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RAYMOND KENNEDY, 1906–50

JOHN F. EMBREE

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AFTER GRADUATION from Yale College in 1928 Raymond Kennedy began, almost fortuitously, a career in Far Eastern affairs by teaching for a year at the Brent School in the Philippines. Then, a year later, he became a field representative for General Motors in what was then called the Netherlands East Indies. As the peripatetic automobile salesman discovered the cultural riches of the fabulous Indies, he became progressively less interested in American machines and more fascinated by Indonesian people. This led him to give up his commercial job and return to his alma mater in New Haven for graduate study in anthropology and sociology. He knew well that "he who would bring home the wealth of the Indies must carry the wealth of the Indies with him." Thus began the academic career of one of American's pioneer scholars in the field of Southeast Asian studies.

Born December 11, 1906, in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Raymond Kennedy died 44 years later in the heart of tropical Java. He and Robert Doyle, a *Time* correspondent, were driving eastward by jeep from Bandoeng on April 27 or 28, 1950, when they were held up and murdered by unidentified assailants. This fatal trip to Indonesia had been undertaken in order to carry out an extensive research project in the field of culture contact and acculturation in Indonesia.

Between 1932 and 1947, Kennedy built up at Yale a one-man center for Southeast Asian studies. This was begun with work on a collection of books on Indonesia already in Yale Library. In connection with this documentary aspect of his work, he assisted in assembling data on Southeast Asia for the Yale Cross Cultural Survey; he also compiled an extensive bibliography on the peoples and cultures of Indonesia which was published in 1945. During the same period he wrote books and numerous articles on Indonesia and inaugurated at Yale a graduate seminar in the field. All these efforts bore fruit in 1947 in the creation of a Southeast Asian area and language studies program at Yale, with a five-year Carnegie grant totaling \$150,000. In his last letter to the writer he was concerned with the perennial problem of all area programs — that of obtaining the support and co-operation of related disciplines in order to create an adequate interdisciplinary program of teaching and research. This millennium is yet to come in Southeast Asian studies.

During World War II, Raymond Kennedy served as a consultant for the Ethnogeographic Board, the Department of State, and other governmental agencies. These wartime duties he was happy to leave in 1945 in order to return to full-time teaching and research at Yale. Here he was not only a

pioneer in Southeast Asian studies but also an able and popular lecturer in undergraduate courses in anthropology and sociology. Because of his vivid descriptions of life in the forests of Malaya, the undergraduates gave him the nickname of "Jungle Jim." Newcomers to his classes were sometimes shocked by his debunking of their cherished popular beliefs, but those who stayed to learn came to realize that their dynamic teacher was a man of deep convictions concerning human welfare and the complex problems of man living at peace with his fellows. In view of his attitude toward social problems and human welfare, it is indeed ironical that he should have met his death by violence in a country for whose independence he had argued so strenuously.

This maverick professor was a Phi Beta Kappa, a member of Sigma Xi, a full professor and permanent officer of Yale University. He was also an officer in various learned societies and a director of the Far Eastern Association. In his later work, Raymond Kennedy was assisted by Ruby Jo Reeves whom he married in 1939. Also a Ph.D. in sociology, she was about to join her husband in Indonesia when the tragic news of his death came. Their daughter, Ellen Reeves, was born in 1948.

Everyone who has worked long with Raymond Kennedy as student or as colleague has become the richer for it; we have all lost a part of ourselves in his death.

PUBLICATIONS OF RAYMOND KENNEDY

The major work of Kennedy's career, an extensive ethnography of Indonesia, has not yet been published. His principal published works are listed herewith.

- 1934 Bark-cloth in Indonesia. *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, 43:229-43.
- 1936 A survey of Sumatra. *American anthropologist*, 38:145-48.
- 1937 A survey of Indonesian civilization. In *Studies in the science of society*, G. P. Murdock, ed. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- 1938 *Outline of cultural materials* (co-author). New Haven: Yale University Press. 2nd ed. 1941, rev. ed. 1945. Yale anthropological studies, vol. 3.
- 1939 The "kulturkreislehre" moves into Indonesia. *American anthropologist*, 41:163-169.
- 1941 The historical background of anti-Semitism. *Yivo bleter*, 18:184-91.
- 1942 *The ageless Indies*. New York: John Day.
- 1942 The position and future of the Jews in America. In *Jews in a Gentile world*, I. Graeber and S. H. Britt, eds. New York: Macmillan.
- 1942 Sociology in American colleges (with R. J. R. Kennedy). *American sociological review*, 7:661-75.
- 1942 Contours of culture in Indonesia. *Far Eastern quarterly*, 2:5-14.
- 1943 *Islands and peoples of the Indies*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution. War background studies, no. 14.
- 1943 Races and peoples of the Indies. In *The Netherlands*, B. Landheer, ed. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- 1943 Fabulous riches of the Indies. *Science digest*, 13:7-10.
- 1943 Background of Gentile-Jewish relations. *Jewish forum*, 26:53-54, 85-86.
- 1943 Acculturation and administration in Indonesia. *American anthropologist*, 45:185-90.
- 1943 Dutch charter for the Indies. *Pacific affairs*, 16:216-23.
- 1944 Contours of culture in Indonesia. In *Annual report of the Smithsonian Institution, 1943*. Washington.
- 1944 Applied anthropology in the Dutch East Indies. *Transactions, New York Academy of Sciences*, ser. 2, 6:157-62.
- 1944 Races and peoples of the Indies. *Knickerbocker weekly*, 4, no. 27:9-13.
- 1944 Postwar Indonesian educational needs. *Far Eastern survey*, 13:195-98.
- 1944 Rice growers of the Indies. *Christian science monitor*, Oct. 20.

- 1944 Keperloean-keperloean Rakjat Indonesia Sesoadah Perang. *Soeara Indonesia*, Dec. 15: 19-21.
- 1945 *The islands and peoples of the South Seas and their cultures*. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society.
- 1945 *Bibliography of Indonesian peoples and cultures*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Yale anthropological studies, vol. 4.
- 1945 The colonial crisis and the future. In *The science of man in the world crisis*, R. Linton, ed. New York: Columbia University Press.
- 1945 Razas y pueblos de las Indias holandesas. In *La nacion holandesa*, B. Landheer, ed. Mexico City: Fondo de la Cultura Economica.
- 1945 Indonesian politics and parties. *Far Eastern survey*, 14:129-32.
- 1945 Malaya: colony without plan. *Far Eastern survey*, 14:225-26.
- 1945 Status of British Borneo. *Far Eastern survey*, 14:243-46.
- 1946 The colonial crisis. In *When peoples meet*, B. Stern and A. Locke, eds. New York: Hinds, Hayden & Eldredge.
- 1946 The people of the Netherlands East Indies. *Federal Security Agency, U. S. Office of Education, Bulletin 1945*, no. 7.
- 1946 Dutch plan for the Indies. *Far Eastern survey*, 15:97-102.
- 1946 Status quo for Malaya. *Far Eastern survey*, 15:134-37.
- 1946 The test in Indonesia. *Asia and the Americas*, 46:341-45.
- 1948 Truce in Indonesia. *Far Eastern survey*, 17:65-68.
- 1948 Indonesia in crisis. *Foreign policy reports*, no. 24:174-87. (with Paul Kattenberg.)
- 1949 Southeast Asia and Indonesia. In *Most of the world*, Ralph Linton, ed. New York: Columbia University Press.