

A Preliminary Study of the Relationship between Chinese Weeskamer and Gong tang in Batavia During the end of the 18th Century to the Middle of the 19th Century

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The Chinese weeskamer in Batavia was a special organization that collected inheritance taxes and performed charitable work. It played an important role in the local society of Batavian Chinese and received support from the Dutch colonial government. For this reason it had a complex relationship with the Chinese Gong tang that was characterized by both conflict and cooperation. My analysis of this relationship reveals power structure inside local Chinese society and the complex interaction between local elites and the Dutch colonial government.