

# THE PORTUGUESE IMPRINT ON TUGU - INDONESIA

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BY *KRONTJONG TOEGOE*

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SPANISH-LEXIFIED CREOLES (ACBLPE)

# KAMPUNG TUGU

- The history of the Kampung Tugu began in 17<sup>th</sup> century when Portuguese soldiers captured by the Dutch were brought to Batavia. Later on, the Portuguese soldiers were freed and known as the Mardijkers. There were 23 families of Portuguese descend located in Kampung Tugu. Some people like to think that the word “Tugu” is an abbreviation of the Por“Tugu”ese. From here, a Christian settlement grew, developed its own culture and became one of the oldest Christian neighborhoods in the area.
- There is a Church with an European architectural style which was completed in 1747. Beside the Tugu Church stand – and is well preserved to this day - a big bell that remembers the building of the Portuguese church.
- Until the mid-20th century, we still spoke **Portuguese Creole**. Unfortunately, today, almost no one uses Creole, except for a few songs like *Gato do Mato*, *Cafrinho*, *Jan Kagaleite*. In the context of the ACBLPE conference, these three beautiful songs will be performed by **Saartje Bekkema - Michiels**, singer of the Krontjong Toegoe music group who currently lives in the Netherlands.
- Currently, only 7 Mardijkers family names still exist : Michiels, Abrahams, Andries, Quiko, Brone, Cornelis and Seymonds.

🎵 Iklan surat kabar:

1. Surat Kabar Batavia 29-04-1916
2. Berita hari ini untuk Belanda-India 19-07-1922

⚙️ • Beri peringkat terjemahan ini

**ATAVIAASCH NIEUWSBLAD** Zaterdag, 29 April 1916  
ander hoorn prijs per stuk f 15.— en f 17.50.  
T. T. H. GRAMOPHONE NAALDEN per 1000 f 1.25.

**GUITAREN,**  
speciaal v/h. Indisch klimaat gebouwd voorzien van alum snaarhouder als afbeiding.  
Voorradij in prijzen van f 17.50, f 20.—, f 22.50, f 25.—, f 30.—, f 40.—, f 50.— en f 60.—.

**KRONTJONGS.**  
Echt Toegoe fabriekaat f 3.50, en f 5.—.

**STALEN 4611 SNAREN**  
voor Viool per stel f 0.80  
voor Guitaar per stel f 1.25  
voor Mandoline per stel f 1.50  
TIO TEK HONG, Weltevreden.

**HET NIEUWS VAN DEN D** Dinsdag 19 Juli 1922  
VOOR NEDERLANDSCH-INDIË

**KRONTJONG TOEGOE**  
TIO TEK HONG, WELTEVREDEN

**STEEDS VOORRADIJ: ECHTE KRONTJONG**  
in prijzen van f 3.—, f 4.—, f 5.—, f 6.50, f 7.50, f 8.50 en f 10.—  
Gitaren: f 25.— t/m f 60.—  
Vioelen: f 22.50 t/m f 150.—  
Mandolines, Hand- en mondmonica's, Fluiten, Piccolo's  
POLICEPRIDIANT 1922 BATAVIA



# KAMPUNG TUGU 1975

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# TUGU HOUSE

(BEFORE)

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## TUGU HOUSE (AFTER RENOVATION)

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(also worth mentioning is the great hospitality of the Michiels family towards researchers from abroad: s. picture on the right)

# TUGU CHURCH

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Gereja Portugis Tugu (Foto: Koleksi pribadi)

# KERONCONG MUSIC

- Keroncong Music was originally created in Kampung Tugu and had become very popular music during the Dutch colonial period in Indonesia and spread throughout the entire country in the post-colonial era. Playing *keroncong* music and singing in Tugu Creole represents the **identity of the Mardijkers**, which is still preserved to this day.
- There was a group “**Pusaka Kerontjong Moresco Toegoe**” (est.1925). Unfortunately, in 1980s this group disappeared due to some issues at that time: other music genres become more popular than *keroncong* music and this caused that no one played *keroncong* anymore. This situation became a reason for Arend Julinse Michiels (1933-1993) to solicit his friends among the group to start all over again, his friends refuge
- On **12<sup>th</sup> of July 1988**, Arend created a group of *keroncong* and named it “**Krontjong Toegoe**”. The group has a philosophy as the music of the Tugu people so that this music needs to be preserved and raise the name of Tugu to be more widely known by the public. Arend gathered the young people from all the family’s name di Tugu to join the group and pushed his sons to play the music. The group is nowadays very active (s. next slides). In addition to it, there are other *keroncong* music groups in Kampung Tugu and, more recently, in other parts of Indonesia (Bandung, Palembang, Sawahlunto, Padang and Lampung)



THE MUSIC BAND

“KRONTJONG  
TOEGOE”

AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyd3-oNd7I2E9uC7yCi4Ypw>

# KRONTJONG TOEGOE ACTIVITIES

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# THE HERITAGE

- In Kampung Tugu, you will find heritage building, traditional music, Tugu's people and some cultural tradition that still exist : *Rabo-rabo* and *Mande-mande* (s. next slide). *Rabo-rabo* is a tradition that is carried out every January 1<sup>st</sup> , Starting from a house, a musical group will entertain the host with some songs and everybody will singing and dancing together. After that, the host will follow the group to visit nearby houses and doing the same until the group grows with everybody following and becoming a long tail.
- In the first Sunday of the New Year, we have the *Mande-mande* tradition. This is a day where *Mardijkers* forgive each other with the symbol of smearing powder on each other's faces while singing and dancing, having fun together. In this day there is also hope for a better new year. There is Milton Augustino Michiels pouring the tradition into a lyrical written form: see the song [Mande-mande in ©YouTube](#)
- We hope that Tugu village can become a tourist destination and is increasingly recognized by many people around the world. For more songs, please subscribe to [Krontjong Toegoe channel on YouTube](#) and please follow us on **Instagram @KrontjongToegoe**.

# RABO-RABO & MANDE-MANDE IN PICTURES

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