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Bujangga Manik: or, Java in the fifteenth century: an edition and study of Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Jav. b. 3 (R)

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Citation

West, A. J. (2021, May 20). *Bujangga Manik: or, Java in the fifteenth century: an edition and study of Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS. Jav. b. 3 (R)*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3163618>

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Issue date: 2021-05-20

Acknowledgements

This thesis was not written under the best of circumstances and would not have been remotely possible without the help and support of Varvara, my wife; my parents, James and Kate; my aunt Geraldine; or my supervisors, Bernard Arps and Aone van Engelenhoven. It would not have come about, either, without the work of Jacobus Noorduyn, whose text of *Bujangga Manik* I first read in a cafe on High Street in Oxford during my lunch break a couple of years before beginning my doctoral research. Special thanks also go to Panji Topan Bahagia, Aditia Gunawan, Ilham Nurwansah, and Wayan Jarrah Sastrawan, discussions with whom having helped significantly in the formulation of many of the ideas in this work. Copious cups of strong black Irish tea made the work bearable.

Without my students and colleagues at Berlitz Language Centre in The Hague I doubt I would have had the money to make it through the Ph.D. I am also indebted to the large number of people who contributed advice, papers, corrections, moral support, help with transcriptions and translations, (on occasion) money, and many other things via Twitter and through other networks, online and off. It would not be possible to note all the people who have assisted in ways large and small, but here is a partial alphabetical list nonetheless: Nadeem Ahmad, Anton Alifandi, Timothy Allen, Nurul Azlan, Maja Bäckvall, Eric Beckman, Teresa Birks, Jonah Bomgaars, Alina Boyden, Philip Boyes, Bianca Buchholz, Eka Budiarti, Ian Burdon, Sara Charles, John Cheong-Holdaway, Grace Choong, Lars Christensen, Paul Clammer, Paul Cobb, Nithin Coca, John Conroy, Ambar Corbridge, Joe Cuthbert, Lily Dahmayanti, Scott Davies, Suzanne Doig, Tim Dooling, Jo Edge, Eric Fanning, Peter Frankopan, Robert Friedrich, Annabel Gallop, Christine Garcia, Pawel Gaska, Caitlin Green, Monica H. Green, Guy Halsall, Tim Hannigan, Andi Haswidi, Ronny Hendrawan, Tom Hoogervorst, Steffen Hope, Sarah Hovde, Wen-Yi Huang, Eleanor Janega, Doris Jedamski, Eleanor K. Jones, Garrett Kam, Jonathan Katz, Stephanie Lahey, Sarah Lambert, Tom Lecaque, Michael Leadbetter, Janet Lee, Tse Yin Lee, Sjoerd Levelt, Herald van der Linde, Timothy Lubin, Ismail Lutfi, Sherri Makhijani, E. C. Matthijssen, Katherine McDonald, Stuart McDonald, Joumana Medlej, Hanneke Meijer, Joris Meijer, Gregory Melle, Cody Michaels, Alicia Miguélez, Willem van der Molen, Avery Morrow, C. A. Mostert, Stephennie Mulder, Muhammad Najib, Theo Nash, David Nathan-Maister, Janine Nicol, Hélène Njoto, Marianne O'Doherty, Gordon Peake, Natali Pearson, Cliff Pereira, Pradewi TC, Michael Prior-Jones, David Pritchard, Josephine Quinn, Abdul Rahman, Greg Ralph, Charles Randles, Yael Rice, Norman Ricklefs, Chris Riedel, Karen Robinson, Intan Paramita, Óscar Perea Rodríguez, Thomas Rosario, Christopher Rouse, Anna Siebach-Larsen, Thomas Schmid, Katherine Schofield, Soon-Tzu Speechley, Sara Oberg Stradal, Lena Strid, Sidharto Suryodipuro, Freddy Tedja, Olov Tjerngren, Krithika Varagur, Raúl Villagrasa-Elías, Willemijn Waal, Geoff Wade, Kim Walker, Björn Weiler, Tom Westbrook, Odette Westmijze, Edward White, Hope Winberry, Calvin Wong Tze Loon, and Stephen Yeager.

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Résumé

Alexander Joseph West (born Leamington Spa, UK, on the 19th of November 1987) is a citizen of Ireland whose schooling and upbringing took place chiefly in England. After taking his A-Levels at Peter Symonds Sixth Form College in Winchester (2006), he studied for a bachelor's degree in Chinese at the University of Leeds, graduating in 2010 with a 2:i. After that he did an MSc in social anthropology at Oxford University (2011), where he focussed on the ethnography of eastern Indonesia. West then trained as a teacher of English-as-a-foreign-language and worked in Oxford for several years, during which time he learned to read Jawi (Malay in Arabic script) and Old French, among other things. In August 2016, he got married and made the mistake of moving to the Netherlands to pursue an MA in Asian Studies, from which he graduated *cum laude* in 2017 with a thesis on the Old Sundanese narrative poem *Bujangga Manik*. He unsuccessfully applied for Ph.D funding in early 2018, hoping to produce a new edition and study of *Bujangga Manik* at the Institute of Area Studies at Leiden University. He decided to pursue the doctorate regardless, beginning on June 1st 2018 and submitting the thesis on the 22nd of September 2020. He worked as an English teacher throughout, first in The Hague and then online during the coronavirus pandemic.

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