The Diary Notes of E.P. Gueritz, 1875 to 1885

Introduced and Annotated
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INTRODUCTION

Edward Peregrine Gueritz was the seventh governor of Sabah under the North Borneo (Chartered) Company Administration (1904 to 1911). First recruited into the Company service in 1882, he served until 1884 when he left the service. He then joined the British administration in Negeri Sembilan, serving as Collector for Sungei Ujong, and later Collector and Magistrate at Jelebu. Gueritz rejoined the North Borneo Company service in 1890 and served until 1911 when he retired and returned to England. Between 1890 and 1911, he held various positions including Magistrate, Government Secretary, Acting Governor, and finally, as Governor from 1904 to 1911.

Born in 1855, Gueritz was the son of the Rev. M. Gueritz. He was educated at St. Andrew’s School at Stoke Newington. Prior to joining the Company’s service, Gueritz was with the Sarawak Service from 1874 to 1877. His entry into the Sarawak service was probably influenced by the presence of his eldest brother, George, an official in the Sarawak service since 1870. George Gueritz would die in Baram in 1885, where he was the Resident. After leaving the Sarawak service in August 1877, Gueritz returned to England. He then went to work in New Zealand for the bank of New Zealand in June 1878 before returning to Borneo in 1881. From then until joining the British North Borneo Company, Gueritz served as the agent for Captain John Ross, the writer adventurer who was in Borneo from late 1870s to 1880s. During this time, Gueritz was stationed at Labuan. In his book, Captain Ross gave a description of Gueritz.