Foreword

We dedicate this volume to the memory of Claire Holt, who died on May 29, 1970, as her work on the manuscript was nearing completion.

This foreword was conceived originally as conveying to Mrs. Holt the thanks of the Asia Society and its Indonesia Council, under whose auspices this work is published, for the design of the symposium and for assuming a central and crucial responsibility in its preparation for publication. Our debt to her must now be acknowledged in mourning.

Her earlier volume, *Art in Indonesia*, and the present work stand as monuments to her scholarship, her love for her Asian friends, and her desire that people everywhere shall share her understanding of Asia.

She had known many of the facets of Asia's civilizations, and she moved from one culture to another, Asian, European, American, with ease, elegance, and effect. Other scholars have investigated the political and military structures and functions, the economic patterns, and the social systems of Indonesia. In this, many have repeated the one-dimensional approaches of the journalists, who seemed to know much about Asia but often little enough about Asians. A few writers did relate concepts of power and politics to religious belief and traditional visions of a spiritual world. But none was so aware as she of the Indonesian's connection of unseen worlds with the realities of everyday life and politics.

Mrs. Holt was one of the forces which have made the Asia Society an increasingly useful instrument of trans-Pacific discourse. Sensitive and resourceful, she designed brilliant Indonesian-American

projects for the Society to undertake and worked hard for their achievement. Her loss is deeply felt.

We must express warm thanks to Professors Benedict R. O'G. Anderson and James Siegel, both of Cornell University, for preparing the manuscript for publication and for gallantly bringing this project to completion. To other friends of Claire Holt, at Cornell, in New York, in New Haven, in Washington, in Indonesia, and elsewhere, who helped with this volume, the Society and its Indonesia Council must add further words of gratitude. Two recent chairmen of the Council, Karl J. Pelzer and Michael Harris, in whose terms of office Mrs. Holt gave shape and body to the symposium, and Miss Mary Ann Siegfried, Mrs. Jordan Getz, and Mrs. Betty Holtz, who have provided the Council with the Society's staff assistance, also deserve very cordial thanks. Special acknowledgment is due the Rockefeller Foundation, whose grant to the Society's country councils program made this study possible.

The Society is obliged to add the traditional disclaimer and to assert that the views of the authors of these essays are theirs and not the Society's. As a nonpolitical educational organization, it cannot take any stands in the political sphere. It can hope to enlighten; it cannot assume a position or counsel one.

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