Preface

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Preface

The double issue of Wacana, Journal of the Humanities of Indonesia Vol. 25 Nos 1 and 2 (2024) on "Western and Asian travel perspectives on Indonesia (1850-1950)" has been prepared by Wacana in collaboration with Rick Honings (Leiden University), Judith E. Bosnak (National Chengchi University, Taipei), and Coen van ’t Veer (Leiden University). There are fifteen articles in total, presented in two parts, which examine travel literature from the middle of the nineteenth century to halfway through the twentieth century. Besides the articles, two book reviews can be found in this issue.

This Part II (Vol. 25 No. 2) deals with the period of the first half of the twentieth century. There are eight articles in this number, commencing with an article by Antonia Soriente about the perspective of Italian travellers in the Malay world who recorded the languages spoken by the local people. The next article by Tomasz Ewertowski talks about the cross-cultural encounters in the Netherlands East Indies in Polish and Russian travelogues. Adi Putra Surya Wardhana and Dennys Pradita have studied the travelogues of Protestant evangelists who noted the potential for spreading the Gospel in Wonogiri. Travel writing viewed by Indonesian eyes is found in the articles of Atep Kurnia and Kees Snoek. Kurnia examines the transcultural case in the travel account of the wife of the Regent of Meester Cornelis, Raden Ajoe Abdoerachman, to the Netherlands, while Kees Snoek examines the letters of Indonesian nationalist Sjahrir to his beloved Maria Duchâteau. The perspective of the Danish travel writer Aage Krarup Nielsen on Netherlands East Indies society has been analysed by Arnoud Arps in the framework of postcolonial and transnational memories. Meanwhile, Muhammad Yuanda Zara’s article examines the reportages of American journalists after their visits to Indonesia between 1945 and 1946. Finally, Coen van ’t Veer analyses the perspectives of Dutch journalists on the first year of the Indonesian Revolution.

All the articles presented in this double issue have been peer-reviewed. The editors thank the authors and the peer reviewers for their valuable contributions. Special thanks are owed to Rosemary Robson-McKillop and Conrad W. Watson, who always ensure the correct use of English with
extraordinary perseverance and patience, and Dina Nawangningrum, who has worked together intensively with the *Wacana* team in arranging the layout of the contributions.

Editors