

1909-01-04

Taipeng.
- Perak

01

4 Jan^u.

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for your note about "the ninety-nine Laws of Perak".

I hope you have received Law I. Twice did I give instructions that it should be sent you. You will see from it that I have not overlooked the Muhammadan jurisprudence, to which you refer, so I ^{am sending} ~~enclose~~ a copy with this letter.

What you say about modern Dutch books being overlooked is unfortunately too true. There are two reasons for this. In the first place very few Englishmen

read Dutch; & they therefore read only what had been translated from the Dutch. That is why Mr. Rigby quotes from Friederich who is rather out of date. But there is also another reason. Authors who wrote fifty years ago are apt to be regarded as classical & authoritative; while modern writers are criticized. The consequence is that it is very hard to get people to be abreast of modern research. Even Sir Frank Swettenham in his book on 'British Malaya' largely quotes from Crawford whose views have long since been discredited.

We are trying to do better, & hope to get some more Dutch materials translated. But it is up-hill work. The European ^{community} out here

is apt to minimize the importance of native affairs & the senior officers of Government (who come from other Colonies) are apt to do the same. Books like those in the 'Papers on Malay Subjects' get very few readers. I hardly expect to sell more than 100 copies of "Law II - the Ninety-nine Laws of Perak." It is rather discouraging; but things may improve in time.

I had thought of bringing out a special pamphlet on Muslim Law in ^{British} Malaya, using the local Malay text books, the adat, & the books by Juyrboll & Sachau (with your article on the latter), but must await a time when I have more leisure. I hope however to

04

complete the series of "Papers
on Malay Subjects" this year
& to visit Europe again next
year when I hope to see you
at Leiden.

Yours sincerely
R. H. Wilkin

4/1 '09



X01

De Weledede Heer
Dr. C. Snouck Hurgronje
Witte Singel, 84^a,
Leiden
Holland.

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[37]

1909-04-24

01

Taipeng,

Perak

24 April.

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for your letter. I am very pleased indeed at your liking "Malay Law" & have noted the corrections you suggest. I hope to have the pleasure of discussing the matter with you in Europe before I have to republish anything on the subject.

Your article on the Turkish movement interested me greatly & I have referred to it again in view of recent events. I know Turkey pretty well. I was born there & have spent over 10 years of my life at various times in the country. My father, grandfather & great-grandfather

were all in the Consular service there & I was intended for the same service before I drifted to the ^{Far} East. The part I know best is Smyrna & its vicinity; but I have relatives in Constantinople, the president of the Chamber of Commerce (Sir William Whittall) being my mother's brother. Still I should prefer to see Constantinople through other eyes than those of British official & commercial interests. When I was on leave some year ago I persuaded a young cousin of mine to specialize in Turkish & he hoped to pass his final qualifying examination in Turkish last very shortly. He is enthusiastically on the side of the Young Turks & the Committee of Union & Progress

For my own part I am rather afraid of this enthusiasm, as it leads to ~~great~~ the expectation of rapid improvements in a country where progress must be very slow.

Another pamphlet (Life & Customs II) has been published since I last wrote; I hope you have received it. Another one on "Arts & Crafts" is in the press; but the head of the printing office is on leave & the work is slow. Both these are by Mr. Winstedt. Other pamphlets in preparation are on "Malay Amusements" & on "Rice-planting." Unfortunately the local printing-offices cannot provide illustrations. I am making a good art-collection of Malay things, notably

sarongs, silver-work, gold-work,
 niello (chutam), & weapons. It
 is most interesting to see the
 extraordinary differences in
 arts & processes between the
 northern Malay States (Redak,
 Patani &c) & the Southern.
 Unfortunately I do not know
 Java, but I hope to visit the
 museum in Holland on my
 next leave.

Yours very sincerely

R. Milkinson

24/4 '09

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13-7-09



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De wel-edele Heer

Prof. Dr. C. Snouck Hurgronje

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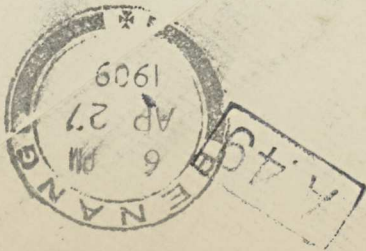
Witte Singel, 84^a

Leiden

Holland

X02

Wilkinson



1910-04-28

01

The Residency,
Seremban
Negeri Sembilan.

28. 4. 10.

Dear Sir,

Mr. G. M. Laidlaw is now
Asst. District Officer, Tasek, Upper
Perak. That address will find him.
Your last letter arrived before his
return to the Straits & was thus
sent back to Europe. I saw him
on his return (Sept., 1909) & he told
me of his visit to Leyden.

For myself I am sorry to say
that my ~~return~~ holiday had been
delayed by my appointment to act
as Resident of this State, an appoint-
ment that I do not like declining.

It is only temporary; but I shall be here for another six months at least, I expect.

Very many congratulations on your approaching marriage; I wish you every happiness.

There are three more "Papers on Malay Subjects" in the press & I am engaged on a fourth. Unfortunately the Printing Office is very busy & the work of publication is slow. The three are: "Malay Amusements," & "Aboriginal Tribes of the Peninsula," - both by myself - & "Fishing, Hunting & Trapping" by Mr. Winstedt. Mr. Shaw (who succeeded Mr. Laidlaw in Lower Perak) is

preparing a paper on "Rice-cultivation," & I am writing "Notes on the Negri Sembilan." These two papers & another "Minutes of the Perak State Council, 1883-1889" will complete the Series.

It was my good fortune ^{last year} to be able to collect a vocabulary of some 2500 words together with a few texts & some grammatical notes of the language of one of the aboriginal tribes. It is, of course, quite non-Malayan; & I was startled to find variations for the various persons in the conjugation of a verb & even a sort of dual. Unfortunately the vocabulary needs special accents, & the Government Press could hardly deal with it. It will have to

await my next visit to Brill's.

The "Negri Sembilan" are Minangkabau States, full of adat & peculiar systems of government. In importance it is the third Residency, with the result that the premier State, Perak, monopolized the best District Officers & I cannot find out very much from my officials. If I could get Mr. Wintlett or Mr. Laidlaw down here it would be a great help to me.

Yours very sincerely

R. Philkinton

28/4'10



X01

De weledele en hooggeleerde Heer
Dr. C. Snouck Hurgronje
Witte Singel 84^A
Leiden
Holland

X02

THE RESIDENCY,
NEGRI SEMBILAN.



10.81

1910-12-28

Seremban.

01

Regi Sembilan
Malay Peninsula.

28. XII.

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you for
your two very kind letters regarding
my last two pamphlets. It is
necessary to explain that ^{my books} they are
written without access to any
library & that I am thereby
prevented from giving references to
books like Hagen's which are
not obtainable locally. The
wandering life of an official
in this country makes the ac-
quisition of a private library

an undesirable incumbrance & my present plan is to send books home or give them to such local libraries as there are rather than keep them myself. Your "Achehnese", Herklots, Skeat's Malay, ^{Veth's "Java"} Malic, ^{or} one or two other books represent very nearly all that I keep by me.

In this connection I find it useful to encourage junior officials to work at first hand without reference to the books of others. The method ^(we have no libraries &) had serious drawbacks, but many an observer had been deterred from publishing very good work through his inability to round it off in a library. Later on, when I settle in Europe, my chance will

come; & if I never get that chance, some scholar in Europe, working on my material, will give the necessary bibliographical references.

In the case of my Dictionary I gave all my books to my own university (Cambridge). I hope to edit a second edition after I retire from the Service so as to round it off & make the necessary corrections.

The Series is now nearly finished. There are two pamphlets (~~two~~ notes on Negri Sembilan by myself, & Hunting, Fishing & Trapping by R.O. Winstedt) in the press; a third pamphlet on Rice-planting is nearly ready. Winstedt goes on leave this spring & hopes to visit Leyden; I had hoped to go too but the Governor had

told me to stay out longer. We are very short-handed at present. Of the five highest posts (the Resident-Generalship & the four major Residencies) two holders have just retired, & a third had gone on long leave & may not return. But you may take it as certain that I shall get away within 18 months.

I am glad to say that I have interested another official in Malay research - a Mr. Caldecott who is one of my District Officers - & hope to get some good work out of him. Our Museum Department is too wrapped up in Natural History, but it has been arranged that the next vacancy is to be given to an Ethnographer; & things

may improve.

We are trying to secure the publication of two Malay historical mss. in the Batavia Library. Dr. van Ronkel had been written to. There are other ^{local} histories as well, & I am hoping that a series of historical texts may be published by the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, viz. the two Batavia texts, the Perak Annals, the Kedah Annals, some Pahang records, & a better edition of the Sejarah Melayu.

Yours sincerely
R. J. Wilkinson

28/12 '10?

No. 02

XOI

De weledele Heer

Prof. Dr. C. Smouck Hurgronje

Witte Singel, 84^A

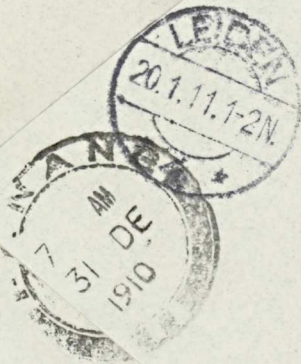
Leiden

Holland

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THE RESIDENCY,
NEGRI SEMBILAN.

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1911-07-04

Seremban

01

Negeri Sembilan
Malay Peninsula.

4 July.

Dear Dr. Snouck Hurgronje,

Very many thanks
for your little book of lectures,
with the spirit of which I agree
entirely. The British government is
less methodical than most conti-
nental governments, & allows its
officials to pick up knowledge &
experience for themselves instead of
training them at academies. In
the early years when a single European
officer had to govern a large native
district this system did not work
badly; but nowadays with our
large European communities things
are very different; & the officials &
the native population are drifting
very much apart. If I could have

my way I would select officials at an earlier age & put them through a long definite academic course at home, in which case their teachers could exercise an immense influence over the spirit of government out here. But this policy would not suit our Universities - which dislike any divergence from the regular classical & mathematical curricula; & it makes no appeal to the democratic spirit which dislikes bureaucracy & considered that good intentions are worth more than knowledge & experience. There is an influential minority - including names like Lord Reay, Lord Cromer & Lord Curzon - in favour of Oriental Academies - but I am sorry to say that our Governor & the Colonial Office have gone against

the idea, though Sir Frank Swettenham & Sir Cecil Smith supported it. As our Governor, Sir John Anderson, has just been made Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies I am afraid there is very little hope of our seeing anything like your Civil Service Academy so far as Malay studies are concerned though it may be otherwise with British India. I have put forward in the meanwhile proposals for a Committee of Malay Studies out here; if it does nothing else, it should provide us with a good reference library & do something to organize publication & research. My proposals come up for discussion in a few days, but of course they are only a half-measure & do not go far enough. Some proposals made by the N. I.

Government on a "Commissie voor de volklectuur" ought to strengthen my hand as regards some of ~~the~~ ^{my} proposals.

The last two pamphlets of the Series - "Notes on Negri Sembilan" & "Padi-planting" - are now in proof; they should be out in three or four months at the latest. I propose to go on leave not earlier than ~~100~~ November & not later than March, but the exact date is still unfixed. It will be a long leave, perhaps a year or more. The only thing that I am likely to publish during my leave is a small vocabulary of one of the aboriginal dialects, but I wish to make arrangements with a view to publishing an illustrated book on the Malays as

I agree entirely with you regarding the need of illustrations. As a matter of fact my manuscript report on Malay fisheries was illustrated throughout but the Government press could not reproduce photographs.

The census of the aborigines was entrusted to me - a rather interesting piece of work, allowing for bad work on the part of district officers the number of aborigines must be quite 30,000; the interesting fact came out that while the aborigines of the plains were relatively of low culture those in the high mountains had a high culture & were very numerous. The number of aborigines actually enumerated was between 25,000 & 26,000 of whom quite 15,000 were mountain-Sakai of Perak & Pahang.

My little pamphlet will have to be modified somewhat in future editions - notably by the addition of an important fresh tribe - but on the whole the Census bore it out.

Mr. Wintedt who had been most dangerously ill for months is, I think, now on the road to a recovery that had been almost miraculous. He is by far the most promising of our junior officers. Others, however, are beginning to follow in his footsteps & I hope to get about 6 workers for the next series of papers on Malay subjects.

You will render me a very great service if you can get Friedrich Mueller, the Bookseller, to send me

a catalogue of his books; I do not remember whether his address is Amsterdam or the Hague. It is essential that our new library should be as representative as possible of Dutch publications. Your Colonial Library's catalogue furnished us with a good bibliography & I hope that the Government will vote the money before I go on leave so that I may send the order or at least prepare it.

Yours very sincerely
R. J. Wilkinson

4/7 " "

Lustgart.

Uhlendrasse 8.



Den Wed. Gestr. Heer

Dr. C. Smouck Chirurgie

~~Witte Singel, 84A~~

Fr. Muller en Myhrhoff

gebrs. 1/8 " "

~~Leiden~~

~~Holland~~

THE RESIDENCY,
NEGRI SEMBILAN.



1911-10-30

Colonial Secretariat ⁹¹

Singapore.

30 October.

Dear Dr. Snouck Hurgronje,

Your letter with the enquiry about the Pengkalan Kempas Keramat inscription, reached me this morning, & you will be sorry to learn that Mr. Barned died two days ago. I do not know whether you heard that he was made Colonial Secretary of Hongkong in February last. He took up his duties after a short leave & was just in the middle of his work when he died. He was only 46 & the death was very sudden & unexpected; he was playing polo at the time & fell from his horse dead from heart failure.

As you will see from my address I have been made Colonial Secretary of the Straits. The Governor is going to the Delhi Durbar & in his absence I shall have to act as Governor in his place, but I hope to get my leave in February or March. I have been here about two months. Just before I came I received a number of catalogues kindly sent out by your direction & passed them on to the Committee of Malay Studies for action. This transfer has interfered a good deal with my Malay work.

The Pengkalan Rempas Keramat is well known to me. The Malay inscription had been deciphered. It asserts that the Keramat is the makâm of a certain Shiikh Ahmad who died in the reign of Sultan Mansur Shah (of Malacca) in A.D. 872. The stone on which

the inscription is cut is sandstone but the tomb itself is made of laterite blocks. The inscription on the tomb is so worn as to be indecipherable; & I have no doubt that when it became indistinct the sandstone pillar was put up & a new inscription cut to tell people whose shrine it was.

Personally I have no doubt that the tomb is what it professes to be. But its real interest lies in other directions. The stones lying outside it are all beautifully carved, but they are granite - not laterite - & have nothing to do with the tomb. They are not venerated at all. There ~~is~~ is no granite in the neighbouring geological features, & these blocks - some of very large size indeed - must have been brought to the spot from a distance. How were they brought there? And why? The name of Allah is carved on one, but my own idea is that

it was carved on the stone at a ^{late} later date. There are many carved stones, of all sorts of shapes + carved on one side only. It is quite impossible to guess what use they served.

So too the sandstone pillar has four sides. On two sides there is the inscription of which you have a copy. On the other two sides there are inscriptions in a non-arabic script. The top lines have been made to read Bismi' llati'rahmani rahimi but the rest is not Arabic. I ~~showed~~ ^{had} photographs of it ^{shown} to Dr. Jeynball + Professor Kern but they could not read them.

Yours very sincerely

R. Philkinson

30/10 '11

besw. 21/11 '12.



XCI

De weledele en hoogeleerde Heer
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