

THE STONE AGE OF INDONESIA

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THE STONE AGE OF INDONESIA

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PREFACE

Indonesian prehistoric archaeology was only a little-known and recently developed science in the days that Dr P. V. van Stein Callenfels took the first tentative steps in this field of study, and ever since other scholars walked in his steps and helped to advance our prehistoric knowledge.

Dr W. J. A. Willems, who was the first to introduce an entirely new scientific method of excavation, Dr A. N. J. Thomassen à Tuessink van der Hoop, who distinguished himself by field-work in Sumatra and later as the Djakarta Museum's general oracle and Prof. Dr G. H. R. von Koenigswald who enjoys a world-wide recognition owing to his discoveries of a series of fossil human remains and palaeoliths and his palaeontological studies, were my predecessors whom I feel it my pleasant duty to remember here because I learned so much from them.

Among the foreign scholars who had a great part in the progress of prehistoric research I wish to mention in particular Prof. Dr Robert Heine Geldern, Paul and Fritz Sarasin and Prof. Dr Hallam L. Movius Jr. They all have largely contributed to the knowledge of prehistoric Indonesia, but the results of their studies and examinations are scattered in numerous periodicals and scientific papers, which unfortunately are not always easily obtained or are written in foreign languages not always accessible to all and one.

The purpose of this study is to summarize all data concerning the knowledge of Indonesian prehistory, as derived from that which has been published by others on this subject as well as from my own experiences in this field.

The subject-matter is divided into three consecutive stages: the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic.

The theatre of the main cultural development has been, and still is, Java and Sumatra. Many islands, however, are situated at quite a distance from that centre of development; they are inhabited by peoples living in great isolation, who had their traditions handed down from one generation to the next. In some cases these more or less static and conservative cultures are, at least in material and economical aspects, reminiscent of prehistoric civilizations.

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Though I cannot acknowledge all my literary debts, I do wish to express my thanks to the friends and relations who have given me their aid: the Head of the Archaeological Service of Indonesia, Mr. Soekmono and the Board of Directors of the Lembaga Kebudayaan Indonesia „Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen", Djakarta, for the many photographs I needed for this manuscript and to Mr. Basoeke for the illustrations and maps.

This volume will before long be followed by a second volume dealing with the Bronze-Iron Age of Indonesia.

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