

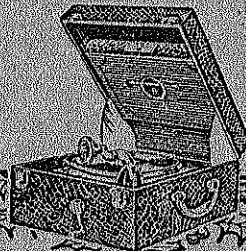
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# Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.



*"Eendracht maakt Macht"*

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R. G. ANTHONISZ MEMORIAL NUMBER

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R. G. ANTHONISZ, I.S.O.  
President, Dutch Burgher Union.

## Journal of the - - - Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon.

VOL. XIX.]

FEBRUARY, 1930.

[No. 4.

### The Death of Our President.

Sincere and widespread is the sorrow which the New Year has brought to the Dutch Burgher Community of Ceylon, uniting them with the sense of a common loss.

Our much loved and much respected President has passed to his rest. The fulness of our loss cannot be estimated at present but will be felt more and more as the years pass by. To us, of his day and generation, it is an inestimable privilege to have known him and held converse with him. To his personal friends, and they are many, there remains the fragrant memory of close and intimate association.

Mr. R. G. Anthonisz was a gentleman, a scholar, and a historian, but it is in the dedication of his life to the uplifting of his community that he wins imperishable fame.

He was the founder of the Dutch Burgher Union. He taught us to cherish an interest and a pride in our great past, realising how powerful an impulse the principle of *noblesse oblige* exerts on the lives of men.

It is only a great cause that can outlive misunderstanding and criticism and inspire living faith in one's leader. That result the Dutch Burgher Union has certainly achieved. It has existed for over twenty-two years, is strongly supported by the community, and ranks as one of the most vigorous and useful institutions in the island.

It should make a special appeal to all members of the community, both present and future, as the noblest memorial to the life and work of Mr. R. G. Anthonisz.

The Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union has been so enriched by the contributions of Mr. Anthonisz that it is no mere form of words to say that his death creates a void which can never be adequately filled.

Mr. Anthonisz's deep and accurate knowledge of both the sources and the facts of Dutch history, aided by his marvellous powers of memory, was a perennial fountain, to which all turned who thirsted for information.

Mr. Anthonisz was never a rash adventurer in the realms of history. All his writings bore the hall-mark of scrupulous accuracy, and any record which is supported by his name bears an unquestioned guarantee. His reputation stands high among the historical and research scholars in Holland.

And withal, he had the modesty and the simplicity which characterise men who are really great.

His courteous and kindly nature made him accessible to all classes of men, for he knew no distinction of high and low, rich and poor. All honoured him as the accredited leader of his community.

A prince can mak' a belted Knight,  
A marquis duke and a' that,

and many a worthy citizen wears these honours for faithful service to the State.

The highest honour which the Dutch Burgher Union can offer to any of its members is that of election to its Presidential Chair. Year after year with unvarying regularity Mr. Anthonisz was unanimously elected President of the Dutch Burgher Union, an office which he held up to the time of his death. It was a mark of confidence in the man who had always served the interests of his community with unabating zeal and loyalty.

It is hard to fill the vacant chair, but the undoubted inspiration derived from Mr. Anthonisz's life should hearten and encourage his successors.

### Richard Gerald Anthonisz.

To appraise the worth of a man and his work immediately after his death is a difficult and hazardous task if a just estimate is to be formed. The greater the work the greater the difficulty and the more serious the hazard, lest our judgment be warped by either excessive admiration or stubborn animosity. But Mr. Anthonisz lived long enough to allow both his personal character and his public aims to be fairly judged, by those at least who knew him intimately, and understood his motives. He and his work have had their full share of criticism. Loyalty has attached itself to him; envy and calumny have had their say. His work remains, and will continue.

Mr. Anthonisz has left to us a name that will be remembered with honour long after the names are forgotten of most of his contemporaries who outshone him by reason of their large worldly possessions or by their prominence in public life. His official duties were not such as brought him before the public eye. As Government Archivist, having to do mainly with old tomes and dusty manuscripts relating to the almost forgotten occupation of this island by the Dutch, he was usually thought of as little more than the accepted authority on the history of the Dutch in Ceylon. No one could speak with more authority or insight on this subject, which is now of increasing interest and importance, not only to us in Ceylon, but also to all students of Colonial history.

But his name will endure because it was by him, and under his guidance, that the Dutch Community in Ceylon was re-created. Small in numbers, separated by distance and divergence of interests from the land of their forefathers, scattered among the different peoples of a land which a century and a half earlier their fathers had held as their own, the Dutch Burghers of Ceylon were, as a rule, fast becoming Anglicized and Orientalized to the extent of forgetting the history and traditions to which they were born. It is to their credit that, notwithstanding a hundred years of neglect and, in many cases, of hardship, they still clung tenaciously to the recollections and customs of the past which united them, dimly it may be, but rightly, to the land whence their fathers came. But there was nothing which brought them together, which kept them together; nothing which was to them a visible sign of their common ancestry and traditions; nothing to remind them of the greatness of their heritage or the obligations which that heritage involved.



In May 1899 a few kindred spirits sought to check this retrograde tendency, and formed a society which met under the name "Het Hollandsch Gezelschap van Ceylon"—"The Dutch Fellowship of Ceylon." Its membership was rather rigidly limited to a few families. In 1907, Mr. M. Wagenvoort, a Dutch writer and traveller, was on a visit to Ceylon, and Mr. Anthonisz discussed the subject with him. In the end, Mr. Anthonisz's vision of a distinct, united Community in Ceylon began to take shape, and the "Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon" was inaugurated in January, 1908. It was established on the broadest basis possible, every member of the Community being eligible for membership. The Hon'ble Mr. F. C. Loos was elected President, and Mr. Anthonisz was Secretary. He was, of course, the moving spirit of the whole affair. It was not till January 1916 that he consented to accept the office of President; by that time the heavy spadework of organization had been done.

No one was better fitted for the work of re-organizing the Community than he, as we shall see from a study of his life. The family to which Mr. Anthonisz belonged settled in Ceylon, at Jaffna, early in the seventeenth century. His great-grandfather, Jacobus Cornelis Anthonisz, removed to Galle in 1784, and when the Island was ceded to the British in 1796 held the post of Boekhouder and Zoldy Overdrager in the Dutch Company's service. Two of his sons came under the influence of the Wesleyan Mission which came to Ceylon in 1814. One of them, Johannes Christiaan (1793—1845), entered the Wesleyan ministry in 1819; the other, Abraham, (1799—1875) intended to do likewise, but was dissuaded by his people from entering the regular ministry, though he laboured to the end as if he were an ordained minister. Abraham's son, Joseph Richard (1827—1891), married Anna Maria Anthonisz, a descendant of Abraham Anthonisz of Amsterdam, who came to Ceylon in 1736, and was the architect of the Dutch Church in Galle. Richard Gerald, their eldest child, was born in the Fort of Galle on the 22nd October 1852.

He learnt his letters in a school kept by the Misses Wood, and in the year 1861 entered the Galle Central School, of which Mr. James Anthonisz was Headmaster, and Mr. J. R. Anthonisz, his father, was Second Master. Both had been trained as teachers under Mr. James Millar, Headmaster of the Galle Central School when it was first opened. The education given in this school was thorough, particularly in Mathematics. Four of our University

scholars within eleven years were old pupils of this school, who went up to the Colombo Academy from it; these were Arthur Joseph (1876), James Oliver Anthonisz (1880), Trutand Morgan (1882), and Charles Edward de Vos (1887). Richard Anthonisz was presented for the first part of the Ceylon Local Examination in 1867 and headed the list of the successful candidates. Next year he was first in the final examination, and won the Queen's scholarship tenable at the Colombo Academy for three years.

Galle, it must be remembered, was at that time the chief seaport of the Island, and here it was that passengers embarked and disembarked on their voyages. Mr. Anthonisz remembered seeing, as a child, the soldiers of the 37th Regiment drilling on the Esplanade near the Court House, before they sailed to India to help in quelling the Indian Mutiny. "One pious Wesleyan soldier who used to come and see my grandfather [Rev. Abraham Anthonisz] frequently, and used to take me on his knee to turn over the pages of a toy-book, or to help me with my drawing slate, came to bid my grandfather and grandmother good-bye. He was supposed to be killed in the Mutiny.....I remember the thrilling stories which came from India of the doings there, and the great consternation they caused among some of the ignorant people. But it was all soon over, and then my grandfather used to take Arthur and me to hear the bands of the returning regiments play on the Esplanade. We heard several of them, and saw the various uniforms of the regiments which transhipped at Galle." Mr. Anthonisz remembered the opening of the Galle Supreme Court Sessions by Sir William Carpenter Rowe—an event marked by special pomp and ceremony in those days—and the death of the Chief Justice two days later. He remembered the embarkation of Sir Henry Ward when the Governor left from Galle for Madras; and the landing, a few months later, of Sir Charles MacCarthy. "My grandfather took us to the end of the Jetty, from where we had a very good view. We saw the Governor step out of the boat on to the landing place, and shake hands with some of the officials present. He was dressed in a gray tweed suit and a low-crowned hat. The next morning at school [Miss Wood's School] some of the older girls questioned me as to whether I had a good view of the Governor. I said Yes, and described his appearance. They laughed at me, for they had also been to the function, and the personage they saw was in a brilliant scarlet uniform and a cocked hat. This must have been one of the

military officers in command of the Guard: the Governor himself landed in civil clothes, as his official reception was to be in Colombo."

In January 1869, Richard Anthonisz left Galle for Colombo, and his record of that journey gives us a glimpse of the tediousness of travel in those days. His party started one night after dinner in a palanquin carriage followed by a double-bullock cart. The first halt was at Hikkaduwa, which was reached at six in the morning. They left in the afternoon, reached Ambalangoda in the evening, and pushed on to Bentota, arriving at two o'clock in the morning to find the Resthouse full of visitors. After several cold, comfortless hours, they had breakfast, and continued their journey to Kalutara, getting to it at seven in the evening. They left at five next morning, breakfasted at Panadure, and arrived at Hultsdorp, where the Rev. Abraham Anthonisz lived, in time for dinner.

The next day, 1st February 1869, after an interview with Dr. Boake, Richard Anthonisz was placed in the first class in the Upper school in the Academy; the higher classes constituted Queen's College, which was affiliated to the Calcutta University, and took its examinations. Among Mr. Anthonisz's classmates were J. H. Ernst, C. W. vanGeyzel, Andrew Loos, F. C. vanCuylenburg, Walter van der Wall, T. F. Garvin, Edward de Kretser, J. D. Jonklaas, G. Dunuwille, J. F. Tillekaratne, and later on, J. T. Blazé and W. H. Solomons. Edwin Anthonisz and P. Arunachalam were in Queen's College.

But his career in the Academy was not destined to be long. Eight months after he entered, a severe attack of rheumatism compelled his removal to Galle, and when he returned in January 1870 it was to a different Academy. The affiliation to Calcutta University had been cancelled, and the class in which he rejoined his former companions had been re-named the Upper Remove. Above it was the Sixth Form, in which were only the two brothers Arunachalam and Ramanathan. Richard Anthonisz now came more directly under the eye of Dr. Boake, but it was a disappointed and discontented Dr. Boake, who was then about to give up his charge. Several pupils were also leaving, and Richard felt that he too must find something to do. His uncle, Alfred Anthonisz, (afterwards Colonel in the R.A.M.C.) offered to arrange for his stay at Aberdeen if he would enter the medical profession, but for this he

had no disposition, and on the 22nd November 1870 he was apprenticed as a law-student to Mr. J. W. Ludovici of Galle, a Proctor of the Supreme Court. His studies did not place any excessive strain on his time or energy, and he organized a Literary Society, and with it a small Reading Room. To this Reading Room, Reuter's Agent in Galle regularly sent the telegrams of the day, which were eagerly read for news of the Franco-Prussian War. The young men of Galle were stout believers in the superior power of the French. When the war was over, harrowing stories of the distress in France and Prussia were current, and the young men got up a theatrical and musical entertainment in which Mr. Anthonisz made his "first and last histrionic effort." Some £ 60 or £ 70 was realized, and it went to the relief, not of the French, but of the Prussian sick and wounded. "Such was the trend of sympathy those days."

Towards the end of 1871 the family removed from the Fort of Galle to a fine house and garden at Kumbalwella, and the *res angusta domi* necessitated much self-denial. Mr. Anthonisz took up in 1873 a small post in the Customs, which he did not hold long, for in 1876 he passed his Law examination, and was duly enrolled a Proctor of the District Court of Galle. But the practice of his profession did not give him all he asked for, and on the 12th February 1877 he had married Ellen Deutrom, for whom he had long cherished a deep affection. The headmastership of the Wesleyan Richmond College fell vacant just then, and he was persuaded to take it, if even for a time. In less than a year, he was appointed First Assistant Master of the Galle Central School, of which Mr. James Anthonisz was still Headmaster. This was on the 15th August 1879, and from this date began his long career of forty-two years service under Government. In 1881 he was called upon to act as Fifth Form Master in the Colombo Academy, and when the Headmastership of the Galle Central School fell vacant, he was appointed to that post, in spite of the manoeuvres of a few persons in Galle to secure an "European Graduate from an English University." The extent to which he succeeded in maintaining and increasing the prestige of the School may be judged by the remarks made by the Director, Mr. H. W. Green, at its Prize-giving: "After this preface let me tell you that the Headmaster of this school has fully maintained the expectations which the Department of Public Instruction had formed of him, and the credit of a remarkably clever family, whose merits you in this town of Galle all know, by steadily raising

the Galle Central School year by year, until in mathematics this school ranks among the best in the Island, while in classics and general work it is equally good. In short, I look upon this school, as regards the southern portion of the Island, in the same light as I look upon the Royal College for the other parts of Ceylon, and if I had a son and had not the time to teach him myself, I should certainly send him here until it was time to send him to an English public school, if I were a Galle resident."

When Government, soon after, gave up its English Schools, Mr. Anthonisz was assured of being appointed Registrar of Lands in Galle, on the retirement of Mr. J. F. Lorenz (a brother of C. A. L.), and he was even directed to employ his spare time in acquainting himself with his new duties. This he did; but when appointments were at length made, he was sent to Kurunegala as Registrar, on the understanding, however, that he would be appointed to Galle when that post again fell vacant. He took up duties at Kurunegala on the 1st October 1884, and was there brought into touch with the Lieschings and Miss Julia Layard, all of whom took a keen interest in the Church and the social work of the town. Mr. Anthonisz, as a good Anglican, was drawn into these activities, and, on the departure of Mr. Liesching, was made a lay-reader of the church. He returned to Galle, as Registrar of Lands, on the 1st January 1888, and, four years later, on the 23rd February 1892, was appointed Assistant Registrar-General in Colombo. From May to August 1897 he acted as Police Magistrate, Matara, and then, till the end of 1898, as Office Assistant to the Government Agent at Ratnapura. He was then brought back to his duties as Assistant Registrar-General, for while holding this appointment an event occurred which changed the whole tenor of his life.

An ex-Civil Servant claimed certain lands in the Matara district and challenged the Government to produce a Dutch document which he believed would support his claim. The Government knew nothing of this document, but, as Mr. Anthonisz had previously been of service in deciphering old manuscripts, he was deputed to search for the Dutch document. As the work would require much time and most careful investigation, he was on the 15th July 1899, seconded for service as "Examiner of Dutch Records."

Anyone less interested in these Records would have shrunk from the task. Tennent tells us in the Preface to his "Ceylon"

that when he wished to consult the records, he was "assured that the records, both of the Portuguese and Dutch, had long since disappeared from the archives of the Colonial Secretariat." The British had secured these records under Article XIV of the Capitulation, "But, strange to say, almost the whole of these interesting and important papers appear to have been lost; not a trace of the Portuguese records, so far as I could discover, remains at Colombo; and if any vestige of those of the Dutch be still extant, they have probably become illegible from decay and the ravages of the white ants." In the second edition of his book, however, he says he was informed "that many years ago, what remained of the Dutch records were removed from the record-room of the Colonial Office to the cutcherry of the government agent of the western province; where some of them may still be found."

When Mr. Anthonisz undertook the examination of the records they were in the keeping of the Government Record Keeper, huddled together on a few shelves, uncatalogued, and practically uncared for. They were not available for reference, and no one in the office knew the Dutch language. The Galle Records had been stowed away in large packing cases in the Colombo Museum. They were now brought to the Colonial Secretary's Office, where accommodation of a sort was provided for them. Later on, the Dutch *Thombos* (Land and School Registers) were added to the collection. It was clear that no man could attend to the work of arranging, classifying, and cataloguing these manuscripts unless his whole time were given to it, unless he knew something of Dutch matters and the Dutch language, and unless he was thoroughly interested in the subject. Mr. Anthonisz was made permanent in the post of Archivist and Librarian on the 1st January, 1902.

He was plainly the most suitable, perhaps the only suitable man for the new office, and what qualifications he possessed will appear if we linger somewhat on his early training. He has himself left a record of circumstances "which had a great influence at this period of my life in giving my mind that turn towards the study of the history and traditions of our race which has been a dominant motive with me throughout my life. Dutch as a domestic speech had long since disappeared from among us; but most of the old people whom I knew in my childhood had been closely associated with Dutch times, and many of them were well acquainted with the language. In our own little family circle, for

instance, there was my grandfather [Rev. Abraham Anthonisz], born at the end of the 18th Century, who could speak and read the language fluently, although at the time I knew him he had scarcely any occasion to use it. The home language in all the best Dutch Burgher families at that time was Portuguese. But my grandfather often interlarded his speech with short Dutch phrases, and occasionally capped a statement with a pithy little Dutch proverb, such as, *nood breekt wet; uit het oog uit het hart; hoogmoed komt voor den val; niemand kan twee heeren dienen*; etc. Thus, while quite a little child, these phrases became familiar to me, and I liked pronouncing them. This pleased the old man well, and he would encourage me to go on committing them to memory. By and by he taught me questions and answers, and took a delight in hearing me pronounce the Dutch words. Both my grandfather and my grandmother, in their infant days, had attended Dutch schools, and the latter, who to her dying day remained a staunch member of the Dutch Reformed Church, used, I believe, to say her prayers in Dutch. She had a little red, gilt-edged morocco book, entitled *Evangelistsche Gezanger*, which was the Hymn Book used in the Dutch Church when the services were conducted in that language. Out of it I often heard her sing in her thin voice, but charmingly sweet, a favourite hymn, *Jesus neemt de zondaars aan*..... I have that little book with me now, but alas! coverless, and in a badly dilapidated state. It was also my grandmother who first made me acquainted with the great Dutch National Anthem, the *Wilhelmus*, but she called it the *Prins van Orange*. I can hardly now remember the words of the anthem as she sang them, but the tune has been in my head from infancy up till now, as she often crooned it as a lullaby.

"To come back to my grandfather ..... I have sufficiently indicated his gentle and modest character; and he was also deeply religious. But this did not preclude him from laying great stress on his Dutch descent, and in indulging, in a quiet, unobtrusive manner, in the pride of honest and respectable parentage. He would speak of Dutch customs and Dutch traits of character in contrast with some of the prevailing modes of living with a strong bias in favour of the old usages. He had also the prejudices of his race; most of the Dutch ways were superior in his eyes to the English innovations, although he was straight and honest enough to admit that the English had many qualities worthy of imitation.

Thus, from my early years I was imbued with a sense of our Dutch origin, and of the many circumstances relating to the Dutch in which we had a close interest.

"There were others besides my grandfather, belonging to the old generation, who loved to speak to me of ancient times. Old Pieter Balkhuysen spoke Dutch, and once or twice put me through my paces. Koetje de Vos would now and then condescend to exchange a few words with me, but he would suddenly break off, exclaiming, 'Oh! what is the use of speaking Dutch now?' Old Jan Wittensleger did not know as much Dutch as the others, but he had a great fund of anecdote, and used to relate stories of the olden time which he had heard from his father. My mother's father also took great pride in his Dutch descent, and, when I was a little older, and stayed with him in Colombo to attend the Academy, I remember his having some correspondence in Dutch with a family in Batavia.....It will be seen now how I was led from the first to have a great regard for our Dutch antiquities; and how, as I grew up, my interest in them increased more and more."

The old town of Galle gave Mr. Anthonisz ample scope for his studies and researches, and the atmosphere of the place, still reminiscent of Dutch times, encouraged investigation. Another student of Dutch lived there, Mr. F. H. de Vos, with whom Mr. Anthonisz, when in Kurunegala, corresponded, "sometimes in Dutch and sometimes in English." When they were brought together again, in January 1888, they worked heartily and incessantly in genealogical and historical researches, often contributing to the "Ceylon Literary Register" on Dutch subjects. Also, when teaching in the Colombo Academy, Mr. Anthonisz would constantly visit the Record Room to examine Dutch manuscripts. Thus, when he was appointed, first, Examiner of Dutch Records, and then, Archivist and Librarian, there was no question as to the fitness of the man for his work.

How fully he justified the appointment has been told before,† and will bear retelling in brief. First, the Galle Records, which were wanted at once, were arranged, numbered, bound, and catalogued. A catalogue of them, numbering 78 pages, was printed in 1906. The Colombo Records were next taken in hand, and then

† *Journal of the D. B. U.* xviii. pp. 157/163.

the *Thombos*. All were arranged, and lists were made of them. Alphabetical indexes were afterwards made to

- (a) Government Grants, 1685-1750;
- (b) Grants of Ratmahara lands in the Matara District;
- (c) Last Wills executed in Colombo, 1700-1787;
- (d) Acts of Appointments, 1751-1781;
- (e) Proceedings of the Political Council, 1656-1796.

To this last an account was added of the functions of the Political Council, with an outline of the system of Government.

The student of Dutch history in regard to Ceylon will understand and appreciate the value of this achievement, by which reference to any particular subject dealt with in the Records is made, not only accessible, but comparatively easy. To do all this, and to do it all so well, is eminently to Mr. Anthonisz's credit, though it was not work which brought him prominently into notice. But, in addition, he was called upon continually to furnish transcripts, translations, and reports on claims to land said to have been given in Dutch times; while occasionally he was summoned to give evidence in Courts of Law on these claims.

In the year 1901 Mr. Anthonisz was given an official Assistant. Miss Sophia Pieters of Amsterdam was appointed, and her primary duty was to translate the "Memoirs" of Dutch Governors and Commandeurs who, when they retired from office, left written instructions for the information of their successors. Ten of these were printed, and have been used with considerable advantage by writers on the Dutch period of Ceylon history. To these published "Memoirs" Mr. Anthonisz contributed valuable introductions.

It was in 1907 that Mr. Anthonisz came at length to the realization of some of his ideals in regard to the Dutch Community in Ceylon. That Community, by reason of its Western origin and its familiarity with Western habits and modes of thought, took a leading part among the peoples of the Island immediately after its cession to the British. They were known as Dutch Burghers, but the emphasis on the word *Dutch* gradually weakened, and they were spoken of, and rightly spoken of, as *Burghers*; for when the Dutch Company's servants ceased to serve it they became Burghers. The name was, however, more and more freely bestowed on those who had no claim to it, whose origin, customs, traditions, and ideals had nothing to do with the Dutch. It is no wonder that to

the Burghers were attributed ideas, habits, and defects with which they had no concern. Mr. William Digby's well-known book "contained some astounding statements concerning the Burghers, statements apparently based on gossip and old women's tales, which he seriously incorporated in his book although unworthy of notice and absolutely without authority."<sup>†</sup> What Mr. Anthonisz laboured for was to bring together the scattered members of the Community and to unite them in maintaining the honourable traditions of their race. With this object the Dutch Burgher Union was founded. On him and Dr. L. A. Prins (who was Joint Secretary with him during the preliminary meetings) fell the brunt of the work of organization.

The movement was criticised, opposed, and abused without stint. Every witling made it the theme of his nonsensical jests and his borrowed epigrams. Every one who doubted what place he would have in the movement either attacked it or held aloof. It was denounced as a political scheme. It was denounced as a movement hostile to other communities. It was ridiculed as Utopian, as the dream of a visionary who was not in touch with the realities of the present. It was exclusive, it was cliquy, it made for disunion rather than union. The poorer and less highly-placed feared it was not for them, and the richer ones wondered how far it would interfere with their conventional attitude towards the poor.

We can afford to smile at these futilities now, but they were a sore trial to the sensitive mind of Mr. Anthonisz. He persevered, however, and was sustained by the hearty co-operation of loyal friends who would not allow themselves or him to be brow-beaten; and it was only after he had made the position of the Union secure, and made the Union a power for good, that he consented to be its President. On the 14th October 1914, while he was still Secretary, over a hundred members of the Union met in the newly-built Union Hall at a dinner given in his honour.

All the activities in which the Union was engaged were guided and inspired by Mr. Anthonisz. He did his best to promote the study of the Dutch language, though the response to that was not as hearty as he wished it to be. But the celebration of the Feast of S. Nicolaas was enthusiastically supported year after year. The JOURNAL was started and principally written by him, and he gave

<sup>†</sup> *Journal of the D. B. U.* xvii. p. 4.



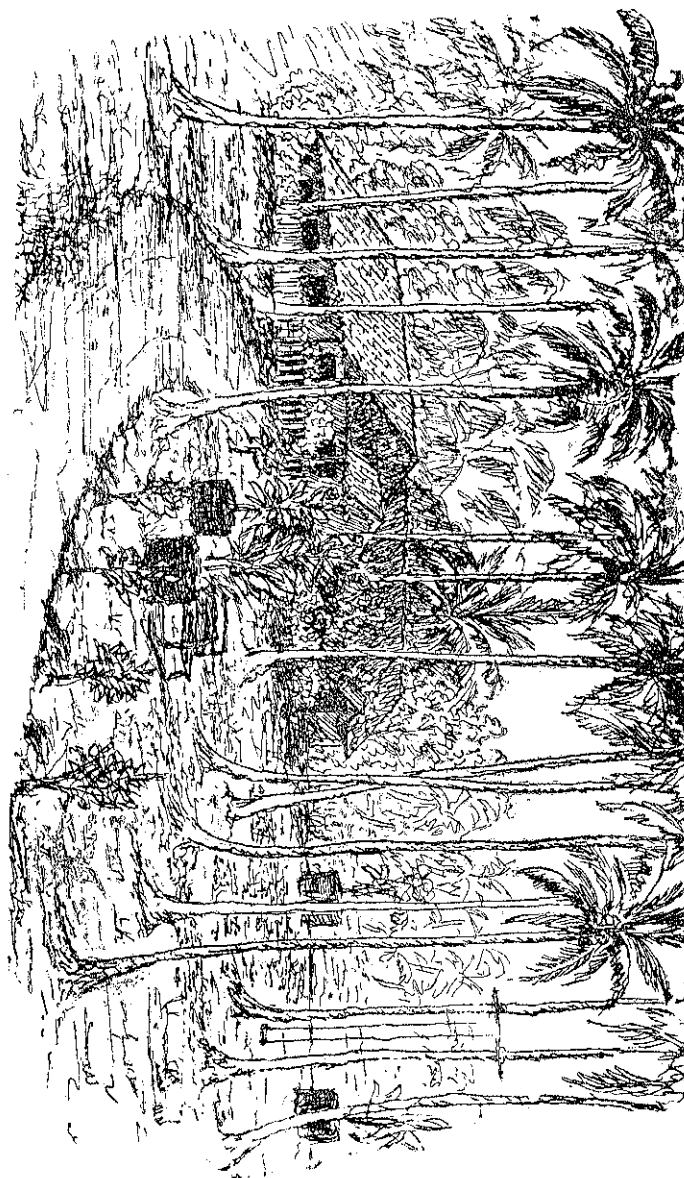
it that distinctive tone which his successors in the editorship have striven to maintain. A list of Mr. Anthonisz's valuable contributions is given in the Bibliography elsewhere, and they will shew how liberally he dispensed the fruits of his researches. In the Genealogical Committee he was, of course, the final authority, and here, more than elsewhere, his breadth of view prevailed.

In June 1919, he received the honour of the Imperial Service Order. He was also appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Western Province. Ten years earlier he had suffered a severe blow in the death of his wife, Ellen, at Pleasance, Havelock Town, where he spent many happy and useful years. Five children were born of that marriage, of whom two survive him: Maurits Maartensz, of H. M. Customs, and Dora Helena, who is married to Mr. Denzil Koch. In 1912, he married Miss Sophia Pieters, his colleague at the Archives Office. She died on the 2nd June 1921. Mr. Anthonisz had retired from Government Service as from the previous day. They had looked forward to spending a quiet life of cultivated retirement at Toniston, Heneratgoda, a pleasant estate which had been recently purchased by them; but this was not to be.

His life was now solitary, except for his brother Eugene who shared his retreat at Toniston, and for the frequent visits of his relatives and a number of intimate friends. At Toniston his methodical habits and love of order found larger room; books neatly and carefully arranged and ready for reference at any time: current magazines and periodicals piled on shelves and tables in chronological order; and his ample collection of Dutch documents and notes on Dutch matters connected with Ceylon tied together in clearly docketed bundles. The trellised dining room was open, and airy; and here on an occasional holiday he would feast his friends with dishes that recalled a now almost forgotten art. On the broad verandah friends would sit for intimate talk, and nearly all the talk was about how the aims of the Union and the welfare of the Community could best be furthered.

He paid what attention he could to the duties of his small estate, and he gave some time to planting fruit-trees and flowers on it. But all his leisure, and much more than his leisure, was devoted to his favourite studies in history. Still, he had hobbies to which he would frequently turn. He had a working knowledge of carpentry, book-binding, printing, and photography. He was a collector of postage stamps. And he could sketch with considerable

VIEW OF "TONISTON," HENERATGODA.  
(From a pen and ink sketch by Mr. Anthonisz.)



insight and accuracy. The text engravings in his "Dutch in Ceylon" were all his own fine work, as is the sketch of Toniston now reproduced.

"The Dutch in Ceylon," of which the first volume was published in June last year, was intended to set forth fairly, lucidly, and in some detail, the facts of the Dutch occupation of Ceylon. These facts were only partially known even to students, for they are, for the most part, buried in the documents stored in the Archives. They had to be studied and put together, not only to provide a history, but also to correct the common mass of conjectures, misinterpretations, mistranslations, and misrepresentations of Dutch rule and Dutch social life. No one was better fitted for this task than Mr. Anthonisz, who, with all the information at his command had also the historian's sense of justice and a real sympathy with the peoples whom the Dutch in Ceylon ruled. The first volume was mainly a preliminary statement of the case, and brought the history down to the capture of Jaffnapatam in 1658, and nothing is more remarkable in the volume than the fairness with which facts are stated. The Dutch periodical "Neerlandia" was quick to observe this: "What we find most attractive in this history by Mr. Anthonisz is that he fearlessly describes both the good and the bad." In the second volume he proposed to enter more fully into the subject, first, shewing the progress of Dutch rule under each governor, and then devoting separate chapters to Dutch institutions and modes of life. Thus, there were to be chapters on the administration of justice, charitable institutions, domestic life, the inhabitants of towns and of villages, slavery, public and private buildings, trades and industries. A third volume would probably be necessary to deal with Kandyan affairs and the end of Dutch rule in Ceylon. How much of all this was accomplished cannot be ascertained till his papers are examined; but it is clear that no one can adequately carry out Mr. Anthonisz's purpose in the way he intended, and with his calm judgment and lucidity of expression.

No reference to Mr. Anthonisz's writings can ignore his "Report on the Dutch Records in the Government Archives at Colombo," published in 1907. Though aiming at nothing more than a brief history of the records and a general description of them, it is a remarkable little compendium of information, shewing how much it is possible for a student of Dutch history to discover and use for

the general benefit. There are also the notes, in small type, telling us a good deal about the personal history of the governors, and about places and terms connected with the Dutch administration of the Island.

Towards the end of August, 1929, a message reached Colombo that Mr. Anthonisz was seriously ill at Toniston. Medical aid was at once given, and he was brought down to Colombo, where for a couple of months he was confined to his bed, and then to his room. The seventy-seventh anniversary of his birthday was spent in Colombo, and by the end of November he had sufficiently recovered from his illness to return to Toniston where he longed to be again. There he kept fairly well, and enjoyed a happy Christmas-time with his nearest relatives. But scarcely did the week pass before he was ill again. He wrote to Dr. Prins: "I am again feeling very unwell and wish to consult you. Come as quickly as possible, and do not be offended with me for troubling you so often. I am not strong enough to write more." This was the last letter he wrote. He had again to be brought down to Colombo. It was the beginning of the end. On Thursday, the 2nd January, he seemed to be more cheerful, and talked freely to Dr. Prins, in both Dutch and English, on subjects nearest his heart. On Friday morning there was a change for the worse, and at half-past ten the eager spirit left his frail body.

"Nothing is here for tears." It is to courage and united action we are called: to carry on the work he established for our welfare as a Community; to carry it on undeterred by difficulties, by the idle sneers of the thoughtless, by the weak fears of the timid, and more than all, by harmful insistence on our individual views. He has left us an example of a life of exceptional usefulness and value, a life spent in quiet and retirement, but in industrious toil, far from the noise of trumpets and the clash of tongues. The simplicity of his life in an age of parade and excitement stands out as a lesson to us. His gentleness made him great. His speech and act were alike marked by that refined and kindly courtesy which we are accustomed to associate with an older generation of more leisurely habits, cultivated tastes, and inherited powers of self-control. The great work he has done will endure, and by it he has richly earned the gratitude and honour of the Community he served so well.

## THE FUNERAL.

A large number of friends were present at Westridge, Havelock Town, on Saturday afternoon, where a short service was held by the Rev. P. L. Jansz, with the choir of S. Paul's, Milagiriya, in attendance. At 4-30 p.m. the procession started for the General Cemetery, Kanatte, where another large gathering had assembled. The pall-bearers were:

Sir Stewart Schneider	Dr. L. A. Prins
The Hon. Mr. Justice Maartensz	Mr. E. H. vanderWall
The Hon. Mr. G. A. Wille	Mr. L. E. Blazé
The Hon. Mr. C. E. de Vos	Mr. E. A. van der Straaten
Dr. V. van Langenberg	Mr. J. R. Toussaint

The Services at the Mortuary and the Grave were conducted by the Rev. P. L. Jansz, and the Hymns sung were: "Peace, perfect Peace", and "Now the Labourer's task is o'er."

The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Anthonisz, Mr. and Mrs. Denzil Koch, Mr. A. W. Anthonisz, and Mr. P. E. Anthonisz.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary was represented by Mr. H. E. Peries of the Ceylon Civil Service.

"Fear no more the heat o' the sun,

Nor the furious winter rages ;

Thou thy worldly task hast done,

Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages :

Golden lads and girls all must,

As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.

Fear no more the frown o' the great,

Thou art past the tyrant's stroke ;

Care no more to clothe and eat ;

To thee the reed is as the oak :

The sceptre, learning, physic, must

All follow this, and come to dust.

Fear no more the lightning flash,

Nor the all-dreaded thunder-stone ;

Fear not slander, censure rash ;

Thou hast finish'd joy and moan ;

All lovers young, all lovers must

Consign to thee, and come to dust.

Quiet consummation have,

And renowned be thy grave."

Dirge from *Cymbeline*.

## MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

An eloquent tribute to the memory of Mr. Anthonisz was paid by Dr. L. A. Prins, who presided at the monthly meeting of the Committee held on 14th January. Dr. Prins said :—

"As this is the first occasion on which we meet after the death of our President, I should like to say a few words about Mr. Anthonisz. I have known Mr. Anthonisz for over forty years. His death is a severe blow to the Union, and we shall feel his loss more and more keenly as the years go by. With him is buried knowledge which he stored up in the course of more than half a century, and to-day there is no one qualified to take his place. Mr. Anthonisz devoted his whole life to acquiring knowledge regarding the Community. He lived in a Past which had a glorious Present in this Island, and it is he who opened out to us the pages of our history. Had Mr. Anthonisz not lived we should not have to-day half the knowledge we possess of the Dutch Community. Even now, the extent of our knowledge is limited enough, but what little we know we owe to Mr. Anthonisz. It is, however, a source of satisfaction that he has left behind, as the result of his researches, a considerable quantity of valuable notes, which apparently it was his wish should be taken care of, and applied to the purposes for which he intended them.

We have now to consider what we should do to carry out the objects with which Mr. Anthonisz started the Union. His one wish, throughout his whole life, was to instil into the members of the Community the spirit of those who lived here as servants of the Dutch East India Company. His aim was to revive the language and the good old customs of the Dutch, and to impress on their descendants those qualities of thrift which they displayed.

I do not propose to say anything more. Mr. Anthonisz was well known to us all as a personal friend, as a friend to whom many of us went in times of difficulty, and his knowledge and advice were always placed at our disposal. I move that we place on record our deep sense of the irreparable loss which the Union, as well as his relatives, has sustained by the death of Mr. Anthonisz; and that we convey to his son and daughter an expression of our profound sympathy with them in their bereavement."

The motion was passed in silence, all the members standing.



On the motion of Col. E. H. Joseph, the following Committee was appointed to examine the documents left behind by Mr. Anthonisz and to put them to the best possible use in the interests of the Union:—Dr. Prins as Chairman, the Hon. Mr. L. M. Maartensz, Mr. E. H. vanderWall, Mr. L. E. Blazé, and Mr. J. R. Toussaint as Secretary.

### Memorial to Mr. R. G. Anthonisz.

At a later stage of the meeting Mr. E. H. vanderWall proposed that a Committee be appointed to collect funds for the purpose of raising a memorial to Mr. Anthonisz. He said that they lived in a materialistic age in which men pursued their own selfish ends. Here and there they met with a man who worked for an ideal. The founders of the world's religious movements and the great social reformers lived for their ideals. Mr. Anthonisz's ideal was the uplifting of the community to which they belonged. Twenty-five years ago, before Mr. Anthonisz started on his mission, the right application of the term Burgher was so misconceived that it was often a reproach to be associated with the name. Mr. Anthonisz worked for them and gave them a place under the sun. If to-day the Dutch Burgher was held in high esteem among the various communities that lived in the island, they owed it entirely to Mr. Anthonisz, who conceived and founded the Dutch Burgher Union. When he started that great movement there were many who doubted his success, many who discouraged him. Had he failed, on his frail shoulders would have been placed all the discredit. But he had succeeded and not merely succeeded but inspired in his followers the same high ideals. They should not then refuse to give him due credit for the work he had achieved. The Chairman had referred to various facts connected with the life of Mr. Anthonisz. It was not necessary to repeat these, but he would add that Mr. Anthonisz was one of those rare men who possessed in a high degree that fine old-world courtesy which it was a pleasure to recognise. The charming manner in which Mr. Anthonisz welcomed his friends to his hospitable home at Toniston was one of his happiest memories, which he would always treasure in his life. Mr. Anthonisz's personal courtesy was also reflected in his writings. He possessed that fine scholarly education that a past generation was privileged to receive, and he wrote, in the opinion of a former Director of Education, not merely English but literature.

They who sat round the table that evening would live their little lives and "fly forgotten as a dream." But Mr. Anthonisz would be remembered so long as the last vestige of Dutch rule remained in Ceylon, and so long as there lived a man who was proud to call himself a Dutch Burgher.

If his memory was destined to live in that way, what should they who owed so much to him do to perpetuate his name. There was a suggestion that it would be proper to raise a fund for the endowment of scholarships to be associated with his name. These scholarships would be open to children of members of the Dutch Burgher Union, and a knowledge of Dutch, on the study of which Mr. Anthonisz placed so much importance, might be one of the qualifications.

He moved that the following Committee be appointed to collect funds for the purpose and added that a great effort should be made for this worthy cause:—

Dr. L. A. Prins, Col. E. H. Joseph, Messrs. E. H. vanderWall, L. E. Blazé, O.B.E., E. A. VanderStraaten, I.S.O., A. E. Keuneman, E. O. Felsing, J. G. Paulusz, Wace de Niese, G. H. Gratiaen, and J. R. Toussaint. Mr. VanderStraaten to be Secretary and Convener.

The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

## A GENEALOGICAL NOTE.

## I

MARTEN ANTHONISZ (1675-1730) settled in Jaffna; *md.* Catharina van der Meiden, and had

*Marten Anthonisz* (see II)  
*Helena Anthonisz*

## II

MARTEN ANTHONISZ (1708-1754) *md.* Johanna de Krause, and had

*Hendrik Anthonisz*  
*Marten Anthonisz* (see III)

## III

MARTEN ANTHONISZ *md.* (1) Anna Catharina van Engelen  
 (2) Anna Catharina Schrader. Of the second marriage

*Johanna Jacomina Anthonisz*  
*Johannes Martinus Anthonisz*  
*Jacobus Cornelis Anthonisz* (see IV)  
*Gerardus Henricus Anthonisz*

## IV

JACOBUS CORNELIS ANTHONISZ (1762-1834) settled at Galle 1784;  
*md.* Christina Gysberta Catharina Trek, and had

*Johannes Christiaan Anthonisz*  
*Christina Jacobina Anthonisz*  
*Hendrik Marten Anthonisz*  
*Abraham Anthonisz* (see V)  
*Margarita Carolina Anthonisz*  
*Gualterus Henricus Anthonisz*  
*Charles Dedrik Anthonisz*  
*Elizabeth Anthonisz*

## V

ABRAHAM ANTHONISZ (1799-1875) *md.* Maria Bartolomina Rosé,  
 and had

*Joseph Richard Anthonisz* (see VI)  
*Maria Arnoldina Anthonisz*  
*George Dionysius Anthonisz*

## VI

JOSEPH RICHARD ANTHONISZ (1827-1891) *md.* Anna Maria Anthonisz, descended from Abraham Anthonisz of Amsterdam, who came out in 1736, and had

*Richard Gerald Anthonisz* (see VII)  
*Arthur Wilfred Anthonisz*  
*Abigail Maria Anthonisz*  
*Evelyn Winifred Anthonisz*  
*Joseph Francis Anthonisz*  
*Margaret Eleanor Anthonisz*  
*Frederick Leonard Anthonisz*  
*Philip Eugene Anthonisz*  
*Herbert Edgar Anthonisz*  
*Ethel Miriam Anthonisz*

## VII

RICHARD GERALD ANTHONISZ (1852-1930) *md.* (1) Harriet Catharina Ellen Deutrom, (2) Sophia Pieters. Of the first marriage—

*Isabel Ellen Anthonisz*  
*May Anthonisz*  
*Richard Anthony Maartensz Anthonisz*  
*Maurits Maartensz Anthonisz*  
*Dora Helena Anthonisz*

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| Volume | II. De Zilveren Bruiloft.<br>Heraldry, as represented in Dutch Seals and Monuments in Ceylon.<br>The Old Belfry of the Citadel, Galle.<br>How they travelled in the Olden Days.<br>The Dutch Church at Jaffna.<br>Governor Falek's Audience to the Kandyan Ambassadors in 1772.<br>Some Early Marriages in Colombo. [1671—1687] |

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| Volume | III. Rycklof van Goens.<br>Some Early Marriages in Colombo. [1687—1698]<br>The Capture of the Briel.   |
| Volume | IV. The Dutch Church at Matara.  |
| Volume | VI. Rycklof van Goens and his Family.<br>Some Old Houses I have known. I.  |
| Volume | VII. Joan Maatzuyker.<br>Our Names: their Origin and Significance.<br>Sir Hector van Cuylenburg.   |
| Volume | VIII. Some Old Houses I have known. II.  |
| Volume | IX. Johan Gerard van Angelbeek.<br><i>The Golden Mean</i> (verse translation)<br>Gerard Hult.  |
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## HET LIEVE VADERLAND.

(THE DEAR FATHERLAND.)

AIR.—“*Wien Neerlandsch Bloed.*”

We in whose veins Dutch blood doth flow,  
 A warm and swelling stream,  
 Whose hearts with filial ardour glow,  
 Join in this sacred theme.  
 With voice and heart from fear removed,  
 United hand in hand,  
 We hail thee, land our fathers loved—  
*Het Lieve Vaderland!*

Fair realm, they from the ocean won,  
 The cradle of our race,  
 Where all their noblest deeds were done,  
 The theme of song and praise—  
 We subjects of great England's King,  
 From Ceylon's distant strand,  
 To thee our loving tribute bring,  
*Het Lieve Vaderland!*

May we who here, mid toil and strife,  
 With diverse class and creed,  
 Need courage in our race of life,  
 Our fathers' virtues heed.  
 They, when by sore oppression tried,  
 True to themselves remained :  
 Their watchword still may be our guide—  
*Het Lieve Vaderland!*

True to our race let us abide,  
 Striving with all our might,  
 In all estates, whate'er betide,  
 Always to do the right.  
 To guard our fame, maintain our pride,  
 United let us stand :  
 Our inspiration and our guide,  
*Het Lieve Vaderland!*

## The Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon

*Eendracht maakt Macht.*

ESTABLISHED 18TH JANUARY, 1908.

Admission Fee Rupees Five. Monthly Subscription Rupees Two and Cents Fifty for members resident in Colombo ; One Rupee for Outstation members.

*Standing Committees for*

Ethical and Literary Purposes ;  
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