

From time to time the Corts Foundation presents news letters to inform you about the achieved results of our projects in Indonesia, Japan and Thailand. The main focus of the foundation is to support projects and initiatives concerning the archives of the Dutch East India Company in the 17th and 18th century, and the history of World War II, especially the Japanese occupation of Indonesia and the Indonesian independence war.

This is our **final** Newsletter as the foundation will transfer its assets and activities to the newly “Philippus Corts

Fonds”, part of the Dutch “The Learned Society / KITLV”.

The following milestones have been achieved in the last months:

- Publication of the last part of our Senshi Sōsho trilogy concerning the Japanese invasion of the Dutch East- Indies.
- Online presentation of additional downloads of book presentations, peer reviews, articles and in particular 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century publications in the Dutch language concerning the former Dutch East- Indies.



## Summary

- Transfer of the assets and activities of the Corts Foundation to the new “Philippus Corts Fonds”, part of “The Learned Society / KITLV”.
- The Senshi Sōsho trilogy concerning the Japanese invasion of the Dutch East- Indies has been concluded with a printed volume, together with online Open Access.
- Several online publications of digitized 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century publications in the Dutch language concerning the former Dutch East- Indies.
- “The importance of historical landmarks in a city” (support of the translation of new publications of the Hulswit-Fermont-Cuyper Foundation)
- “Kunstenaar op Java” (support of the publication of volume 119 in the series “Werken van de Linschoten-Vereeniging”).

**The Corts Foundation is transferring its activities to the new 'Philippus Corts Fonds', part of 'The Learned Society / KITLV'**

Leiden, June 17 2021

The Board of the Corts Foundation has decided to conclude the activities as an autonomous foundation and to handover her assets and activities to the new "Philippus Corts Fonds" that will continue her activities as part of "The Learned Society / KITLV".

[\[https://www.verenigingkitlv.nl/\]](https://www.verenigingkitlv.nl/).

'The Learned Society / KITLV' (Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies) is the owner of a unique and scientific collection including books, handwritings, images and also other tangible objects regarding Southeast Asia and the Caribbean.

The collection is managed by Leiden University Libraries / Universiteitsbibliotheek Leiden (UBL) since July 2014.



The focus of the 'Philippus Corts Fonds' will be: "The preservation of original archival sources (in local languages and in Dutch) in Indonesia and the Netherlands regarding the shared history of these countries during 1602 till 1949, in particular the period of the 'Dutch East Indian Company- VOC' and the second World war in Asia", and making these accessible.

Given the workload, the board of the Corts Foundation decided several years ago to discuss how to continue the foundation after realizing the main goals of its principles.

First of all: 'Digital preservation for the long term and making accessible (1.1 mio) VOC-manuscripts kept at the Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia in Jakarta', and secondly: 'Research, translation and publication of Japanese archival sources about the Japanese invasion in the former Dutch- East Indies in 1942', resulting in an academic trilogy of more than 1950 pages. Then, it would be possible to use the remaining financial resources to set up a new fund focusing on shared cultural heritage in present Indonesia.

Recently, the Corts foundation published its third (and last) Senshi Sōsho volume, concluding successfully her Senshi Sōsho- project. Our 'Leiden University Office Tokyo' has been terminated and employee contracts ended. In 2017 we formally concluded the 'Data Archival System at ANRI'- project, with unique results. However, we were responsible until recently for maintenance and management of the information system and the project website 'Sejarah-Nusantara'. These responsibilities have been transferred to ANRI.

After ascertaining that our main objectives (as stated in 2003) have indeed been realized, the Board of the Corts Foundation selected a partner which would be most suitable for continuing her activities in the future. Given her long tradition and experience in Asia 'The Learned Society / KITLV' became the ideal partner.

The board of the Corts Foundation is pleased that today the general assembly of members of the 'The Learned Society / KITLV' approved the proposal to set up the 'Philippus Corts Fonds'. In doing so we will be able to benefit of the extensive knowledge and experience of the 'The Learned Society / KITLV' in researching primary sources. Moreover, the work of the Corts Foundation will be preserved for the future.

### The completed Senshi Sōsho trilogy

Between 1966 and 1980, the War History Office of the National Defense College of Japan (now the Center for Military History of the National Institute for Defense Studies) published the 102-volume Senshi Sōsho (War History Series).

The present third book completes the trilogy of English translations of the sections in the Senshi Sōsho series on the Japanese operations against the former Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). The first volume, “The Invasion of the Dutch East Indies”, details the army operations, the second volume, “The Operations of the Navy in the Dutch East Indies and the Bay of Bengal”, the navy operations, and this third volume the army air force operations. The three volumes provide an unparalleled insight into the Japanese campaign to conquer Southeast Asia and in particular the oil fields in the Indonesian archipelago in what was at that time the largest maritime/ landing operation in the military history of the world. It was also the first time in history that air power was employed with devastating effect over such enormous distances, posing complex technical and logistical problems. Willem Rummelink was the executive director of the Japan-Netherlands Institute in Tokyo for more than twenty-five years. He is a specialist in Japanese and Indonesian history.

“The Invasion of the Dutch East Indies”,  
LUP Academic. ISBN 978 90 8728 237 0, 672 pages,  
hardback, illustrated, September 2015

“The Operations of the Navy in the Dutch East Indies and  
the Bay of Bengal”,  
LUP Academic, ISBN 978 90 8728 312 4, 784 pages,  
hardback, illustrated, September 2018



“The Invasion of the South, Army Air Force Operations, and the Invasion of Northern and Central Sumatra”  
LUP Academic, ISBN 978 90 8728 366 7, 518 pages, hardback, illustrated, April 2021

This third volume completes the history of the Southern operation in relation to the conquest of Malaya and the Dutch East Indies. It focuses mainly on the air operations by the Japanese army as they were of crucial importance for the advance of the ground forces. Japan’s air operations by its Navy in the Philippines and towards East-Java have already been described in volume 26 of this series.

As in many other countries, military aviation in Japan originated in balloon trials by a joint army-navy Provisional Command with the army in the lead, established in 1909. As Japan was not actively involved in World War I, it was eager to learn from western countries about the enormous development that military aviation, and the airplane in particular, had undergone in that war. Whereas the Army invited a French team in 1919 with French aircraft for instructions, the Navy drew the experiences from the Royal Navy in 1921.

As a result of these exchanges both services built up their air forces along different lines and had different aircraft designed and produced by the Japanese industry. All companies had started with licence production of western aircraft types, but with the help of British, French and German engineers they were able to develop indigenous designs for large-scale production during the 1920s, making Japan self-supporting in both military and civil aviation.

In the interwar years Japanese military aviation was organized to provide support directly to the ground troops and the navy. Unlike Great Britain and the United States, Japanese air doctrine did not allow for independent air operations like strategic bombing. Closely resembled German Luftwaffe thinking, with multi-engine bombers to destroy enemy air forces at their airfields and support ground troop advances. From 1931 onwards the Japanese air forces were involved in combat in Manchuria and in China. Before the start of the Southern operation the army could learn from the ‘Blitzkrieg’ in Western Europe.

The Navy differed from western naval air services in that it comprised a large land-based offensive component to support naval operations or ground troops. Moreover, the Japanese Navy early recognized the importance of carrier-based air power to cover the fleet from the air as well as project offensive power, as it did in Pearl Harbor. In addition, large flying boats and cruiser-launched floatplanes were used for reconnaissance.

What made the air operations against Malaya, the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies unique were the enormous distances that had to be covered both along the eastern and western paths of advance to Java. These so-called “stepping stones operations” were based on the lessons from the Battle of Britain that an invasion could only succeed unless air superiority could be established over the enemy air force.

Thus, the task of the air forces in the Southern operation was two-fold: (1) neutralize enemy air forces on the ground and in the air as well as (2) give support to the ground troops’ advance in addition to and over longer ranges than the artillery. Attacks on enemy airfields were prime targets for the Japanese air forces, where the distance that could be covered was limited by the operational combat range of the fighter aircraft. Because of the importance of the seizure of forward enemy airfields and preparing them for the next move, even advance army parties were landed to secure and repair these airfields for the next step.

To secure the all-important airfield Palembang and the oil installations nearby even a Parachute Raiding unit was successfully employed. Given fighter combat ranges of about 500 kilometres, it took about five subsequent steps to advance from French Indo-China to move all the way up to Java. Later in the war these ‘stepping stones operations’ were copied by General MacArthur’s so called ‘island hopping’ with air and ground forces advancing along the north coast of New Guinea and further-on.

Although the air operations described in this volume are mainly those by the army air forces, there was nevertheless substantial support from navy ground-based air power. Because of the lack of an overarching authority over both air services, there had to be co-operating agreements on case-by-case basis negotiated by the various staffs involved.

A good deal of this volume addresses the enormous logistics requirements involved in the air operations, the quick preparation of seized enemy airfield and the advancing of fuel, munitions, repair facilities and stocks. A final chapter in this volume gives the results of a thorough self-evaluation of the air operations with a view to future operations against the Allied nations.

An elaborated review was published by Stone & Stone  
<http://books.stonebooks.com/reviews/210516/>

## Online publication of digitized 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century publications in the Dutch language concerning the former Dutch East- Indies

The Corts Foundation created downloads of scanned 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century publications in the Dutch language concerning the former Dutch East- Indies, which are not available anymore in Indonesia. To be much useful to historians and other researchers, these books are digitized and made full text searchable, downloadable in PDF format.

In the “Digitheek” (see: <https://www.cortsfoundation.org/digitheek-en>) we now have:

- Corpus Diplomaticum Neerlandico-Indicum, 6 volumes
- Oud Batavia (F. de Haan), 3 volumes
- Priangan (F. de Haan), 4 volumes
- Verzameling van Instructien Ordonnantien en Reglementen (Mr. P. Mijer), 1 volume
- Het koninkrijk der Nederlanden in de 2e Wereldoorlog (Dr. L. de Jong), 5 volumes
- Buitenplaatsen van Batavia (Dr. V.I. van de Wall), 1 volume
- Encyclopaedie van Nederlandsch Indië (D.G. Stibbe), 9 volumes
- De opkomst van het Nederlandsch gezag in Oost-Indië (Jhr. Mr. J. K. J. de Jonge, M. L. van Deventer), 14 volumes
- Jan Pietersz. Coen - Bescheiden omtrent zijn bedrijf in Indië (KITLV, Dr. H. T. Colenbrander), 7 volumes
- Beschrijving van Oud en Nieuw Oost- Indien (Ds. François Valentijn), 8 volumes
- Wayang Poerwa (J. Kats), 1 volume



## The importance of historical landmarks in a city

Urban planner Obbe Norbruis wrote two books about the most prolific architectural practice during Indonesia's colonial period, especially the works of Hulswit-Fermont-Cuypers. He described almost 200 buildings. The titles of both books in the English language are: "Landmarks from a bygone period" (SBN: 9789460220128) and "Architecture from the Indonesian past" (ISBN: 9789460220159). The books were published by LM Publishers.

The Corts Foundation supported the translation into the English language, which first appeared in Dutch [ <https://lmpublishers.nl/product/vlag-en-wimpel/> and <https://lmpublishers.nl/product/alweer-sieraad-stad/> ]



Obbe Norbruis focuses on the influence of history. He especially wants to understand how the spatial planning around us is changing, while retaining fixed points, historical landmarks.

Norbruis described almost 200 buildings. A lot of them are landmarks now.

To his opinion, the architecture of a historical building is important, but Norbruis believes that people should know the history of a building too. That gives an extra dimension to the experience. He discovered that Indonesians and Dutch view those landmarks differently. This is often due to the history rather than the architecture. Both can learn a lot from each other in that regard.

### “Kunstenaar op Java”

#### the traveling diaries and sketches of nature by Pieter van Oort (1825-1833)

By Andreas Weber, Sylvia van Zanen. (Volume 119 in the series “Werken van de Linschoten-Vereeniging”)

Pieter van Oort, was born in Utrecht in 1804. He was one of the most talented Dutch designers of animals and plants of his time. The Dutch King Willem I commissioned him in 1825 to travel to the former Dutch colonies in South- East Asia in the service of the ‘Natuurkundige Commissie’ and to draw plants and wildlife.

Until his death in 1834 he traveled and collected thousands of specimens, draw and reported for the recently established ‘Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie’ in Leiden. His book portraits a lost world and describes nature, landscape, bygone monuments and local customs. The Corts Foundation supported this publication.

The book was recently published by the Walburg Press ISBN 9789462494985.



**The Corts Foundation** is a Dutch non-profit organization founded in 2003 with the legacy capital of Kees Corts, whose interest in the Indonesian history led to the support of many interesting projects. The Corts Foundation envisioned an important contribution to the preservation and dissemination of documentary heritage in the field of the History of World War II and Asian-European Relations, thus safeguarding information on common and national history.

If you have any questions about this news letter or want to contact us, please email at [info@cortsfoundation.org](mailto:info@cortsfoundation.org)

For more information, please visit our website at: [www.cortsfoundation.org](http://www.cortsfoundation.org)

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