

IN MEMORIAM G. F. OCKELOEN, 1904-1966

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Shortly after New Year's night, 1966, as the result of injuries received in an automobile accident, Gijsbertus Franciscus Ockeloen passed away at his home, after a long career in the publishing business.<sup>(1)</sup> He is, perhaps, best known for his numerous publications relating to Indonesian bibliography, works which, with all their shortcomings, are still indispensable reference tools and constitute the nearest thing to an early national bibliography of Indonesia.

Born February 28, 1904 in Utrecht, Ockeloen completed elementary school and later went to work for the Netherlands Railway (Nederlandse Spoorweg), at the same time attending secondary school in the evenings. A heart ailment forced him to terminate his employment with the Netherlands Railway. He became interested in books and for about five years (1923-1928) he was employed by the following bookdealers, Broese in Utrecht, Museumboekhandel and Meulenhoff in Amsterdam and Loosjes in Haarlem. He continued his education throughout this period by attending night classes in modern languages and bookkeeping. He found the work fascinating but promotions were few and far between so he applied to the wellknown bookdealer and publishing house, G. Kolff & Company in Amsterdam, for a position. Kolff had several branches in what was then called the Netherlands Indies. Ockeloen was accepted and on June 13, 1928 he left to join the branch in Surabaya. He was to remain in Indonesia for many years, not returning until 1958, I believe. At that time he joined Uitgeverij Spectrum in Utrecht where he remained until his death.

Through his practical concern with the Indonesian book trade from both the selling and the publishing angles, he soon discovered the paucity of bibliographical guides to retrospective materials and the virtually total absence of lists of current publications. Having become acquainted with J. A. van der Chijs' pioneering and monumental bibliographies of Indonesian publications up to 1870,<sup>(2)</sup> he began the compilation of a continuation

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(1) I am indebted to Mr. Ockeloen's daughter and to Mr. A. van Marle of Amsterdam, for biographical data. See also the brief obituary notice in Nieuwsblad voor de boekhandel 133 (Jan. 6, 1966), 8.

(2) a) Proeve eener Nederlandsch-Indische Bibliographie van 1659-1870. Batavia, Brunining & Wijt, 1875. vi, 425 p. (Bataviaach Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen. Verhandelingen, v. 37);

of van der Chijs. This, and later works, were true labors of love, undertaken as a sort of hobby. I well recall in 1951 sitting with him after work in the evenings at his pavilion on Djalan Sulandjana 18 in Bandung as he discussed the need for modest financial assistance and additional clerical help in order to do a more thorough job of collecting data on publications, especially in the absence of any legal depository for a copy of everything published in Indonesia.

In spite of the many problems in the postwar period, however, he did an amazingly good job of assembling data for his bibliographical guides and all who are or will be concerned with Indonesian bibliography from 1871 to 1954 will be in his debt for his magnificent efforts.

Ockeloen arranged his bibliographies as "dictionary catalogues" of a sort<sup>(3)</sup> and his purpose in preparing them was not merely to record all Indonesian imprints, but equally to have them serve as trade lists which bookdealers might use for ordering and stocking their shops. He devoted a great deal of time and energy in an effort to develop the booktrade somewhat on the style of Western dealers. In this effort he established and edited several trade journals<sup>(4)</sup> which were later replaced by the Berita Bibliografi of Gunung Agung, Djakarta, and by the Berita Bulanan of the Kantor Bibliografi Indonesia, also in Djakarta, the latter under Ockeloen's direction for several years (1956-1956). Both of these continue to appear and make a distinct contribution to Indonesian bibliography today.

It is the hope of those who are concerned with Indonesian bibliographical matters that Indonesian librarians will devote

- b)         . Supplement I. Vermeerderde en verbeterde herdruk voor de jaren 1659-1720, supplement en verbetering - en voor de jaren 1721-1870-1888. II, IV, 95 p. (Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen. Verhandelingen, v. 39);
- c)         . Supplement II. 1903. 64 p. (Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen. Verhandelingen, v. 55, no. 3).

(3) See the criticism of Ockeloen's catalogue for 1950-1951 by a former librarian of the Museum Library, Mrs. C. Vreede-de Stuers, in Nieuwsgier, Jan. 21, 1953, p. 3.

(4) a) Nieuwsblad voor de boekhandel in Nederlandsch-Indië. Jrg. 1, no. 1 (Jan. 1940) - Jrg. 3, no. 2 (Feb. 1942);

b) Madjalah Perdagangan Buku Indonesia. Soerabaia, G. Kolff. th. 1 (1949)-th. 4 (1952).

time to the preparation of bibliographies, general and specialized, for the use of scholars everywhere, and continue the fine tradition in which Ockeloen played a major role.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY OF OCKELOEN'S PUBLICATIONS

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- 1940 Catalogus dari boekoe-boekoe dan madjallah-madjallah jang diterbitkan di Hindia Belanda dari tahoen 1870-1937. Batavia, G. Kolff, 1940. 612 p.
- 1942 Catalogus van in Ned.-Indië verschenen boeken in de jaren 1938-1941 en enkele aanvullingen op de gestencilde catalogus verschenen in 1939. Deel I: Nederlandse uitgave. Batavia-Soerabaja/Amsterdam, G. Kolff, 1942. 322 p.
- 1948 "De Indonesische boekhandel," Economisch weekblad voor Indonesië 14 (1948), no. 2, 27-28.
- 1950 Catalogus dari buku-buku jang diterbitkan di Indonesia. Djilid 1: 1945-1949. Djilid 2: Buku dalam bahasa Melaju, Djawa, dll. 1938-1941. Bandung, G. Kolff, 1950. 115 p.
- 1952 Catalogus dari buku-buku jang diterbitkan di Indonesia. 1950-1951. Bandung, G. Kolff, 1952. 312 p.
- 1954 Catalogus dari buku-buku jang diterbitkan di Indonesia. 1952-1953. Bandung, Gedung Buku Nasional, 1954. 276 p.
- 1955 Catalogus dari buku-buku jang diterbitkan di Indonesia. 1954. Bandung, Gedung Buku Nasional, 1955. 220 p.
- 1955 Perusahaan toko buku. Bandung, Gedung Buku Nasional, 1955. 128 p.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.