

"La littérature Indonésienne vue sous son angle Sino-Malais", Paris, EHESS,
14. - 15. Mai 1990

On May 14-15, 1990, the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, hosted an international round table discussion, "Indonesian Literature seen from the Sino-Malay Perspective", bringing together eight contributions on that theme.

Ethnic Chinese living in the former Netherlands Indies produced a large number of works of fiction and translations from both Chinese and Western languages in the years before 1942. Characteristic of these works is that they were written in a dialect of Malay widely spoken by Chinese in the Indies and on the Malay Peninsula (Sino-Malay), which differed from the "High Malay" propagated by the colonial power, yet nevertheless contributed to the formation of modern Indonesian. Dr. Claudine Salmon, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, has documented hundreds of these popular but neglected works, providing a basis for the meeting. This bore fruit in analysis of various aspects of the novels themselves, as in the contribution of James Siegel (Cornell, Ithaca, USA) and Thomas Rieger (Bremen). In addition, Mme. Salmon and Henri Chambert-Loir (CNRS) showed that early Indonesian literature encompassed works by Eurasians, Chinese and Malays, and its audience was equally cosmopolitan.

After 1900, however, colonial society became divided along racial lines. Henk Maier (Leyden), in discussing censorship, posed the question of how Sino-Malay writings could have been ignored for so long. On the other hand, Denys Lombard (EHESS, Paris) showed that some *peranakan* (Indies-born and Malay-speaking) Chinese demonstrated interest in Java's history and culture.

On the second day, attention turned to the question of integration of *peranakan* writers in post-independence Indonesian literature. Ulrich Kratz (School of Oriental and African Studies, London) brought to light the reflections of that group on that very question from the 1950s, while Myra Sidharta (Jakarta), showed that *peranakan* women writers of the 80s, writing as part of the Indonesian literary mainstream, only occasionally deal with specifically Chinese themes. Writers use Indonesian names, while the Sino-Malay dialect itself disappeared in the early post-war years.

The papers, which will be published in a future issue of *Archipel* (Paris), demonstrate that not only the official *Balai Pustaka* publications but Sino-Malay writings, as well as *roman picisan* or "dime novels", have a place in the pre-war Indonesian literary world. They also suggest an interesting field for further research.

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Das unter der Leitung von Prof. W.Kubin vom Seminar für Orientalische Sprachen veranstaltete Symposium brachte Sinologen, Germanisten und Ethnologen zusammen, die aus unterschiedlichen Blickwinkeln und ausgehend von Quellen-