

## 〈信函譜、大員宗教會書〉簡介（續）

### **An Introduction to *Brievenboek, Kerkboek van Formosa* ( 23 januari 1642 - 4 maart 1660 ) ( part 2 )**

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In the previous edition, I introduced *Brievenboek, Kerkboek van Formosa* and included the first five letters. In this edition of the journal I intend to provide a small discussion of these letters and consequently add some new elements to reading the text. This again will be exemplified with a few letters. As was clear from the previous edition, the first session, dated 6 October 1643 did not present the reader with an introduction. On the contrary, the reader is put right into the middle of what is going on. The Church Council convenes; the Chair and the Clerk are present, together with the other members elected in the council. At this very moment, the narrative starts, and the first session already but not surprisingly presents the reader with some of the major ingredients. The opening session reports the findings of the visit to the northern villages in Formosa. The purpose of the visit pertains to the progress made by the inhabitants in religious instruction, which also included learning to read, spell, and write. These findings have been put in a letter together with other information that is being sent to the homeland. Prior to sending the letter, it is being read aloud for approval. The recording of the sessions is done in a meticulous way: we are informed with the names of who was appointed for the visit, who wrote and read the letter aloud, and approximately when and with what name and type of vessel the correspondence departs for either Batavia or the homeland. In some of the letters that follow, we see a continuation of the visits to the villages (Fol. 55).

A second major ingredient of the sessions is the *censuram morum*, to be held prior to the Lord's Supper. The *censuram morum* can be described as an important event, as one of the threads that weaves the text as a narrative together. As can be seen from the first couple of letters, admonishments or reconciliations were reported after the visitations had been made. As we will see in some of the letters included in this edition, lapses in the moral behavior of some of the Dutch Christians could occur for an extended period, and which resulted in a long-term

exclusion from taking part in the Lord's Supper. See for example the case of Lowijs Janssen (Fol. 63 & Fol. 67). As exemplified in Fol. 63, 65, 66 and 67, there was a serious dispute between the wife of Willem Gijssen and Sijtjen Jans; however, it is not clear from the context that Willem Gijssen who was also found guilty of adultery had been committing adultery with Sijtjen Jans. Other references in the narrative to 'the wife of Willem Gijssen' connect her to disputes with other Dutch women as well (Fol. 4 in previous edition, p.124).

A third issue of significance is the reporting on the financial state, more in particular discussions on a raise in salaries, requested loans and the annual account balance of the Church Social Welfare Fund. Examples of such monetary matters are included in Fol. 56 and 65, whereas Fol. 59 is an extract of the annual bookkeeping of the year 1644.

The order of reporting followed a pattern that firstly a request was made. In the second instance, usually reported on in a future session, the request was either approved or dismissed, or not concluded. Fol. 54 and Fol. 55 exemplify this. Turn over was quite high, and the lower personnel, such as the schoolmasters and attendants to the sick had to be granted permission from the Reverend if they wanted to leave their post (Fol. 56). At times this created conflict, in that the Reverend would not agree with some of the displacements or lack thereof. At these moments, authority shows: the Church Council has the last word and may decide not to reply to the request or not grant it. Again, we see this clearly in Fol. 55. Likewise, in order to become accepted within the Dutch Christian community, one needed to present the Church Council with letters of attestation or confessions of one's faith. The letter of attestation also translates in certificate of membership. These documents were carefully read and studied, as we can see from Fol. 64. Sometimes decision making took a few sessions, as in the case with the attendant to the sick, named Alexander and his request to be put in service of the church (Fol. 38).

以下有〈大員宗教會書的信函〉1644年及1645年的英文翻譯。

**(Fol. 38)** 21 Session. Chair Johannes Bavio, Clerk Simon Brenio, 26 July [1644]

The Reverend Johannes Happart, former preacher in Walcheren, appears before the meeting. He had been sent here from Batavia, to be the preacher in this district. After showing his Honorable his attestation, he was welcomed by the meeting and accepted into service.

Attendant to the sick in Tapuliang, Gerrit Jansz., who had complained several times about Caesar van Winschoten in his letters, which were quoted at the meeting, presents his

accusations in writing against Caesar. The Church Council agrees that, after both parties have been heard separately and together, Reverend Johannes Bavius and Simon van Breen and also the elder Mr. Boon would be appointed to hear the case once more, keeping the decision for the big meeting.

Alexander, who had come here as attendant to the sick with the ship Haerlem, asks to be put in the service of the church in Formosa. The Church Council is of the opinion that the matter should be postponed until the arrival of François Caron, which will be any day now.

Johannes Bavius

Simon van Breen

Nicasius de Hooge

Pieter Boon

Philippus Heijlman

Nicolaes Reijerss

**(Fol. 54)** 30 Session. 10 November [1644] Chair Joannus Happart, Clerk Joannus Bavius

The letters drafted to be sent to the brethren of Amsterdam, Walcheren and Batavia are being read aloud and approved.

Since Mr. Eduart aux Brebis, who instead of Mr. Nicasius de Hooghe has been elected as an elder is not present, but recently expelled to Batavia with the fleet ship den Dolphijn, the Church Council agrees to replace him with another suitable person. To this end the two names of Mr. Nicasius de Hooghe and Mr. Gabriel Happart will be presented to the Honorable Governor, so that his Honorable can select one for the position of elder.

Joannes Happart

Johannes Bavius

Nicasius de Hooge

Philippus Heijlmann

Nicolaes Reijerss

**(Fol. 55)** 31 Session. 2 December [1644] Chair Reverend Simon Brenius, Clerk J. Happart

The Honorable Brethren, who were charged with presenting both of suggested elders to the Honorable Governor, report that Mr. Nicasius de Hooghe was appointed by the Council to continue for this year in the role of elder. It was not considered appropriate that the two brethren should attend the meeting.

The Chair suggests - as was said before to his Honorable –the promotion of the expansion of the Christian religion in the villages of Favorlang, which up to now was prevented because of

disease; [and asks] whether the Honorable brethren did not consider that, now that his health had improved, he could depart there on the first occasion to carry out his duties; at which the Honorable brethren agreed to give him this holy and necessary work and to this end wish him the Blessing of the Lord.

It has also been approved by the Chair to grant at his request testimony regarding the loyalty of his service, which during all this time he has carried out here with satisfaction in the edification of the congregation.

At which the Chair recommended whether or not it was advisable, according to the proposed order, to start first with the visits of the northern villages, followed by the southern villages. It has been approved that in the coming weeks the visits of the northern villages will commence, starting with the villages Tavocan, Sijnckan, Balouang, Tevorang; and the others in the following weeks. It has been approved that in addition to the brethren preachers from the Church Council, others will go along who in the opinion of the Honorable Governor can temporarily leave their VOC duties. There will also be a request to the Honorable Governor that a deputy from the abovementioned Council of brethren will be allowed to join.

**(Fol. 56)** The deputy schoolmaster Anthonij asks to be dismissed from his position, the reason for this being that he considers himself totally unable to fulfill his duties because of his longstanding illness and bodily weakness. The brethren of the Church Council reflect in more detail on the matter and decide to communicate this to the Honorable Governor, so that with his Honorable knowledge and the Council's advice they can look for a more competent person to carry out the school duties.

Reverend Bavius states that he has understood that it has been decided by the Honorable Governor and his Council that all the native teachers in the northern villages will appear one by one every month in Soulang to receive their stipend from Mr. Caesar. This cannot happen without there being a noticeable disadvantage to the schools, because some of the villages are about a day's journey from Soulang, so it has been agreed to communicate the matter with Honorable Governor and to request that according to the old rule, the stipend will be handed to one of the messengers of each village.

Mr. Rutgers announces to the meeting that his wife had made over in her will the sum of 30 guilders to 20 stuijvers each to the poor of this region. When asking who to these coins should be handed over, it has been agreed to receive these coins in gratitude and hand them over to Mr. Reijers together with the other coins for the poor.

Simon van Breen

Joannes Bavius

Nicasius de Hooghe

Nicolaes Reijerss

Wijnant Rutgers

(**Fol. 59**) 39 Session. 6 January [1645]. Chair Reverend Joannus Happartius, Clerk Jannius Bavius

The brethren have assembled to make the statement of accounts of the Church Social Welfare Fund and to this end Mr. Cornelis Caser and Mr. Adriaen vander Burch also appeared as delegates from the political council. It has been found that the assets of the Church Social Welfare Fund, since 15 July 1643 when it was transferred to the Deacons master Philips Heylman and Mr. Nicolaes Ryers, consists of the sum of 1388 5/8 Ra, and until the 15<sup>th</sup> has increased up to:

Interest .....	306 5/8 Ra
Gifts in the church .....	876 1/8 Ra
Testaments (wills) and other special gifts.....	265 3/8 Ra

Sum	1448 1/8 Ra
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Assets	1388 5/8
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Sum	2836 6/8 Ra
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Also that the expenditure since the abovementioned date

Runs to the sum of:	963 1/8 Ra
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The assets thus being	1873 5/8 Ra
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As follows:

In cash.....	1418 1/8
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In silverware .....	359 5/8
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In books .....	100
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Sum	1873 5/8
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Joannes Happart

Joannes Bavius

Nicasius de Hooghe

Nicolaes Reyers

Wijnant Rutgers

**(Fol. 63)** 37 Session. 10 April [1645]

It has been decided to celebrate the Lord's Supper at Easter on 16 April.

Willem Geijssen has been accused by Sijtjen Jans of many dirty tricks, which were closely examined by the treasurer, so that the Council could conclude and decide on the matter. Hence, the Church Council agreed that both should be excluded from the Lord's Supper, unless the truth of the matter could be revealed by one statement or another in the Council before the next celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Whilst the wife of Caspar Wagenaar was found to continue to be drunk and keep a disruptive household irrespective of all interventions and warnings; the brethren decided to present her with the fact that if she did not reform, they would be obliged to take the most extreme remedial action, namely excommunication.

Regarding Lijsbeth Rossenaer, who has occasionally carelessly kept bad company, it has been agreed to admonish her, and whilst her husband is away from home, for her to improve her good name by leading a quiet and retiring life. Also Lowijs Janssen, former steward of Honorable Governor, has come under great suspicion of dishonesty in the family of Honorable [Governor], for which reason he has also been expelled from his Honorable, and will therefore be approached about this and asked to be more prudent; and in order to prevent offence and nuisance, he has been excluded from the Lord's Table on this occasion.

Pieter Boon

Nicolaes Reijerss

Wijnant Rutgers

Joannes Happart

Joannes Bavius

Simon van Breen

**(Fol. 64)** 37 Consistory Session, held on 15 April [1645]

Ludet Brommet van Bremen, assistant of the preacher and elder, having made a confession of his faith, has been accepted as a member in the community.

After this was reported, the state of the congregation was found to be the same as it had been during the visitation, and the meeting was concluded with prayer.

Joannes Happart

Joannes Bavius

Simon van Breen

Pieter Boon

Nicolaes Reijerss

Wijnant Rutgers

(**Fol. 65**) 38 Consistory Session. 9 June [1645]. Chair Reverend J. Bavius

The Chair announces to the meeting that two teachers, called Poule T. Mourockeij and Valivali T. Lakat, have been found in Mattou to have been engaging in whoring with a married women and presented to [the meeting] how to deal with them in these circumstances. It has been decided to disqualify them from their positions, to deliver them to the Council of Justice and to replace them for the time being with 2 elders selected from teachers in the Soulang district until people can be found in Mattau to replace them.

Jan van Toornburg, schoolmaster in Sinckan, requests that because of his long-term illness, he can return to the fatherland with the next release, since his time will have expired in 7 or 8 months. The brethren agree for reasons of compassion on account of his high age, not because of his worthiness, and grant his request and advance his case with Honorable Governor.

Hans Vollant currently schoolmaster in Sijnckan requests an increase in his salary to 20 guilders a month, and to be given the stipend of a regular schoolmaster. It has been agreed to grant him this request, in spite of the fact that in his position as schoolmaster he does not show himself to be the most diligent, and moreover he has the intention to marry a native woman, which gives hope that he will thereafter improve his behavior. This request will be passed on to the Honorable Governor.

Also Susanne Maurinus, wife of Captain Boon; Catelijne van Putten, wife of Casper Wagenaer, and Willem Gijssen, have committed adultery and for these grave sins have already been examined by the Council of Justice and received a civil punishment. Currently (**Fol. 66**) in the name and according to the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Honorable Brethren agreed to immediately cut the abovementioned women, who have lived for a long time such a scandalous life, loose from the pulpit and excommunicate them from the community of Jesus Christ, so as to weed out such kinds of scandals and nuisances, and to protect these female sinners from themselves, until they reform and are welcomed again after having shown the community proof that they have improved. But since Willem Gijssen, in the Council of Justice, was accused of only one deed of adultery, it has been agreed not to immediately excommunicate him, but to exclude him from the Lord's Supper and to announce this in public from the pulpit, provided that the community is exhorted to carry out all the brotherly duties regarding the aforementioned Willem so that he will truly feel sorrow for his sins and will be saved.

Joannes Bavius

Joannes Happart  
Simon van Breen  
Nicolaes Reijerss  
Wijnant Rutgers

(**Fol. 67**) 39 Consistory Session, held on 24 June [1645]

It has been decided to hold the Lord's Supper on 9 July.

The wife of Willem Gijssen and Sijtien Jans who have a disagreement and quarrels will be approached and encouraged to be reconciled, and if this can be proved to have happened, they will be admitted [to the Lord's Supper].

Louijs Janssen will be admitted again to Supper, unless Honorable Governor (who will be approached on the matter) gives reasons to keep him excluded.

It is known to the Church Council that Lijsbeth Rossenaed came to the Supper last time with a mind filled with hatred and envy against the wife of Willem Gijssen, and since at present the suspicions of her dishonesty are now very publicly known, and are increasing, it has been agreed to exclude her from the Lord's Table on this occasion, trusting that shortly the truth of her case will be revealed.

The meeting was adjourned with prayers.

Joannes Bavius  
Joannes Happart  
Simon van Breen  
Pieter Boon  
Nicolaes Reijerss  
Wijnant Rutgers