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Patani Through Foreign Eyes: Sixteenth And Seventeenth Centuries

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E. Seventeenth Century Dutch Sources (1632)

DANIEL PERRET * (translated by)

6. Antonie Caen's Verslag (1632)

Source:

- "LV. Antonie Caen's Verslag zijner zending naar Patani en Siam (31 Juli – 27 November 1632)" in P.A. Tiele & J.E. Heeres (ed.), *De Opkomst van het Nederlandsch Gezag in Oost-Indië, tweede reeks (Buitenbezittingen), Bouwstoffen voor de Geschiedenis der Nederlanders in den Maleischen Archipel*, Tweede Deel, 's Gravenhage, Martinus Nijhoff, 1890: 214-231.

English translation:

by Daniel PERRET

Antonie Caen's Verslag zijner zending naar Patani en Siam (31 Juli – 27 November 1632): 214-222.

(214) [...] [21-08-1632] Des anderen daechs smorgens wesende 21e dito hebben wij de coopluyden Sr Gerrit Corssen ende Middelhoven naer landt gesonden om aen den Paducca* Solnara* ofte andere regenten wt onsen naem te verthoonen dat wij als een expres gesandt van UEd ^t met besondere (215) brieven ende eenige presenten aen de Conninginne en Dato Besaer*	(214) [...] [21-08-1632] On the morning of the 21st, we sent ashore the merchants Gerrit Corssen and Middelhoven to inform the Paducca* Solnara* or other dignitaries on our behalf, that as special envoy of Your Excellency [Governor General of the VOC in Batavia] with particular (215) letters and several presents to the queen and Dato
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<p>waeren affgesonden versouckende licentie om de selve aen haere Maj^{ts} te mogen overleveren, ende voorts tot soodanige audientie geadmitteert te mogen werden als een gesant van noode zij. Welcke coopluayden des avonts wederomme aen boort comende, rapporteerden ons dat bij eenige van de regenten als mede bij Besaer geweest hadden, van wien zij seer minnelijck ende vriendelijck ontfangen waeren geweest, dewelcke zij t bovenst hadden voorgehouden, die antwoordde de Conninginne t zelve zoude aendien, waer naer haer bescheyt wilde laeten weeten. Hij vraechde haer, als geheel verwondert zijnde, wat wij aldaer met soo veel scheepen quamen doen ende watter met de Conninginne te pitschaeren was. Zij antwoordden t'selve niet te weten en dat Zijne E. alles van den gesant wel zoude comen te verstaen.</p>	<p>Besaer*, we were requesting permission to deliver them to their Majesty, and moreover to attend such audience as it was necessary for an emissary. Back on board the same afternoon, these merchants reported to us having been to some dignitaries and Besaer, and were very politely and friendly welcomed. After exposing the above request to the latter, he replied that he needed to inform the queen about it, and would later convey her answer. He asked them, looking really surprised, what we planned to do here with so many ships and what was to be discussed with the queen. They replied that they didn't know anything about it and that His Exc. would hear all about it from the envoy.</p>
<p>Des achtermiddachs kregen bescheyt dat des anderen daechs vrouch met de brieven aen landt souden comen, to welcken eynde zij een huys ontrent onse logie ledich hebben doen maecken om aen landt comende in te mogen gaen, alwaer Dato* Besaer* met eenige Rijcs Raaden soude verschijnen om den brief te helpen translateeren. Op welck rapport wij des ander daechs smorgens sijnde 22 do ons naer landt hebben vervoucht, alwaer den secretaris van Dato* Besaer* ons verwachtte, dewelcke sich dadelijck naer de stadt vervouchde om Zijne Ed: aen te dienen dat wij al aen landt waeren.</p>	<p>In the afternoon, we were informed that the next day we would have to bring the letters ashore, and go to a house close to our trading post, which would be emptied and where Dato* Besaer* with several royal advisers would show up to help translate the letters. Following this information, we went ashore the next morning, on the 22nd, where the secretary of Dato* Besaer* was waiting for us. He headed straight for the town, looking for His Excel. to inform him that we had arrived.</p>
<p>Omtrent 2 uren met patientie gewacht hebbende is den Dato* Besaer*, Dato Bandara*, Dato Lacsemana* ende eenige andere regenten ontrent de middach met eenige oliphanten ende paerden aen ons logement gecomen, alwaer wij seer vriendelijck met alle beleeftheyt van haer gegroet ende gewellecompt wierden, waer naer bij den anderen neder zijn gaen sitten, als wanneer zij dadelijck naer de brieven hebben gevraecht om die te translateeren, die haer zijn behandicht, de welcke zij uyt het Malleyse translaet met duytse letters geschreven, t welcke haer voorlas, wtschreven. Zij waeren soo precijs ende punctueel datse dickmael een woort drie a viermael vraechden, jae den geheelen zin lieten erlesen ende daer naer int geheel tot diversche reysen collationneeren, om alles recht te treffen. Wij hebben haer daer naer oock den geheelen zin mondelingh ver-(216) claert, daer weynich antwoorde op volchde, niet anders als eenige sware suchten, soo dat men genouchsaem conde besepeuren</p>	<p>After waiting patiently for two hours, around noon, Dato* Besaer*, Dato Bandara*, Dato Lacsemana* and several other dignitaries arrived on elephants and horses at our lodging. There, we were greeted and welcomed very politely. We then sat together as they quickly asked for the letters to be translated, which we gave to them. They transcribed these texts written in romanized Malay, after reading them aloud. They were so precise and meticulous that they often asked about a word for three or four times, read the entire sense and made several comparisons, to make sure that the result was right. We also explained the whole sense verbally to them, (216) and therefore few answers were asked, except regarding difficult points, so that we really could notice that some of them were more worried than delighted at our coming. As evening fell, they left, saying that the translation would be written up the next day and that we should be received in audience when they would come to fetch the</p>

<p>eenige over onse comste meer ontoert als verblijft waeren. Zij hebben t samen, alsoo den avondt aent vallen was, wederomme haer afscheyt genoomen, seggende dat sij het translaet des anderen daechs int net zouden schrijven ende wj op morgen audientie souden krijgen, als wanneer zij den brieff wilden commen haelen. Welcken volgende wij dien geheelen dach naer het oversetten van den brief hebben gewacht. Geduerende dese onderhandelinge hebben de cooplyuden haer best gedaen om te vernemen wat in den handel te doen was, daer in voor die tijt weynich tot profitje vande Comp^{1c} hebben connen verrichten.</p>	<p>letter. We waited for the whole day to give the letter. During these negotiations, the merchants did their best to find out the trade to be done, as very few things profitable for the Company had been achieved until then.</p>
<p>Des anderen daechs, wesende 24 do omtrent de middach, zijn partye olijphanten ende paerden met eenige regenten ende een groot getal van pieckeniers* ende musquettiers* met pijpen ende trommelen op haer manier om den brieff gecommen ende ons voorts int Hooff te brengen. Welcken volgende wij op d^o olyphanten ende paerden met onse swijte sijn gaen sitten, rijdende van daer voorts naer de stadt, alwaer met eenige eerschooten van groff geschutt, als valcoens*, bassen* ende roers, int incomen van de poort zijn gecongratuleert. Int voortrijden naert Hoff stonden voor alle de grooten haere huysen menichte bas* cammers die alle int verbij passeeren gelost ende offgeschooten wierden.</p>	<p>The next day, that is on the 24th, around noon, a party consisting of some dignitaries on elephants and horses, a large number of pikemen* and musketeers* with flutes and drums according to their custom came to receive the letter and take it to the court. We followed them, seated on these elephants and horses, riding from here to the town, where we were received by several shots of large guns, such as faucons*, fowlers* and muskets, when we arrived from the port. During the trip to the court, shots by the numerous guns set in front of the houses of the dignitaries were fired.</p>
<p>Daer waeyen oock op alle plaetse in de stadt als int Hoff ontelbare vlaggen ende vaendels, en werden van meenichte menschen (als om wat wonder wat nieuws te sien) gevolcht. Omtrent het Hoff comende zijn gelijkelijck affgeseeten, woordende voorts binnen gebracht tot op de balleye*, die zeer cirieuselijck met veele goude laeckenen ende fluweelen geborduerde hemels toegemaect was, daer alle de Mandarijns ende Rijcx Raden in groot getal bij den anderen vergaedert waeren. Alwaer de Conninginne oock daedelijck wt een groot vergulden venster van haer palleys zeer costelijck toegemaect verscheen, als wanneer den brieff overluyt ten aenhooren van een ider gelesen wiert, die met sulcke stillicheyt ende modestie aengehoort werden dat men niet een muys nauw conde hooren ritselen. Gelesen zijnde begon de Conninginne in deser manieren te spreecken. Ick hebbe den inhoud van den brieff (217) van den Nederlantschen Generael verstaen, waer op met corte woorten sal antwoorden.</p>	<p>Everywhere in town and in the court, countless flags and ensigns were seen fluttering, and we were followed by a lot of people (like seeing something amazing or new). Coming to the court, we got off together, were brought inside to the balleye* abundantly decorated with many gilded clothes and a velvet-trimmed dais. All the mandarins and royal advisers were there in large number. The queen quickly appeared at a large somptuous gilded window of its palace, when the letter was read out loud to be heard by everybody. It happened in such a silence and simplicity, that not even a mouse would be heard. After the reading, the queen began to speak as follows.</p> <p>“I have understood the contents of the letter (217) from the Dutch general, and will answer briefly.”</p>

<p>Seggende op het eerste point tgene noyt gebroocken en was en behouffden niet weder te maecken ofte vernieuwen en t geene noyt gemaectt en was [...].</p> <p>Zij hielt het selve voor soo vast ende vouchdich als het van ouden tijden geweest was, twelck zij met haer schrijven aen UEd^t oock soude confirmeeren ende doen blijcken.</p>	<p>Regarding the first point, she said that it [the peace agreement with the Dutch] had never been terminated, and so it was not necessary to make a new one or to renew it. [...] She considers it to be unshakable and firm, since it had been done a long time ago. She would confirm and show this position in her letter to His Excel.</p>
<p>Sij en hadden oock, zoo lange geleeft hadden, geen contract mette Portugiesen gemaectt, derhalven geen condon breecken ende nu noch in der eeuwicheyt niet en souden breecken. Dat zij ofte eenige van Patana de Portugiesen tegens den Coninck van Atchin* ofte Chiam* hadden geassisteert, wilden de Portugiesen den Chiammer (gelijck zij hem verachtelijck noemen) verdrijven, zij mochtent doen t soude haer lieff sijn. Op het tweede point gaff voor antwoorde dat oock niet van meeninge en was van de twee aengehaelde joncqven een coupon* te restituereen, en wenster noch wat meer conde krijgen, alsoo den Chiammer haer joncq, daer noch een hollants assistent met eenige Mardijckers* van Battavia op waeren, eerst hadde aengeslaegen, daer het volck noch in Siam gevangen saeten.</p>	<p>As she never made any contract with the Portuguese, the latter couldn't have broken one, and would not break one now or in the future. Regarding the fact that she or some Patana people had helped the Portuguese against the king of Atchin* or Chiam*, as the Portuguese wanted to expel the Siamese (as they call them with disdain), she would be delighted if they could do so. On the second point, she replied that it was not their intention to make the restitution of a single <i>coupon*</i> from both of the seized junks. There was no way to get more, given the fact that the Siamese had first seized their junk with a Dutch assistant and several Mardijckers* from Batavia on board, and the people were still jailed in Siam.</p>
<p>Belangende het derde point, wegens de gepretendeerde schaede van de Chineesen van Batavia, was zij gewillich te restituereen als UEd^t maer de vruntschap metten Chiammer geliefde aff te snijden hoewel sij daer geen kennisse aff en hadde te dragen, alsoo ditto joncqven den Chiammer ende niet Nederlanders toe quamen.</p>	<p>Regarding the third point, on the supposed loss incurred by the Chinese of Batavia, she was ready to make some restitution, provided His Excel. promises to cease friendly relations with the Siamese, although she had no knowledge of it and will be watchful, as these junks didn't belong to the Dutch but to the Siamese.</p>
<p>Maer om alle vrundtschap met UEd. te onderhouden wilden haer over dit stuck tot de redelijckheit laeten vougen. Dat zij den Chiammer in soodanige hommagie zoude erkennen als de Croone van Patane bij ouden tijden aen de Coningen van Chiam* altijt hadden bethoont, gaff voor antwoorde met een gealtereert gemoet sulcx nu noch inder eeuwicheijt niet en soude geschieden soo langh als soodanigen verrader ende moorder die croone niet toe (218) en quam in de regeringe was. Doen begonnen de Mandorijs ende Rijcs Raeden van alle canten op te steecken, seggende liever den lesten droppel bloet wilden storten eer dat geschieden soude, daer bij vougende te een besluyt dat sij souden helpen bevorderen datter tusschen</p>	<p>But in order to maintain friendship with his Excel., they wanted to solve this case in all fairness.</p> <p>On the idea that they have to acknowledge the authority of the Siamese, as the crown of Patane has always shown for a long time toward the kings of Chiam*, she replied in a changed tone that such situation is not true at the moment and would not happen in the future as long as such a traitor and murderer, who didn't in any way merit the crown, (218) was on the throne. From all sides, mandorijs and royal advisers began to react, saying that they were ready to fight until the last drop of blood, rather than see that happen. In addition, they</p>

<p>den staedt der Vereenichde Nederlanden ende Coningen van Chiam*, Patana, Cambodja*, Jhoor*, Jamby*, Andrigiery* als andere omleggenden plaetsen een eeuwich verbondt ende vrede mochte te wege gebracht werden omme malcanderen in tijden van noode tegen alle attentaten ende aenslaegen van de Spanjaerden ende Portugiesen te assisteren. Wilde daer soo veel in te wege brengen als in haer vermogen was, maer den Chiammer most daer buyten blijven. [...]</p>	<p>agreed on a decision to support the idea that a lasting coalition and peaceful relations should be established between the State of the Netherlands and the kings of Chiam*, Patana, Cambodja*, Jhoor*, Jamby*, Andrigiery* and other neighbouring places to assist each other if need be, against all attacks and attempts by the Spaniards and the Portuguese. They are very keen to implement this plan with all their ability, but the Siamese must stay out. [...]</p>
<p>Waarmede (zonder dat ick eenich antwoord conde commen) stille sweench ende sloot dadelijcken haer venster toe, soo dat ick een geruymen tijt (als een staten stuyver*) bleeff sitten kijcken, zonder dat mij iemand meer aensprack. Waer naer een van de Mandorijns of Rijcx Raeden, die naest Dato* Besaer* zijn zitplaets hadde, van Haere Majest aen mij gesonden wiert, mij vragende off ick t'gene de Coninginne van UEd^t missive geantwoort hadde wel hadde verstaen, waer op ick antwoorde niet al te wel alsoo vrij wat stille hadde gesproocken. Hij verhaelde mij alle 't voorsz. andermael van woorde tot woorde, op dat UEd. goet rappoort mochte gedaen werden, als wanneer mij wederomme vraechde off ick alles wel ende ten rechten verstaen hadde waer op antwoorde: jae, geheel wel; vragende mij voorts off daer iets op te seggen viel. Ick seyde: vrij wat veel, waarmede wederom voor de tweede mael naer binnen gegaen is. Vuytcomende, versocht vrindelijck wtten naem van Haere Maj^{ts} dat ick doch soude seggen watter aen schortte.</p>	<p>After which (without any opportunity to answer), she fell silent and immediately closed her window, and so I stayed seated looking around for some time, without anybody speaking to me. After a while, one of the mandorijns or royal advisers, who was seated next to Dato* Besaer*, was sent to me by Her Majesty to ask if I had well understood her answer to Your Excel.'s letter. I replied that I didn't understand everything well, even though she had spoken slowly. He repeated word by word all that she said to me, in order to make an accurate report to Your Excel. He asked me again if I had understood everything rightly, and I answered "yes, all well". He then asked me if I had anything to say. I said "quiet a lot" and went inside for the second time. Coming before the audience, I politely requested from Her Majesty to be given the opportunity to tell what was the matter.¹</p>
<p>Zij wilde mijnen raet in alles gaerne volgen. Waer mede reedenen bequam om te spreekken. Ick stelde haere Maj^t ende alle de Mandorijns voor de quade procedueren, die buyten alle recht ende reden zoo tegen ons als den Conninx van Chiam staet hadden gepleecht, waer over den staedt (219) van Patana oock swaerder onheylen hadde te verwachten, raedende hun daerover naerder te bedencken ende soodanige goede resolutie te laeten volgen als de mayntnue van haeren staet vereyste. Hier op keken zij malcander vast aen zonder te antwoorden. Ick verclaerde als doen volgende UEd^t last rontwt dat se nimmermeer en zouden gelooven wij noch den Conninx van Chiam de gelede quade affronten ende proceduyren zouden vergeeten.</p>	<p>They were quiet ready to follow my advice. I explained to Her majesty and all the mandorijns the wrong actions committed illegally and without any justification, against us or the king of Chiam*, for which the town (219) of Patana had to expect serious repercussions, I advised them to consider this problem seriously since the preservation of their State was at stake. Then they looked at each other without answering. I explained that according to Your Excel.'s clear order, they should never believe that we or the king of Chiam* would forget the past offences and wrong actions.</p>

1. Thanks to Annelies Riem Vis for her help to translate this sentence.

<p>Dato* Besaer* viel alsdoen in mijn reeden, seggende dat UEd^t qualijck geïnformeert waert en dat de saecken als ick op Battavia quam wel souden veranderen principaelijck als UEd^t hoorde hoe vrij de Portugiesen nu in Chiam* woonden, aldaer haer kercke* hadden ende haeren godtsdienst deden, alsmede de overgroote vruntschap, die zie van den Conninck genooten, daer zij ter contrarie noch Portugiesen mistis in hun lant metter woon wilden gedoogen, seggende gij siet wel dat hier noch vaertuych noch Portugiesen en sijn, en soo gij se vindt, slaet se vrij doot. Ende wat aengaet de Chiammer, wij en vragen daer niet naer en willen van hem niet hooren; daer en was geen bedencken mede gemengt; wat hij cost doen wilden zij haer getroosten: Godt soude de rechtveerdigen helpen; seggende wederom: hoe souden wij sulck een verrader ende moorder kennen, die het noch niet genouch is, dat hij den onnoosele jongen Conninck van Chiam* vermoort heeft; hij heeft se noch allen doen vermoorden die van den bloede waeren; wij en hoopen emmers niet, dat d' Ed: Hr Generael soo veere van de gerechticheyt gewecken is dat hij sulck een verrader in sijn ongerechticheyt sal voorstaen, daer wij, zoo wel als den Chiammer metten Nederlanders soo lange jaeren in alliantie ende vruntschap zijn geweest.</p>	<p>Dato* Besaer* interrupted me, saying that Your Excel. was not well-informed and that the situation would be different when I arrived in Batavia, mainly because Your Excel. would have heard how the Portuguese now live freely in Chiam*, have their church and hold their services there, and enjoy great friendship with the king. Here, in contrast, they wouldn't permit even a single room to be given to Portuguese mystic², adding "you can see clearly that there is no Portuguese ship or people here, and if you find any, kill them." And as regards the Siamese, here they didn't ask for them to come and don't want to hear of them. They have no ulterior motive in that. They would agree to what he could do. God would help the righteous, adding "how could we have relations with such a traitor and murderer, who not only had the innocent young king of Chiam* assassinated, but also all his blood relatives. We certainly don't expect at all that His Excel. Hr Generael has deviated so far from the right path until siding with such a traitor in his unfairness. Here, we have been in partnership and friendship for so many years with the Siamese and the Dutch.</p>
<p>Jae t' is sulcx dat men eer een staelen berch zoude doorgraven eer men dit volck van haer bloetdorstich passieus gemoet soude affbrengen. Weshalven, alsoo ick wel sach hoe het laecken hier geschooren was, de saecke voorder hebbe laeten berusten, versouckende mijn afscheyt, ende dat haere Mal^ts oock schriftelijck op UEd: missive gelieffde te antwoorden, alsoo mijn last niet toe en liet daer langer te blijven. Op welck versouck gemelte Mandorijn wederomme binnen gegaen is, die naer ontrent een quartier uysr weder buyten quam, mij van Haere Mal^t wege biddende, dat ick met de coopluyden ende anderen die bij mij waeren op overmorgen aldaer op een banquet zoude gelieven te, (220) verschijnen als wanneer Haere Mal^t ordre zoude geven om de antwoorde op UEd^t brieff te schrijven. Waer mede ons affscheyt hebben becommen, zoo dat met alle eerbiedicheyt int vriendelycke van den anderen zijn gescheyden. Int wech</p>	<p>Yes, to make these people give up their passionate bloodthirsty behaviour is like trying to cut a mountain of steel." Therefore, feeling the deadlock, I gave up and requested to take leave. Moreover, as Her Majesty was ready to give a written answer to the letter from Your Excel., I had no reason to stay any longer. Following that request the said mandorijn went again inside, came back a quarter of an hour later and, on behalf of Her Majesty, invited me with the merchants and the others following me to attend a banquet two days later, (220) meanwhile Her Majesty would give the order to write the answer to the letter of Your Excel. Then we parted ways, taking leave of each other in a respectful, friendly manner. On the way, we were followed by the secretary of Dato* Besaer*, who asked us to go to his house to sit together again. Dato Besaer meant to join us soon. So that we didn't have to wait long before he came to us with several</p>

2. Translator note: priest.

<p>gaen werden van den Secretaris van Dato* Besaer* gevolcht, die ons eer dat wij weer op saeten, bat dat wij t sijnen huysen souden aengaen. Dato Besaer meenden ons dadelijck te volgen. Soo dat niet lange en wachten offte quam met noch eenige Mandorijns bij ons. Hij liet ons allerley confitueren* ende bancquet voor setten om ons te tracteeren, all waer de bovengeschreven reedenen wederom verhaelde, daer ick weynich op antwoordde, alsoo wel sach dat het pluymen in de windt waren ende all pick int vuyr was.</p>	<p><i>mandorijns</i>. He treated us with various jams and a banquet, while explaining again the aforementioned reasons. I didn't answer much, seeing that the atmosphere was not conducive and matters were getting worse.³</p>
<p>Ick hadde gehoopt dat se int laetste noch waeter in haer wijn souden gedaen hebben, maer ter contrarie most ick seyl minderen ende een riffjen inneemen, voorgevende als UEd. nu antwoorde op den brief bequam als oock het mondelingh rapport van ons, dat de saecken lichtelijck op een ander voet souden draijen. Dit bolde Dato* Besaer* met de geene die met hem gecommen waeren geheel wel. Zij en twijffelen daer oock niet aen off UEd. soude (naer dat van haer saecke wel ende ten rechten geïnformeert waert) alles ten besten duyden, waer mede dese prepoosten gestaect wierden. Hij begon doen te spreekken van de peeper ende cleeden. Ick antwoordde hem dat de coopluyden daer last toe hadden. Waer over Sr. Gerrit Corssen met hem in handeligh begon te treden. Hij hielt zijn peeper op 28 Rn. de bhaer*, zonder een coupon* aff te commen, zeggende dat Barent Pesser en de Chinese jonck*, die vertrocken zoo veel daer voor betaelt hadden. Dese bovenschreven peper bestondt in 2 a 300 bhaar*, die noch meest van Sangora* ende Ligor* moste gehaelt worden, daer hij al twee prauwen* (zoo hij seijde) naer toe gesonden hadde.</p>	<p>I had hoped that they would have mellowed, but to the contrary, I had to stay calm, assuring that after Your Excel. had received the answer to his letter and listened to my oral report, things would easily take a different turn. Dato* Besaer* and the others who came along were very pleased by this opinion. They have no doubt that Your Excel. would (after being well and rightly informed) interpret everything in the best way, and as a result these disputes would be stopped. He began to speak about pepper and clothes. I replied to him that the merchants were in charge of this question. Then, Sr. Gerrit Corssen began discussions on trade with him. He is ready to sell his pepper at 28 Realen per <i>bhaer*</i>, without a <i>coupon*</i> of discount. He said that Barent Pesser and the Chinese junk, which had already left paid this price. There are some 200-300 <i>bhaer*</i> for sale. Most of it should be brought from Sangora* and Ligor*, where he had sent two boats already (as he maintained).</p>
<p>Dese boecht vonden wij soo verarmpt als voor desen wel placht te floreeren, gelijk wij oogenschijnlijck hebben ondervonden, want anders geen vaertuych cleyn noch groot (anders als twee cleyne prauwen* van Maccassar*) aldaer opt landt gehaelt vonden. Die van Andrigirij*, Campher*, Jhoor*, Pahang ende ander omleggende quar-(221)tieren, die jaerlicx aldaer veel toevoer, volgende hun eygen seggen, van peper plachten te brengen, blijven achter. De Chinese jonquen loopen verbij. Lygoor* is geheel verdestruuert ende de Siammer worde dagelijck verwacht, die</p>	<p>We found the gulf (<i>boecht</i>) very impoverished, whereas formerly it was a flourishing place, as we could see during our stay there. No boat, large or small, was anchored there (except two small boats from Maccassar*). People from Andrigirij*, Campher*, Jhoor*, Pahang and other neighbouring places, (221) who used to come here every year, they say, to bring pepper, now stay away. The Chinese junks don't stop. Lygoor* is completely destroyed and the coming of the Siamese is expected anytime soon to lay waste and raze to the ground what is left. Therefore very little or</p>

3. Thanks to Annelies Riem Vis for her help to translate this sentence.

<p>het overgebleeven mede sal vernielen ende raseeren, zoodat van daer voor eerst weynich ofte geen peeper te verwachten is. Deze luyden haer saecken dus slecht staende, ist nochtans onmogelijck haer tot bekentnisse van haere well weetende dwalinge te brengen.</p>	<p>no pepper at all can be expected from this place at the moment. The situation of these people is bad but there is no way that they will admit their obvious mistake.</p>
<p>Zij en willen gans niet weten dat het naer blijven van den Nederlantschen handel hier van d'orsaecken zijn. Praetjens en geldender niet, t'zijn al roosen voor verckens en pluymen in de windt. Dato* Besaer* zeyde zoo wij jaerlicx eenige scheepen aldaer wilden seynden ofte wederom een logie maecken, daer en zoude geen peeper ontbrecken, want die van de bovengenoemde plaetsen tselve verneemende soudan ongetwijffelt wel weercommen. Hier brocht hij sijn eygen vonnis meede, dat het naerblijven van den Nederlantschen handel d'orsaecke van haer qualijck vaert was. Ick seyde hem off nu daer peeper genouch waer en hielde deselve tot soo hoogen prijs, soo en soude men even wel niet connen handelen, want de Comp^{ie} nimmermeer de peper tot haere groote schaede ende nadeele to soo hoogen prijs en soude opcoopen, vragende hem met eenen wat dit beduyde dat zij haer peper soo costelijck hielden en voor wien zij die anders als voor de Portugiesen bewaerden?</p>	<p>They don't want to know at all that the cessation of the Dutch trade here is among the reasons. Conversations are useless, and doing something seems pointless. Dato* Besaer* said that if we were ready to send several ships every year or to reopen a trading post here, pepper won't be lacking, because people from the aforementioned places would know about it and undoubtedly come back. By saying this, he acknowledged himself that the withdrawal of the Dutch trade was the reason of their bad situation. I told them that even if there was enough pepper here, the price was so high that we wouldn't be able to afford to buy it, because the Company didn't agree anymore to buy at such a high price to avoid big losses and prejudices. I asked him why their pepper is priced so high and against who they were protecting themselves apart from the Portuguese?</p>
<p>Hij antwoorde al grunlachende voor de Chineese jonck* die t naeste jaer commen zoude. Ick antwoordde, dat die wel achter blijven soude want do jonck* was (volgens sijn eygen seggen) met een ambassade naar Battavia ende niet naer Patana gedestineert, die door groote leckagie aldaer heeft moeten aencomen, zoodat maer per accident ende bij gevalle, genouch tegen haeren danck, daer was aengecomen en daerenboven met de helft van haer ingelaeden coopmanschappen onvercocht weder naer China hebben moeten keeren, hem vragende wat reden zij dan zouden hebben om t naeste jaer daer weder te commen, seggende dat wij ons dit qualijck conden laeten wijs maecken.</p>	<p>He answered smiling "from the Chinese junks, which would come the following year." I replied that it would probably take some time, because the last junk (following his own account) was bound for Batavia with a delegation and not for Patana. In fact, due to serious leaking, this junk had to make an unscheduled call at Patani but against the will of the crew. It sailed back to China with half of its lading unsold. Therefore I asked him why the junks would be back the following year. He said that it was something difficult for us to believe.</p>
<p>Waer op hij stille sweech, ende alsoo den avont aen t vallen was, hebben ons afscheyt genoomen, rijdende wederom naer ons logement, alwaer totten 27sten d^o (dat wij ontboden wierden) naer de antwoorde op</p>	<p>He then stop talking. As evening fell, we took leave of each other and went back to our lodging, where we waited for the answer to our letter until the 27th. It was handed over to us on the evening we were invited</p>

<p>onsen brieff hebben gewacht, die ons des avonts naer dat bij de Conninginne te gast waren ge-(222) weest ende ons affscheyt hadden becommen, is behandicht, den welcken ons tot Dato Basar* voorgelesen wiert. Ende alsoo ick verstonddatter op stuck vanden restitutie van joncquen en goederen van de Chineesen als op andere punten meer soo absoluyt niet geschreven en wiert als van de Conninginne was geantwoordt, vraechden derhalven aen Dato* Besar* waeromme de Conninginne niet schreeff soo recht wtt gelijck zij mij geantwoort hadde?</p>	<p>to take (222) leave from the queen. The answer was read by us to Dato Basar*. As I realized that the queen didn't write anything regarding the restitution of the junks and goods belonging to the Chinese, as well as on other points, I asked Dato* Besar* why the queen didn't do what she told me during the audience?</p>
<p>Waer op hij seyde dat sulcx beeter zoude vougen dat ick daer selver mondelingh rappoort van dede, daer hij noch meer onnoodige praetjens en viesevaesen bij vougde, waernaer eyndelingen ons affscheyt hebben becomen. Soo dat ick des anderen daechs naer boort ben gevaeren, laetende de coopluuden (alsoo op ons vertreck stonden) noch aen lant blijven om te sien off op t' laetste noch iets proffitabels in de peperhandel voor de Comp^{ie} soude connen verricht geworden hebben, die den 29en d^o des avonts alle t samen aenboort quamen, mij rapporteerende daer gansch niet en hadden coonen doen alsoo totten lasten toe stijff op de 28 R^{en} bleven staen. [...]</p>	<p>He replied that I had better make a verbal report on this, adding useless words and ceremony, before we parted from each other. I came back on board the next day, leaving the merchants (as we were about to sail) ashore to check if there was anything profitable to do in the pepper trade for the Company. All came back on board on the evening of the 29th, and reported that they had done nothing as the price was still as 28 reals. [...]</p>

