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Layered loyalties: the Natuurkundige Commissie in the Netherlands Indies (1820-1850)

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Layered Loyalties:

**The Natuurkundige Commissie in
the Netherlands Indies (1820-1850)**

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Dedicated to the 'hidden' participants in this project: the unnamed people who have diligently scanned and photographed the archival material and many of the nineteenth-century publications used in this study

A Note to the Reader

This book is steeped in the colonial world of the nineteenth century. Our attitude to and our language about colonialism has markedly changed in recent decades. However, due to the historical nature of this study, I have had no choice but to occasionally use terminology and quote passages that are nowadays considered to be derogatory, racist and Eurocentric. I only use these words and phrases because to do otherwise is to deny the reality of history. I take a stance against the ideas of colonialism, racism and Eurocentrism that were so prevalent in the early nineteenth century.

In addition, I have chosen to use historical names for some of the more well-known locations in the Indonesian Archipelago that feature in this study, like Batavia (Jakarta), Buitenzorg (Bogor), Borneo (Kalimantan), or Celebes (Sulawesi). For other place names I have mostly tried to use the current name and spelling as much as possible, like Benkulu, Dejima, Banten, etc. If the current name of a place could not be established, I have used the name as presented in the original sources.

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