

MODERN INDONESIAN LITERATURE

To my wife

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PREFACE

It is a curious paradox that books such as this are as unsatisfactory and impossible to write as they apparently are useful and much in demand. Prospective reviewers are therefore cordially invited to point out the latent and apparent shortcomings and irresponsibilities of this book. All other readers are warned once more not to expect too much. It contains, after all, the observations and reflections of an outsider, an outsider, moreover, who both by nature and by conscious choice is limited in his views and approaches. For a fuller explanation of the scope, history and background of this book, in particular of the present Volume, the reader is kindly referred to the *Foreword* of the first edition and to the *Epilogue* of the present Volume (pp. 197-198 and 200-201 below).

This second Volume covers the period ending December 31, 1978. This limit was chosen quite arbitrarily, for reasons which had nothing to do with the periodization of modern Indonesian literature. Of course, such an artificial break in the continuity of an ongoing process in itself is bound to restrict and detract from the value of some of the materials and reflections contained in the book. In a limited number of cases it was possible to add particulars of a later date and to refer to at least some publications of 1979 in the process of editing the manuscript and revising the English.

I am deeply grateful to the many people who have made it possible for me to write this book. In the first place to my colleagues in the Department of Southeast Asian languages and cultures of the University of Leiden who enabled me to leave the Department for a whole year. Secondly, to the Boards of the Faculty of Letters and of the University of Leiden for granting me leave so that I might spend my sabbatical year in Indonesia. Thanks are furthermore due to LIPI (the Indonesian National Institute of Sciences) in Jakarta owing to whose active support I experienced no difficulties whatsoever in obtaining permission to work in Indonesia. I am also most grateful for the cooperation of the Rector of the Universitas Gadjah Mada and of the Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Culture of that University, who made me so welcome as a guest on their campus for the academic year 1977-1978. Moreover,

I feel much indebted to the Yogya academic community, especially all my friends in the Faculty, who helped me in many ways during my stay in Yogya, not least of all by leaving me as free as I wanted to be to carry out my research.

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks to the Board of the Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde for its readiness to accept this unduly expanded version of my book for publication, and to the Instituut's editorial department for its kind and thoughtful assistance in many practical matters.

There are a number of persons whom I would like to mention individually, as they in various ways actively contributed to the realization of this book. My old friend Dr. Hans B. Jassin kindly read the prefinal draft of the manuscript and suggested many corrections and additions. Dr. Boen S. Oemarjati generously provided me with a large quantity of material, and also helped me obtain the photographs reproduced in this Volume. Nearly all of the latter were made by Djaulam Hutasoit, to whom I would like to express my gratitude for his permission to include these samples of his work here.

In Leiden, Mady Oey and Denis Rosendahl Huber, as research assistants, successively assisted me in collecting the necessary materials and compiling the Bibliographies and Index. The latter also rendered invaluable assistance in reading the proofs. Ria van Yperen, translator at the Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology in Leiden, rewrote my English into English. I am more than ever convinced that I shall never learn to write that language properly; but though the situation may be desperate, it will never be serious as long as people like her are at hand. Petra Hogewoning, secretary to the Department of South-east Asian languages and cultures, managed to transform even the messiest pages into a printable manuscript without ever losing patience. I am not sure what I appreciate most in all these young people: their devotion and accuracy or their cheerfulness, which made even the work on the most boring parts of the book an enjoyable experience.

Finally, I wish to mention my wife; she was the one who suggested Yogya as the place to write this book. Initially I had my doubts about this, but time proved her right: Yogya *was* the place to do the job. This, however, is not the only reason why I am happy to dedicate this Volume to her.

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