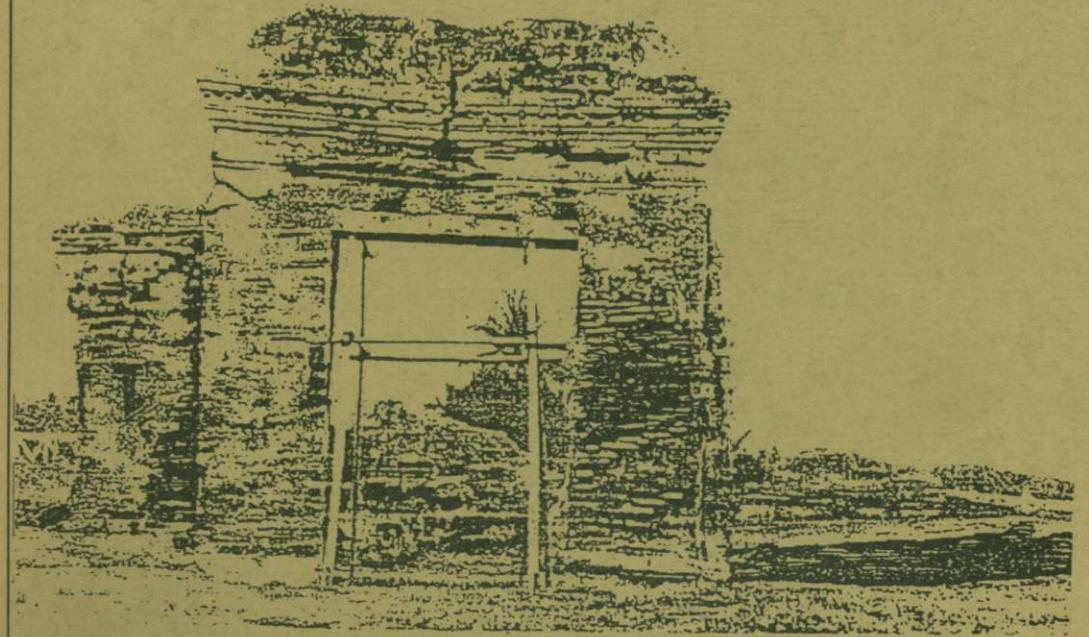


archaeological
remains
of
banten lama



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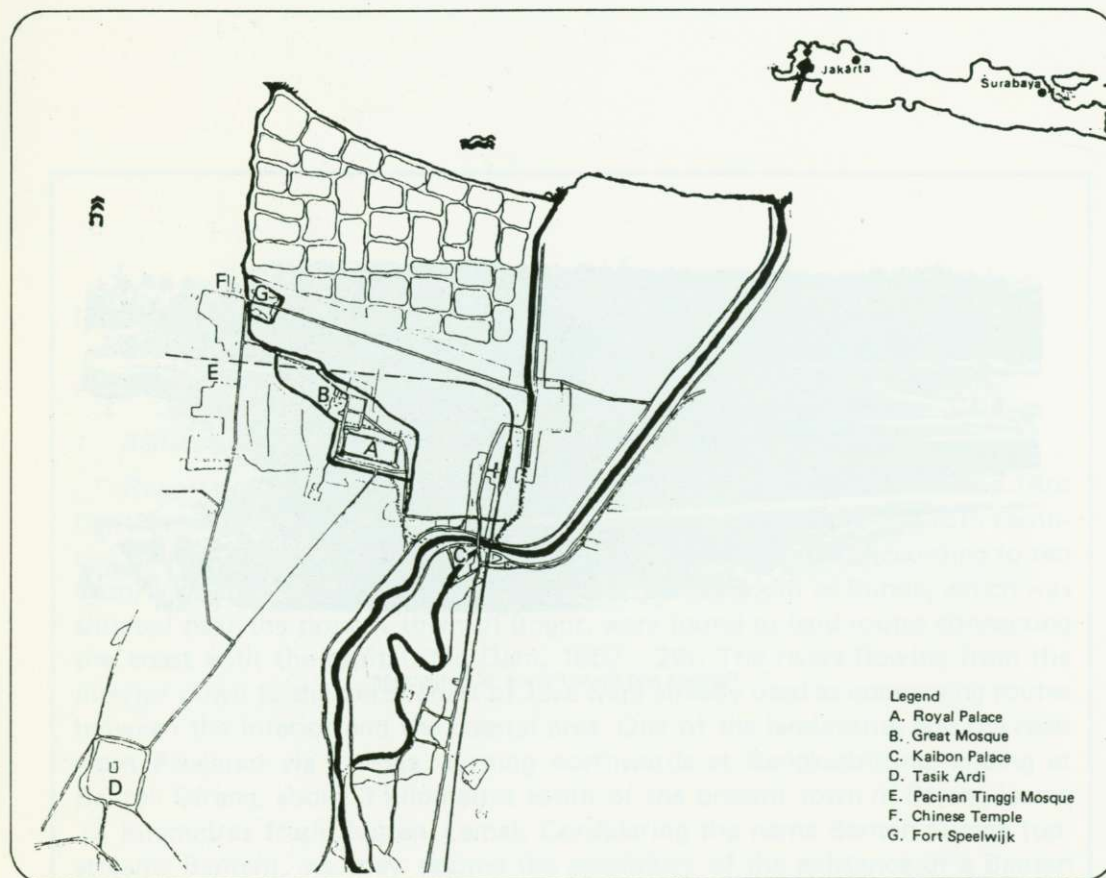
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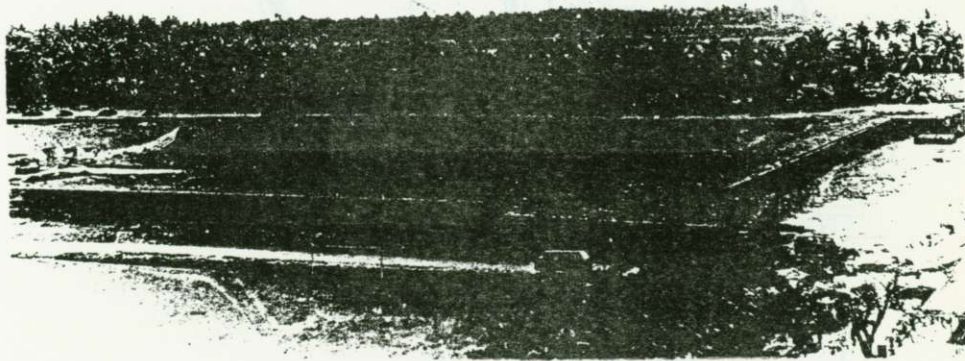
archaeological remains of banten lama

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Plan of Archaeological Site at Banten Lama



Fortress and Royal Palace of Surasowan

Introduction

A. Historical background of Banten

1. *Banten prior to the 14th Century*

Reports of historical sources on Banten from the period prior to the 16th Century are not to be found, but at least between the 12th to the 15th centuries Banten was already a harbour for the kingdom of Sunda. According to ten Dam, in the vicinity of Pajajaran, capital of the kingdom of Sunda, which was situated near the present town of Bogor, were found to land-routes connecting the coast with the capital (ten Dam, 1957 : 29). The rivers flowing from the interior down to the north coast of Java were already used as connecting routes between the interior and the coastal area. One of the land-routes was the road from Pajajaran via Jasinga, turning northwards at Rangkasbitung, ending at Banten Girang, about 3 kilometres south of the present town of Serang (some 13 kilometres from Banten Lama). Considering the name Banten Girang (up-streams Banten), we may assume the possibility of the existence of a Banten Hilir (downstreams Banten). But was there indeed such a town by that name, and if so, could it perhaps be identified with the present town of Banten Lama.



Mesjid Agung

When Tome Pires visited Banten in 1513, it was still an insignificant harbour, though already mentioned as being the second largest harbour of the kingdom of Sunda, after Sunda Kelapa. A lively trade between Banten and Sunda was already existing.

Vessels from all over the country were anchoring at Banten. At that time Banten already exported rice, foodstuffs and pepper from that harbour. (Cortesao, 1941, 168-169, Meilink — Roelofs, 1962: 124) Banten became an important harbour in 1522, when the kingdom of Sunda exported 1000 "bahar" of pepper annually (van der Chijs, 1881: 4).

2. *Banten in the 16th Century*

When the Islamic kingdom of Banten was founded, the center of power, originally in Banten Girang, was moved to the town of Surasowan on the coast. From the economic point of view, this shift was meant to facilitate the connection between the north coast of Java with the coast of Sumatra, by way of Strait Sunda and the Indian Ocean. This situation was caused by the political conditions in Southeast Asia at that time, when Malacca had already fallen under suzerainty of Portugal, so that the merchants who were averse of dealing with the Portuguese moved their trade-route to Strait Sunda.

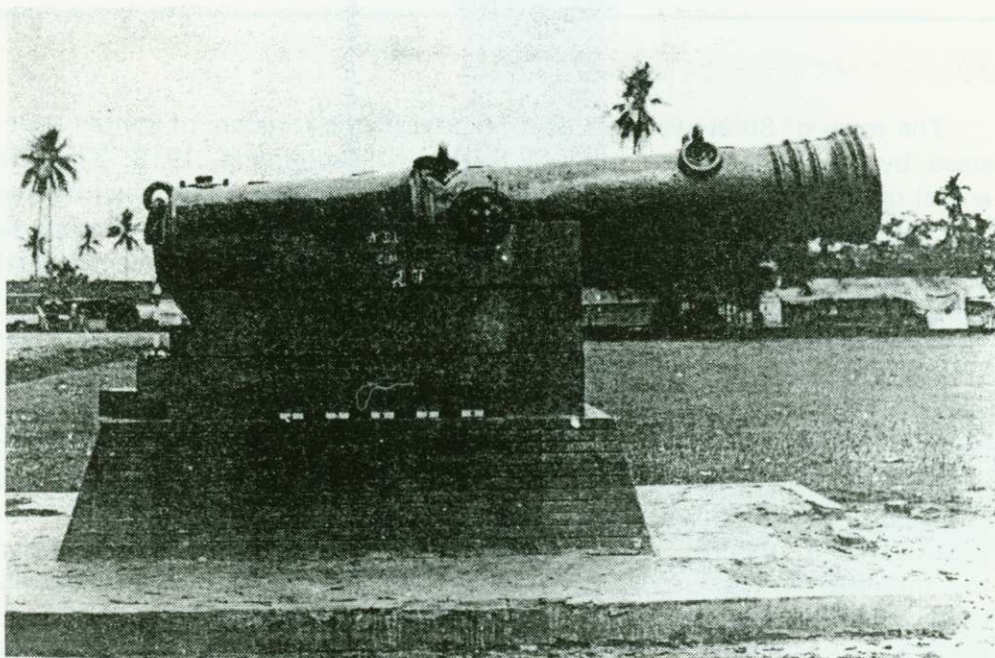


Minaret of the Mosque of Banten Lama

The town of Surasowan was made capital of the kingdom of Banten as decreed by the first moslem ruler of Banten (Djajadiningrat, 1913: 33). The arrival of the moslem ruler at Banten occurred circa 1524-1525, when Banten was still under the suzerainty of Sunda (De Graaf, 1974: 118). According to local tradition, the last ruler of Sunda at Wahanten Girang (= Banten Girang) was Prabu (King) Pucukumum, son of Prabu Seda (Raffles, 1817, II, 133).

Sunan Gunung Jati or Syeikh Syarif Hidayatullah who became the first Moslem ruler of Banten was not crowned as its first King, but put his son, Maulana Hasanuddin in charge of the kingdom. When he founded the town of Surasowan in the area of what is now known as Banten Lama, Sunan Gunung Jati ordered not to move the *Watu gilang* (ceremonial stone) in front of the Palace, as its removal might cause destruction (Djajadiningrat, 1913: 33). Hasanuddin, who in 1526 married the daughter of Sultan Trenggana, ascended the throne of Banten in 1552 (De Graaf, 1974: 120). Besides ordering the construction of the Surasowan palace, Hasanuddin built also two mosques in the area of Banten Lama. The first one is the building on the west side of the alun-alun (square).

Hasanuddin was succeeded by Maulana Yusuf as Banten's second ruler (1570 – 1580). He expanded the territory of the kingdom of Banten, reaching



"Ki Amuk", the Sultan's Canon

far into the interior which had been originally under the suzerainty of Sunda and even successfully occupied the capital of the kingdom at Pakuwan. (De Graaf, 1974: 122). According to tradition, Maulana Yusuf enlarged the Mesjid Agung (Great Mosque) by adding a gallery and built also another mosque at Kasunyatan (south of Banten Lama).

When Maulana Yusuf died, Prince Muhammad the rightful heir was to ascend the throne, but as he was still a child, a regent was appointed: Prince Aria Japara (De Graaf, 1974: 123). One important event during the reign of Prince Muhammad was the arrival of Dutch ships in 1596 which anchored in the harbour of Banten under command of Cornelis de Houtman. The written notes left by the Dutch guests are valuable source of information on Banten. In a note of Jan Kaerel Jansz, dated August 6, 1599, was mentioned that foreign ships which anchored in Banten could only do so after obtaining consent of the Syahbandar. In order to enter the town of Banten from the harbour one had first go through the "tolhuis" of the customs office (toll-gate) (Rouffaer, 1929: 201).



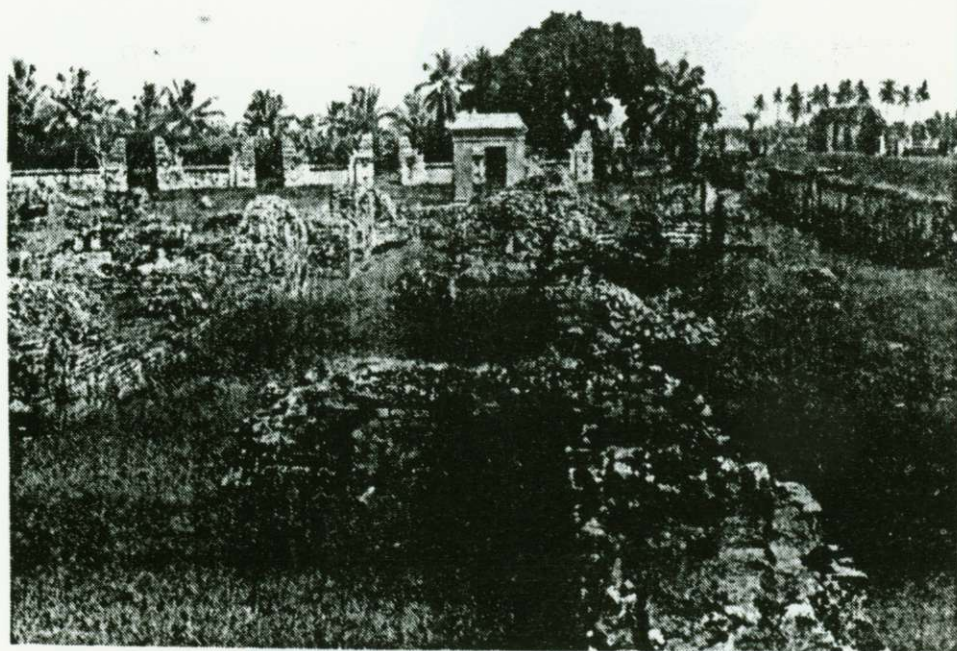
Pacinan Tinggi Mosque

3. Banten in the 17th - 19th centuries

One characteristic of the political and social condition of Banten in the 17th Century was beginning of the impact of the Dutch on the administration and trade in royal circles. Observing the list of sultans who ruled Banten one noted that Banten was on its peak of prosperity and progress in the 17th Century

Following is the list of sultants :

a. Abul Mufakir Mahmud Abdul Kadir	1596 - 1640
b. Abdul Ma'ali Ahmad	1640 - 1651
c. Abul Fath Abdul Fattah	1651 - 1672
d. Abu Nasr Abdul Qahhar	1672 - 1687
e. Abu Faddal	1687 - 1690
f. Abul Mahasin Zainul 'Abidin	1690 - 1733



Ruins of "Keraton Kaibon", Palace of the Sultan's Mother

1. *Compound of Surasowan Palace*

The whole compound is now in ruins, with only the surrounding wall and some of its parts left. The remains consist of foundations and parts of the ruined walls of the rooms in the palace, remains of a bathing place and a pond with a floating pavillion. The surrounding ('fortress') wall measuring 0,5 – 2 metres in height is still preserved with an approximate width of five metres. In some parts, in particular in the south and east, one can see that the whole wall has vanished.

The palace compound is oblong in plan and about three hectaeres large. The entrance is the large gate on the north side, facing the alun-alun (square). According to old maps and drawings, there used to be a door on the east side, now invisible, as it is buried in the soil. The four corners of the surrounding wall formed bastions, being protruding parts of that wall. Meanwhile, inside of these bastions were found four entrance doors leading to former halls. According to old maps, one can see that this compound was formerly surrounded by a moat, constructed for defence purposes. Part of this moat now no longer exist. Left are only the southern and western parts.

According to the Sejarah Banten, this Surasowan palace compound, also named Kedaton Pakuwan, was built during the reign of Maulana Hasanuddin (1552 – 1570), while the 'fortress' wall and the gate, constructed from bricks and rocks, were built by Maulana Jusuf (1570 – 1580).



Ruins of "Fort Speelwijk"

2. Compound of the Great Mosque

This compound consists of a. the Mosque with galleries on the left and right; b. the Tiyamah; c. the tower; d. the cemetery north of the mosque.

- a. *The Great Mosque.* According to the Sejarah Banten this mosque was built during the reign of Maulana Hasanuddin. Similar to other mosques, its ground-plan is also square. It has a roof with five tiers. The galleries on the left and right of the building were built in a later period. On the gallery on the left (north) are the tombs of some Banten sultans and their relatives, among others of Maulana Hasanuddin and his wife; Sultan Agung Tirtayasa and Sultan Abu Nasr Abdul Qahhar. Meanwhile on the gallery on the right, (south) are the tombs of Sultan Muhammad, Sultan Zainul Abidin and others.
- b. *The Tiyamah.* This is an additional building south of the Great Mosque, and on the right of the gallery with the tombs. Its form is oblong, while it has two stories. The style is Old Dutch and according to tradition built by Cardeel, a Dutch architect. This building was formerly used as a meeting place and particularly to discuss religious matters.



Gate of the Chinese Temple at Pabean

- c. *The Tower (Menara, Minaret)*. The Minaret stands in the front yard of the compound. According to tradition, it was also built by Lucas Cardeel. It is not known for certain when this minaret was built. In the "Journael van de Reyse" (De Eerste Schipvaart der Nederlanders naar Oost-Indie onder Cornelis de Houtman 1595 – 1597) is a map of Banten showing this minaret, while the Sejarah Banten mentioned that: "Kanjeng Maulana (Hasan-uddin) had a son, named Maulana Yusuf whose marriage took place about the time the minaret was built". Based upon that report, K.C. Cruq was of the opinion that the minaret of the Great Mosque of Banten already existed before 1569/1570. Moreover, on architectural evidence he concluded that the minaret was built in the second half of the 16th century, viz between 1560 – 1570.
- d. The cemetery on the northern side of the compound. Here are found several old and new graves.

3. *The Canon Ki Amuk*

This canon, originally standing at Karangantu, is now placed on the corner of the alun-alun, in front of the Surasowan compound. On this canon are three inscriptions with Arab characters and in Arabic. One inscription, on top of its



"Watu Gilang"
the Consecration place
of the Banten rulers

mouth, is: "akibatu'l - khairisalamatu'l - imani". According to K.C. Crucq who made a study of the canons from the former Banten sultanate, this inscription is a chronogram, meaning 1450 Saka (A.D. 1528/1529). Crucq was looking for a connection between this canon with Ki Jimat, the canon which Sultan Trenggana of Demak presented to Sunan Gunung Jati.

4. *The Pacinan Tinggi Mosque*

In the kampung of Pacinan still exist ruins of an old mosque. Besides the remains of the main building also stands part of the wall of the *mihrab*. In the front yard left of the mosque, are remains of the minaret, oblong in ground-plan. The minaret itself with the upper part, now a ruin, is constructed of brick, while rocks were used for the foundation and foot or base. According to tradition, the mosque and the minaret already existed before the Great Mosque of Banten was built.



"Tasik Ardi", The Sultan's water reservoir

5. *Compound of the Kaibon Palace*

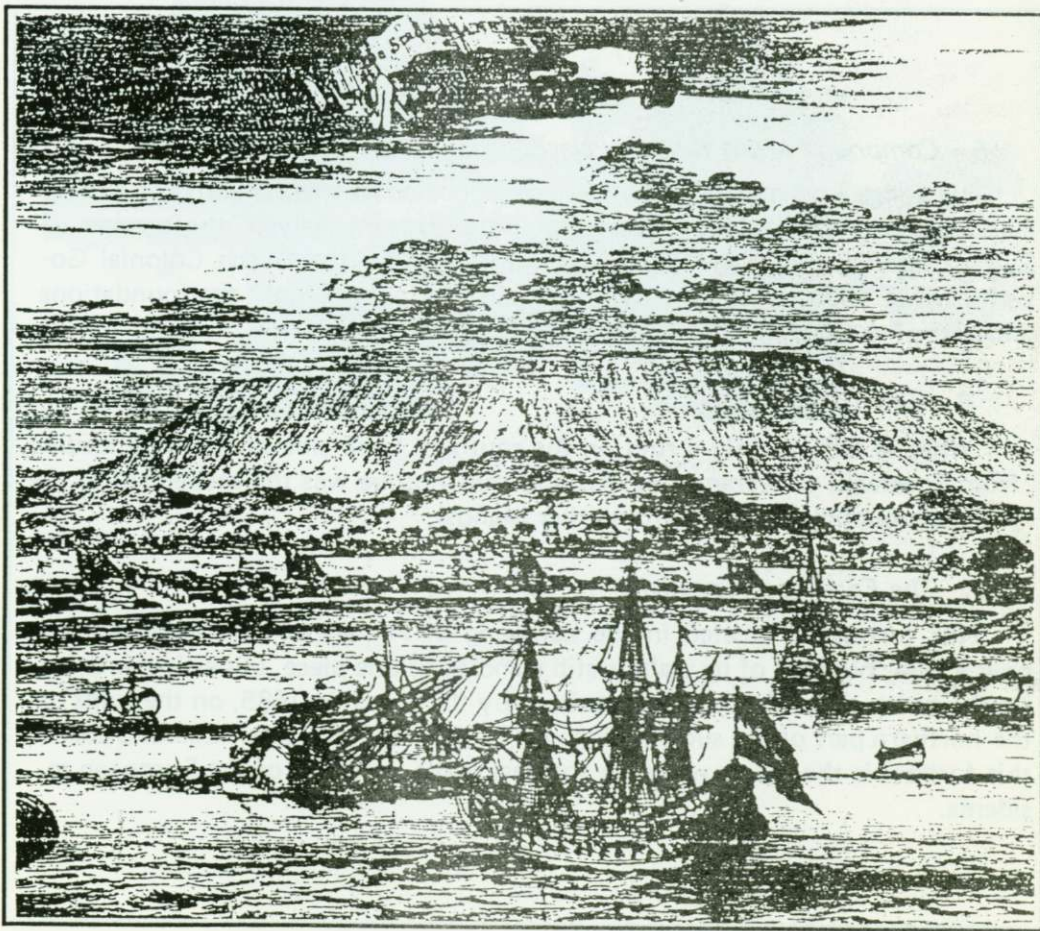
The compound of the Kaibon Palace is located in the kampung of Kroya. This palace is said to be residence of Ratu (Queen) Asiyah, the mother of Sultan Safiuddin. The buildings were destroyed by the Dutch Colonial Government in 1832. What is left are now all in ruins with only the foundations and part of the surrounding walls and the gates.

6. *The Koja Mosque*

What is left, is only a ruin on the southern bank side of the road leading from Speelwijk to Karangantu. Around this mosque was the settlement of the Koja community (residents from other islands).

7. *The Fortress of Speelwijk*

This fortress is located in the kampung of Pamarican near Pabeau. It is now a ruin, but part of its walls is still standing in one piece, in particular those on the north side. The fortress was built by the Dutch in 1685, on the ruins of the northern part of the surrounding wall of the town of Banten Lama. Outside this fortress is the moat, while on the east is the cemetery of the European residents.



Drawing of the port of Bantam in the 17th Century

8. *The Chinese Temple*

This temple stands west of the Fortress of Speelwijk. There used to be another one at Pacinan (the Chinese Quarters), built by the local Chinese. It is not known for sure when this temple was built. According to tradition building of this temple took place in the early days of the Banten sultanate.

9. *Watu Gilang*

There are two "Watu Gilangs" on the alun-alun, one in front of the Surasowan Palace and the other on the north side of the alun-alun. These are square-shaped with a level surface and made of andesite. These watu gilangs were formerly used at the event of enthronement of the Sultans of Banten.