

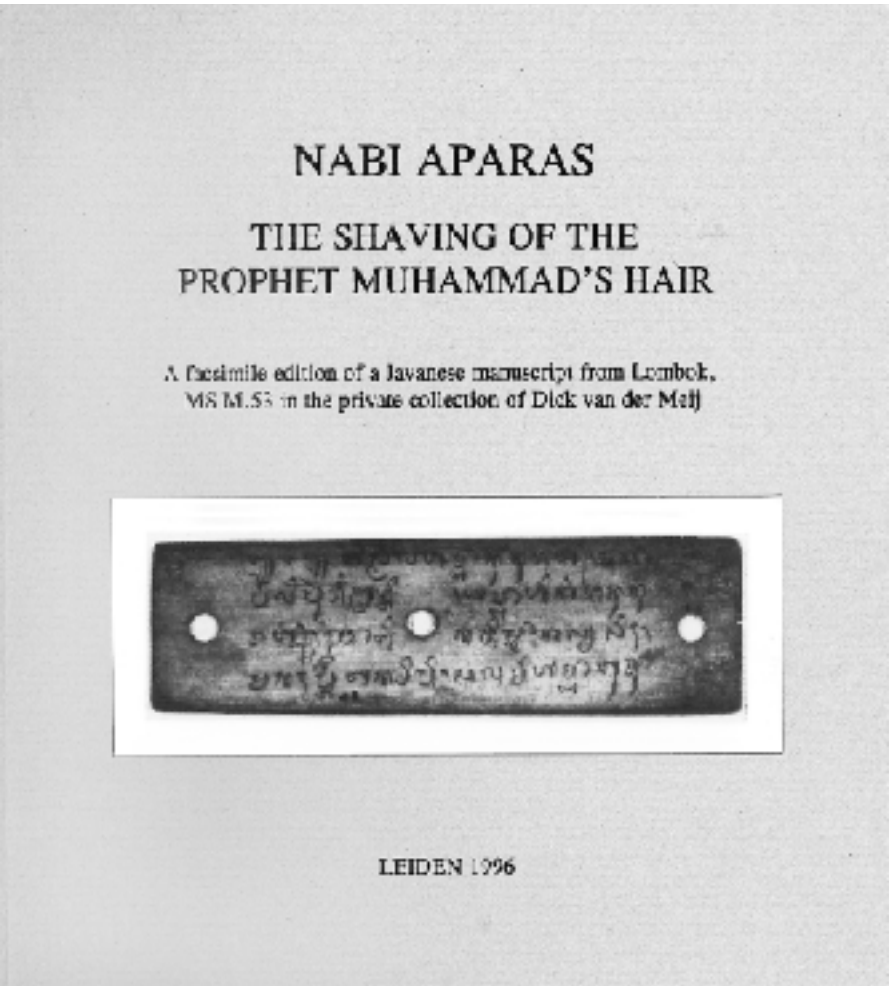
Book presentation
JAN JUST WITKAM

Since 1993, six volumes have appeared in the series *Manuscripta Indonesica*, now a joint publishing project between INIS (Indonesian-Netherlands Cooperation in Islamic Studies, Leiden University) and the Legatum Warnerianum in Leiden University Library. More are in the making. Each volume contains (at least) an actual size black-and-white reproduction of an Indonesian manuscript, with an introduction containing a physical description of the original manuscript and placing it in its cultural or ritual context. The contents of the volume sometimes go beyond these basic descriptions by adding a transliteration, translation or an electronic version.

Not all volumes present an Islamic text. However, all volumes have a direct or indirect relevance to Indonesian culture, thus in most cases to Islam. To date, five of the six originals reproduced originate from the Oriental collections of the Leiden University Library, the sixth being held in a private collection. There are plans to expand through cooperation with other institutions. This is not due to difficulty in choice or reproduction of manuscripts; they are available in overwhelming numbers, both in Leiden and in other public collections. Simply reproducing them as they are would be a merely technical operation. Compiling the introduction to each volume, however, takes time, effort and expertise. Such a detailed introduction gives added value, considered by the editors to be of primary importance, to each volume.

Since the beginning of the 19th century, an impressive number of manuscripts from Southeast Asia have come to the Netherlands, as opposed to the 17th and 18th centuries when few made their way to Europe. British collections were the first (end of the 18th century) to add Southeast Asian materials to their holdings on an organized scale. The collection of Oriental manuscripts at the Leiden University Library comprises one of the largest repositories of Southeast Asian manuscript materials in the world. This collection is enlarged on a regular basis, made possible by governmental and private funding. Gifts or bequests constitute, and have constituted, a considerable amount of the manuscripts acquired. Those manuscripts commissioned by scholars in the field form an important part of the latter categories. In colonial times, manuscripts were sometimes acquired as war booty or by confiscation. Leiden University Library and the library of the Bataviaasch Genootschap, now the Perpustakaan Nasional (National Library) in Jakarta, have equally profited from these circumstances. About two thirds of the approximately 25,000 Oriental manuscripts in the Leiden collection are of Southeast Asian origin. The majority of these originate from the Indonesian archipelago and Malaysia, most of them having been produced in the 19th or 20th century. One may fairly say that all cultures and languages from the areas that have possessed a written tradition are represented in the collection.

Manuscripta Indonesica Basic Tools of Research



In *Manuscripta Indonesica*, the focus is on the manuscript. Publishing the manuscript in facsimile should cause as little alteration as possible with regards to form, size, and overall outward appearance. Some concessions are inevitable, however. The use of contemporary paper would be impossible, and *lontar* (palm leaf), *dluang* (tree bark paper) or other traditional materials even more so. Ideas to manufacture facsimiles of Batak texts on bamboo or tree bark have at some stage been entertained by the editors of the series, only to be quickly discarded as either impractical or too costly to implement. Due to financial considerations it is even out of the question to reproduce the original colours in print, the print-run of the series totalling only a few hundred copies. Furthermore, it is not laxity but rather fundamental theoretical considerations, which have brought the editors to decide

not to do any 'textual editing' whatsoever. The original manuscript is held in high esteem and it is therefore reproduced without any editorial modification, thus maintaining all its characteristics of form, spelling and other peculiarities. ♦

Manuscripta Indonesica is edited by Wim Stokhof, Roger Tol and Jan Just Witkam. The volumes appear at irregular intervals. Orders can be sent to Legatum Warnerianum, Leiden University Library, P.O. Box 9501, NL-2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands (e-mail: witkam@rulub.leidenuniv.nl).

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The following volumes of *Manuscripta Indonesica* (ISSN 0929-6484) have been published:

- Volume 1:** *Hikayat Isma Yatim by Ismail and Hikayat Sultan Mogul mengajarkan anaknya : a facsimile edition of manuscript Cod. Or. 1693 in the Library of Leiden University / with an introduction by Roger Tol & Jan Just Witkam.* Leiden: Indonesian Linguistics Development Project (ILDEP) in co-operation with Legatum Warnerianum in the Library of Leiden University, 1993. XVI, 144 p., facs; 35 cm. ISBN 90-73006-02-3
- Volume 2:** *Mukhtasar Tawarikh al-Wusta : a short chronicle of the Riau region : a facsimile edition of manuscript Cod. Or. 1999 in the Library of Leiden University / with an introduction by Roger Tol & Jan Just Witkam.* Leiden: Indonesian Linguistics Development Project (ILDEP) in co-operation with Legatum Warnerianum in the Library of Leiden University, 1993. XIII, 26 p., 36 cm. ISBN 90-73006-03-1
- Volume 3:** *Serat lokapala kawi : an eighteenth-century manuscript of the old Javanese Arjunawijaya by Mpu Tantular : a facsimile edition of manuscript Cod. Or. 2048 in the Library of Leiden University / with an introduction by Bernard Arps & Willem van der Molen.* Leiden: Indonesian Linguistics Development Project (ILDEP) in co-operation with Legatum Warnerianum in the Library of Leiden University, 1994. XLVI, 90 p., facs., 35 cm. ISBN 90-73006-04-X
- Volume 4:** *Gita Yuddha Mengwi or Kidung Ndèrèt : a facsimile edition of manuscript Cod. Or. 23.059 in the Library of Leiden University / with an introduction by H.I.R. Hinzler.* Leiden: Indonesian Linguistics Development Project (ILDEP) in co-operation with Legatum Warnerianum in The Library of Leiden University, 1994. 32 p., facs., 50 x 20 cm. ISBN 90-73006-05-8
- Volume 5:** *Mystical illustrations from the teachings of Syaikh Ahmad Al-Qusyasyi : a facsimile edition on paper and CD-ROM of a manuscript from Aceh (Cod. Or. 2222) in the Library of Leiden University / with introductions by Aad Janson, Roger Tol & Jan Just Witkam.* Leiden: Indonesian-Netherlands Cooperation in Islamic Studies (INIS) in co-operation with Legatum Warnerianum in the Library of Leiden University, 1995. XXXIV, 30 p., facs., 27 x 17 cm. ISBN 90-73006-07-4. There is a web presentation of this volume: <http://www.leidenuniv.nl/pun/ubhtm/ubor.or2vier.html>.
- Volume 6:** *Nabi Aparas. The shaving of the Prophet Muhammad's hair : a facsimile edition of a Javanese manuscript from Lombok, MS M.53 in the private collection of Dick van der Meij / with an introduction, transliteration and translation by Dick van der Meij.* Leiden: Indonesian-Netherlands Cooperation in Islamic Studies (INIS) in co-operation with Legatum Warnerianum in the Library of Leiden University, 1996. 80 p., facs., 16 x 16 cm. ISBN 90-73006-08-2.