THE EARLY TOURIST GUIDEBOOKS TO THE DUTCH EAST INDIES AND MALAYA IN THE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

At the end of the nineteenth century until the beginning of the twentieth century, International tourists have begun visiting the Dutch East Indies and Malaya. Therefore, guidebooks about the Dutch East Indies and Malaya were published for travellers and tourists. Using the historical method, this article discusses which information, how and why the information presented in the early tourist guidebooks. The result shows that the guidebooks provide various information not only about the objects that can be visited, but also about natural scenery, peoples, culinary, flora, fauna, and customs in the regions. They presented in a long narrative and practical text with illustrations. The illustrations in the Indies’ tourist guidebooks are more varied and accentuate nature and culture compared to Malaya’s guidebooks. Both of them presented exotics objects with the aim to attract western tourists in particular.

KEYWORDS

Malaya; The Netherlands Indies; tourism; tourist guidebook.

ABSTRAK

1. INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of tourism activities in the world in the nineteenth century and early twentieth century dealt with travel activities. Information about the state of a region to be visited is obtained from various sources, both oral and written ones. Written sources can be obtained from travelogues of people who have visited the region. In addition to travelogues, guidebooks are also an important source of information.

Travelogues and guidebooks have similarities in terms of the content, which inform regions and objects that can be visited. According to Koschár (1998), the difference between travelogues and guidebooks is in practicality, objectivity, and standardization. Another point is that the references used in the guidebooks should come from reliable sources. In addition, the guidebooks have the purpose of providing travelers with ease in determining choices about things to do, things to see, and places to sleep and to eat (Ling 2003, 270).

Tourist guidebook published in the nineteenth century cannot be separated with guidebooks by John Murray III and Karl Baedeker. Both of these figures relate to handbooks and travel guides in various regions of the world as they are the publisher of handbooks and tourist guides. Murray’s guidebook was the first modern tourist guidebook to respond to the growth of the middle class in a traveling society in Europe. Murray stated in the preface:

The writer of [this] Handbook has endeavored to confine himself to matter-of-fact descriptions of what ought to be seen at each place, and is calculate to interest an intelligent English traveller, without bewildering his readers with an account of all that may be seen (Murray 1858, v–vi; Koschár 1998, 323).

The purpose of the publication of the guidebook is thus to provide a complete picture to the traveller; it is not only what can be seen but also what should be seen.

There are several studies on the Dutch East Indies and Malaya’s guidebooks. One of previous studies on the Dutch East Indies’s guidebook was conducted by Nugraha (2000). He linked the Dutch East Indies’s guidebooks with the politics of the Dutch East Indies government in organizing which objects in the Indies can be seen by tourist or the Dutch politics of seeing. The other research was done by Tan (2010) who discussed the early guidebooks in Malaya. And according to her, the early guidebooks in Malaya served to describe places and practical things. In its description, the guidebooks were still using travelogue’s style.

This article discusses travel guides in the Dutch East Indies and Malaya in the early period. The books discussed are Guide to the Dutch East Indies (1897) by J.F. Van Bemmelen and G.B.Hooyer, Jennings’ Guide to Singapore, Penang, Malacca (1900) published by The Passenger and Tourist Agency, Java the Wonderland (1900), and Illustrated Guide to The Federated Malay States (1910) by C.W. Harrison. These four English books are guidebooks about two areas in the early period. Since the books are in English, it is assumed that their scope of readers are wider than, for example, that of guidebooks in Dutch.

The questions aroused are which information, how and why the information is presented in the early Dutch East Indies and Malaya’s tourist guidebook. This question is to prove Murray’s statement about the purpose of the publication of the guidebook is not simply to provide information which objects can be seen but what should be seen (Murray 1858). Here, the information’s objects related to tourist attraction. According to Kodhyat (2011), tourist attractions that can be enjoyed and visited are nature, culture, activities, and events (Kodhyat 2011, 27). Natural attractions such as landscapes (panoramas), forests, flora and fauna,
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Caves, canyons, waterfalls. Cultural attraction is everything that is the human creation, both from the past and present, such as temples, museums, monuments, historical sites, *keraton* (palaces), places of worship (mosques, churches, temples), zoos, botanical garden, tradition, and lifestyle. The activity attraction consists of various human activities related to nature, including trekking, hiking, caves exploring, diving, mountain climbing. Then the tourist object of the event includes all institutionalized human activities. First, there are traditional ones, such as religious ceremonies and second modern ones, such as conferences, exhibitions (Kodhyat 2011, 28).

2. THE EARLY TOURIST GUIDEBOOK IN THE INDIES

*Guide to the Dutch East Indies* (1897) by J.F. Van Bemmelen and G.B. Hooyer and *Java the Wonderland* (1900) were the early English language guidebooks in the Indies. Previously there were other guidebooks, namely *Batavia, Buitenzorg en de Preanger. Gids voor Bezoekers en Toeristen* (1891) by Maurits Buys and the English guidebook *West Java: Traveler’s Guide for Batavia to Tjilatjap* (1894) by Fedor Schulze. However, both of the books are not analyzed in this research because of the coverage areas of the book are only in western part of Java. In addition, the guidebook by M. Buys is in Dutch and thus the present writer assumed that it is read by limited readers.

*Guide to the East Indies* (1897) is the English translation of *Reisgids voor Nederlandsch-Indië* (1896) from the same author, J.F. Van Bemmelen and G.B. Hooyer. J.F. Van Bemmelen was a teacher at the Willem III Gymnasium- high school in Batavia and G.B. Hooyer was a retired Dutch East Indies army with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. The *Guide to the Dutch East Indies* was published at the request of Koninklijke Pakketvaart Maatschappij (KPM), the Dutch shipping company. Therefore the cities listed in the guidebook were related to the KPM shipping lines in Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi, Kalimantan, Maluku Islands, and Papua.

*Guide to the Dutch East Indies* divides some sea routes using the KPM. To travel to the western region (Sumatra), travellers were directed to Padang, Padang Panjang, Fort de Kock (Bukittinggi), Payakumbuh, Fort der Capellen (Batusangkar), Solok, and back to Batavia via Bengkulu (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 97–118). Other routes to Sumatra was from Batavia to the East Coast of Sumatra (Deli) through Bangka and Belawan (Bemmelen & Hooyer 189, 120–123). Travelling to the eastern region was divided into the route of Sulawesi and Maluku Islands. For the route to Celebes (Sulawesi), the KPM’s ship departed from Surabaya to Manado and Gorontalo via Makassar, Pare-Pare, Mandar, Palu, Toli-Toli, Buol, Minahasa-Amurang (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 128–153). Meanwhile for the route to the Maluku Islands, the KPM’s ship were through Ternate, Tidore, Bacan, Buru, Ambon, Banda, Banda Lontar, Banda-Neira (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 156–178). In this guide book, Bali was not offered yet. The information about Bali was found only in the closing remarks mentioning that Bali as a place was to see temples and study the institutions of society. The KPM served not only in the archipelago, but also served to the port Singapore. Since the KPM line to the western (Sumatra) region through Singapore, it was also a visited region (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 127–128).

The important information of *Guide to the Dutch East Indies* for travellers and tourists found in the introduction (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 1–14). The introduction described the steam and railway transportation facilities as a facility for tourists in Sumatra and Java. Another information was the possibility of visiting other areas that were still little known to travellers, such as the Lesser Sunda Islands, Borneo, Celebes, Maluku Islands, and New Guinea. It explained that the islands were extraordinary and appealing to all travellers, whether visiting as tourists, mountain climbers, or amateur hunters (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 3).
Another interesting point in the introduction is a statement related to the Dutch East Indies government policy on colonies. In the late of the nineteenth century, the Dutch East Indies government began to realize that its colonies were suitable not only for young government employees for a career and spent most of their lives, but also for short visits, whether both business and leisure travel. It was then affirmed that: ‘Abroad too, the existence of the Dutch East Indian Colonies, their easy practicability and safety, and, above all, their scientific remarkableness and natural beauty, are, little by little, getting to be known.’ (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 4).

The interesting information in this guide is the information about the customs practiced in the Indies. For example, suitable clothing is worn in the Indies for men and women. It is introduced the sarong and kabaja that were especially worn by married ladies. The unmarried ladies never appeared in sarong and kabaja except in their own private circle. The tourists are also recommended to use much eau de cologne and wash the hair (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 9–12), to speak Malay language which was widely used all native servants (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 12), and to give tip for coachman, washerwoman, and djongos (houseboy) ranging from 0.50 to 2.50 guilders (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 12). The other information about customs in the Indies relates to daily activities such as waking up at 5.30 in the morning, enjoying a cup of coffee, taking a bath, wearing lightweight clothing, having breakfast between 8.00 and 9.00 in the morning, going for a walk, enjoying rijsttafel (lunch) at 13.00 at the hotel, enjoying the siesta or rest in the room until four o’clock in the afternoon, then taking another bath and wearing dress nicely (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 13).

The customs to be encountered and practiced in the Indies were introduced and practiced on board. It can be seen in the section ‘the Mode of living on board’. The ship’s passengers (travelers) are also introduced with spada, male helpers or djongos who will help them. The native helpers are described: ‘owing to the exceptionalities of the Malay race, prompt, quiet, and polite.’ (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 14). The section also introduces some information about bathroom, how to mandi (bathe), and also rijsttafel dish which
consisted of a variety of cuisine equipped with *sambal* and gravy curry. After eating *rijsttafel*, the passengers are expected to learn to adapt to the customs in the Indies, namely *siesta* - taking a nap on the deck or in their cabins (Bemmelen & Hooyer 1897, 14–15).

The objects offered by *Guide to the Dutch East Indies* (1897) in the area of Java and outside Java are natural objects such as mountains, volcanoes, valleys, lakes, caves, waterfalls, hot springs, beaches, and marine parks. The guidebook includes illustrations, ranging from native people’s activities, ancient buildings, modern buildings to the landscape. Some Native peoples presented in the guidebook are Serimpi dancers in the palace in Java and the sellers of coconut in Makassar. The illustrations of the building are the building of army headquarters in Batavia and the palace of the governor-general in Buitenzorg. The other illustrations are Botanical Gardens in Buitenzorg (Bogor), Borobudur temple, traditional house in Padang, traditional house in Makassar, the royal palace of Gowa, a sea of sand In the mountains of Bromo, and volcano in Banda.

In the early twentieth century *Java the Wonderland*, a special guide book for Java was published. This book did not include the author’s name. The only known information was the publisher’s name, G.J.Thieme in Arnhem, Netherlands. However, an article in the Batavian newspaper in 1908 mentioned that the English travel guidebook was published as a work of J.M.Gantvoort, director of the Hotel des Indes, Batavia. The book was printed thousands of copies and distributed abroad (*Het Nieuws van den Dag*, 8/8/1908).

The reason for publishing of *Java the Wonderland* is stated in the foreword:

It is often observed that many of the tourists coming to Java do not know much about our beautiful island (...). For, while one traveler only knows something about the Botanical Garden at Buitenzorg, another thinks that Garoeot is the only place of interest worth visiting; some others simply come to see the Boroboedder temple, and after a short stay they rush back to Singapore. Some parties have a notion that Tosari is the only place to go (Java the Wonderland 1900, 1).
There were very few tourists who spent their time to go through the island [Java], whereas in Java there are many interesting objects, ranging from Batavia, Buitenzorg, Garut, Yogyakarta to Tosari. Therefore, the *Java the Wonderland* was aimed is to provide information to the tourists some places of interest in Java, from Batavia to Surabaya which was tailored to the schedule of the ship KPM (*Java the Wonderland* 1900, 1).

Unlike the guidebooks by Bemmelen and Hooyer (1897), *Java the Wonderland* (1900) does not provide detailed information on customs in the Dutch East Indies, such as bathing, rijsttafel, and siesta. The introduction is suggested who wanted to know the part in the archipelago outside Java to read the guidebook published by KPM. That is surely the guidebook by Bemmelen and Hooyer.

Relating to (tour) guide information for tourists and visitors, the guidebook *Java the Wonderland* (1900) said that there was no European guide in Java; there were only English-speaking native guides. They could be found in first-class hotels in Batavia. Because of the small number of the tour guides, their rates were rather expensive, 2.50 to 3 guilders per day. Other available information is about helpers. Non-native servants (Javanese) often bring difficulties, said the book. There is even a rule forbidding Chinese helper. They must report themselves to get permission to travel. Indian and Chinese helpers are generally unable to speak Malay. Tourists in need of helpers are advised to contact the hotel manager or hotel staff to find reliable servants. Their wages vary from 18 to 30 guilders per month, excluding transport and food costs of 20 to 50 cents per day (*Java the Wonderland* 1900, 2).

In the information for tourists and visitors, it is also informed that travelling in Java was very safe. Tourists who travelled from one side of Java to the other side of Java island, without mastering a language other than English or German, could take a trip safely. However, it was still advisable to mind valuable things while in the hotel (*Java the Wonderland* 1900, 2). As a practical guide, *Java the Wonderland* (1900) provided a list of a Malay vocabulary that could be used in various situations of daily activities, starting from a special situation, such as landing at the port of Tanjung Priok, at the train station, on the train, in the hotel, at breakfast, lunch, dinner to general situation (*Java the Wonderland* 1900, 3–10). *Both Guide to the Dutch East Indies* (1897) and *Java the Wonderland* (1900) provide information about various dishes in rijsttafel, complete with sambal. As an illustration, they present given the experience of Augusta de Wit, a Dutch traveler, enjoying sambal for the first time in a hotel in Batavia (Java the Wonderland 1900, 25).

Information on the tourist attractions provided by in *Java the Wonderland* (1900) is quite diverse. The attractions include nature, culture, activities, and events. The natural attractions mentioned in the guidebook are the mountains in West Java such as Mount Salak, Mount Gede, Mount Kasur, Mount Guntur, Mount Galunggung, Mount Kragak, Mount Cikuray, Mount Papandayan, Mount Wayang, and crater Tangkuban Prahu. The guidebook mentioned the mountains in Central and East Java, such as Dieng plateau, Mount Batok, Mount Bromo, Mount Semeru, Mount Widodaren. It included the lakes in Sukabumi, Cianjur, Sindanglaya, Cibodas, Garut, Cipanas, Dieng, Tosari, Bromo, Malang. The next attraction is cultural attractions, such as museums, keraton (palaces) in Yogyakarta, Surakarta, places of worship in Batavia and botanical gardens in Buitenzorg. The activity attractions trekking to mountains, such as in Cibodas, Papandayan, Dieng Plateau and Bromo. It also informed about traditional tourist objects such as traditional ceremonies in Yogyakarta and Surakarta.

The guidebook *Java the Wonderland* (1900) also features various illustrations. It is almost similar to the illustration found in *Guide to the Dutch East Indies* (1897). There were natural sceneries (Mount Semeru, Salak mountain, Papandayan volcano, Gede mountain, Cibodas lake, Telaga Warna, Situ Bagendit, beach, river, waterfall), native people activities (women who were making batik, dancing, and weaving cloth; men who were playing gamelan and plowing rice field use kerbau (water buffalo), men who were selling; and, women in the market), ancient buildings (Borobudur temple, Mendut temple), the botanical garden in Buitenzorg.
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and modern buildings (KPM office, dining room at Hotel des Indes, governor general’s palace in Buitenzorg, Surabaya customs office).

3. THE EARLY TOURIST GUIDEBOOK IN MALAYA

In the period under British rule at the end of the nineteenth century, the territories of the Federated Malay States had not been a priority of Western visitors. Although the Strait Settlements area (Penang, Malacca, Singapore) was a convenient stopover place. Therefore, the areas which were frequently visited by travellers were the Strait Settlements (Penang, Malacca, Singapore) and the western coast of the Malay Peninsula (Tan 2010, 33).

The early tourist guidebooks of Malaya are *Jennings’ Guide to Singapore, Penang, Malacca* (1900) published by The Passenger and Tourist Agency and the *Illustrated Guide to The Federated Malay States* (1910) published by The Malay States Information Agency whose editor is Cuthbert Woodville Harrison. The figure behind The Passenger and Tourist Agency is Frederik Kersey Jennings (1855–1915). who was born in Norfolk, England was a militia, police inspector, private detective, travel guide writer, fire-controller, and opium agent. At a young age, he joined the navy who took him on duty to the Far East, to Singapore. At the age of 19, he joined the Singapore Volunteer Rifles formed in 1864 with the support of the Governor, Colonel J. Butterworth. It was a riot among Chinese secret societies in Singapore (http://db.ipohworld.org/view/id/5971). F.K. Jennings then joined the police. At that time in Singapore, criminal gangs in the form of secret societies were rampant. In 1875 he was promoted to corporal and sent with one East Kent Regiment battalion to fight in the Perak War. In 1899, F.K. Jennings retired from the police with the rank of Chief Inspector (The Straits Times, 22/6/1899).

Although Jennings has retired from the police, his adventure has not been completed yet. One month after leaving the assignment, he opened his own travel company, the Passenger and Tourist Agency (The Straits Times, 10/11/1899). The company provided guides, interpreters, and travel arrangements for its customers as well as individual services to tour Java, Kalimantan, Sumatra, Siam, Johor, and Malay countries under the British (http://db.ipohworld.org/view/id/5971). In 1900, F.K. Jennings published a guidebook that was the result of his travel experience while he was still on duty across the region. The book entitled Jenning’s Guide provides guidance to tourists from various backgrounds, including historical and cultural information and details about hotels, inns, restaurants, and activities. The book also provided a schedule of steamers and trains and maps of Singapore (The Straits Times, 16/2/1900).

Objects in Malaya Peninsula suggested in *Jennings’ Guide to Singapore, Penang, Malacca* was in Malacca and Penang. Malacca known as ‘the oldest European Possession in the East’ had several objects to offer, such as the ruins of the Portuguese church built in 1598, the Portuguese church, the Chinese settlements, the gates, the water reservoirs in Ayer Salak, the hot springs in Ayer Panas, the mining Old gold, and wild animals such as elephants, tigers, *tapirs*, wild pigs. In addition to that, exotic fruits such as *durian*, and *blimbing* (starfruit) were also offered (Jennings’ Guide to Singapore, Penang, Malacca 1900, 10–11).

In Johor, the objects offered were the palace, the gambling house called ‘the Monte Carlo of the East’, the Palace Park, the Chinatown, and the Esplanade (Jennings’ Guide to Singapore, Penang, Malacca, 1900: 13). In Penang, the objects offered were Cascade, waterfalls, Penang Hill, St. George church, government buildings, Esplanade, Dato Kramat Gardens, Masonic Hall, British Cemetery, Esplanade, and Ginting Pass (Jennings’ Guide to Singapore, Penang, Malacca 1900, 16). Another area was Port Dickson which was known as ‘the first harbor of the natives states’. Then the the journey can be continued by visiting tin mining (Jennings’ Guide to Singapore, Penang, Malacca 1900, 16–18). In Kuala Lumpur, the objects offered were
government buildings, such as the court house, the Lake Gardens, the native bazaar/traditional market, some of the Chinese houses and temples, the Gambling Farm, and the Batu Caves, Kuala Kubu (Jennings’ Guide to Singapore, Penang, Malacca 1900, 19–20). The other areas were Telok Anson, Taipeng with government buildings, European clubs, hotels, museums (Jennings’ Guide to Singapore, Penang, Malacca 1900, 16–18).

From this region (Penang or Singapore), tourists could go to Deli and Batavia. The book described the tourists who visit Deli will arrive in Belawan and transported by train to the city of Medan, the chief town and the seat of the Resident and the military headquarters. The city of Medan is depicted as ‘a pleasant little town laid out in the orthodox Dutch fashion with a grass plain in the centre surrounded by ornament trees.’ (Jennings’ Guide to Singapore, Penang, Malacca 1900, 22). For foreigners referring to Dutch law it is necessary to report to the police station within 24 hours (Jennings’ Guide to Singapore, Penang, Malacca 1900, 23).

Another guidebook is Illustrated Guide to The Federated Malay States (1910) along with the Magic of Malaya by Cuthbert Woodville Harrison (1874–1946) who was also as the editor. This guidebook is actually a guidebook for the train line on the Malay Peninsula from north to south. In the introduction, ‘Through the Malay Peninsula from North to South’, C.W. Harrison explained that the difficult times to travel were over. Even for areas such as Malaya. He wrote:

... the land of the kris, the piratical prahu, and the bloody and treacherous Malayan people has now become the middle of the world.’ Harrison assures that there is no more unrest in Malaya because the area is already calm and the people are satisfied (Harrison 1910, 1–2).

In addition, according to Harrison, the arrival of tourists would be welcomed because:
they are a ready disposition to oblige you merely because you are an orang puteh, and because, happily for your present comfort and pleasure, the white people whom these Asiatic have known have treated them with courtesy and kindliness (Harrison 1910, 4).

One interesting point is Harrison's assessment of the situation of the Malayan population and territory in the nineteenth century. Harrison mentioned that the Native States of the Malay Peninsula which are then Federated Malay States, had little or no dealings with the civilizations lying east and west of them. They were unknown to history, scarcely visited by other races, except the Chinese, heard of only as the wild lands forming the hinterland of Penang, Malacca, and Singapore. Those who entered the territory should prepare their own risk because in the Strait Settlements region there were some unsafe areas to visit, especially to the islands further south from which the sea-rovers came (Harrison 1910, 4–5).

In the section 'Through the Malay Peninsula from North to South', Harrison provided the travel narration on the road, by train, by ship from Penang to Singapore. He focused on major cities in the Federated Malay States, such as Taiping, Kuala Kangsar, Ipoh, Tanjong Malim, Kuala Lumpur, Port Swettenham, Port Dickson, Klang, and Seremban. The interesting thing is that Harrison did not only provide information on places that have facilities, but also advised travellers to get a little adventurous in the Malayan forests of Larut Hill. He suggested: 'Go fifty yards off the path and you probably recover it, probably will not recover it, and most likely will be obliged' (Harrison 1910, 49).

Unlike the Jennings’ Guide (1900) which has no special suggestion/advice for travellers, Illustrated Guide to The Federated Malay States (1910) provides information for travellers in the section 'Notes for Travellers', such as accommodation facilities, local names of places, hospitals, various races of people, the use of opium, morphine, alcohol, and the rules of hunting (Illustrated Guide to The Federated Malay States 1910, 114–150). Like the Guide to the Dutch East Indies (1897), Illustrated Guide to The Federated Malay States (1910) also provides information on clothing and culinary to travellers. Relating to the information on clothing in Malaya, the travellers were suggested to wear: 'English summer clothing, suits of white drill, canvas shoes or boots, drill (white or khaki) trousers, a very light and porous vest, a drill tunic and a solar topi' (Harrison 1910, 179–180).

Regarding culinary food in Malaya it is informed that: 'food in Malaya consist of very much the same dishes as those obtainable in the Western civilized World.' However, there are some things to avoid, such as uncooked vegetables, Malay curry, and sambals (Harrison 1910, 160). In addition to the warning about uncooked vegetables, there is also information about eastern fruits, namely durian, jak fruit, soursop, mangosteen, duku, chiku, mango, jambu, rambutan, banana (Harrison 1910, 176–79). Some information about reptile animals ranging from chichak (house lizard), bewak punggor (gecko), to bewak (monitor lizard) is also presented in the book (Harrison 1910, 184–86).

The guidebook Illustrated Guide to The Federated Malay States contains an illustration of a watercolor painting by Mrs. H.C. Barnard and photographs of C.J.'s Kleingrothe. Mrs. Barnard accompanied her husband who worked in the FMS (Federated Malaya States) Railways in the divisional engineer since 1903 and she was active in various activities, especially in charity gathering events. The photographs of C.J. Kleingrothe had previously been published on a limited scale within the book Malay Peninsula (1907) and were regarded as a key visual source of the colonial Peninsular region, especially photos of tin mining and rubber plantations (Tan 2010, 36).
The object of illustrations in this book at a glance are the same as those found in the Dutch East Indies’ guidebooks Guide to the Dutch East Indies (1897) and Java, the Wonderland (1900), such as landscapes, plantations, mining, activities of people, flora, fauna, and building.

4. CONCLUSION

As the early guidebooks in the Dutch East Indies and Malaya, the Guide to the Dutch East Indies (1897), Java the Wonderland (1900), Jennings’ Guide to Singapore, Penang, Malacca (1900), and Illustrated Guide to The Federated Malay States (1910) provides various information. The information is not only about the objects that can be visited (places of interest), but also about natural scenery, people, culinary, flora, fauna, manners, and customs in the region.

The information provided in these guidebooks is in both long narrative and practical form, as well as illustrations in photographs and handmade drawing. Viewed from the illustrations, the Indies’ tourist guidebooks are more various, depicting nature’s wealth and diverse cultural richness’ aspect than the Malaya’s guidebooks. The guidebooks also present a lot of typical exotic eastern objects. This was aimed at attracting and convincing visitors (tourists), especially the ‘white’ tourists or Western tourists, as the targets of the guidebooks, so that they would be interested in visiting Indies or Malaya.

The objects (tourist attraction) in the guidebooks are actually the result of the ‘discovery’ of travellers who write their impressions in their travelogues. The objects are already there, but they are as if ‘discovered’ by travelogue writers. They mark and include it in a travelogue. By the next travelogue writers, the objects are ‘re-inserted’ so that they underline that the objects are feasible and safe to visit. The infrastructure, such as transportation, accommodation, communications are equipped in areas with the tourist attraction. In the guidebooks, we found that the objects are ‘set’ and ‘directed’ to tourists to visit them in the form of suggestions or advice.
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