

## Original Acknowledgments for the Thesis

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The Australian National University in Canberra is a foremost institution for Southeast Asian Studies. It has a strong appreciation of the cultures of the region, an excellent collection of materials, a collegial atmosphere and the largest number of scholars working on the area.

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trained in literary theory and philology, but after undertaking a reading course in the Anthropology of Islam, in his office, I entered a delicate area in the study of culture.

Dr George Quinn is another prominent scholar at the Australian National University, also given the title of 'Pak' by Indonesian students. He has shared his strong insights into the sociology of Indonesian traditional literatures and culture in general. His work on Javanese literature is well known in the Faculty of Letters of the University of Indonesia. He was willing to make a 'pilgrimage' to my field site in Pamijahan, West Java. During his visit we had many valuable on-site discussions. His careful supervision and reading of my drafts brought my thesis to finalisation. He even convinced me that I would submit it on time! I also learned much about diligence and optimism from Pak George. His deep knowledge of sacred sites in Javanese culture was stimulating and inspiring.

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Above all, HE says "All signs are placed in the world for those who understand" (Al-Qur'an).