

# SESERPIH PINANG SEPUCUK SIRIH

bunga rampai puisi wanita  
an anthology of poetry by women



## A TASTE OF BETEL AND LIME

# Seserpih Pinang Sepucuk Sirih

BUNGA RAMPAI PUISI WANITA

## A Taste of Betel and Lime

AN ANTHOLOGY OF POETRY BY WOMEN

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PUSTAKA JAYA

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## P R E F A C E

Mrs. Nelly Adam Malik

Many artists have tried to convey the feeling of waves crashing down on an idyllic shore. The artist knows, however, that the conveyance of that impression is always marred in some way by human limitation. So too ourselves. Our own capabilities are limited. We have sought to produce a book both pleasurable and of high artistic merit, but we are well aware of our own limited capabilities. While we are able to appreciate beauty, we do not have the words to describe our feelings.

Expression through art — a poem, a painting — requires individual expertise. But more important is the background which forms the basis for that expression. In it is the nobleness of human values, nature and our environment, God the Creator. The whispering of the passing wind, the roar of the waves .... it almost feels as if we need a sixth sense to appreciate their beauty. This does not mean that the artist somehow is an extraordinary human being. No, the artist is like ourselves. In fact the work of the artist has its very base in the aspirations of life itself: the uplifting of human values and the expression of them in an individual fashion, a testimony to the greatness of God who placed man on this earth as the one creature above all others, giving man civilization and culture.

For the meaning of life that is in art it seems appropriate that we honor our artists and that we appreciate them and the works they have given us. This is the primary reason behind the publication of this collection of poems and paintings. That all the artists are women is, admittedly, a drawback to a representative collection. Nonetheless this is what gives this book its uniqueness as well. This book is a tribute to the Indonesian woman and her contribution to the progress and growth of this country.

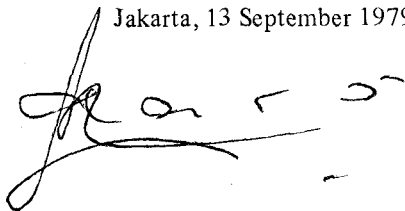
Throughout the history of this nation our artists have consistently conveyed in their work the life and times in which they live. Their works are a reflection of the spirit and soul of the periods in our nation's history. Earlier works have become the impetus for further development in literature and art. Looking at works dating from the revolutionary period for example we can see that the poems, song and sketches are marked by the same revolutionary spirit that buoyed the people in their struggle to overthrow colonialism.

The appreciation of a work of art requires a certain understanding, one which we feel is very limited at this time in Indonesia. This is a limitation we must overcome. Through formal and nonformal education we can teach the people to appreciate art and give them the stimulus and knowledge for understanding art.

The greater the number of people who share the ability to understand art the further our advances in the world of art will be. In the context of national cultural development this is very important. The very goal of development is after all the growth of the total person, one of sound balance both spiritually and materially.

It is our hope that this collection will, at the very least act as a further support for the development efforts now being undertaken. The world of art knows only purity and beauty. Let us hope that these two factors remain the constant wealth of the people of Indonesia.

Jakarta, 13 September 1979

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. S. S.', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

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