



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Colonial careers : Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen, Rijckloff Volckertsz. van Goens and career-making in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch Empire
Odegard, E.L.L.

Citation

Odegard, E. L. L. (2018, January 18). *Colonial careers : Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen, Rijckloff Volckertsz. van Goens and career-making in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch Empire*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/59468>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/59468>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/59468> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation

Author: Odegard, Erik

Title: Colonial careers : Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen, Rijckloff Volckertsz. van Goens and career-making in the Seventeenth-Century Dutch Empire

Date: 2018-01-18

Cover images, top to bottom and left to right:

Map of Recife-Mauritsstad, NL-HaNA, Collectie Leupe supplement, 4.VELH, inv. no. 619.74

Portrait of Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen, Rijksmuseum RP-P-1888-A-12885

Portrait of the Van Goens family, Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, JPK 1 (PK)

Portrait of Rijckloff van Goens as Governor-General, Rijksmuseum SK-A-3766

Map of Colombo, NL-HaNA , Collectie Leupe, 4.VEL, inv. no. 943

Colonial Careers

Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen, Rijckloff Volckertsz. Van Goens and
Career-Making in the Early Modern Dutch Empire

PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van Doctor
aan de Universiteit Leiden,

op gezag van de Rector Magnificus prof. mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker,
volgens besluit van het College van Promoties
te verdedigen op donderdag 18 januari 2018
te klokke 15:00 uur

door

Erik Lars Leendert Odegard
geboren te Amersfoort
op 28 november 1986

Promotores: prof. dr. C.A.P. Antunes
 prof. dr. J.J.L. Gommans

Promotiecommissie prof. dr. M. van Groesen (Universiteit Leiden)
 prof. dr. G.H. Janssen (Universiteit van Amsterdam)
 dr. M. de Campos Françaço (Universiteit Leiden)

To my Family

Acknowledgements

Writing and researching this dissertation these past few years has been a privilege and a tremendous adventure. But it was not something that one does alone. Over the years since beginning in September 2012 countless individuals have provided support, comments, questions, coffee and food. I would like to thank them all, but there are a few individuals and groups that I would like to mention specifically.

Working in a team of motivated, kind and bright colleagues these past years has been a privilege. I owe a great deal to the members of Team Challenged, Team Fight and the other PhD's and postdocs who became part of our larger team. Whether exchanging ideas, going to conferences together, sharing coffee (of which I drunk most, I admit it freely), or ranting about the sometimes Byzantine rules of the University, being a member of a larger team made everything easier, and much more fun as well. Though many of our team-members are already back home, whether that is Finland, Turkey, London or Cape Town, I know we will stay in touch and I look forward to the other PhD defenses that will take place these coming years. The Institute for History provided a stimulating and supportive environment for research and teaching, and I thank my colleagues of Economic and Social History, Maritime History and Global and Colonial History for their support, input and collegiality.

During my PhD I had the privilege of working at the National Archives of the Netherlands for little over a year. The archives provided funding, time and most valuable complete access to the VOC-archives in the depot. I assisted in research for the VOC-exhibition and provided advice for the ongoing process of digitization of the archives. The colleagues with whom I worked could not have been more gracious and interested and went out of their way to make me feel at home and part of the team. I owe them a great deal and thank them all for their interest and support.

I found that the best motivation for research and writing and my greatest source of inspiration are the people closest to me, my family. Dave, Nynke, Ingrid, Dinand, Inge and Pieter, you were always there with interested questions, support, good food or the willingness to provide baby-sitting services. Finally, I owe most to the two most important people in my life: Judith and Emilia. Judith, the period during which this research was carried out was also the timespan in which we got married, bought a house together and became parents. Nothing I do is possible without your support and I am so proud of our girl. It seems only natural, therefore, to dedicate this book to you.

Table of Contents

Introduction	9
Historiography and research question.....	10
Family and friends, politics, patrimonialism and patronage	16
Institutions and interest aggregation	17
Factions, families and friendship	18
Patronage and clientage.....	20
Method and hypothesis.....	22
Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen and Rijckloff Volckertsz. van Goens: two seventeenth-century governors.....	27
Sources and selection	28
Connecting careers, constructing empire.....	29
1. Of Councils and Companies.....	31
Urban politics: parties, factions and family networks	34
The provinces: building blocks of the federal state.....	36
The Generality.....	41
The Stadholders	42
Security at sea: admiralties, directories and private companies	44
Companies and the state; companies of state	50
Chambers of the companies	51
Directors and investors: a colonial elite.....	53
The central management; XVII and XIX	57
Conclusion	59
2. Appointing a stadholder for Brazil	61
Company government in Brazil, 1630-1636.....	62
Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen: a German nobleman in the Dutch army.....	64
Appointing Maurits: the Dutch side	66
Commanders, directors and governors-general	72
Conclusion	75
3. Rising through the ranks	77
Rijckloff van Goens: a career in fast-forward	77
An orphan in the company's care, 1629-1633.....	79
Coromandel and Batavia, forging crucial links	80
The importance of marrying up: marriage as a career-making tool.....	81
The old boys' network: Sweers, Van Vliet, Coyett and Caron	83
Diplomatic missions and military command: career selling points?.....	86
Career consolidation in the Republic.....	88
Conclusion and comparison.....	89
4. Becoming 'The Brazilian'	92
Establishing a nobleman's court in the New World	95
Commanding the army of Brazil	98
Operations: from Porto Calvo to the Siege of Bahia, 1637-1638.....	99
Force size and logistics.....	103
The Artichewsky case.....	105
The conflict in Brazil	110
The aftermath of the conflict in the Netherlands	113
Trade and government.....	115

Bookkeeper and manager: the economy of Brazil and the High Council	116
Conclusion	118
5. Ceylon: Trade or Territory?	121
Persuading the directors: Van Goens in the Republic, 1655-1656	123
Conquest and control.....	127
Becoming governor: undermining Van der Meijden	128
Administration and policy	131
Administering territory.....	132
Fortifications, diplomacy, colonization and trade.....	136
Private communications and the role of Ceylon as an entrepot.....	138
Patron-in-chief: Van Goens' familial and patronage networks, 1662-1670	140
Marriage: the sequel	140
Unraveling a network of patronage through correspondence	142
Conclusion	146
6. Dismissing a Governor-General	149
Company and state in the Netherlands: between business and politics.....	151
From dismissal to a new government: identifying the points of contention between Johan Maurits and the directors	156
Karel Tolner's mission.....	157
The High and Secret Council of Brazil	158
Angola and Chile: increasing the sway of the South Atlantic empire.....	163
Enough is enough: dismissal of Johan Maurits, and his attempts to stay, 1642-1644.....	165
Conclusion	169
7. Conflict in the Council.....	173
Information control and company policy-making	174
Fighting over policy: Amsterdam, Batavia, Colombo.....	177
The emperor strikes back – August 1670.....	178
A breakdown of reciprocity: Van Goens, Van Reede and the loss of Malabar	182
A year of disasters and beyond, 1672-1679	184
Factional strife amidst invasion: the effect of '1672' on the VOC in the Republic.....	186
Criticism from Ceylon	190
A letter to Valckenier: gossip from the Council.....	194
The sins of the father: the sons of Van Goens in the VOC.....	196
Conclusion	198
Conclusion.....	201
Introduction.....	201
Career beginnings	201
Mid-career: tenure in Brazil and Ceylon.....	202
The companies compared.....	204
Career end and recollection.....	205
Visions of empire.....	206
Principals and agents	207
Bibliography.....	209
Primary Sources.....	220
Summary in Dutch	223
Curriculum vitae.....	226

Figures and tables

	Name	Page
Figure 1	Thomas de Keyser, <i>The Four Burgomasters of Amsterdam Learning of the Arrival of Maria de' Medici on September 1, 1638</i>	33
Figure 2	Political map of the Republic in its borders of 1621	41
Figure 3	The <i>Jupiter</i> , a WIC ship, flagship of Cornelis 'peg-leg' Jol at the Battle of the Downs (1639)	48
Figure 4	Map of the Dutch Republic showing chamber cities of VOC and WIC and cities with directors	52
Figure 5	Connections between the city council of Amsterdam and the three chartered companies (VOC, WIC and Noordse Compagnie)	54
Figure 6	Ties between Van Goens's baptism witnesses	85
Figure 7	Map of Java and the Kingdom of Mataram in the early 1640s	88
Figure 8	Johan Maurits' house in Recife	96
Figure 9	Vrijburg Palace	97
Figure 10	Map of northeastern Brazil showing the important forts and cities	101
Figure 11	News-map of the Siege of Porto Calvo	108
Figure 12	The Siege of Porto Calvo according to Johan Maurits	109
Figure 13	Map of the VOC's presence in South Asia	127
Figure 14	Entry of Van Goens into Cochin, January 1663	130
Figure 15	Organization of the government of Ceylon	134
Figure 16	Familial networks of Van Goens before his marriage to Esther de Solemne	141
Figure 17	Van Goens' network after marrying Esther de Solemne in 1667	142
Figure 18	Correspondence network around Salomon Sweers	143
Figure 19	The Recife-Mauritsstad urban complex	162
Figure 20	Political map of Ceylon in the 1670s	181
Figure 21	Ambitions in stone: the palace of the governor and council of Ceylon	192
Figure 22	The competition: the palace of the governor-general in Batavia, 1648	192
	Name	Page
Table 1	Mayors and Council Members in Amsterdam, 1643	32
Table 2	Members of the Admiralty Boards on the Amsterdam Council in 1643	46
Table 3	Individuals present at the meetings of the Heren XIX in summer 1636	68
Table 4	Witnesses to the baptism of Rijckloff van Goens' children, 1641-1646	84
Table 5	High officers in Ceylon in 1661/62, 1665, 1667, 1670	135
Table 6	VOC directors of Persia in 1661-1671	139
Table 7	The XIX in 1636, 1642 and 1645	154
Table 8	Use of bricks in Brazil, 1642-1643	160
Table 9	Income and expenditure of the Ceylon government in the late 1660s and first half of the 1670s	178
Table 10	The twenty directors of the VOC chamber in Amsterdam, 1671 and 1679	188
Table 11	The members of the High Government of the Indies in January 1675	193

This page intentionally left blank