

A NOTE ON MANUSCRIPTS,  
SPELLING, PRONUNCIATION,  
AND TRANSLATION



Most of the original Javanese manuscripts referred to in this book are from three repositories in Surakarta, Central Java: the Sasana Pustaka in the Kraton Surakarta, the Reksa Pustaka in the Mangkunagaran Palace, and the Museum Radyapustaka. Citations of these manuscripts include two reference systems. The initial "MS." reference refers to the catalog entry of the local repository (with "SP" for the Sasana Pustaka, "RP" for the Reksa Pustaka, and "Rp" for the Radyapustaka). The "SMP" reference is based on the cataloging system of the Surakarta Manuscript Project. In this system, "KS" refers to the Kraton Surakarta, "MN" to the Mangkunagaran, and "Rp" to the Radyapustaka. A complete bibliographic entry with author, title, place and date of composition and inscription, and double references appears as follows:

Ronggasasmita, Mas. *Suluk Acih*. Composed Aceh, 1815; inscribed Surakarta, 1867. MS. SP 15 Ca; SMP KS 502.

In many cases the provenance and dating of the manuscripts cannot be established. The abbreviation "s.a." (*sine anno*) indicates that the date is unknown; "s.l." (*sine loco*), that the place is unknown. Attributions are in brackets.

Microfilm copies of the Surakarta manuscripts are available for reading at the originating repositories and at the Indonesian National Archives in Jakarta as well as at Cornell University Library's Echols Collection and at the University of Michigan. The first of a four-volume annotated catalog for these manuscripts, my *Javanese Literature in Surakarta Manuscript*, vol. I: *Introduction and Manuscripts of the Karaton Surakarta*, was published by the Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University in 1993.

In addition to the Surakarta manuscripts, I also refer to several manu-

scripts from the Oriental Collection of the Leiden University Library and from the Oriental and India Office Collection of the British Library. The abbreviation "LOr" indicates Leiden Oriental manuscripts; "IOL" indicates India Office Library manuscripts.

My spelling of Javanese words follows, with some exceptions, the system standard in Indonesia today. The exceptions are as follows:

1. I distinguish the *taling* (é or è) from the *pepet* (e).

2. I spell and transliterate Javanese proper names as their owners do or did. I do not, for example, follow the standard academic Javanological spelling of "Ranggawarsita" for the poet Ronggawarsita.

The spelling of Javanese words, on the whole, reflects pronunciation. The following list gives the nearest English equivalents to the sounds represented by the letters:

<i>Letter</i>	<i>Approximation in English</i>	<i>Example</i>
/a/	in open syllables, similar to the <i>aw</i> in <i>law</i> in closed syllables, as in <i>father</i>	Jaka babad
/c/	as in an unaspirated English <i>ch</i>	Centhini
/dh/	alveolar <i>d</i> , similar to the English <i>day</i>	Pandhanarang
/d/	dental <i>d</i> , produced with tip of tongue touching inside of upper teeth	Kudus
/e/	similar to the <i>u</i> in <i>cut</i>	semu
/é/	similar to the English <i>ay</i>	Déwaraja
/è/	similar to the <i>e</i> in <i>set</i>	Karèwèd
/i/	in open syllables, as the <i>ee</i> in the English <i>weep</i> in most closed syllables, as in <i>bit</i> in some closed syllables, as in <i>sing</i>	Jawi Majapahit Tingkir
/ng/	as in <i>sing</i>	ngéblat
/o/	in open syllables, similar to the <i>o</i> in <i>hope</i> in closed syllables, similar to the <i>aw</i> in <i>law</i>	ngoko kraton
/r/	trilled or tapped <i>r</i> (no English equivalent)	rasa
/th/	alveolar <i>t</i> , similar to the English <i>later</i>	Centhini
/t/	dental <i>t</i> (see <i>d</i> above)	Tingkir
/u/	in open syllables, similar to the <i>oo</i> in <i>moon</i> in closed syllables, similar to the <i>u</i> in <i>put</i>	suluk suluk

All translations are my own. A glossary of selected terms and titles follows the appendixes.