

## ASIA COLLECTION

Prepared by Rohayati Paseng, 5/6/2005

[Rumpf entries include additions by Eileen Herring]

### **Raffles, Sophia (1786-1858)**

*Memoir of the life and public services of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles.* London: J. Murray, 1830. xv, 723, 100 pp., plates [1 fold.] maps [part fold] 28.5x23 cm.

Lady Sophia Raffles, the widow of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, edited this memoir a few years after her husband passed away a day before his 45<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1826. It contains accounts of his public life particularly his role in governing Java from 1811-1816, and Bencoolen (now Bengkulu Province in Indonesia) and its dependencies from 1817-1824. It also contains details of the commerce and resources of the Indonesian archipelago. In the Introduction, Sophia Raffles wrote, "His exertions to promote the honor of his country, the happiness of the people committed to his charge, and therefore, the best interest of his employers, can only be duly estimated by a knowledge of the peculiar difficulties ... to the exertions and anxieties of his public duties, his life fell, eventually, a sacrifice."

### **Raffles, Thomas Stamford (1781-1826)**

*The history of Java.* London: J. Murray, 1830. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2 vols. [vol.1, xlv, 536 pp.; vol.2, 331, clxxix pp.] 20x15 cm.

Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles was born at sea on board a ship on the 6th of July, 1781 off the coast of Jamaica. Unlike many empire builders, Raffles, who is remembered fondly as a benevolent figure, opened doors of opportunity and fought slave trading in the region. He was the Lieutenant Governor of Java from 1811-1816, during which Borobudur and other temples were restored. He was the Governor of Bencoolen (now Bengkulu Province in Indonesia) from 1817-1824. He was the founding father of modern Singapore. He was the founder and the first president of the London Zoological Society. And, most importantly, he was an enthusiastic scholar who wrote *The History of Java* in which he praised Java's high civilization and culture. The book, which was originally published in 1817, the same year in which he was knighted, was well received, and is still one of the major reference works for studying Javanese society.

### **Forrest, Thomas (1729-1802)**

*A Voyage to New Guinea, and the Moluccas, from Balambangan.* London: G. Scott, 1779. xxiii, 388 pp., 32 plates (port fold., incl. maps, geneal, tab) 30x23 cm.

This is a very important work on New Guinea, with extensive mapping. Forrest was involved in the 1770 settlement of Balambangan (on the eastern tip of Java). Beginning in 1774 he was in the service of the British East India Company, who wanted to extend their sources of trade in the direction of New Guinea. Forrest - with two English officers and a crew of eighteen Malays - pushed the exploration as far as Geelvink Bay in western New Guinea, present-day Papua. The numerous maps and coastal profiles published here reflect the detailed observations that Forrest made on this voyage. His descriptions about different ethnic groups he encountered along this voyage contributed to ethnic stereotyping in Indonesia today.

### **Noble, Charles Frederick**

*A Voyage to the East Indies in 1747 and 1748.* London: T. Becket and P.A. Dehondt, 1762. xv, 341 pp., illus., plates (1 fold.) 21x13.5 cm.

Containing very entertaining narratives of voyages involving love, hate, competition and compassion, and most of all curiosity about different human beings. This work is an early ethnography of Southeast Asia. Besides narrating an account of the islands of St. Helena and Java, the city of Batavia (now Jakarta), the government and political conduct of the Dutch in the East Indies (now Indonesia), this book also provides a snapshot of the intense competition between two major colonial enterprises: The Dutch East India Company and the British East India Company in the eighteenth century.

### **Yule, Henry (1820-1889)**

*A narrative of the mission sent by the governor-general of India to the court of Ava in 1855.* London: Smith, Elder and co., 1858. vi, 391 pp., col. front., illus., plates (partly col.) map (1 fold.) plan. 29 x 21.5 cm.

Sir Henry Yule was a British Orientalist. He was educated at Edinburgh, Addiscombe and Chatham. He joined the Bengal Engineers in 1840 and served in both Sikh wars. In 1855, about a year after the end of the last Burmese War ("British War" according to the Burmese), the King of Ava sent a mission to the Governor-General in India. To return the compliment, the British government in India decided to send one of its colonels, Arthur Phayre, to visit Ava (the ancient capital city of Burma/Myanmar). Henry Yule was the secretary to Colonel Arthur Phayre's mission, an honorable position that came with a main duty of preparing a report of the mission for publication. His impressions of the country, government, and people, which he so thoroughly described in this book is the epitome of body of literature that gave birth to the theory of Orientalism. For example, upon meeting a woman named Maphoon, he wrote, and supported by a plate, on page 94: "The nose, densely covered with hair as no animal's is that I know of, and with long fine locks curving out and pendent like the wisps of a fine Skye terrier's coat ...".

### **Horsfield, Thomas (1773-1859)**

*Plantae javanicae rariores.*. Londini: Veneunt Apud G.H. Allen, et socios, 1838-1852. 1 p. l., viii, xvi p., 1 l., 258 pp., 1 l.: front. (fold. map), 50 col. plates. 37x28 cm.

Thomas Horsfield was an American naturalist. He was born in Philadelphia and died in London. As part of his numerous travels he pursued investigations into the natural history of Java. After arriving in England in 1820, he worked as the keeper of the East India Company Museum at which his collections of 2196 species were placed. As early as 1800, a voyage to Batavia (now Jakarta), as a surgeon of a vessel from Philadelphia, gave him an opportunity to observe something of the characters of the island of Java. He later returned twice to study and collect plants from all parts of the island. The plants that he collected were described in detailed in this book.

### **Barrow, John (1764-1848)**

*A voyage to Cochinchina in the year 1792 and 1793.* London: T. Cadell and W. Davies, 1806. xviii, 1 l., 447 pp., col. plates (incl. 2 fold maps) 28x22 cm.

Barrow was also the author of *Travels in Southern Africa* and *Travels in China*. During this voyage to Cochinchina (now southern Vietnam), in which Barrow was accompanied by Sir George Thomas Staunton wrote a narrative that contains a general view of the valuable productions and the political importance of flourishing kingdoms and settlements, with sketches of the manner, character, and condition of their several inhabitants. His descriptions of several tropical fruits; *mangoostan*, *rambootan*, *doorian* etc., were very accurate and sometimes very funny. For example on page 186, he described what is now often referred to as the king of fruit "... a large fruit called the *Doorian*, whose smell is extremely disgusting, and flavour somewhat like what one might suppose the taste to be a custard seasoned with garlic ...".

### **St. John, Spenser (1825-1910)**

*Life in the forests of the Far East.* London: Smith, Elder, 1862. 2 vols., 16 col. plates (incl. fronts) 3 fold. Maps. 22.5x 15.5 cm.

Sir Spenser St. John was a British Consul General on the island of Borneo, and *chargé d'affaires* to the Republic of Hayti (now Haiti). He was also the author of *Hayti: or the Black Republic* published in 1889. *Life in the forests* contains the animated nineteenth century adventure narrative of St. John's two ascents of Mount Kinabalu deep in the jungle of Borneo. Just like other British and Dutch Orientalists, his descriptions of the "natives" i.e. the Dayaks, were very condescending, and just like other naturalists, his descriptions of the flora and fauna of places that he visited were breathtaking. His description of, accompanied by a drawing less than half to natural size, *Nepenthes Rajah* (pitcher plant) on page 317 is just one example.

### **Roth, Henry Ling (1855-1925)**

*The Natives of Sarawak and British North Borneo*. London: Truslove & Hanson, 1896. 2 vols. [vol.1, xxxii, 464 pp. 1 fold map, plates; vol.2, iv, 302, ccxl pp. plates (incl. 1 fold plate)], illus., 26x19 cm.

Henry Ling Roth was an anthropologist and a museum curator. He was the author of *The Aborigines of Tasmania* (1890); *The Peasantry of Eastern Russia* (1879); *Great Benin: Its Customs, Arts and Horrors* (1903); *Sketches and Reminiscences from Queensland, Russia and Elsewhere* (1916); and *The Maori Mantle* (1923). In 1890 he started as a part-time Curator of the Bankfield Museum of Halifax, England, and later became a full-time Keeper of the museum until 1924, a year before he died.

Roth was a British Orientalist. He produced *the Natives of Sarawak and British North Borneo* – an encyclopedic description of the Land Dyaks and the Sea Dyaks– based chiefly on the manuscripts of Hugh Brooke Low, a British civil servant at the Sarawak Government, and the work of Spencer St. John, another British orientalist. The two volumes were decorated with over 550 illustrations ranging from people, plants, traditional long houses, decorative artifacts, household tools and furniture, boats and paddles, agricultural tools, ritual artifacts such as burial chambers and tombs, head hunting rituals, music and weaving instruments, traditional weapons, war costume, painting and tattooing, and the Dyaks’ writing system. His descriptions of the Dyaks people and their colorful traditions, which could be entertaining and condescending in the same breath, is yet another example of how early European travelers to Southeast Asia contributed tremendously to the stereotypical portrayal of the Dyaks people, which to large extent continues until today.

### **Rumpf, Georg Eberhard (1627-1702)**

*D'Amboinsche rariteitkamer*. Amsterdam : Gedrukt by F. Halma, 1705. 2 p. l., [11], 340, [43] p., 58 plates. 36.5x24 cm.

Although *Herbarium amboinense* is Rumphius’ most famous work, *Rariteitkamer* – often translated as “Cabinet of Curiosities”, which was co-written by Johan Philip Sipman - was much more popular in its day primarily for the illustrations of shells. Rumphius was unquestionably a brilliant field naturalist and the first to document the tropical marine life and shells of the area of Ambon. He coined the names for many common Pacific shells that are still in use today, and was the first to report the fatal bite of the cone shell. This book is a classic work on marine life, and is generally understood as a forerunner of modern marine biology for its exact descriptions and ecological data. In addition to information on marine life, it gives geological and mineralogical annotations of the Moluccan Islands.

## **Rumpf, Georg Eberhard (1627-1702)**

*Herbarium amboinense*. Amstelaedami: Apud Meinardum Uyterf, 1750. 7 vols., plates, ports. 43x27 cm.

Rumphius, as he was also known, was born in Hanau (Germany) in 1627 and died in Ambon Island of the East Indië (now Indonesia) in 1702. He was one of the greatest naturalists of the seventeenth century. He was employed by the Dutch East India Company and stationed in Amboina where he met and married an Ambonese woman named Susanna. He honored her by naming her after a white orchid, *Flos Susannae*, or *Bunga Susanna*. Rumphius completed this monumentous work in spite of several disasters. In 1670, at the age of 42, he became blind. His wife helped him continue his work on the *Herbarium*, but in 1674 she and one of their daughters was killed in an earthquake. In 1687, Rumphius' library containing the illustrations and manuscripts for this work were destroyed in a fire that demolished the European quarter of Kota Ambon. With the help of his son and other assistants, he continued working on his manuscript. In 1692, after 40 years of labor during 30 of which he was blind, the original six bulky volumes of the *Herbarium amboinense* were completed and the manuscript was sent to Holland, but the ship carrying it was sunk in an attack by the French navy. Using the only existing copy of the manuscript, Rumphius again reconstructed the work and in 1697, the entire manuscript finally made it safely to Holland. The *Herbarium amboinense* was not officially published until 1750, 48 years after the death of the author. His final work, a supplement to *Herbarium amboinense*, was published as the 7<sup>th</sup> volume.

In this work, Rumphius introduced a huge number of new plants to European botanists. He was the first botanist to describe epiphytes and the first person to describe Indonesian orchids. Today, the *Herbarium* continues to influence botanical nomenclature because the original descriptions of many species were published in this work. In addition, the *Herbarium amboinense* documents the herbal knowledge and remedies of Indonesia at the time and, as the earliest and most exhaustive resource, continues to be used by ethnographers and ethnobotanists. Rumphius' works continue to be cited not only for scientific purposes but also due to his remarkable personality and observations of 17<sup>th</sup> century Indies life.

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