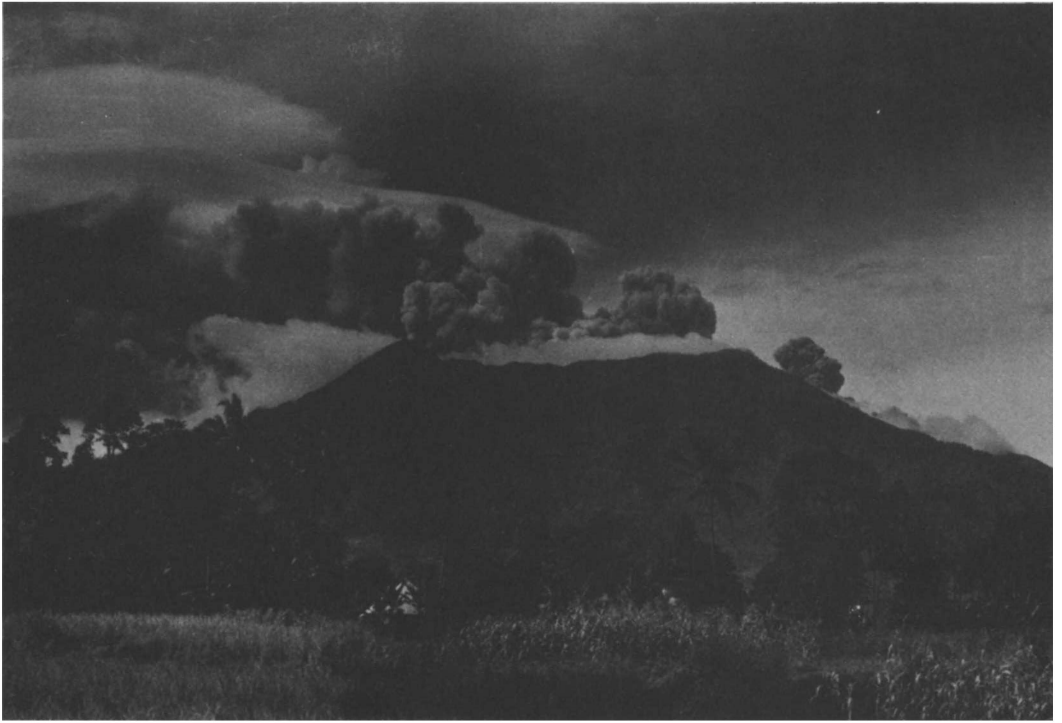


PROPERTY IN SOCIAL CONTINUITY



Dari mano titiek palito
Dibaliek telong nan batali
Dari máno asa niniek kito
Dari ateh gunueng Marapi

From where did the candle drip?
Behind the lantern on a cord.
From where did our ancestors originate?
From the top of Mount Merapi.

VERHANDELINGEN

VAN HET KONINKLIJK INSTITUUT
VOOR TAAL-, LAND- EN VOLKENKUNDE

86

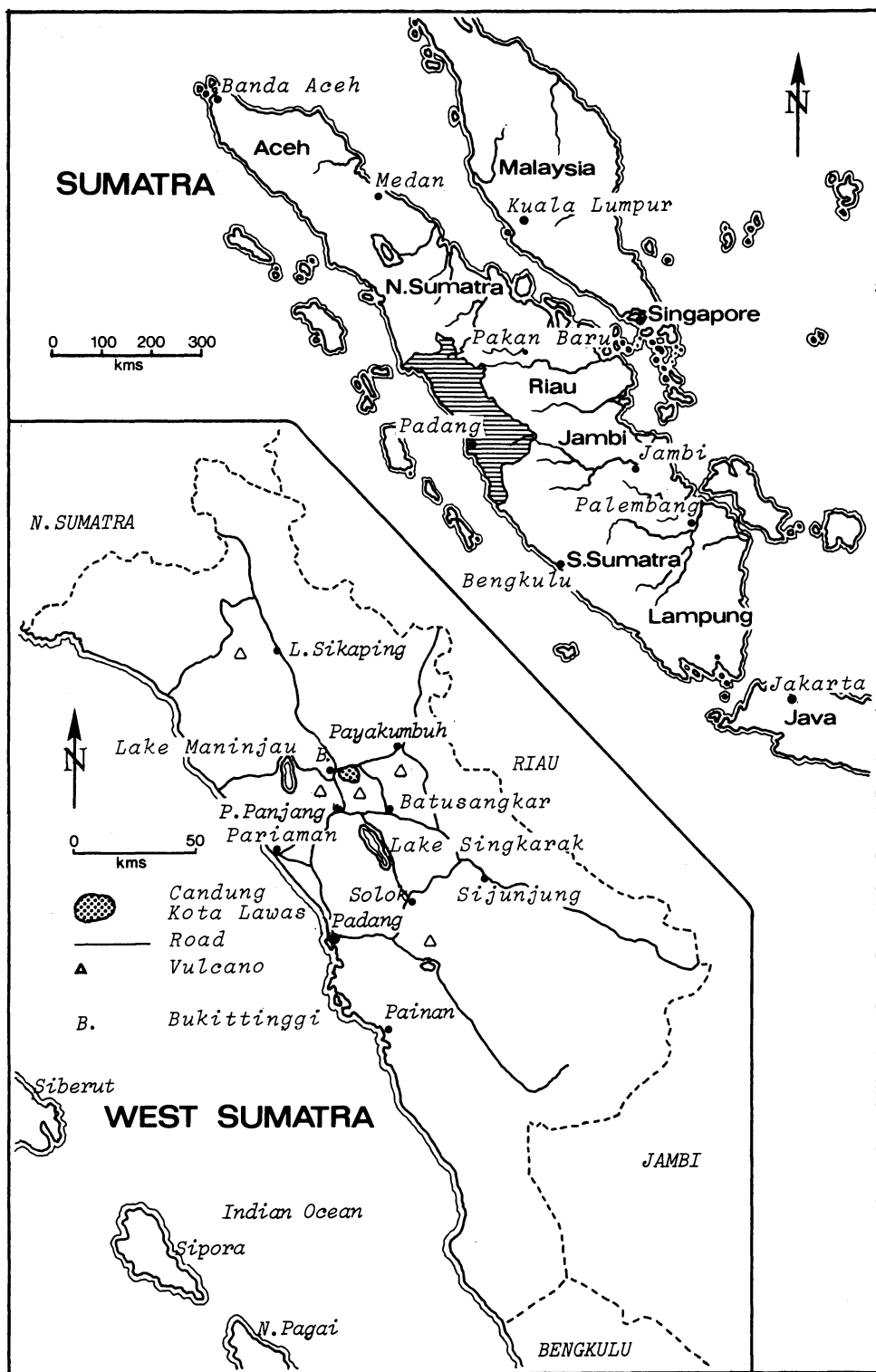
FRANZ VON BENDA-BECKMANN

PROPERTY IN SOCIAL CONTINUITY

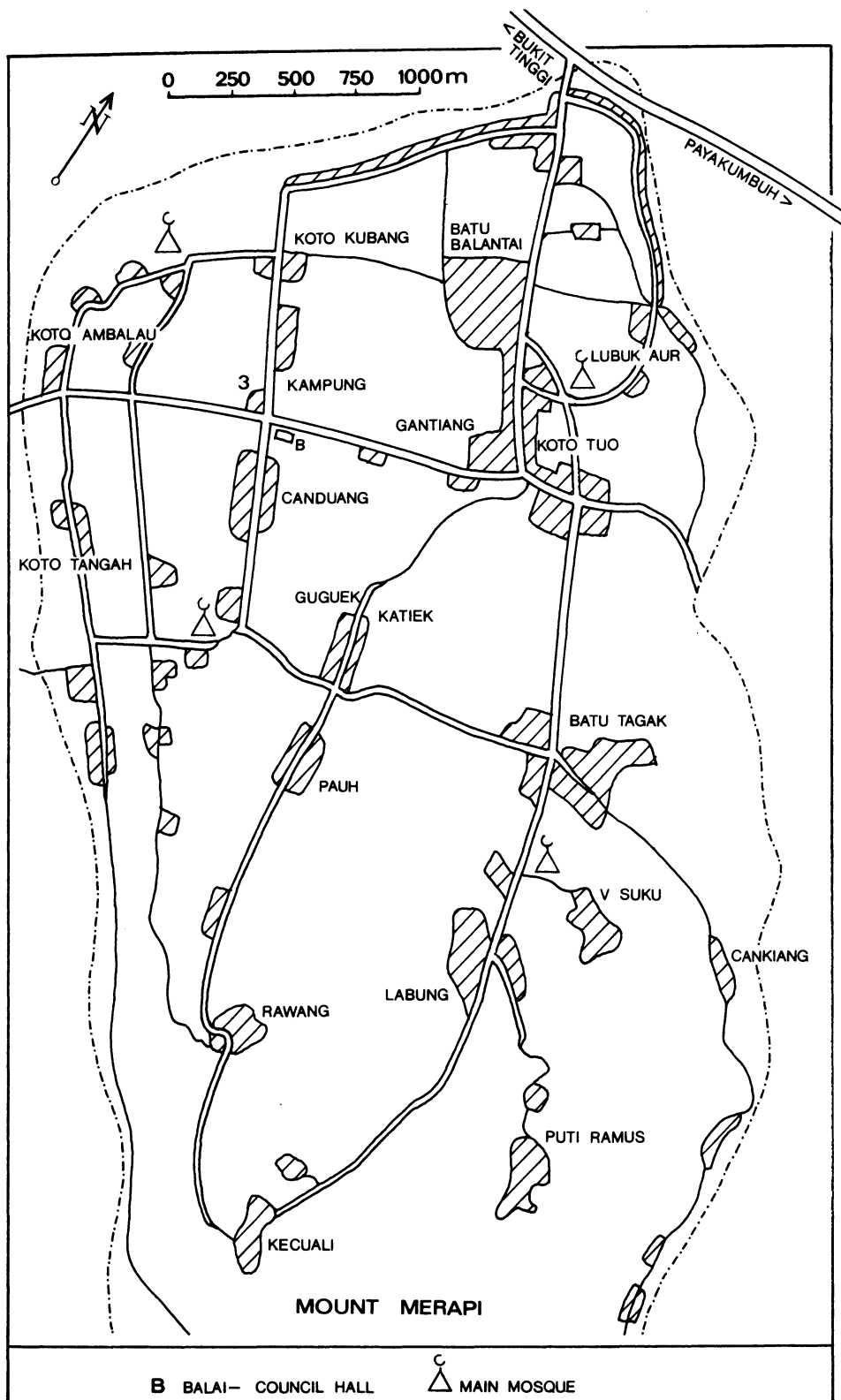
CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN THE MAINTENANCE
OF PROPERTY RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH TIME
IN MINANGKABAU, WEST SUMATRA



THE HAGUE — MARTINUS NIJHOFF 1979



Map of the research area



Nagari Candung Kota Lawas

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Leiden, December 1978

Franz von Benda-Beckmann

A NOTE ON ORTHOGRAPHY

In this study I have regularly used Minangkabau and Indonesian words, particularly the basic concepts through which the systems of socio-political organization, property, and inheritance are expressed. I trust and hope that the reader will quickly accustom her- or himself to these terms and realize that, e.g., words like *jurai*, *kaum*, *buah gadang*, and *suku* convey a much clearer impression of social groups in Minangkabau than would the English terms lineage, minimal, minor, major, or maximal lineage.

In the literature, but also in interviews with Minangkabau villagers, the Indonesian and Minangkabau terms are often used interchangeably, e.g. *harta pusaka* (Ind.) or *harato pusako* (Min.) for inherited property. Combinations of words from the two languages are also quite frequent, like in *harta pusako*. In order to achieve some standardization, I have in principle employed the Minangkabau terms; only in direct quotations have I given the (usually Indonesian) forms. A glossary of Minangkabau and Indonesian terms is appended to the study (pp. 429-436); in the cases where Indonesian and Minangkabau words have been used for the same term, the Indonesian has been inserted in brackets.

With regard to the Indonesian and Minangkabau language in general I have followed the new orthographic convention which was introduced in 1972. It is contained in a government publication entitled *Edjaan Bahasa Indonesia Jang Disempurnakan*. The main changes are set out below.

Old System

j
dj
tj
nj
sj
ch

New System

y
j
c
ny
sy
kh

Except for some direct quotations, I have transcribed all sources using the old orthographic system into the new one. The glottal stop in words like *mamak* has been transliterated with the letter *k* as has become customary in contemporary Minangkabau and Indonesian; older Dutch writers, by contrast, employed the letter *q* or an apostrophe. The number 2 following an Indonesian or Minangkabau word, like in *harta2*, is the conventional abbreviation for the duplication of the word. Duplication generally indicates the plural number or undefined quantities.

In the transcription of Arabic terms I have followed Fyzee (1955). However, most Islamic legal terms appear in their Indonesianized form.

Finally, it should be mentioned that, unless I have indicated otherwise, all translations from Dutch or Indonesian sources are mine.

ABBREVIATIONS

A.	<i>Angku</i>
AR	<i>Assistent Resident</i>
art.	<i>Artikel</i> (section)
B	Brother
BGB	<i>Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch</i> (German Civil Code)
B.W.	<i>Burgerlijk Wetboek</i> (Dutch Civil Code)
Ch	Children
CKL	Candung Kota Lawas
CPNTR	<i>Corops Penasehatan Nikah Thalak Rujuk</i> (Advisory Committee of the Registrar of Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage)
D	Daughter
D.	Dutch
DPRN	<i>Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Negeri</i> (Elective Village Parliament)
Dt.	<i>Datuk, Datuek</i> (title of higher <i>adat</i> functionaries, particularly of <i>panghulu</i>)
e	elder
F	Father
G.	German
GSB	<i>Gubernur Sumatera Barat</i> (Governor West Sumatra)
ha	hectare
I.	<i>Inyiek</i>
Ind.	Indonesian
I.S.	<i>Indische Staatsregeling</i>
Isl.	Islamic
KAN	<i>Karapatan Adat Nagari</i> (<i>Nagari</i> Adat Council)
KN	<i>Kerapatan Negeri</i> (<i>Nagari</i> Council)
KUA	<i>Kantor Urusan Agama</i> (Office for Religious Affairs)
LKAAM	<i>Lembaga Kerapatan Adat Alam Minangkabau</i> (Association of the Minangkabau Adat Councils)

LR	<i>Landraad</i> (Dutch colonial court)
M	Mother
MA	<i>Mahkamah Agung</i> (Supreme Court)
Min.	Minangkabau
MUBES	<i>Musyawarah Besar</i> (Full meeting of the LKAAM)
par.	<i>Paragraph</i> (section)
PN	<i>Pengadilan Negeri</i> (State Court)
PP	<i>Peraturan Pemerintah</i> (Government Regulation)
PT	<i>Pengadilan Tinggi</i> (State Appeal Court)
P3NTR	<i>Pembantu Pegawai Pencatat Nikah Thalok Rujuk</i> (Village Registrar of Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage)
R.B.G.	<i>Rechtsreglement voor de Buitengewesten</i>
R.R.	<i>Regeringsreglement</i>
RvJ	<i>Raad van Justitie</i> (Dutch colonial Appeal Court)
S	Son
S.	<i>Staatsblad</i> (Government Publication)
SK	<i>Surat Keputusan</i> (Provincial Regulation)
WN	<i>Wali Negeri</i> (Village Mayor)
y	younger
Z	Sister