

IN MEMORIAM: CHRISTIAAN HOOYKAAS (1902-1979)

John M. Echols

In the late afternoon of August 13, 1979, Dr. Christiaan Hooykaas was killed in a traffic accident while riding his bicycle near his home in The Hague. Internationally known as a scholar in the field of Balinese studies with special concern for Hindu-Buddhism, his many publications over the past four or more decades attest to his productivity and vast learning in this area. Thoroughly trained in Indonesian studies, he defended his doctoral dissertation *Tantri, de Middel-Javaansche Pañcatantrabewerking* at Leiden in 1929. This was followed by some years spent in the Netherlands East Indies where he taught and published several widely used Indonesian language readers, *Proza en poëzie van oud-Java* (1933) and *Modern Maleis zakelijk proza* (1947).

After World War II Hooykaas was appointed Reader in Old Javanese at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. It was here that I made my first acquaintance with Chris, in mid-1954. On another occasion I visited him at his home in Roydon, Essex and recall not only his warm hospitality and delightful conversation, but also his enormous library which occupied much of his house. Here he conducted much of his research in later years (and some of his classes, I believe) until he retired from the SOAS post and moved to The Hague.

Hooykaas will be regarded as a prominent member of an older group of Dutch scholars who devoted their lives to the pursuit of various aspects of Indonesian culture and civilization. His contribution was great and his passing, while still vigorous and productive, an especially serious blow to Balinese studies. Indeed, of those who received their doctorates in The Netherlands between 1920 and 1940 some are no longer living but, happily, most who are continue to produce significant monographs and articles based on their broad and deep knowledge of various facets of Indonesia, its culture, history, and languages.

With Hooykaas's death, a fine gentleman has left us, but he has also bequeathed us an important legacy of scholarship.

