

SOCIETEIT DE HARMONIE: **EUROPEAN ELITE ENTERTAINMENT CENTER IN** **THE 19th CENTURY IN BATAVIA**

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ABSTRACT

Major cities in Indonesia generally have landmarks or special features that symbolize the uniqueness and beauty of the city in question. One of the most important landmarks of the colonial city is the societieit building as an entertainment center. This study examines the function and role of Societeit de Harmonie in Batavia in the 19th century in the midst of the heterogeneous and multiethnic life of the Batavian city of Batavia. Through the study of documents and archives, the results of this study show that Societeit de Harmonie is the greatest building compared to other societieit buildings in Batavia in the 19th century. Therefore, this building is known by all citizens of the city although who can access and utilize this building is only limited. Only the European elite can enter and use the Societeit de Harmonie building. The presence of the place of entertainment also represents the entry of new values (West) that color and becomes an important part of the cultural development of the next city Batavia. These Western values are coupled with local values practiced by indigenous peoples living in the corners of the city of Batavia. The lifestyles of Europeans who lived in Batavia during the nineteenth century can be identified from their activities when gathered in the Societeit de Harmonie.

Keywords: Societeit de Harmonie, Batavia, 19th century, city entertainment center, Europeans

ABSTRAK

Kota-kota besar di Indonesia pada umumnya memiliki landmark atau ciri khusus yang menjadi lambang keunikan dan keindahan kota yang bersangkutan. Salah satu landmark kota colonial yang terpenting adalah gedung societieit sebagai pusat hiburan. Penelitian ini mengkaji fungsi dan peran Societeit de Harmonie di Batavia pada abad ke-19 di tengah-tengah kehidupan masyarakat kota Batavia yang heterogen dan multi-etnis. Melalui studi dokumen dan arsip-arsip sezaman, hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa Societeit de Harmonie merupakan bangunan termegah dibandingkan bangunan societieit lainnya di Batavia pada abad ke-19. Oleh karena itu, bangunan ini dikenal oleh seluruh warga kota meskipun yang dapat mengakses dan memanfaatkan bangunan ini hanya kalangan terbatas. Hanya golongan elit Eropa saja yang dapat masuk dan menggunakan gedung Societeit de Harmonie. Kehadiran tempat hiburan itu juga merepresentasikan masuknya nilai-nilai baru (Barat) yang mewarnai dan menjadi bagian penting dari perkembangan budaya kota Batavia selanjutnya. Nilai-nilai Barat ini bersanding dengan nilai-nilai local yang dipraktikkan masyarakat pribumi yang tinggal di sudut-sudut kota Batavia. Gaya hidup orang-orang Eropa yang tinggal di Batavia selama abad ke-19 dapat dikenali dari aktivitas mereka ketika berkumpul di Societeit de Harmonie.

Kata kunci: Societeit de Harmonie, Batavia, abad ke-19, pusat hiburan kota, orang Eropa



INTRODUCTION

Until the late of 18th century, Batavia was specifically controlled by the VOC. The trade company then went bankrupt when entered the 19th century. The power of Batavia was later taken over by the Dutch Royal government, including other cities led by VOC, and united as a new territory named Dutch Indies. However, the Dutch empire was occupied by Napoleon Bonaparte in the beginning of 19th century. The impact of the change of power, Napoleon sent Marshal Daendels to become Dutch Indies's new General-Governor in 1808. Under his rule, Daendels tore down the Batavia city planning which was stood up for more than two centuries and built up new, more decent and healthy settlement outside the fort. The new areas were called *Weltevreden*, which meant 'really satisfied' (Blackburn, 2012:9).

On *Weltevreden*, Daendels set up new venues such as castle and a clubhouse or *societeit* (Handinoto, 2008:8). The others also built for a better lives of colonial society. Daendels also imposed the task to build up defences on the island of Java. This defences building was one of anticipation action against the British troops attack (Galih, 2015:23). *Weltevreden* became an ideal place to remodel the old city of Batavia which has been declining. Old Batavia has been called as Queen of the East. The nickname is then pinned to *Weltevreden* (Destriyana, 2015:4).

The construction of a new city of *Weltevreden* then continued by Thomas Stanford Raffles who became Lieutenant Governor on 1811-1816. In the period of his power, Raffles emphasized the changing lives of colonial society which is different from their normal lives in Europe. Raffles was trying to restore the original tradition of European society in Batavia by reactivating the Arts and Science Institutions of Batavia which had been established since 1776. He also continued construction of the Harmony Society building and developed a museum and library inside the society building (Marihandono, 2005:43).

When entered the 19th century, the

Batavian elite had new habits. They usually entertained themselves at a society or *soos*, which was a clubhouse. There were two important club houses in Batavia back then, 'De Harmonie' and 'Concordia'. Later, De Harmonie can be found in other cities with huge population of European society. While Concordia was a military clubhouse. Concordia was built in 1836, its member mostly from Batavia military garrisons, before it was opened to the public. The two clubhouse providing facilities often found in other clubhouses. The facilities such as billiard, card table, reading table with books and journals on it, a library, and dining room and bar was provided for men (Milone, 1966:105).

Before there was a place which specifically designated as a gathering place (a club), the VOC society used a hotel as a meeting point. Although the construction of hotels and night clubs has been regulated and restricted in the highest government regulations, in 1777 the growth of nightclubs in Batavia increased. There were 102 pubs and nightclubs inside and outside the city in that year (Verhoeven, 1948:1). However, due to frequent fights that happened in the pubs or clubs or even in the shops at the edge of Ciliwung river, the upper classes later had an idea to build a clubhouse just for their circles. It was intended that the upper classes could enjoy the time without having to interact with the sailors or lowly soldiers in the street stalls. The top European society at that time chose to have a party at home by inviting a music player, boarded the decorated boat on the brown water of Ciliwung river, and went to shoot party and others (Susilastuti, 1988:103).

Before the society building was set up, the meeting, party, and other entertaining activities were thrown in bars and closed at nine on each night in 1776, even in Freemason lodge which had stood since 1736. Until the year of 1818, men's special meeting was held in public office, even in *Heerenlogement* or men's hotel. The men's hotel first established in 1744 initiated by Van Imhoff. Located near *Vierkantsplein* (The Fish Market in the west, swamp in

the east, and close to the watch tower) where the area was the dirtiest and slums. That *Heerenlogement* later moved to Jacatra Street in 1818, besides the *Toko Merah* which still stands until present day (De Haan, 1922:27, 32, 174-176). When Governor General Reiner de Klerk was reigned (1777-1780), a building of society was built in Buiten Nieuwpoorstraat (*Pintu Besar Selatan* Street) and named *Harmonie* (Susilastuti, 1988:103). According to De Haan, the Harmony Society old building in *Pintu Besar Selatan* Street had a golf course, pedestrians, and a big garden (De Haan, 1922:27).

RESEARCH METHOD

According to the research discussed, the method used is historical method. This method has four phase which relate to another, the heuristic, source criticism, interpretation, and historiography. Heuristic is an act of source collection from the archive institution, magazine and newspaper, library and government institution which was related to the study technique such as document and literature study. Literature study is used as a complement as well as supporting in a study. Sources of libraries used include: books, journals, thesis, newspaper, and other source that provide information and obtained from National Library of Indonesia Republic, National Archive of Indonesia Republic, with libraries that provide supporting books. Source criticism aims to seek the authenticity from research sources, obtained through internal and external criticism.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Societeit de Harmonie: Building and Association

When Daendels moved the downtown from Old Batavia to New Batavia, settlements and population activities also moved. In early 19th century, Weltevreden and its surroundings become the settlements of Europeans. Daendels destroyed several buildings in Old Batavia including Batavia's fortress wall and use it

debris to build some facilities and buildings in New Batavia (Prins, 1930:5). A major named J.C. Schultze, who was previously designed a castle (*palais*) in Lapan-gan Banteng (*Waterlooplein*) (Heuken, 1982:171), asked to designed a new societeit building. That idea is then manifested by Daendels with a huge cost. The Treasure Halls (*Weeskamer*) gave a down payment of 75,000-80,000 *Rijksdaalder* or *Ringgit* to begin the development of societeit building. To pay the 6% interest to *Weeskamer*, instead all civil servants, military and civilians in Batavia must become members of the new societeit. The development began in 2 February 1810. The British attack in 1811 caused construction of building under General Gouverneur Janssens supervision was stopped. The timber carrier ship, whose wood will be used as a societeit building material, stopped by British troops in the middle of the way. In addition, the workers provided by the Chinese contracting companies left their jobs because of the attack carried out by the British. The construction of the Societeit de Harmonie was dormant for the next few months (Verhoeven, 1948:7).

The construction then continued by Lieutenant-Governor Thomas Stamford Raffles from Britain. Raffles realized how important the building was then continued the construction until finished in January 18 1815 (Susilastuti, 1988:104). As time goes by, the Societeit Harmonie building had experienced several improvements. The first repair was done in 1823 during the reign of the General-Governor Godert Alexander Gerard Philip Baron van der Capellen (1816-1823). The first improvements include repairing the entire floor inside the building such as inside the ballroom and music room, as well as making tin gutters that cost up to f 10,000. The request of the improvement was initiated by a Finance Director named J. C. Goldman. J. C. Goldman was one of the figures who wished to take over the land and Societeit Harmonie building on behalf of the state (Verhoeven, 1948:20).

In 1827, General-Governor Du Bus De Gisignies (1826-1830) decided to sell

Harmonie. This decision is based on economic problems caused by declining market share along with trading activity (De Haan, 1922:177). His decision was also based on the current situation in Java at that time. It is known that during the reign of Du Bus, there was a Javanese War (1825-1830), which undoubtedly has spent much of the state budget to finance the war against Prince Diponegoro.

Meanwhile in 1887, when Otto van Rees served as General-Governor (1884-1888), there was also an improvement on the societeit building. This can be seen through the official letter issued by *Burgerlijke Openbare Werken* (Public Works Service). At that time, a change was made to the ceiling of the rooms inside the building with the addition of ventilation on the roof ridge (Collection of *Algemene Secretarie Seri Groet Bundel ter Zijde Gelegde Agenda 1891-1942*, Inventory Number K81a, Archives Number 7791, ANRI).

According to Attachment No. 2 in the Morning Report of August 17, 1887, cost incurred to restore damages that have been reported on official letters dated April 22, 1887 No. 663/2, and July 2, 1887 No. 1119/2, and Copy of Official Letter BOW Director dated May 16, 1887 No. 4476/A, all reaching *f* 12,000 (Collection of *Algemene Secretarie Seri Groet Bundel ter Zijde Gelegde Agenda 1891-1942*, Inventory Number K81a, Nomor Arsip 7791, ANRI). But in Decree No. 19 issued on August 26, 1887, all costs increased and estimated to reach *f* 13,405, with details money *f* 12,481 and state money *f* 924.

Every few year, there are improvements to the societeit building. The first improvement was done in 1877 and since that until 1905 the improvements and continuous treatment were done. It was noted that these improvements and maintenance costed a lot of money. The amount of expenses incurred by the Public Works Division would be detailed as table 1.

Table 1
Repair Fund of Societeit de Harmonie

Year	Amount (f)
1877	3674
1882	1946
1884	488
1887	13405
1892	1350
1894	5992
1896	1697
Amount	28552
Average per Year	1502

Source: *Departement der Burgerlijke Openbare Werken Bijlagen 28 September 1905 No. 14497/A, Societat Harmonie Te Weltevreden Batavia 1905-1925*, Archeve collection *Algemene Secretarie Seri Groet Bundel ter Zijde Gelegde Agenda 1891-1942*, Inventory Number K81a, Archive Number 7791, Jakarta: Arsip Nasional Republik Indonesia.

From the above details, it appears that a substantial costly improvement took place in 1887. This then made the Public Works Division divided it into two periods during 1887-1896, specifically 1877-1887 as the first period and 1888-1896 as second one. In first period, the average expenditure was *f* 1004 (Collection of *Algemene Secretarie Seri Groet Bundel ter Zijde Gelegde Agenda 1891-1942*, Inventory Number K81a, Archive Number 7791, ANRI).

The total number of Societeit de Harmonie members all reached 139 people, including the number of Englishmen. This was unlike the previous Harmonie Club that stood in Buiten Nieuwportstraat (now Jl. Pintu Besar) where fewer members have as many as 97 people. The members of old Harmonie Club were fewer from England, in contrast to the new Harmonie Club. About half of the old Harmonie Club members were also members of the new Harmonie Club. Amongst the members also included Gavork of Garuk Manuk, a famous Batavian of Armenian nationality, and Father P. Wedding who was the guardian of the National Archives and Community Institutions of Batavia (Prins, 1930:29).

Meanwhile during 1816-1821, as many as 83 members of the new Societeit de Harmonie became the members of Bataviaasch Genootschap and less than 65 old Harmonie members also became a part of the literary institution of Batavia (Hans Groot, 2009:286). In 1847, a Batavia Music Institute (*Maatschappij van Toonkunst*) was founded (Groot, 2009:364). That music institute was rent a great hall in Societeit de Harmonie to hold meetings, exercises and shows. Since 1846-1849, the president of Societeit de Harmonie was also a president of music institution (Verhoeven, 1948:37).

There were several rules to enter into the membership of the Harmonie Association. As a consideration, the new nominee candidates who registered to become permanent members of Societeit Harmonie had to be 18 years old and had to apply first to the Council of the Association by stating their name, age, occupation and place of residence, as well as a statement whether they were former members of the Association or not. Thereafter, it will be considered for 14 days whether the candidate was eligible to become a permanent member or not. There would be a direct notification in the form of statement issued by the Secretary of the Board along with a copy of the General Regulation if the prospective member was accepted as a permanent member of the association. However, if a prospective member was refused a membership application, the prospective member could register again the following year. The new members were required to pay a membership fee of 15 Guilders to Societeit's cash. This was mandatory because the entry fee was solely for granting full access to the new members. If the fee was not paid then the new member would not gain access to the Societeit (*Reglement Voor de Societeit Harmonie Gevestigd te Batavia*, Calling Number: B-341b-h 1877-1902, Koleksi Perpustakaan Nasional RI, 1898:3).

Activity on Societeit de Harmonie

In the course of time, many activities were held in Societeit de Harmonie. Most of

these activities were entertainments. As happened on January 18, 1815, when the Societeit de Harmonie building was officially opened. In the inauguration ceremony, officials and civil servants, military and marines were invited (Verhoeven, 1948:27). There was rule that every month, Societeit Harmonie holds regular parties and banquets dedicated to its members (Verhoeven, 1930:31).

Since the restoration of Dutch rule in 1816, every year, there was a festive celebration which falls on August 24. That date was the date of the birth of the King of the Netherlands. During the celebration, there will be dance parties and dinner, almost routine activities held at Harmonie (Henk Buitenweg, 1965:78). On November 16, 1816, there was an announcement in the daily Bataviaasch Courant whose contents, "*Hunne Excellencien de Commissarissen Geneeral of er Nederlands Indie, verzoeken alle Officieren der Armée, ben vens alle Civiele en Militaire Ambtenaren, tot het bywonen van een Bal en Souper in de Societeit de Harmonie, op Maandag den 18 November ten acht uren, ter viering van den Geboortedag van Hare Majesteit de Koningin*" which means, "The Honorable General Council of the Dutch East Indies requested all Military and Civil and Military officials to attend the Feast and Dinner at the Societeit de Harmonie on Monday, November 18, at eight o'clock in the evening for the celebration of Her Majesty's birthday" (*Bataviasche Courant Newspaper*, 16 November 1816).

In addition to the distributed invitation, the parties held at Societeit de Harmonie were often published in the local newspaper. As in the May 2, 1818 edition of *Bataviasche Courant*, there was an announcement of the party at Societeit de Harmonie.

CONCERT en BAL

Op aanstande Donderdag zijnde den 7den Mei 1818, des avonds ten half zeven uren in de societeit de harmonie op Rijswijk.

De heeren Caulier, Veekens dan Wijnmalen, hunne biljetten voor het eerste

vierendeel jaar van het Concert en Bal, niet hebbende afgehaald, worden verzocht zulks tegen betalling te doen, op aarstaande Donderdag den 7den Mei, wanneer tot de afgifte zal worden gevaceerd in de societeit de harmonie, van s'morgens acht tot twaalfuren.

Which means:

CONCERT AND DANCE PARTIES

On May 7, 1818, next Thursday there will be a six-and-a-half-hour dance party at Societeit de Harmonie in Rijswijk. Heer Caulier, Veekens and Wijnmalen, will not be invited before paying their food bills at Concerts and Feasts held during the first quarter of this year. Payments will still be received on Thursday, May 7, 1818, from eight o'clock in the morning until 12 noon (*Bataviasche Courant Newspaper*, 2 Mei 1818).

The Harmonie Council was rewarded for being an entertainment place for Batavia residents who specifically provided drinks, music, and dance. Because the lives of the residents of Batavia were very dependent on the societeit. If there were no dance activities between men and women in Harmonie, then the nights that Europeans went through would be very boring. The main purpose of the men coming to Harmonie is because of the women in the community. Even though when they arrived, the men did not immediately approach the women, but first met their colleagues who had also been there. While waiting for men approached them, these women would look for other activities, one of which was by dancing (Verhoeven. 1948:31).

A dinner party or commonly called supper was often held and inserted in a series of event, along with music and dance parties. The event can be seen from the invitation of the party to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Societeit Harmonie at Weltevreden. In addition to the schedule for musical performances and dance parties, the invitation also included the food

menu provided by Societeit. The menus consisted of foods that were related with Western culture. Food such as *foie gras*, mayonnaise salad, *truffè* which were French foods were presented in the diet (Koleksi Arsip Perpustakaan Nasional RI Nomor Panggil: B: -1215, 1890:3-4).

In addition to food, the presence of liquor or alcoholic beverages also showed the characteristic of Western culture. From an advertisement listed in *Bataviaasche Nieuwsblad*, it can be seen that Societeit Harmonie provided various types of alcoholic beverages, one of which called Hollandia Water or Dutch Water (*Bataviaasche Nieuwsblad Newspaper*, 21 April 1897). Not surprisingly, then Societeit Harmonie, besides being called a Ball Room by the natives, was also called the Gin Building (Yusana Sasanti Dadtun, 2016:38).

Dance cannot be separated from music, because dancing is a movement that follows music. Therefore, often musical performances are held together with dance parties. A party to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Societeit Harmonie building which was held on January 18, 1890 also included important events such as dance and dinner. Some classical music was played when *dansa-dansi* began, such as waltz music composed by Johann Strauss titled *Wiener Blut* and *An der schönen blauen Donau*, polka music composed by Joseph Gungl titled *Mazurka. La Belle*, C. Faust titled *Stets geiällig*, and Offenbach titled Offenbach, and also polonaise music composed by C. Faust titled *Der Fackelzug* (Koleksi Arsip Perpustakaan Nasional RI Nomor Panggil: B: -1215, 1890:2).

From the dance and music played at the event, we knew that the European community in Batavia did not abandon their traditions even though they lived far from their homeland. Waltz, polka, and polonaise were popular dances in Europe. Music was also played when dinner was held. But the music played was different from music when dancing. In this dinner to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Societeit Harmonie, there were four music

played, namely *Feest-Marsch* composed by T.F. Markus, *Ouverture Pique-Dame* composed by F.V. Suppé, *Die Wachtparade kommt* composed by E. Eilenberg, and *Potpourri. La Mascotte* by Ch. Audran (Collection of National Library No. B: -1215, 1890:2).

These music were music composed by famous composers in mainland Europe. After dinner, the party resumed. *Dansa-dansi* again enlivened the night at Harmonie accompanied by different music such as waltz music composed by Émile Waldteufel entitled *Dolores*, *El Turia* composed by D. Granado, and *Wo Lust and Freud wohnen* Ed. Strauss, polka music composed by Johann Strauss entitled *Sängerlust*, and also gallop music composed by C. Godfrey entitled *Giroflä-Girofla* (Collection of National Library No. B: -1215, 1890:2).

In addition to parties that were often held and attracted a lot of public attention to Societeit Harmonie, it turned out that the activities held were not only about the honour parties and dinner only. Other activities were often carried out, such as meeting members of the Harmonie organization to auctioning books. The Daily Java Government Gazette contained the news of stating meetings held in Harmonie, said:

A numerous Meeting assembled yesterday at the Harmonie to frame an Address to the Honorable Mr. Raffles, on his departure from this Island; and we understand a considerable sum was Subscribed at the time for the purchase of Plate which is to be presented as a lasting mark of the esteem and veneration of the community. The Address we understand lies for signature at the Harmonie till 11 o'clock to a day, at which time the Committee accompanied by several of the Subscribers will wait upon Mr. Raffles to present it." (*Java Government Gazette Newspaper*, March 23, 1816)

It seems that the news was revealed when Raffles would leave the Dutch East Indies where the British government gave back the land of the Indies to the Dutch Government.

On several occasions, Harmonie members often hold general meetings or member meetings. This was seen several times in announcement or advert columns. As in the *Bataviaasch Courant* Daily on April 19, 1817 it was announced that the meeting was held on Tuesday, April 22 at 18.30 pm (*Bataviaasch Courant*, 19 April 1817). Furthermore, the same daily was published on August 9, 1817, where the meeting was held on Monday August 11 at the same time as the April meeting (*Bataviaasch Courant*, 9 Augustus 1817).

In the *Bataviaasch Handelsblad* daily, January 7, 1867 edition, a notification was read, "*Societeit de Harmonie. Jaarlijksche Algemeene Vergadering op Maandag 14 Januarij 1867 des avonds ten 8 ure, belegd ingevolge art. 18 van het Reglement.*" Which means, "*Societeit de Harmonie. Annual General Meeting on Monday, January 14, 1867 in the evening at 8 pm, invested pursuant to art. 18 of the Rule of Procedure.*" (*Bataviaasch Handelsblad*, 7 Januari 1867).

The *Bataviaasch Handelsblad* daily also had advertisement about F.H Kroon's book auction in Wednesday, September 4, 1890. The advertisement says,

Boekenvendutie Donderdag 4 September des avonds te negen ure, door F.H. Kroon, in de Harmonie, van eene groote verzameling over onderwijs, taal en letterkunde, geschiedenis, wetgeving van Nedel. Indie, Wis-, Natuur, en Bouwkunde, Tijdschriften en Romans van 1889, enz. De Catalogus is gratis verkrijgbaar."

That advertisement means that the book auctioned included a large collection with the theme of education, language and law, literatures, history of the Dutch East Indies, mathematics, physics, and architecture, magazines, and novels from 1889, and catalogues were available free (*Bataviaasch Handelsblad*, 3 September 1890).

Announcement of book auction held by F.H. Kroon was also advertised in the *Bataviaasch Nieuwsblad* daily published on July 19, 1890. These auction, including the books auction held on July 21, 1890,

was held at Societeit de Harmonie (*Bataviaasch Nieuwsblad Newspaper*, 19 July 1890).

Societeit Harmonie was often visited by the high-ranking Indies officials such as the Minister of Home Affairs and the Governor-General. One of them was the Governor-General J.J. Rochussen who was willing to attend the parties and receptions held at Harmonie. In addition to the official celebrations, semi-formal celebrations also often held at certain times.

On February 16, 1837, Prince Hendrik from Netherlands came and stayed in Batavia. His presence in the Indies was one of them to attend parties and dinners that began at 8 am. The party was a celebration for Prince Hendrik who had been sworn in as a new ruler at the age of 17 (Brousson, 2007: 30).

All important officials and people in the Indies also appeared at the annual celebration to commemorate the birthday of the King of Netherlands which falls on August 24 every year. In the celebration at least 600 people attended. However, due to frequent fights, the Indies Government then stopped the annual celebration (Buitenweg, 1965:78).

In addition to the important figures, residents of Batavia usually also spent the night in Harmonie. Both men, women, and even young people liked to gather in Harmonie just to play billiards, drink, dance or play cards. Over time, the characteristics of the party changed. Low ranking employees of the government were no longer members of the club and were prohibited from attending parties because they damaged the characteristics of the party as a formal and limited event (Teeuwen, 2015).

However, Societeit Harmonie did not get too many visitors on weekdays, given that many of its members were civil servants who worked early to midweek. Women were permitted to visit the Harmonie building on Sunday afternoons where music concerts usually were held and when the Dutch and King's birthday celebrations were held (Milone,

1966:449).

CONCLUSION

The new Societeit de Harmonie building in Weltevreden is the most magnificent building at present day. Societeit de Harmonie is considered the most elite club in Asia and its development spends a lot of money. It is not surprising to see the enthusiasm of the Batavia people at that time. It's just that not just anyone can set foot in the luxury building. Those who are members are the bourgeoisie, specifically the European community and the absence of data on the indigenous priyayi (nonbles) who set foot on Societeit de Harmonie Weltevreden. Because of its popularity, almost every major city has a Societeit Harmonie branch, but on a smaller scale or building size.

A number of events held at Harmonie are often reported or advertised in local newspapers Batavia. Most advertisements are orchestral shows along with event schedules, dance parties, and dinners. In dinner, the menu that is usually served on a large dining table is western food menu that is dominated by meat, bread, and others. Furthermore, it will be presented various kinds of liquor or alcoholic beverages that have become a tradition or culture of European society.

Societeit de Harmonie is a physical and social space that shows the existence of Europeans with all its culture attributes. The European community occupied the upper classes of the social class in the structure of the colonial society which was different from other social classes. Societeit de Harmonie is a forum for the European elite in asserting its identification.

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