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KORTE MEDEDELING

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PROFESSOR M.A. JASPAN'S COLLECTIONS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL

Mervyn Jaspan was born in Johannesburg in 1926. He did anthropological fieldwork in South and East Africa, leading to his Oxford B.Sc. in 1951. From 1955 to 1961 he had appointments in Indonesia, and from 1961 to 1967 in Australia: from 1961 to 1964 he held a Research Fellowship at the Australian National University, Canberra, in the course of which he did fieldwork among the Rejang of southern Sumatra from 1961 to 1963, leading up to his Ph.D. thesis for the ANU: *From patriliney to matriliney: Structural change among the Redjang of Southwest Sumatra*, 1964. In 1967, he was appointed Visiting Professor of Anthropology and Sociology in the University of Leiden. From 1968 till his death in 1975, Professor Jaspan was Director of the Centre for South-East Asian Studies in the University of Hull. During that period, he was working on two major projects: *Theory and practice of traditional medicine in South-East Asia*, and a study of the *Literature of South Sumatra*, including Rejang oral literature and the South Sumatran Malay texts as preserved in the *ka-ga-nga* or *rencong* script: this latter work was begun in collaboration with Dr. P. Voorhoeve, who with his wife and other helpers transliterated into Roman script a large number of these texts.

Professor Jaspan presented a small number of South-East Asian Manuscripts to the Brynmor Jones Library, University of Hull. After his death, a large collection of his working papers were deposited in the Library, and others were held by the Centre for South-East Asian Studies. Part of the library holdings are briefly described in M.C. Ricklefs and P. Voorhoeve: *Indonesian manuscripts in Great Britain* (OUP, 1977), and in the supplement to that work in *BSOAS* 45/2, 1982, pp. 300-22., but there is much more awaiting cataloguing, including a further deposit of Jaspan's papers which will be placed in the Brynmor Jones Library shortly.

The collection contains over 800 items, most of which are typed or written by Jaspan. Nearly half are texts in languages of South-East Asia, rendered in the Roman script. The most substantial part is the Rejang Archive, which includes hand-written field notes, and typescripts of Rejang oral texts and of notes and short essays on various aspects of Rejang anthropology, together numbering over 200 items. There are also 145 South Sumatran Malay texts, some which he collected, but most are copies of transliterations made by Dr. Voorhoeve. Other linguistic materials include Cham traditional texts collected from villages on the Mekong in Cambodia, 1966-7, and notes, mostly of medical interest, in the dialect of Sagada, from the Bontoc Igorot region of northern Luzon. There are smaller numbers of items relating to Java, northern Sumatra, Malaysia and

the Khmer, and some Indonesian texts from other hands relating to local affairs. There are other copies of some of the language texts in the Leiden University Library: Dr. Voorhoeve's original transliterations of South Sumatran Malay texts are at Cod.Or.8447, and a selection of Rejang folk tales from Jaspan's collection are at Cod.Or.18.154. *Jaspan's Materials for a Rejang-Indonesian-English dictionary* were edited from papers in Hull by Dr. P. Voorhoeve, and published by the Department of Linguistics, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, 1984. Since the beginning of 1987, I have been cataloguing Professor Jaspan's collections in Hull with help and advice from Mrs. Helen Jaspan, Dr. Voorhoeve, and members of Hull University Staff, and arrangements are in hand for this to be published by the Centre for South-East Asian Studies, University of Hull, probably in 1989.

Ulverston
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