

## ON THE TRANSLATIONS

In translating documents from Indonesian and Dutch for inclusion in this collection, we have adopted the long-established practice in the English-speaking world of aiming for fluency and readability in the translated English text. Generally speaking, our sources are documentary in nature rather than literary, and for that reason we have considered it important to attempt to convey their literal meanings as historical documents in standard English prose, Americanized in spelling and style but nonetheless bearing the impress of American, Australian, and international English usages. In routing the translations through these traditions, we have endeavored to make the translations as accessible and enjoyable for an English reader as we believe the source texts are for readers of Indonesian and Dutch. In rare cases where strict adherence to the literal meaning of part of a text would have resulted in unavoidable awkwardness or obscurity in English, we have chosen to translate more freely, but in all these cases we have taken care to ensure that the intent of the source text—as we understand it—has been preserved in the English translation we have provided.

For consistency and ease of reading, we have adopted a number of stylistic conventions in our presentation of the English versions. Titles cited by the authors of the source texts are indicated with quotation marks in the case of shorter works and italics in the case of longer works. In approaching the source texts, we have sometimes encountered phrases that are not set off by quotation marks but that in our judgment are offered as quoted material. In those cases, for consistency of style and clarity, we have tended to add quotation marks, indicating the addition in a note. Also using notes, we have indi-

cated the use of English in the source texts where it may be considered significant. Where typographical errors or misspellings occur in the source texts, these are corrected in the translations, particularly when they relate to names and book titles. When this action results in a significant departure from the source text, we advise the reader in a note.

In contrast to English and other European languages, expression in Indonesian is almost always gender-neutral. As a result, and also in accordance with our own preference, we have attempted to avoid gender-biased English wherever possible in the translations. In a minority of cases, where keeping gender bias out of the English translation results in clumsy or non-idiomatic expression, and where the use of a gendered pronoun is in keeping with the English of the period of the source text, we have allowed instances of gender-biased language to stand.

Beyond this prefatory outline of our general translation practices, we give further consideration to some of the theoretical questions posed by our approach to translation in the afterword.