

IN MEMORIAM: W. J. S. PURWADARMINTA (1904-1968)

John M. Echols

With the passing of Pak Purwo, Indonesia and Indonesian scholarship have suffered a grievous loss. An outstanding lexicographer and grammarian, with many publications to his credit, he died in Jogjakarta on November 28, 1968 after a short illness. When Mr. Hassan Shadily and I called on him in February of the same year, his alertness and interest in his teaching gave no indication that in six months he would be gone.

Welfridus Joseph Sabarija Purwadarminta was born in Jogjakarta November 5th, 1904. He was a Catholic and upon completion of his schooling, he taught in various Catholic mission schools for some years. In 1932, he went to Japan, at the invitation of the Japanese government, to teach Malay and Javanese at the Geikokugo Gakko, where he spent five years. He returned to Indonesia in 1937 and joined the editorial staff of Balai Pustaka. After World War II, he joined the *Lembaga Penyelidikan Bahasa dan Kebudayaan* (Institute for Language and Culture Research) on Djalan Diponegoro 72 in Djakarta and it was here that I first met him in 1951. He had just completed the second edition of his joint work with Dr., now Professor, A. Teeuw of Leiden, *Indonesisch-Nederlands Woordenboek*. At his death he was teaching at the I.K.I.P. Sanata Dharma in Jogjakarta.

Space does not permit an exhaustive listing of his scholarly works, but he will undoubtedly be best remembered for his monumental *Kamus Umum Bahasa Indonesia* (1st ed. 1952, 2nd ed. 1954, 3rd ed. 1961, and vol. 1 (A-O) of the 4th ed. 1966). To the best of my knowledge, his last major contribution was his participation in the compilation of the very substantial and beautifully printed *Kamus Latin-Indonesia* (Semarang: Penerbitan Jajasan Kanisius, 1969, 943 p.).

Although he is best known as a lexicographer, he also wrote short stories, poetry and a novel the latter under the pseudonym Ajirabas, a reversal of one of his Christian names. At one time he was a member of the editorial board of *Pudjangga Baru*.

Pak Purwo's death leaves a void in Indonesian lexicography but it is hoped that his mantel will soon be assumed by another, equally energetic and dedicated to the very important task of recording the rapidly expanding lexicon of Bahasa Indonesia.