

The Kong Koan Archives of Batavia
Oxford EASL conference
10 September 2015
Koos Kuiper
Leiden University Library

Kong Koan 公館 Archives 1761-1969

- Arrived in Leiden in 1995, brought by Professor Leonard Blussé
- Organised by Wu Fengbin 吳鳳斌 (Xiamen), continued by Chen Menghong 陳萌紅 (Leiden)
- About 20 m, of which 13 m is catalogued, filmed in 2002, film scanned in 2013-14
- Support from Toyota Foundation, Friends of the Kong Koan Archive, Metamorfoze

Early History

- 1619 first captain (*kapitein*) of the Chinese, later also lieutenants, unsalaried headmen
- 1742 Chinese Council in Batavia, 1750 salaried secretary
- Assisted by ward masters (*wijkmeester*)

Functions

- Indirect rule over the Chinese: proclaiming government regulations, making translations; advisor; registry of Chinese population
- Administering justice: civil and minor criminal cases

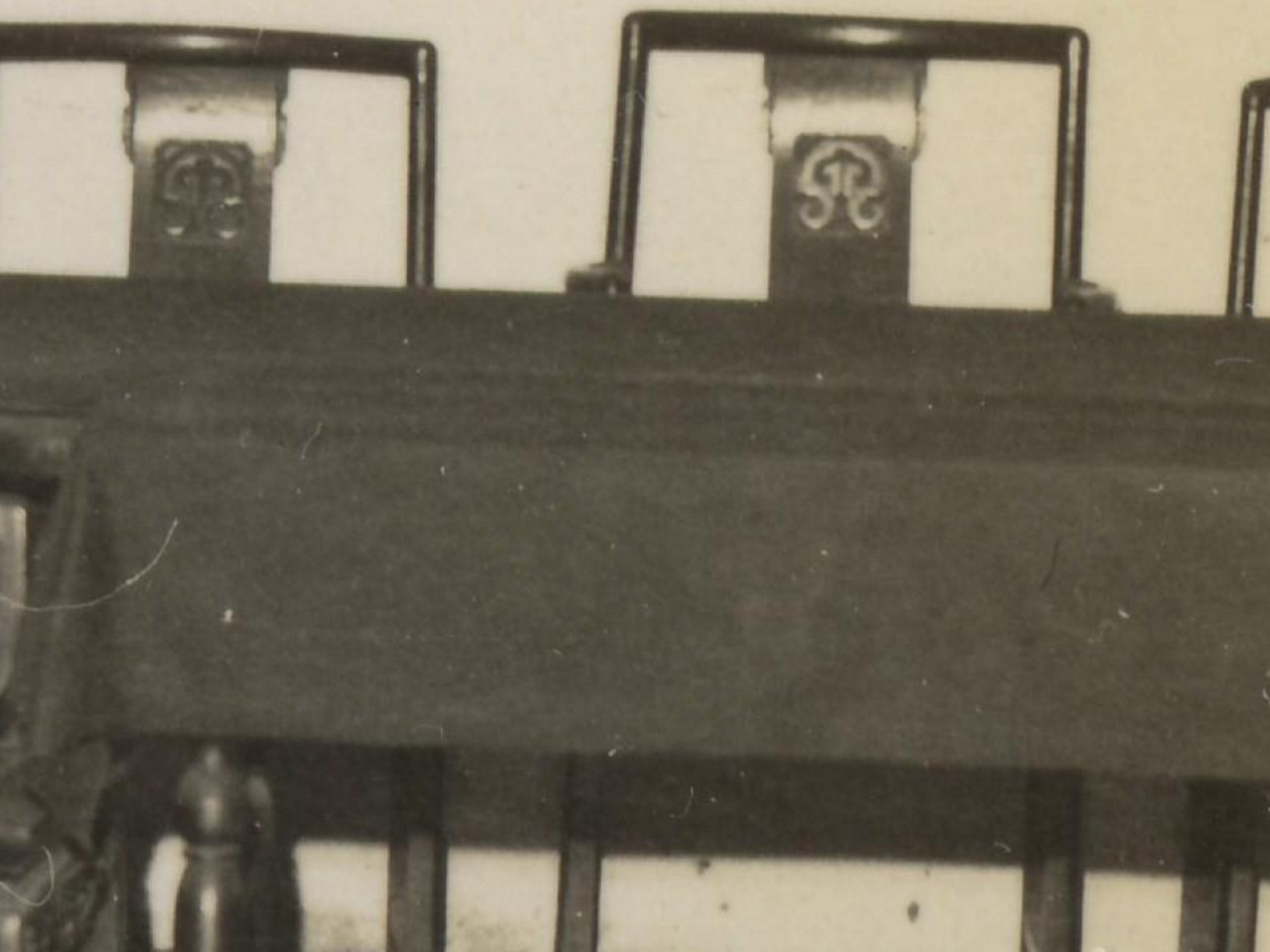
Later History

1837: new rank: majoor / mayor

- Prestige diminished around 1900
- corruption
- abolishment of opium tax farming
- deeper Dutch encroachment
- Chinese nationalist movement
- 1930s: abolished in Semarang and Surabaya
- 1942 Japanese invasion, Chinese officers in Batavia detained
- Some functions continued until 1969



公 船
HONG HOAN



仁月貝以

竊願官清民樂通國歡聲歌化日

惟期政簡訟平滿堂和氣引春



公堂者所以奉公勸民凡有利於公者無不踴而謀之舉而措之
之以萬慶其祥也茲於和堂什制伯恭檢天年初入公堂履歷

馬運載

上道經歷嘉師數年間深蒙
恩眷由雪陸申旋於和堂什制伯恭檢改年即權瑪腰之任成益惕
然自勵庶尾春米諸事悉同實係前惟最切者唐人在吧自城
市皇各器尤成畫請歸公堂保諸庶無負養恤矣義塾之設
為增廣西序加延師傳庶宏敷教誨矣公堂權項前幾不支成
自操籌以米即為經紀每年出息除開常費即將款項構買地
頭以充塚地又收回牛即沙里地以歸公堂掌轄由是年年增
息歲歲贏餘先將義塾擴充外旋因完切寺頽廢難堪速即差
員修理至如安恤土地廟棟折榱崩亦經葺理完固焉且也金
德院係吧第一祀典百餘年來塲墜頽頽棟樑蛀蝕官斯土者
尤宜引為已任亦即差遣屬員盡心經理凡閱年餘而輪奐重
新棟宇輝煌矣前後修理幾次捐題銀金不過肆仟捌百餘盾
而所費約共叁萬陸仟叁佰餘盾不敷之數悉藉公堂權項一
一填補夫非以公待公俾斯民永叨神佑同登壽域福祿也
乎公堂自北徙南幾閱前之經理亦云美矣第邇采事務繁多
辦理繁曠處房屋窗櫺尚形踳躐為後頭擴築一堂議事辦
公倍加軒豁前路高築一立亭停車駐馬亦覺清快非敢自云美
尚也亦庶幾顧名思義同德協恭凡在公堂者無負此奉公勸
民之意爾幸幸於和壹仟捌百玖拾壹年恩賜金牌辦理
恩為要也爰將參贊僚友錄紀芳名以共昭師濟之感云
持授瑪腰加賜金牌總理公堂事務李子鳳字成九

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許 致勝甲必丹丹許

Archives

- Minutes of Council meetings between 1787-1964, 32 volumes Chinese, 9 volumes Malay (after 1909-1920)
- Marriage registers 1772-1919, 72 volumes (effective 1717-1919)
- Cemetery registers 1811-1935 (1960s), 22 vols
- Sources of income: sale of land for graves, rent of land for housing
- Large collection of ledgers, account books
- Smaller archives: census, immigration, taxation, schools, temples, vaccination

Published archives

- Leonard Blussé 包樂史, Hou Zhenping 侯真平, Wu Fengbin 吳鳳斌, Nie Dening 聶德寧 jiaozhu 校注, *Gong'anbu* 公案簿, in *Bacheng Huaren gongguan (Baguo gongtang) dang'an congshu*, 吧城華人公館 (吧國公堂) 檔案叢書, English title: *Gong An Bu (Minutes of the Board Meetings of the Chinese Council)* (vols. 1-13) (Xiamen University Press, 2002–2014).
- Two more volumes are expected.
- Malay minutes typed out, not yet published.
- Databases for marriage and cemetery registers (Alden Library, Ohio University)
- Digitised version of minutes, marriage and cemetery registers in Leiden (not public).

Linguistic problems 1

(緞)挨寔嘍，大澹，大淡 (*tuan*) *oe-sít-diên, toā tām, toā tâm*, Resident, (tuan) residén

亞寔顛挨寔嘍，副挨寔嘍，副淡 *a-sít-tien oe-sít-diên, fu-tâm*, Assistant-Resident, asistén-residén

啞渣勞 with 口, *bit-cha-la*, raad/council (talk, meeting), bicara

公勃低 *kong-pút-te*,
gecommitteerde/commissioner

君厘書 *kun-lî-si*, condities/conditions, kondisi

Linguistic problems 2

甲必丹 *kap-pit-tan*, kapitein/captain, kapitan
雷珍蘭 *luî-tin-lân* luitenant/lieutenant, litanan
馬腰 *má-io*, majoor/major, mayor
默氏 *bék-sī*, wijkmeester/ward master, bék
朱葛礁 *tsu-koah-ta*,
secretaris/secretary, sekretaris

Websites

- www.leiden.edu or Libraries.leiden.edu, Catalogue, type Kong Koan, then there appears as the first item Collection guide, click View online, scroll down and click the inventory number
- Gallery from www.kongkoan.nl

遵奉

工制 為婚姻事今據

男家何才生年二十一歲

女家王玉娘年二十一歲

媒妁鄭東娘合和琴瑟結締朱陳稟明

甲必丹全雷珍蘭列位大人臺前察奪成

註冊存案給照準此

乾隆三十七年四月十一日 即 和訓年五月十三日

任在臺港內

洪明恭有買過吃啣地風水壹穴潤壹拾貳脚距長貳

距要整伊洪明哲為雙壙之墳經委萬律邱恩查明詳報

後界至舊舍施坎 左界至舊坎

上員娘坎四至無碍即收來銀陸拾柒盾柒方止附

腰花押

清光緒甲辰年六月初九日

和嘯 似祥 七月廿日

號頭收行



茲准伊兄嫂潘安容汝合蔡此坎以感

和嘯 四月廿日 公才副吳振榮批

吧國公堂朱萬礁



Other East Indies materials

- Kongsji letters from Borneo (1850-1855)
- Account books 1910-1930
- Translations of Dutch laws (1870-1900)
- Miscellaneous materials