Editors' preface

This double issue of *Wacana, Journal of the Humanities of Indonesia* (2019 Vol. 20 Nos. 1 and 2) on "Indonesian heritage and library collections I and II" is the result of a cooperation between *Wacana* and KITLV-Jakarta. It was prepared by *Wacana* (Susi Moeimam) in collaboration with Sadiah Boonstra (2019-2020 Asia Scholar at the University of Melbourne/Curator of Public Programmes at Asia TOPA, Melbourne), on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the KITLV-Jakarta office. An international seminar with the same theme will be held on 25 June 2019 in Jakarta, in cooperation with the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI). It is with great pride and pleasure that *Wacana* is able to present a range of articles giving new insights regarding heritage and library collections in Indonesia as well as abroad.

The fifteen contributions in this double issue reflect a variety of approaches to the study, understanding, and use of heritage and library collections in relation to Indonesia as they exist in an evolving global reality in the twenty-first century. Heritage and collections, whether they comprise of books, objects or documents, are closely related to and intertwined with history, but they are not the same fields of study. There are many different ways to think about history and heritage. Often history is understood as the study of the past predominantly based on texts, but increasingly historians are turning to alternative sources. They are teaming up with archeologists and anthropologists to study archaeological and museum objects, and hence to write and rewrite history. There is also a myriad of understandings about the nature and use of heritage – both intangible and tangible. Laurajane Smith (2006, *Uses of heritage*; Oxon: Routledge) understands heritage less as a "thing" than as a cultural and social process. Heritage is very much about creating ways and connections in the present to sites, performances, ritual, activities, and other acts of remembering the past. Through this lens we can discover how present-day social processes and activities create value and meaning for tangible heritage such as sites of heritage, collections of books and objects, as well as intangible heritage.

A number of articles in this double issue use collections of objects, books, and documents as sites of knowledge retrieval. Gallop provides insight into Southeast Asian manuscripts held in the Sir Hans Sloane collection in the British Library. Tol's article focuses on a collection of Panji Tales in Leiden University Libraries that have been incorporated into the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme. The often-ignored illustrations in Javanese *pawukon* manuscripts in the same library are the subject of Van der Meij's article. Wieringa contextualizes the private library of Ben Mboi within the larger landscape of libraries in Indonesia. The social realities of a body of propaganda literature in the 1920s in Yogyakarta produced by the colonial government in an attempt to control the moral, social, and political order are the topic of Margana's article. Boonstra describes the social and political process of

heritage in the context of collecting, exhibiting, and performing wayang at the Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam. Vickers, meanwhile, discusses a similar process regarding the construction of Ubud, Bali, as a centre of tradition, a concept that has become conflated with heritage. Ouwehand argues that the materiality of photo albums and their captions in the KITLV photo collection make them three-dimensional objects, the meanings of which are also produced by the institutional context in which the collection resides.

The body of articles presented in this thematic edition shows that each collection exists and struggles within its own social and political reality, facing challenges specific for their particular context in Indonesia or the Netherlands. The case of the Java Archival Guide Project, a joint project between the National Archives of Indonesia and the National Archives of the Netherlands, discussed by Dwiandari and Van Langen, aims at locating and making an inventory of the size of the local and provincial archives created during colonial times. Some of these archives cannot be located today, even though they are known to have existed. There are also collections and archives that are literally crumbling and in danger of disappearance. Van Klinken raises this issue regarding the newspaper archives at the National Library Indonesia, where unique copies of Indonesia newspapers are on the verge of vanishing. Bogaerts writes about a similar case concerning a TVRI Yogyakarta series aired in the 1990s that has not been archived, and is now becoming a mere memory.

Some authors voice hope and courage for the future. Both Akbar and Marwoto offer different solutions to making Indonesian museum collections relevant to society today. With a vision for the future, new archives are being created throughout Southeast Asia. Van Donkersgoed, writing in the context of Banda, envisions a virtual interactive platform facilitating the establishment of an archive with a bottom-up approach, in which the perspectives of both former colonizer and colonized are reflected. Wardani describes a grass-roots visual arts archive initiative at the Indonesian Visual Arts Archive in Yogyakarta, as well as a more institutionalized approach to creating visual art archives at the National Gallery of Singapore.

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