 2002, the flower of Jakarta's youth enjoying an educational school trip in their own way.**

**Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland**



**9. The killing of the Chinese, Batavia 1740**

Stapel, dr. F.W.: *Geschiedenis van Nederlandsch-Indië*; Amsterdam 1930, page 154, artist unknown



**10. The killing of the Chinese in the backyard of the Batavia Town Hall, 1740**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1740\\_Batavia\\_massacre#/media/File:Chinezenmoord\\_van\\_stolk\\_\(2\).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1740_Batavia_massacre#/media/File:Chinezenmoord_van_stolk_(2).jpg) (public domain, artist unknown)



**11. Detail from 9, 1740**  
Processing by Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



**12. Detail from 9, 1740**  
Processing by Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

### 5.3 Tour Guide

On your way to the backyard you pass the backdoor of course, this will be no surprise to you. After doing so, you find yourself standing on top of a small staircase and immediately you discover right in front of you a statue of Hermes-Mercury, a Dutch design from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Now cast a glance left and right. The backyard is a very attractive garden nowadays.

At your left, so far the author can remember, you see a good copy of a memorial stone. It is a memory to Pieter Erbervelt, executed in 1722. He was a resident of Batavia, a rich man of mixed blood. His father was a European. His mother was a Christian, born in the town of Ayuthaya in Thailand. Ayuthaya was the capital of Thailand during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. You ask yourself: Dutchmen in Thailand in those days? Well, this was not so strange as it seems now: the Dutch East-India Company, VOC, owned an important trading post in Ayuthaya, north from Bangkok. Anyway, in 1671 the wealthy family Erbervelt moved to Batavia. Here Pieter died a violent death in 1722, after being accused of treason and subsequently sentenced. Pieter is one of our famous prisoners.

One more prisoner was Petrus Vuijst. Vuijst was the Dutch Governor of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) from 1726 until 1729. He was mentally ill, potty, a lunatic. In Ceylon he personally condemned absolutely innocent people to death after torturing them in a most gruesome way. The Dutch East-India Company arrested him, brought him to Batavia/Jakarta, threw him in the backyard dungeons of the Town Hall and executed him publicly. The executioner cut his throat.

You see a Portuguese cannon, called Si Jagur, made in Macao before 1640. Si Jagur means Mr Fertility. The length is about 4 meters. At the backside of the cannon you see a clenched fist. The Dutch shipped this cannon from Malacca to Batavia, after they conquered Malacca in 1641. In Indonesia Si Jagur is a symbol of sexual activity and a symbol of fertility. An infertile woman can stroke the fist, or, much better, can sit on the cannon for a while. Results? The author (male) has not the faintest idea.

Walk into the garden and look at the backside of the Town Hall. The rear side of the Town Hall has been beautifully restored in the seventies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the originally Dutch architecture has been preserved excellently.

Have a look at the basement and shiver. The dungeons are open to public (mind your head). However, once, a stay in the dungeons was horrible and mortality was impressive. Most prisoners were slaves, but in 1740 Chinese gangs have been a real threat to Batavia. Because of that a lot of Chinese were thrown in the basement and were killed in this backyard as well as elsewhere in town.

**Remember, there were more prisons within the Town Hall. The prison cells established on the ground floors of the Town Hall's wings (so, not these dungeons!) were meant for frauds, bankrupt citizens, for mainly white or mixed blood people and middle class Chinese. All of them were held in captivity because of offences with an economic character. Their accommodation was reasonable by standards in those days.**

**We hope you enjoyed it the tour. Our advice: jump into a nice bar and drink a beer, you must be very thirsty right now.**

**Ending**