

Galle...



School classes visiting Galle Fort, 2016

A lot of children have looked for the shadow at the bottom of the walls of Moon Bastion

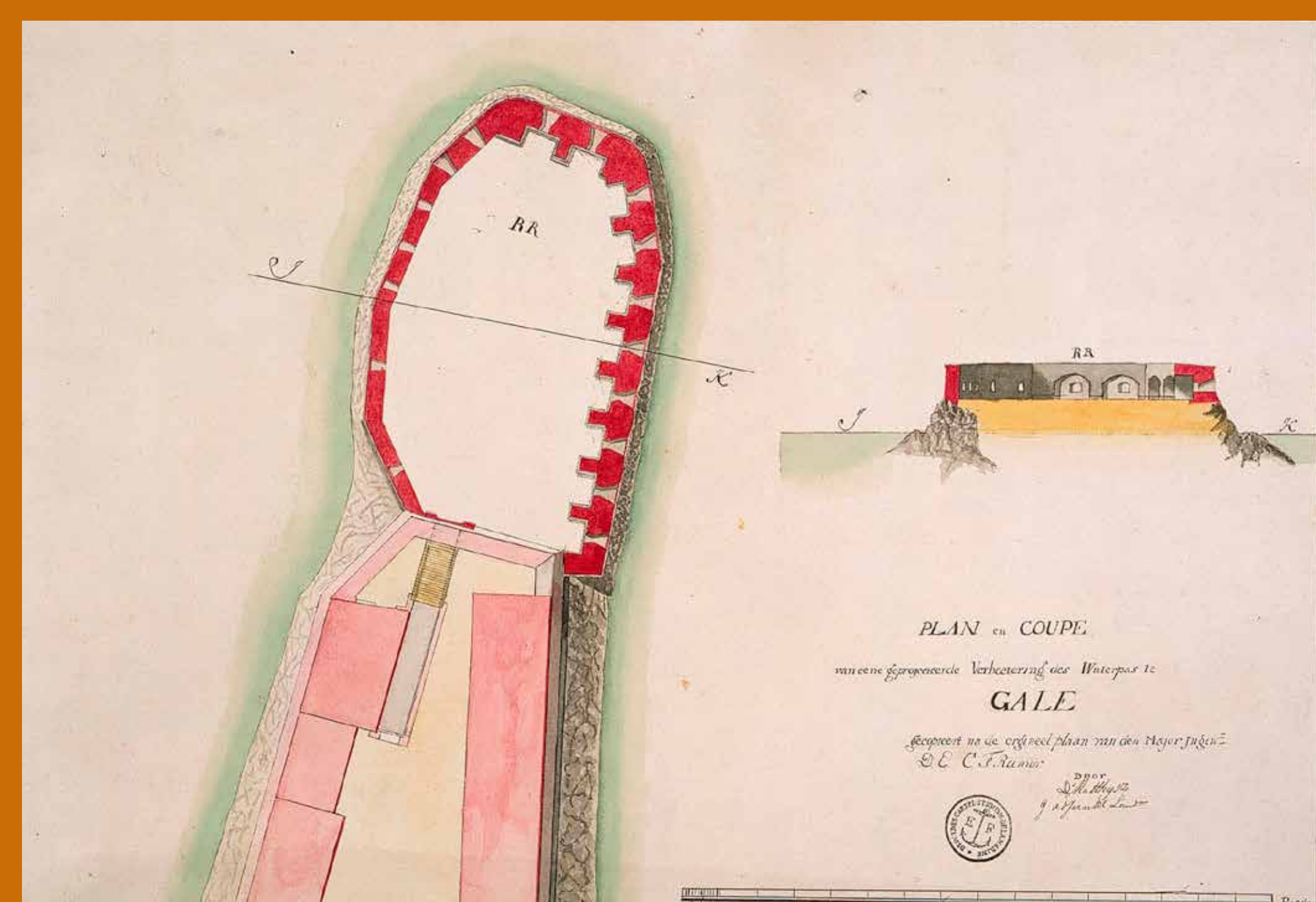
Photo Johannes Odé

The walled city of Galle received the status of UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983. This recognition meant that the historical importance of the monumental heritage of the colonial period, spanning some 400 years, was internationally recognized and thus deserved protection. Ever since many restoration projects have been undertaken and now Galle has become a favourite place for tourists. Restorations are often done in a mixed style, showing architectural elements mainly from both the Dutch and British colonial periods. Remarkably, the ramparts and bastions are well preserved, but of course some adaptations and additions were made in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Be that as it may, the Sun, Moon and Star bastions are still as impressive as they were in the Dutch Period.



View of the Black Fort, seen from the bay, 2008

Photo Ad van Schaik



Plan and section for the project to improve the lower batteries (*waterpas*) in front of the Black Bastion, c. 1780

The *waterpas* played an important role in protecting the bay against enemy ships. Originally the Portuguese in Galle had only one important defense work, the *fortaleza Santa Cruz*. In the 1620s the Portuguese started building bastions at the land side. In 1780 England went to war with the Dutch Republic. Since Galle was one of the most important maritime centers of the VOC, it was essential to protect the trading center from where the profitable cinnamon was shipped.

D. Matthis, surveyor. The Hague, 4.VEL, inv.nr. 1067

...UNESCO World Heritage Site



Plan of Galle and surroundings, c. 1770 (detail)

At the right side of the bay one sees the watering place (*waterplaats*) indicated. Water from the hills was collected and stored in a basin and then transferred, by pipes, to the vessel waiting at the jetty. In the center of the picture we read *galge eijland* ('Gallows land').

Maker not known. University Library Leiden, Special Collections, inv.nr. COLLBN 002-11-6 (edited)



The former belfry in Galle, 2016

At the foreground the former VOC trade and pay offices, undergoing restoration.

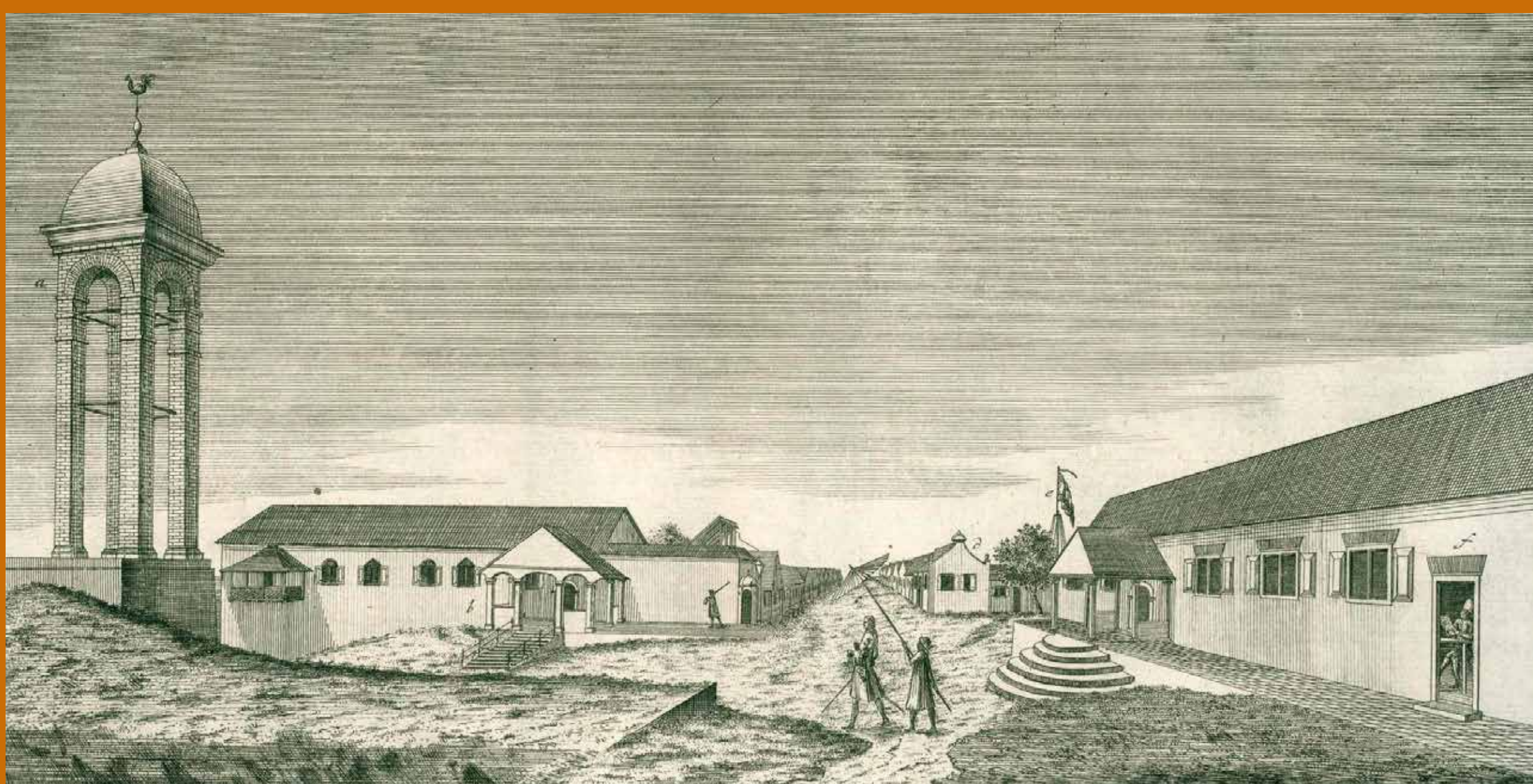
Photo Johannes Odé



View of the Great Warehouse, 2016

The costly cinnamon was kept on the first floor. Some ten thousand bales of each 80 pounds were annually shipped from Sri Lanka, the majority to the Netherlands.

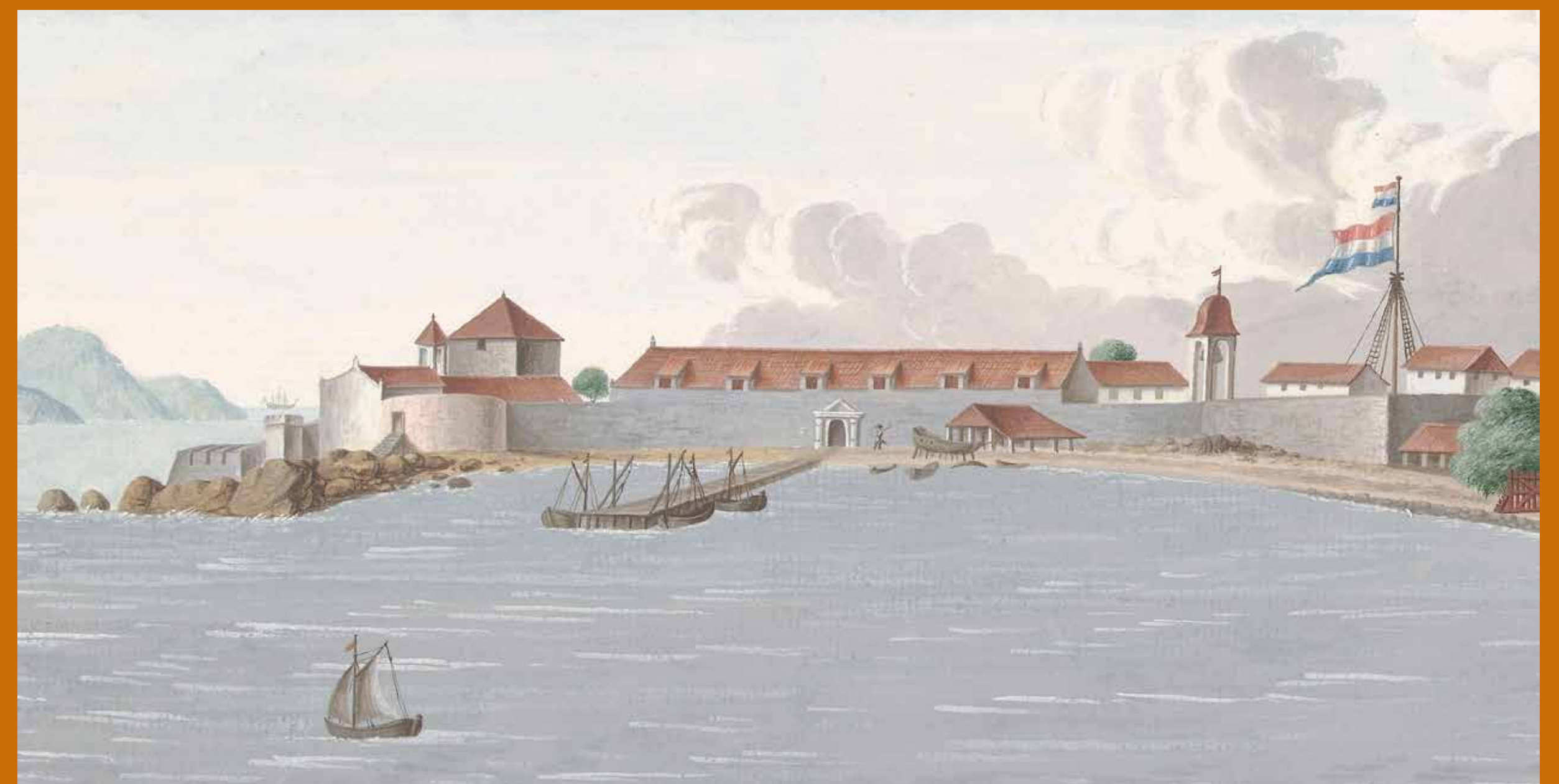
Photo Johannes Odé



View of Galle as seen from the interior, 1737 (detail)

At the right one sees a clerk at work in the former VOC trade office.

Johann Wolfgang Heydt, Plate LXVII in: Johann Wolfgang Heydt, Allerneuester Geographische- und Topographischer Schau-platz, von Africa und Ost-Indien (Wilbermsdorf, 1744). Amsterdam Museum, inv.nr. LA 1905



View of Galle, c. 1710 (detail)

Between the Black Fort and Belfry and Flagstaff one sees the Great Warehouse with entrance to the fort through the Old Gate, realized in 1669. At the right side of the gate is a modest ship wharf. All goods leaving or entering the warehouse were transported by sloops to and from the East Indiamen waiting in the bay.

Cornelis Steiger. Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, inv.nr. RP-T-1902-A-4669