This is an important section setting out which spellings are used in a number of languages. In Indonesian, the modern spelling is followed. This means that the names of towns known in the past as Djember or Soerabaja, are now spelled Jember and Surabaya. Cities which had a Dutch name in the colonial period (such as Batavia and Buitenzorg) may, depending on the context, be referred to by those names or by their modern Indonesian names of Jakarta and Bogor. The names of estates or plantations, on the other hand, are left in the original spelling. Since most of the material is in languages other than English, quotations (unless otherwise noted) are translations by the author.

Personal names pose a problem. In Indonesia, the tendency has been to put the names of individuals living in colonial times in the modern spelling, Tjipto Mangoenkoesoemo becomes Cipto Mangunkusumo. I do not follow this practice and retain the person’s name as spelled during his lifetime. Presidents Soekarno and Soeharto continued to use the ‘oe’ spelling of their names even in the modern era, and I will follow that example. There are some unusual cases: Roeslan Abdulgani mixes the two spellings of one phoneme in his name. Some Indonesians also adopted new names. Soewardi Soerjaningrat changed his name to Ki Hadjar Dewantoro while Douwes Dekker quite late in life adopted the name of Danudirdjo Setiabuddhi (the first part retaining the two first letters of his original name). I continued to use the name Douwes Dekker, referring to him variously by his first name, Ernest (or Nes as President Soekarno called him) and most often simply as ‘DD’. Dutch names pose less of a problem, although it should be remembered that the common prefix ‘van’ (as in Van Mook) is not the main part of a name and the bibliography and index will list the individual in this case under the letter ‘M’. (An American with a Dutch name beginning with ‘van’, as in Van Niel, will, however, be found under the letter ‘V’.) Generally speaking, academic and aristocratic titles are not included in a person’s name, an occasional exception being made for the (Javanese) term ‘Raden’, a title indicating that the person is a member of an aristocratic family.

A comment must be made about the style that is followed. Although familiar with problems in cross-cultural communication and difference in
editorial practices, I had not anticipated how unnerving seemingly trivial differences may be. The KITLV Press has its own rules when publishing in English. The first concession it made was the use of the American spelling. Another important one involved dates of the month, which will be written out in full to avoid confusion between American and other usages. Other changes were made but some important differences remained. Some readers, therefore, may have to get used to single quotation marks where double ones are expected. Pagination referring to pages 237-39 becomes 237-9, and 11-12 becomes 11-2. Finally, proper names of associations, companies, political parties, etc. (even though in Dutch or Indonesian) are not italicized. These examples serve to alert readers to usages that are different from what they may be familiar with. In many other ways, the KITLV Press was most generous in allowing, for example, the liberal use of photos.

At my insistence – and against the better judgment of the publisher – several photographs of substandard quality are included in this book because of their unique historical value.