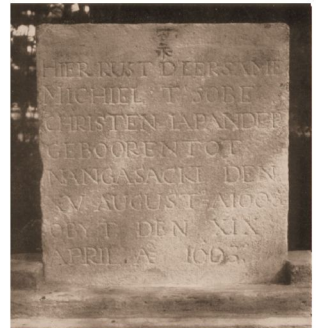


Portugese Church, the oldest house of worship standing in Jakarta, given to local Portugese descendants by the Dutch in 1695. (Foto from de Haan)

Anglican Church, built to replace the original bamboo house at Prapatan in 1829 by Rev. W. H. Medhurst primarily for Chinese Christian in Java. (Foto from S. Merrilllees, *Batavia in Nineteenth Century Photographs*, Archipelago Press, Singapore 2000)



In his *Journeys to Djakarta (1931)*, Marquis Tokugawa wrote about *Oharu* (Jeronima Marino) and other Japanese Christians who were not allowed to return from, or deported to abroad, according to the ban on Christianity and the closure of the country in early 16c. Contrary to the traditional view in that those people were wretched sufferers, civilized Japanese were welcomed namely in Batavia, where most women married rich Dutchmen and men were active as traders and mercenaries. The tombstone of *Michiel T' Sobe* originally existed in a footpath near Kalibesar West was taken to the Anglican Church at Prapatan, and then moved to the yard of Japanese Consulate ten years before Tokugawa visited there in 1920. Despite extensive studies made in the past, who was Sobe was quite mysterious (Frederik de Haan, *Oud Batavia (Eerste Deel)*, G. Kolff & Co., Batavia 1922). According to the record remained in the National Archive, Jakarta, a rich man named *Michiel "Diaz" Sobe* prepared a will at the house of Simon Simonsen (*Oharu's* husband) giving one third each of his property to Simonsen and two other persons (H. Shiraishi, *The truth of Jagarata-Oharu*, Benkyo-do Publ., Tokyo 2001). The stone has been lost since after the independence of Indonesia.



The tombstone of Michiel T' Sobe, born in Nagasaki in 1605 and died here in 1663. (Photo from de Haan)