



外大書庫

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# BALI AND ANGKOR

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*Or Looking at Life and Death*

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GEOFFREY GORER



*With Illustrations*

BOSTON · LITTLE, BROWN, AND COMPANY · 1936

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# BALI AND ANGKOR

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*For*  
MY MOTHER  
*With Love*

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## FOREWORD

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IN the first months of 1935 I was taken for a three months' pleasure trip to Sumatra, Java, Bali, and Indo-China, with short stops in the Malay States and Siam. I travelled in considerable luxury; there were everywhere excellent hotels and (save in Indo-China) very good cars and roads. Except for the fact that we travelled rather slowly, our journey differed little from that of other tourists; I saw little that other tourists couldn't see. Such a method of travelling has obvious disadvantages; although I learned enough Malay to get along with — it is the easiest language in the world — my intercourse with the natives of the different places I went to was slight and intermittent. I naturally talked as much as I could with the chauffeurs and servants I had anything

## FOREWORD

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to do with, for they were the most interesting people in the neighbourhood; and whenever I had the opportunity I used to talk to strangers in the streets or the country; but after these encounters I always went back to the hotel or the car. Now one of the chief disadvantages of living in hotels and cars is that everything seen through their windows is likely to be *couleur de rose*; Europeans or Americans enjoying themselves present such a dismal and depressing spectacle that all people not connected with these rich pleasure-seekers appear by contrast to have all sorts of desirable qualities. Consequently I cannot trust myself to write anything about the natives, with the exception of the Balinese, with whom I did have some contact. Also I am not in a position to say anything about the Colonial policies pursued in these countries, except to remark that to my mind the Dutch are over-praised as colonisers; although they have been relatively humane in recent years they have laid on their subjects an overwhelming burden of crushing and continuous taxation, which covers every part of their lives; and since the revolt of the *Zieven Provinzien* in 1931 the Dutch residents have been in a continual state of panic. The F.M.S. give the impression of being far more prosperous and better developed; and Singapore is an interesting example of the way mutually "hostile" groups can live together in perfect amity when it is in the interest

of their governors that they should do so. In the question of conflicts between various groups or sects it is as well to apply the maxim *cui bono*.

All that is necessary to say about the planters has already been said by Mr. Somerset Maugham, except that there are occasions when they take a rest from murder and adultery and attend to their plantations. Incidentally that gentleman's name is a Word of Power in the F.M.S.; to claim acquaintance with him, or even to express admiration of his work (I have only the right to the latter), will clear the space near you quicker than any other method I have ever heard of. Since every self-respecting person has read Mr. Maugham's stories I shall be able to call canoes canoes: the *prahus* and *dhow*s are used by him far more skilfully than I could manage. I have no particular fondness for the "she sat upon her *dobi*" school of writing.

I am obviously debarred from writing a serious book about these regions; and, indeed, they have been so thoroughly and learnedly discussed that it would need an exceptional traveller to add to the existing information in Dutch and French. Except on a few occasions, when I have quoted my sources, I have not hidden my own ignorance behind other people's knowledge. My chief interest in writing this book has been in trying to work out for myself the rôle of those illogical mani-

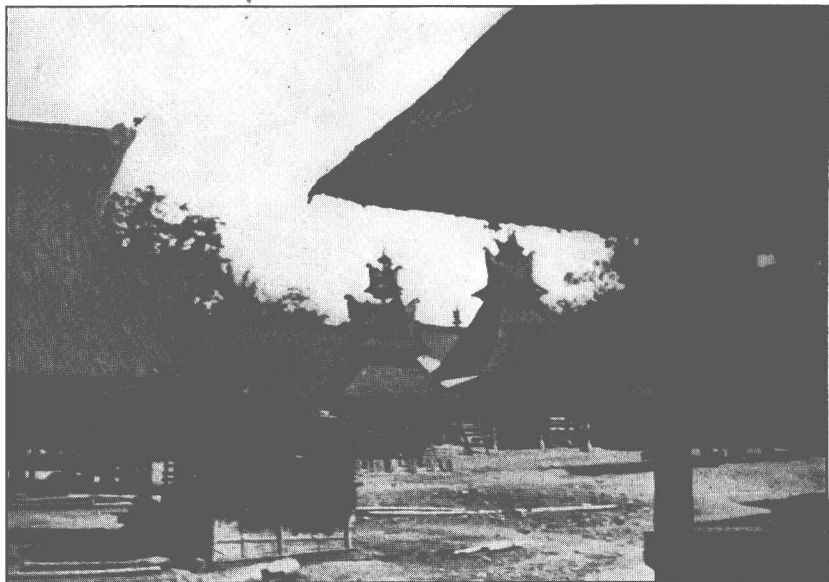


## FOREWORD

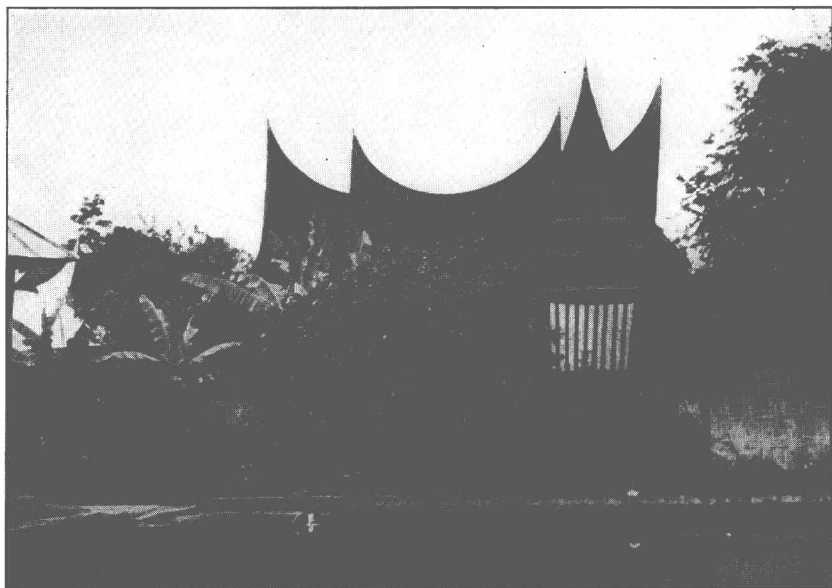
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festations, art and religion, in the life of the community. For the benefit of those who desire a book to be useful, and a travel book to be helpful, I have given in an appendix the practical results of my journey.

*July-November, 1935.*



BATAK VILLAGE NEAR BRASTAGI, SHOWING DWELLING-HOUSE AND STOREHOUSES



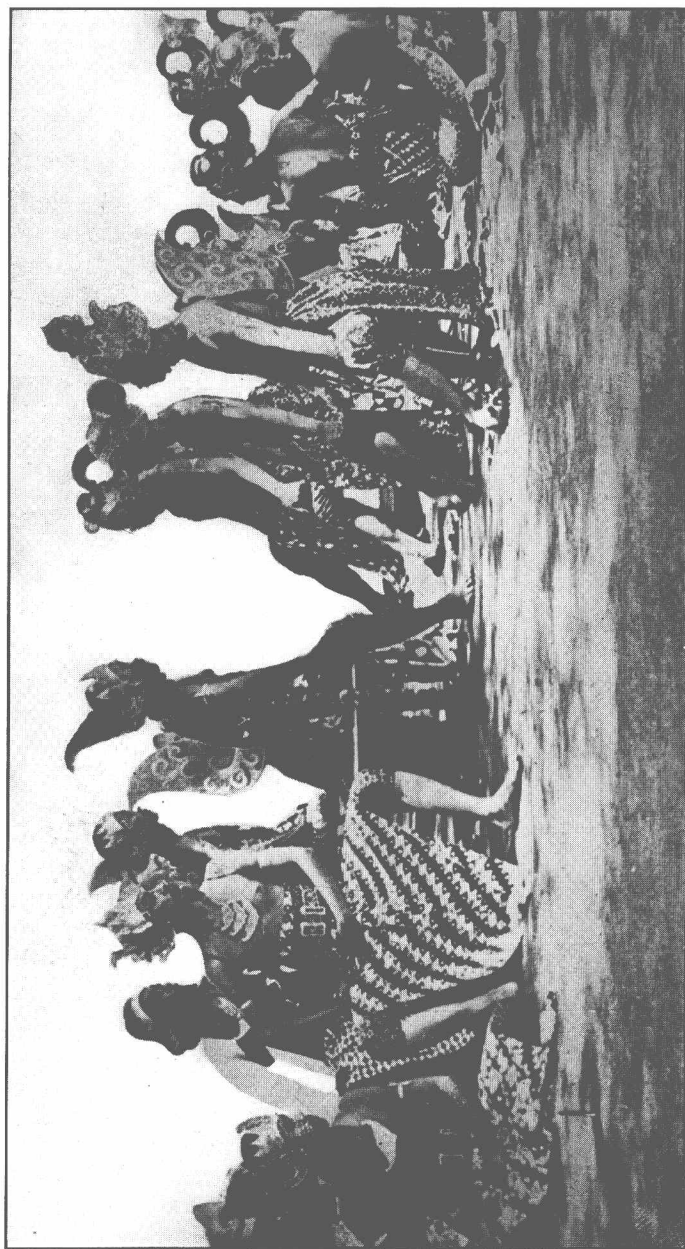
MANENKABAU HOUSE IN THE PADANG HIGHLANDS

"THE SHE-ELEPHANT-ON-HER-BACK"

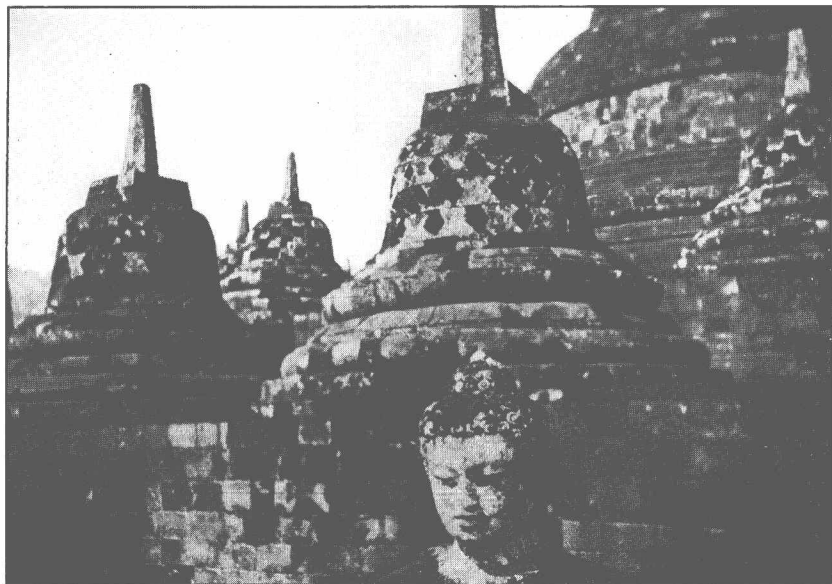
*In front is a storehouse for rice*



HARAU CANON IN THE PADANG HIGHLANDS

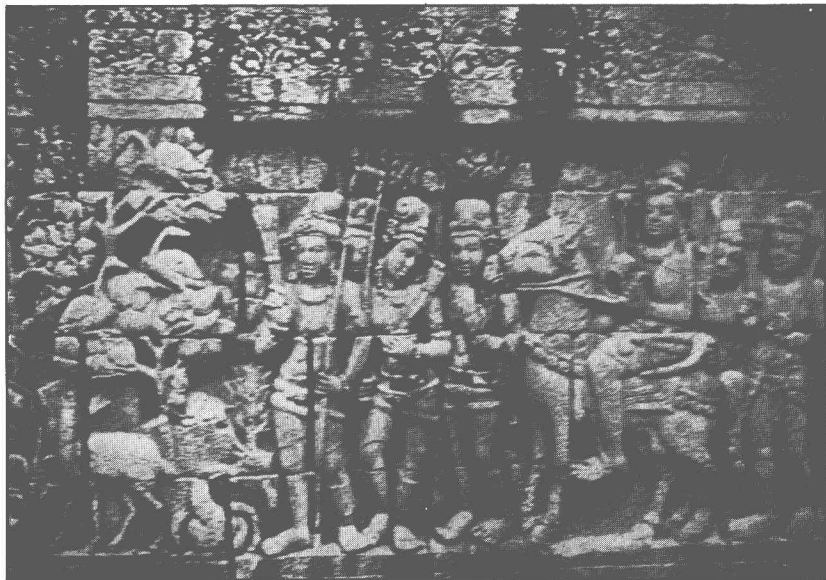


ACTORS IN THE WAYANG WONG, JAVA

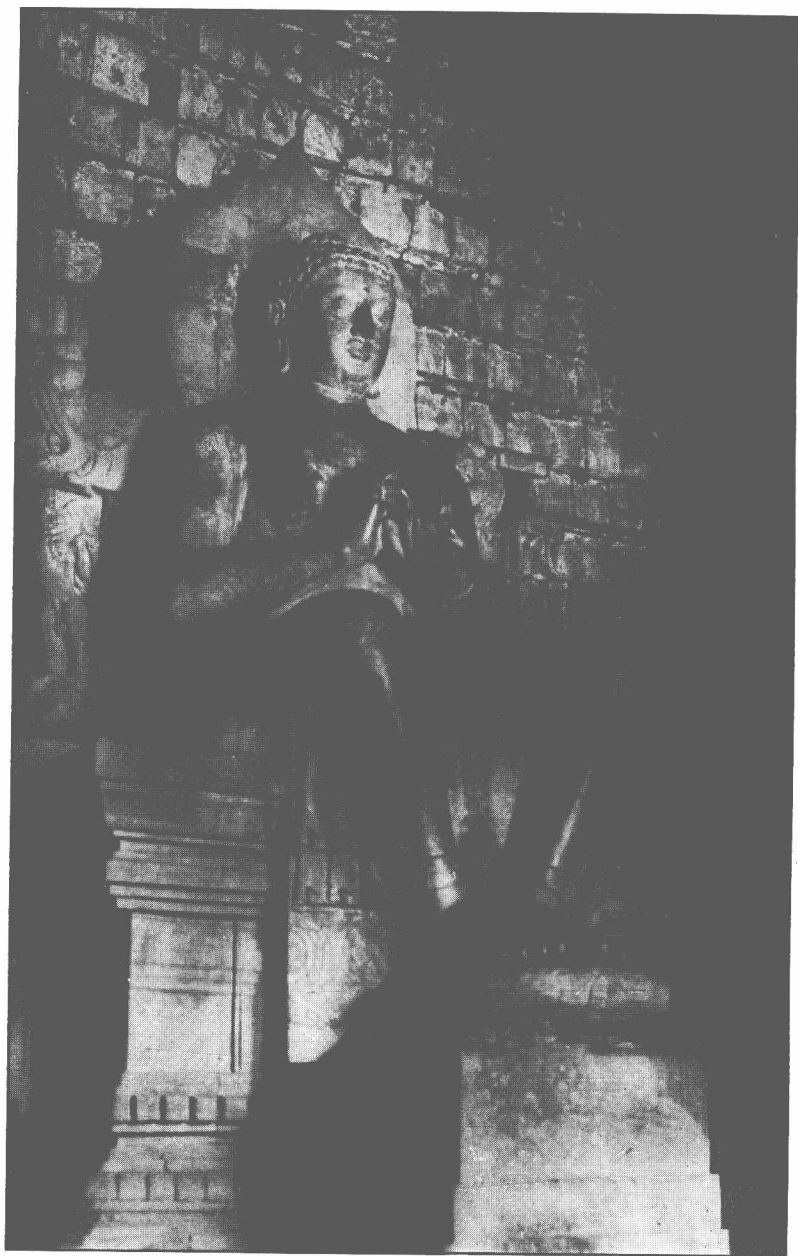


THE BOROBODUR FROM THE TOP TERRACE, SHOWING PART OF THE CENTRAL STÛPA, AND THE SMALLER HOLLOW STÛPAS, EACH CONTAINING A BUDDHA

*The surrounding bell has been removed from the Buddha in the foreground*



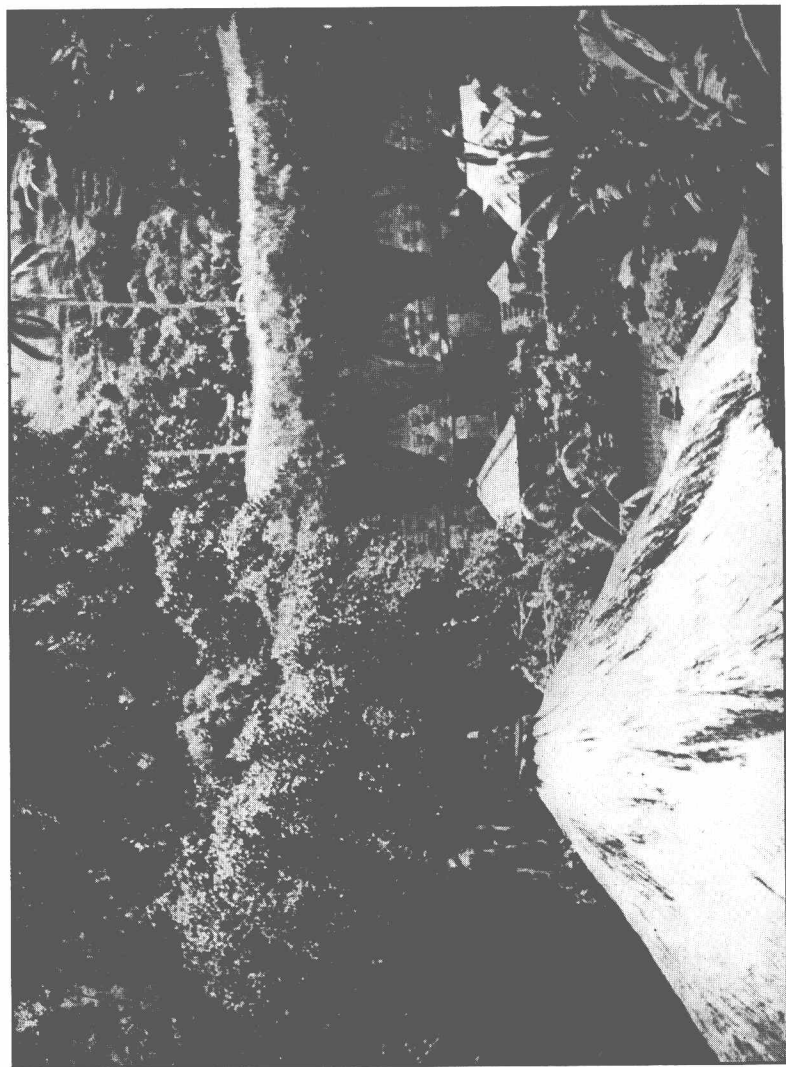
DETAIL OF A PANEL IN THE BOROBODUR



THE BUDDHA IN THE MENDOET TEMPLE



VISHNU AS A BULL  
*An idol in the Prambanan Temples*



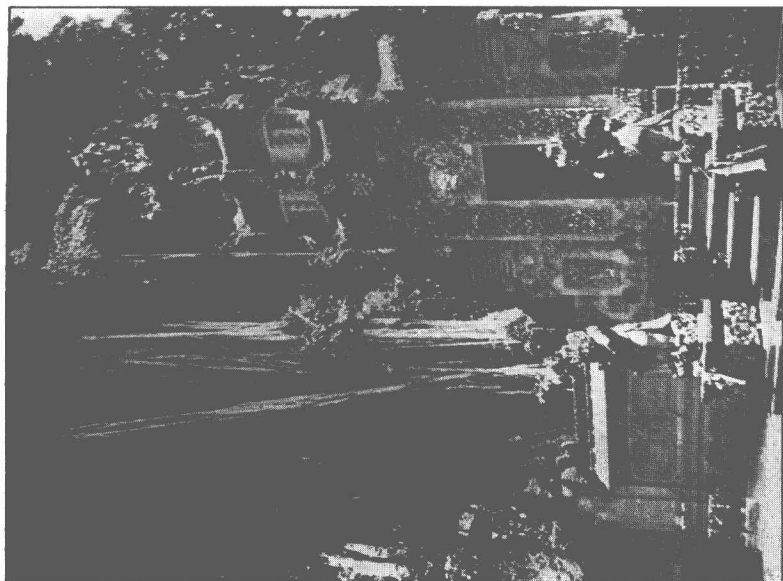
TOMBS OF THE KINGS IN THE ROCKS AT GUNOONG KAWI

*One of the oldest monuments in Bali*





BALINESE TEMPLE GATES: TCHANDI-BENTAR



BALINESE TEMPLE GATES: PADU RAKSA