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In memoriam Jacob Vredenburg

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In memoriam Jacob Vredenburgt
Schiedam, 20 November 1926 – Jakarta, 17 November 2020



Photograph received from his granddaughter:
Siti Mariam (2020).



Some selected works from the list of his publications
(source: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2779722.Jacob_Vredenburgt).

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Prof Dr Jacob Vredenburgt was born in Schiedam on 20 November 1926, and passed away on 17 November 2020, at the age of almost ninety-four. He lived in Indonesia for most time of his life and was professor of anthropology at the Hasanuddin University in Makassar in South Sulawesi and at the Universitas Indonesia in Depok (1970-1991). His PhD thesis is entitled *De Baweanners in hun moederland en in Singapore; Een bijdrage tot de kulturele antropologie van Zuidoost-Azië* (The Bawean people in their homeland and in Singapore; A contribution to the cultural anthropology of Southeast Asia) for which he did fieldwork in Singapore and Bawean. He defended his thesis in Leiden in 1968. He was not a very prolific author of academic articles but those he did write became indispensable pieces for research on Islam and anthropology. His most

famous articles are “The Haddj; Some of its features and functions in Indonesia” of 1962 (published in the *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* 118/1: 91-154) and “Dabus in West Java” of 1973 (*Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* 129/2-3: 302-320). Vredembregt was the representative of Leiden University in Southeast Asia based in Jakarta from June 1998 to June 2010. He was instrumental in setting up and maintaining academic relations between Indonesia and the Netherlands together with Professor Wim Stokhof. The programme Indonesian Netherlands Co-operation in Islamic Studies (INIS) of the Projects Division of Leiden University especially was a tremendous success and has produced many ex-fellows who are now university professors and people high up in the Indonesian bureaucracy. Other programmes concerned Papua and linguistics. With Professor Frits Staal, he was the initiator of the International Institute for Islam in the Modern World (ISIM) based in Leiden. It is a pity that the Dutch Government decided to terminate two of the most important international programmes about Islam by withdrawing its funding. Apart from being a scholar, Vredembregt was a prolific novelist and author of many other publications in Indonesian, Dutch, and English. He was also a collector of Indonesian arts and his collection of Chinese porcelain was especially famous. He was a wonderful host and kept an excellent table and no one would leave his house without being well fed and enjoying a good glass of wine or whisky. Indonesia and the Netherlands have lost a rare sort of person whom we seldom come across nowadays. With a very large library, he was well read and could converse about almost any subject and, as a natural storyteller, he kept his audience spellbound and roaring with laughter. We shall miss him a lot!