

THE SA'DAN TORADJA CHANT FOR THE DECEASED

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PREFACE

I wish first to express my gratitude to the Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde, which has kindly arranged for this book to be printed.

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Once more I owe a very great debt of gratitude to Jeune Scott-Kemball, who has been able to accomplish casting my Dutch translation in prose of the lines in trochaic metre of the Chants for the Deceased into a very elegant English verse form. This was not always very simple in view of the metaphorical manner of expression in the Toradja lines of verse.

The spelling used for the South Toradja text is that of present-day Bahasa Indonesia with the following exceptions: the glottal check, found in South Toradja only as a syllable- or word-final, is not written as *k* but indicated by an apostrophe, for example, *mam'pu* not *mam'puk*; and the velar nasal, because it is sometimes protracted in speech and must then be duplicated in writing, is not written *ng* but *ŋ*, for example, *lan'ŋi* not *langi*, *tan'ŋa* not *tangka*.

The spelling of the South Toradja words in the translation and notes differs from this system in one respect: *y* is used in stead of *j*, for example, *kayu* = *kaju* (text).

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