

A Note on Three Reference Works on Indonesian Islam

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Buku Islam sejak tahun 1945 [Indonesian Books on Islam Published since 1945]. By Pusat Informasi Islam, Yayasan Masagung. Jakarta: C. V. Haji Masagung, 1988 (second edition). xxviii, 192 pp. (Paper)

Direktori Pesantren I [Directory of Islamic Boarding Schools], I. Jakarta: Perhimpunan Pengembangan Pesantren dan Masyarakat (P3M), 1986. xxxiii, 415 pp. (Paper)

Leksikon Islam [Islamic Lexicon]. Jakarta: Penerbit Pustazet Perkasa, 1988. 2 vols, xx, 801 pp.

Indonesian language materials on Islam have long been popular in Indonesia. The three recently published sources listed here belong to a small grouping within that wider literature, intended to serve as library reference works for use within Indonesia. While there have been some earlier isolated attempts at producing dictionaries and lists of important terms, the magnitude of these particular works indicates a new trend toward understanding Islam more deeply and comprehensively.

Indonesian Islam has been a subject of much academic debate and misunderstanding. While Westerners have discussed its purity in comparison to Middle Eastern Islam, among Indonesians the major dispute in the recent past has been about its place in national development. Scholars, from Indonesia and elsewhere, will find the works under review useful both for explaining important aspects of Islamic development in Indonesia and as keys to seeking further information. As recent and important reference works on Indonesian Islam, they deserve a place in major libraries dealing with Asian subjects; they are also inexpensive enough to be added to personal collections of Indonesianists, Asian generalists, and specialists on Islam.

All three works were prepared by authors who regard standard Sunni belief and behavior as important. All three authors were also cognizant of the political place of Islam in Indonesian life and carefully observed the national guidelines for writing about religious subjects.

Buku Islam lists the books under the code for library classification undertaken originally by the Islamic Library in Yogyakarta and made compatible with the Dewey Decimal System (generally used in Indonesian libraries) in 1987. Most books published in Indonesia on Islam since 1945 are listed in three ways: according to the library classification system; by title; and by author. The approximately 5,500 entries include works originating in Indonesia and translated foreign works. Finally, the volume includes a list of Indonesian publishers of Islamic materials who are members of Ikapi, the Indonesian publishers union.

Buku Islam compares favorably with, but does not replace A. S. Suhardi's *Bibliografi Islam Indonesia* (Jakarta: MAWI and UNPAR, 1985), which brought together books and articles on Indonesian Islam appearing both in and outside Indonesia. The Suhardi work utilized a classification that placed emphasis on non-Islamic categories and did not attempt to assign library catalog numbers. Finding all the works listed in *Buku Islam* will be difficult for the user, but it does serve as a basic guide to Indonesian Islamic literature, which will save considerable time for scholars interested in that literature.

Direktori Pesantren is a guide to 255 *pesantren*, i.e., Islamic preparatory or boarding schools. These schools are the backbone of the Indonesian Muslim educational system, that

has perennially provided schooling for religious scholars and a dedicated Muslim lay population. Many of the graduates of these schools have risen to important positions in Indonesian economic, social, and political life. Each entry includes an historical sketch of the *pesantren*, provides the names and status of prominent scholars teaching there, gives enrollment figures, lists prominent Arabic-language texts covered in studies, describes the layout of the campus, and mentions prominent graduates. Most of the schools listed in this first volume are on Java, with only 18 of them being located outside that island. The writing is rather pedestrian but the range of institutions covered is impressive.

Direktori Pesantren updates and extends the material found in the classic work of Mahmud Yunus, *Sedjarah Pendidikan Islam di Indonesia* [The History of Muslim Education in Indonesia]. (Jakarta: Mutiara, 1979), but lacks the historical background of Muslim education provided by Yunus. *Direktori Pesantren* will be useful for Indonesian Muslim families considering *pesantren* for their children and will aid them in beginning the selection process. On the other hand, Western scholars on Indonesia interested in understanding the *pesantren* system will need also to have read Zamakhsyari Dhofier's *Tradisi Pesantren* [The Tradition of Indonesian Muslim Boarding Schools] (Jakarta: LP3ES, 1982), a rendition of his dissertation at the Australian National University, which provides background about the purpose, operation, and importance of the boarding school in the Indonesian Muslim community.

Leksikon Islam provides over 3,200 entries on a range of topics useful to Indonesian Muslims. Although many entries are short, consisting of only a few words or a brief sentence, several are more extensive, reaching a page or two in length. There are entries on Arabic terms found in the Indonesian language; Islamic religious terms; events and personalities in standard Muslim history; places, nations, and political personalities in areas of the modern world dominated by Muslims; the Islamic content of historical and contemporary Indonesia; and some references to Islam and Muslims elsewhere in Southeast Asia. The volume has numerous photographs of places and personalities, as well as charts and colored plates of Islamic art and artistic sites.

The writing in *Leksikon Islam* is direct, descriptive, and easy to understand. As a general reference work for the public it can take its place alongside the *Ensiklopedi Indonesia* (Jakarta: Ichtiar Baru, 1980–1984), although this lexicon does not have either the range or depth of subject matter treated there. Nonetheless it is a work of comparable usefulness. In the religious realm, it is not as technical as either I. A. Sururi, *Kumpulan Istilah Agama* [Collection of Religious Terms] (Surabaya: Al-Ikhlas, 1984), or Hussein Bahreisj, *450 Masalah Agama Islam* [450 Questions Concerning the Islamic Religion] (Surabaya: Al-Ikhlas, 1980).

Leksikon Islam is one of the first reference books in Indonesian to give short, yet informative, sketches of the Islamic sciences, including general principles and references to the traditional Arabic bibliography. The tone of the entries on the contemporary Middle East is subdued and care has been taken in presenting information about Israel and Palestine. The Lexicon also includes a guide to transliteration of Arabic into Indonesian, which should serve as a useful guide to scholars attempting to track Arabic terms and names as they appear in Indonesian works.