

EDITOR'S PREFACE

This second monograph in the series "Studies in South Asian Archaeology" published by the Institute of South Asian Archaeology of the University of Amsterdam, deals with the fine collection of prehistoric tools which Mr. J. H. Houbolt collected in Indonesia before the last World War. Soon after hostilities had ceased, Mr. Houbolt came to Holland on leave in order to recuperate. One day he walked into the National Museum of Ethnology, Leyden, where I was then working, and asked me to show him the prehistoric material from Indonesia. When he repeated his visits, it occurred to me that this was a wonderful opportunity to get expert information on many points from somebody who had himself actually collected similar material in the field and so, Mr. Houbolt's occasional visits turned into regular weekly sessions during which we studied the museum's collection together.

After Mr. Houbolt had returned to Indonesia and I had left for Cambridge our friendship born from shared interests and enthusiasm, was kept alive through correspondence. It so happened that after many years both of us returned to Holland at about the same time. Mr. Houbolt immediately re-established personal contact and during one of his visits to the Institute of South Asian Archaeology he surprised me with his most generous offer of presenting his collection to the University of Amsterdam so that it might serve as demonstration material for my lectures on Indonesian prehistory. Needless to say, this overwhelming offer was gratefully accepted and the Houbolt Collection has since been a source of justified pride to the Institute.

Over the past nine years the collection has served the educational purpose which the donor intended it to have. However, it was felt that the objects should be properly catalogued and in addition, that all the specific details which Mr. Houbolt remembered about each and every tool should be carefully recorded as far as possible.

In 1961 Mr. C. R. Hooijer became a member of the staff of the Institute. Being a grandson of Professor Eugène Dubois, he was hereditarily infected with a keen interest in Indonesian prehistory, a subject in which he subsequently specialized. Some years ago he kindly undertook to catalogue the Houbolt Collection. In addition, he recorded all the information which Mr. Houbolt was able to supply.

This catalogue is now published by the Institute of South Asian Archaeology on its tenth anniversary as a token of gratitude to a benefactor whose unfailing interest in its progress has been a great encouragement throughout the ten years of its existence.

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Director of the Institute of South Asian Archaeology

University of Amsterdam, autumn 1969.