

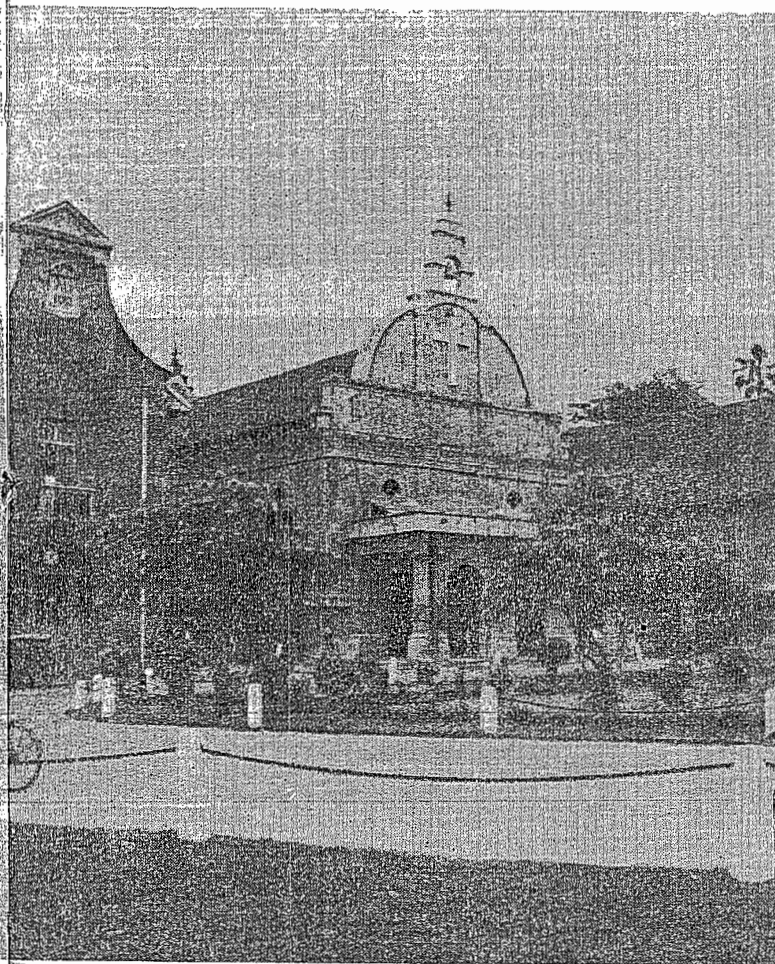
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Handbook
to
Christ Church
Malacca

1936

W. H. ...





CHRIST CHURCH, MALACCA.

Erected 1753.

FOREWORD.

This booklet, descriptive of Christ Church, Malacca, was first issued in 1917 and was printed at the Province Wellesley Mission Press at Bukit Tengah, which no longer exists. It has long been out of print, and the only copy known was borrowed from Rev. Keppel Garnier, Colonial Chaplain of Penang, shortly before his last illness and lamented death. In view of the great interest that is now aroused regarding the antiquities of the ancient Settlement of Malacca, it has been thought that it might usefully be brought up to date and reprinted, especially as the centenary of the consecration of Christ Church for Anglican use will be observed on August 25, 1938, the building itself being 85 years older.

No attempt has been made to verify every statement made in the original edition, but a few obvious errors or misprints have been corrected. We pay the original compilers the compliment of assuming that their work was correct, but some of the earlier names are uncertain in spelling.


E. T. L.

November, 1936.




Is he not blest, whose outward eye
The lines of humblest art engage,
While his free spirit, soaring high
Weaves each in History's proper page
Till from the past his magic raise
Anew the scenes of other days?

Handbook

to 

Christ Church

Malacca. 

ORIGINAL PREFACE.

The present English Church of Malacca is characterised neither by extreme beauty nor great intrinsic interest, though one would not today quite agree with Mrs. Bishop (Golden Chersonese) that it is a "dull, bald, commonplace, flat-faced, prosaic, Dutch Meeting-House,"—the years since 1879 have seen some changes! It has now indeed pretensions to an interior beauty all its own, and though the exterior is little, if any, altered since Mrs. Bishop's time, no one I am sure would have it otherwise. The Stadthaus, the Post Office buildings, and the Church, make a cluster of architectural relics of a past age, unique and by no means unpicturesque.

Neither historically nor aesthetically does Christ Church pretend to compete with the old Ruin on the Hill. In both respects they are as completely antithetical as the national character of their respective builders. The Portugese were romantic and chivalrous in temperament as the Dutch were staid and commercial: pageantry and ritual of state and religion on the one hand are in direct contrast to commercial and domestic proclivities on the other: the glamour of mighty names and stirring deeds animated the social atmosphere of the Portugese age as the all-pervading aroma of spices rendered that of the Dutch so apathetic. As the Burgher to the Don indeed, so the associations of the Dutch church to the old Portuguese cathedral.

Yet though everyone's imagination may run riot under the witchery of the gayer period, there are those who may dream not unattractive dreams of the prosaic past. To these the old Dutch Church has much of interest to offer.

In the hope that this little booklet may not be an unwelcome contribution to substance for visions of the past, to all such dreamers it is dedicated by

ONE OF THEM.

April 24th, 1917.

COMPARATIVE CHRONOLOGY.

(Showing list of Chaplains in heavy type.)

- 1506 Death of Columbus
1509 Henry VIII ascends the English throne
1511 *Malacca taken from the Malays by the Portugese under Alfonso d' Albuquerque. Period of Portugese domination 129 years.*
1513 Battle of Flodden Field
1526 Tyndale's New Testament published
1535 Union of England and Wales
1539 Ignatius Loyola founds the Order of Jesuits, of which S. Francis Xavier was one of the first members
Dissolution of monasteries in England
1545 *September. S. Francis Xavier arrived in Malacca, and remained till January 1546.*
1546 Death of Martin Luther
1547 *July (4 months) S. Francis again in Malacca on his return from the Moluccas.*
1547 Edward VI, King of England
1549 First Prayer Book of Edward VI published
1552 *S. Francis Xavier died at sea off Sanchan, near Macao. His body was brought to Malacca and laid in the Portuguese Church on the Hill, whence it was transfered to Goa in Portugese India.*
1553 Accession of Mary
1558 Accession of Elizabeth
1562 *Date of oldest legible tombstone in Malacca (vide No. 7 plan).*
1588 Defeat of Spanish Armada
1600 Charter granted to East India Company
1603 James I. King of England and Scotland
1611 Authorised Version of Bible translated
1614 New York (called New Amsterdam) founded by Dutch
1616 Shakespeare died
1620 Pilgrim Fathers sailed
1625 Charles I. King
1638 Solemn League and Convant signed in Scotland
1640 *Malacca taken by the Dutch, and held till 1795. 155 years.*
1640 Settlement of Madras by East India Company
1641 Jan Schoutanus
1642 *Dutch Ecclesiastical records of Malacca begin.*
1642 English Civil War began
Tasmania and New Zealand discovered
1647 Abraham Fierens
1648 Balthasar op de Meter
1649 Execution of Charles I.
1650 Gualtherus Batker
1653 Cromwell, Lord Protector
1655 Johannes Breyll
1658 Theodorus Sas
1660 Restoration of Monarchy under Charles II
1662 Acquisition of Bombay as part of dowry of Charles II
1665 Plague of London: 1666 Fire of London
1669 Gerarbus Swem
1670 Jacobus Maxwel
1672 Hubertus Leydetker
1674 Ludolphus Varik
1678 Bernadus Coop a Groen
1681 Bartholomaeus Grouwels
1682 Cyprianus Sibenius

1685 Accession of James I
1688 William and Mary
1690 Battle of the Boyne
 1690 Phillipus Gootink
1693 Commencement of National Debt
1694 Bank of England founded
 1700 Joannes Barton
1702 Queen Anne
1704 Rooke took Gibraltar
 1704 Johannes Stampioen
1707 Act of Union between England and
 Scotland
 1709 Jacobus van der Vorm
1710 Wren completed S. Paul's Cathedral
 1712 Jacobus van Spyk
1714 George I
 1717 Godofridus 't Hoen Hoogen-
 dorp
 1719 Henricus Mylaens
1720 South Sea Bubble
 1725 Adriaan Ras
 1726 Christian Wyardi Plesman
1727 George II
 1736 Adam Willebrand Meerkamp
 1737 Paulus Franciscus de Pomme-
 rolles
 1738 Leberecht Augustus Behmer
 1741 Girardus Brouwer
1743 French capture Madras: regained by
 British 1749
1745 Young Pretender Rebellion
 1748 Gerardus Cornelis Bastiaense
1751 Clive captures Arcot
1752 Great Britain adopts New - Style
 Calendar

1753 *The present Christ Church, Malacca, built by
Dutch community, for Worship according to
Usages of Dutch Reformed Church.*
1756 *Malacca besieged by Selangor Malays.*
1756 Black Hole of Calcutta
 1756 Salomon van Echten
1757 Clive's Victory of Plassy—the begin-
 ning of the British Empire in India.
1759 Wolfe captures Quebec: Conquest of
 Canda completed 1760
1760 George III
 1762 Johannes Theodorus van der
 Werth
1764 Watt improves the steam engine
 1772 Pasqual de Silva
1774 Warren Hastings first Governor
 General of India
1776 American War of Independence began
 1777 Hotzeens Petrus Augustus
 Theodorus van Huysum
1784 *Malacca again besieged by Selangor Malays.*
 1785 Abraham Staroscky
1786 *August 11th. Penang founded by Captain Light.*
1786 Death of Frederick the Great of
 Prussia.
1788 First settlement of the British in
 Australia
1789 French Revolution began
1793 French Reign of Terror began
 1793 Hendrick William Ballot
1795 Britain at war with France, Spain and
 Holland
1795 *British take Malacca from the Dutch.*
 1796 Abraham T. Clarke (Miss'y)

- 1798 Battle of the Nile
 1801 Union of Great Britain and Ireland
 1805 Victory of Trafalgar
 1806 British finally occupy the Cape of Good Hope
 1811 Johannes Cornelis H. Cleever
 1812 Burning of Moscow
 1813 William Milne (Missionary)
 1815 Waterloo
 1817 Foundation stone of S. George's Church, Penang.
 1817 Theodorus Medhaardts
 1818 John Slater (Missionary)
 1818 Malacca restored to Dutch in accordance with provisions of Treaty of Vienna.
 1819 Singapore founded by Sir Stamford Raffles:
 May 4th. S. George's Church, Penang, consecrated by Bishop Fanshaw of Calcutta,
 1820 George IV
 1821 Death of Napoleon at S. Helena.
 1822 James Humphreys
 1824 John Akersloot
 1824 May 11th. British take Rangoon.
 1824 March 17th. Malacca exchanged by Dutch for Bencoolen (Sumatra) under the terms of the Treaty of Holland.
 1826 Malacca, Penang and Singapore, incorporated as the Straits Settlements under the control of the Government of India.
 1829 Robert Burn
 1830 Samuel Kidd (Missionary)
 1830 William IV
 1833 Abolition of Slavery in British Colonies.

1834 *Petition to Consecrate the Church in Malacca for use according to the Rites and Usages of the Church of England, sent to Calcutta.*

1834 F. J. Darrah

1837 Accession of Queen Victoria

1838 August 25th. Saturday. Malacca Church consecrated by Daniel (Wilson), Fifth Bishop of Calcutta and First Metropolitan of India.

September 30th. Bishop Wilson consecrated the first English Church in Singapore.

1838 Josiah Hughes

1840 James Legge

1842 J. N. Norgate

1845 F. W. Lindstedt

1854 Crimean War began

1855 W. B. Wright

1855 First Bishop of Labuan and Sarawak consecrated.

1856 March 4th. Foundation Stone of S. Andrew's (Cathedral) Church, Singapore, laid by Bishop Wilson of Calcutta.

1857 Indian Mutiny breaks out

1858 Christ Church, Malacca, transferred by mutual agreement to Government, which undertook to keep it in a proper state of repair without charge to the inhabitants for Establishment and other expenses.

1858 Government of East Indies transferred to the Crown

1860 William Hackett

1860 First English Ironclad launched

1861 American Civil War began

1865 F. R. Michell

1867 W. H. Gomes

1867 *Straits Settlements given independent Government as a Crown Colony under the Colonial Office.*

1868 **George Frederick Hose**

1869 *Straits Settlements detached ecclesiastically from the Diocese of Calcutta,*

1869 Suez Canal opened

1870 *S. Andrew's Church Singapore, declared the cathedral church of the Diocese of Labuan and Sarawak, of which the Straits Settlements formed a part ecclesiastically.*

1870 Franco-Prussian War

Germany proclaimed an united Empire

1873 **Samuel Robert Dingley**

1874 **Louis Coutier Biggs**

1877 Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India

1881 **James Holland**

W. H. Gomes

1881 *Archdeacon Hose (Chaplain Malacca 1868-) Consecrated Bishop of Singapore, Labuan and Sarawak.*

1882 **J. C. Zehnder**

T. Meredith

W. Everingham

1883 **L. C. Biggs**

J. Perham

1884 **W. Everingham**

1885 Death of Gordon at Khartoum

1886 Upper Burma annexed

1887 Queen Victoria's Jubilee celebrated

1890 **J. Perham**

1891 **W. H. C. Dunkerley**

1896 Malay States Federated

1897 Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee

1897 **T. J. Hardy**

1898 **W. E. Hodgkinson**

1899 **Frank W. Haines**

1899 South African War commenced

1901 Accession of King Edward VII

1902 **Herbert C. Izard**

1904 Russo-Japanese War

1906 **Frank G. Swindell**

1907 **H. C. Henham**

1908 **Frank G. Swindell**

1909 *The Diocese of Singapore, Labuan and Sarawak, divided on the retirement of Bishop Hose, August 24th. The Rev. C. J. Ferguson Davie Consecrated as First Bishop of the separate Diocese of Singapore.*

1910 Accession of King George V

1912 **Keppel Garnier**

1914 Great European War began

1914 *November 7th. The Chaplaincy of Malacca disestablished, i.e. the Chaplain withdrawn from the Civil list.*

1915 Singapore emeute

1915 **Charles F. C. Elvin**

1916 **John H. Smith**

1917 **E. L. Danson**

Ven. Archd. Webber

G. Dexter Allen

1918 **E. N. Greenhow**

1918 November 11th. Armistice declared.

End of Great European War

1920 **H. C. Henham**

1921 **N. D. Bower**

1924 **Ven. Archd. Webber**

G. T. Shelliffe

N. D. Bower

1927 October 18th. Rev. B. C. Roberts (Chaplain of K.L.) consecrated Bishop of Singapore.

1928 H. J. Hutchinson

1931 N. Williams

1932 B. Stokes (at Seremban)

1933 S. W. G. Elvins

1935 L. St. G. Petter

1935 May 6th. Silver Jubilee of King George V celebrated

1936 January 20th. Accession of King Edward VIII

1936 E. T. Loader

1936 December 12th. Accession of King George VI

1936 L. St. G. Petter



FEATURES.

The Church is a plain rectangle in plan, and apart from the semicircular East and West gables and the rounded heads of the window and door apertures, is a study in straight lines.

The Porch and Vestry are additions of a date later than the body of the Church.

A note should be made of the fine ceiling beams, each hewn from its own tree, carrying a span of level ceiling which is rarely, if ever, attempted by present-day architects without brace or stay.

The walls are massive in comparison to the weight of their superstructure, and are coated with the ubiquitous and everlasting Chinese plaster. To the plinth they are evidently built of the usual local laterite stone, and above of brick with fubble filling.

The framing of the doors and windows is original, and the arched crowns are filled in with an uniform, quaint, and not unpleasing fan design of pierced wood-work. The North and South doors are further decorated by carved supporting panels and moulded plaster cornices. These are almost the only attempts at structural decoration in the whole fabric.

As one naturally expects to find in an old Dutch Church there is no marked division between Nave and Chancel. The line of wall is unbroken as the floor level was unbroken. The various grades of approach to the Altar are quite modern, dating from the Chaplaincy of Bishop Hose. Where the Altar now stands stood the Dutch pulpit and prayer-desk: the large iron rings from which the canopy depended may still be seen in situ. The present pulpit is the original, with the exception of the sounding-board recently added (Since removed).

The following are furnitures of the Dutch period:—

Pulpit and Pulpit Desk. This latter is an especially fine piece of old Brass work, and is engraved and inscribed in Dutch on the under surface.

Sanctuary rails.

Credence Table and Chairs in Sanctuary.

The Western Gallery.

Brass Font stand. This is a rare and unique piece of heavy Brass work.

The bowl is missing.

There are also various silver articles (Alms dish, Chalices, Patens, etc.) all of the Dutch period, massive, and valuable, stored in safe custody.

The Reredos, of Caen stone and Alabaster, by Jones and Willis, was dedicated on New Year's Day, 1911 and was erected to the Memory of Josiah Edwin Westerhout, late Sheriff of Malacca, and a Warden of the Church. The central panel is a mosaic of the Last Supper. It was broken in transit from England and several slight defects are due to this cause.

Of the mural tablets the most interesting is that (South wall, near door) to the memory of the Rev. William Milne, the first Protestant Missionary to the Chinese. The most unique (South wall the large slab erected as "a small token" of the merits of Mrs. Mary Betty.

Curiosity is often aroused by the mysterious incised letters cut into many of the granite setts with which part of the floor is paved. In fact the presence of these foreign granite blocks is in itself a frequent source of remark. They were brought to Malacca as ship's ballast, and the mysterious letters are evidently storage marks.

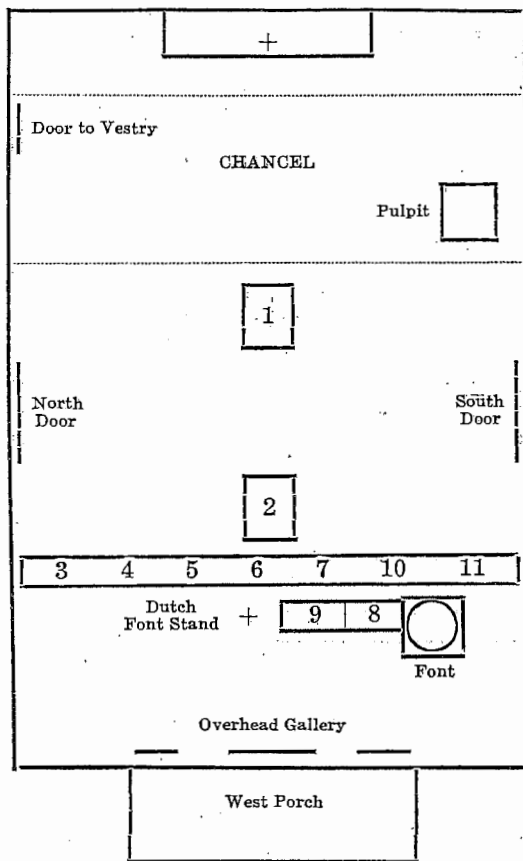
The records of the Church are practically complete from 1642, that is from the beginning of the Dutch period. They were tabulated by the Rev. T. J. Hardy in 1897, and a very useful catalogue printed by the Government Press 1902. They are sorely in need of printing before they suffer too much from age.

Beyond all, the most interesting relics of the Church are the old tombstones laid in the floor. They are indeed relics, and worthy of every care. No. 7 on the following plan is the oldest legible tombstone in Malacca, and as such is unique amongst the most ancient records of Christianity east of Suez. It is remarkable that nearly all the tombstones in this old Dutch Church should be Portuguese. The fact seems to be that they were displaced by the Dutch from their original positions on the Hill to make room for their own burial places. They were subsequently embedded into the floor of the Church for preservation.

Excellent photographs of these and other old tombstones of Malacca will be found in Mr. Bland's monograph on the subject, published 1904 by the Government Press, Singapore, (price \$4.75).



Plan of
Christ Church,
Malacca. *Shewing
Old Tombstones.*



REFERENCE.

1. Slab with Arms and Death's-head design only. Period and type No. 2.
2. Slab with Arms and device: Inscriptions in Armenian and Dutch.

ARMENIAN inscription.

"Hail! thou that readeest the tablet of my tomb wherein I now do sleep,

Give me the news, the freedom of my country-men, for them I did much weep.

If there arose among them one good guardian to govern and to keep.

Vainly I expected in the world to see a good shepherd come to look after the scattered sheep.

I, Jacob, grandson of Shameer, an Armenian of a respectable family whose name I keep,

Was born in a foreign town in Persia, new Inefa, where my parents now for ever sleep.

Fortune brought me to this distant Malacca; which my remains in bondage doth keep."

(From "The History of the Armenians in India.")

Separated from the World on the 7th July in the year of our Lord 1774, at the age of 29. My mortal remains were deposited in this spot in the Ground which I had purchased."

DUTCH inscription.

Here lie the remains of Heer Jacob Shamier the Armenian Merchant, who was buried on the 7th July in the year of our Lord 1774, in the 29th year of his age.

3. Esta sepultura he de Luis D'Abreu e de seus descendetes. q a eles pertence.

This is the grave belonging to LUIS D'ABREU and to his descendants.

4. E do P Ioao Luis Barboza, Chatre q fot d'esta Se e Vigro de Se. Thome. Faleceo em 24 de Marco de = 620.

This is (the grave) of PADRE IOANNO LUIUS BARBOZA, Chanter of this See and Vicar of S. Thomas, who died on the 24th March (1)620.

5. Sepultura de Pero de Mendonsa e de seus erdeiros feita na era de 1617 annos.

The grave of PERO de MENDONZA and of his heirs. Erected 1617 "anno domini."

6. Sepultura do Pe Simoa Soares, Chatre d'esta Se. faleceo em 30 d'Agosto de 1619.

The grave of PADRE SIMON SOARES, CHANTER of this See. Died on the 30th August, 1619.

7. Esta Sepultura e de Giomar Frn, Molber de Di Frn. e. d. s. er. e. F. A. 18 d Ma d. 1562.

This is the grave of GIOMAR FRANCO, wife of DL. France and of their heirs. Died on the 8th March, 1562.

8. S. D. Io. Lopes D'Amorera e d seus herdeiros. The grave of IOANNA LOPES D'AMOR-EIRA and of his heirs.

9. Sepultura de Bras Glz. Mordomo que foi d'esta Casa de Nosa Sra faleseo D(omin)go P(ascoa) of the House of our Lady. Died on Easter (?) Grave of BRAS GONCALVEZ, Major-dome Sunday.

10. Aqui jaz Domigas frn, filba de Luiz frn e de Anta de Faria, faleceo aos 22 de Avril de 1581 anos.

Here lies DOMINGAS FRANCO, daughter of LUIZ FRANCO and Antonia de Faria, who died 22 of April in the year 1581.

11. (Fragment) = = = Iceo A. 28 de Dezentro era de 1578.

- - - Died on the 28th December, 1578.



A few suggestions for Memorials or Thankofferings.

1. Insertion of Stained glass in the 4 panels of the East Windows. A suggested series of designs by Burne Jones is hung in the Church Porch.
2. Completion of Alabaster panelling from Altarpiece to North and South Walls.
3. Filling of blank wall over Reredos by (a) large Mosaic of the Ascension, or (b) Baldachin—projecting Canopy either suspended or fixed.
4. Completion of fund for new Pipe-Organ for West Gallery. The Fund at present stands about \$450.

The above suggestions were printed in the original edition and the first three still hold good in 1936, but the fourth one, for an organ in the west gallery, has now lapsed, the money mentioned as already collected having been spent on a more modest scheme.

