

Locales of happiness

Colonial irrigation in the Netherlands East Indies
and its remains, 1830 - 1980

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and its remains, 1830 - 1980

Maurits Ertsen

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Preface

I have not been really good at writing prefaces. Perhaps thanking people is not my thing, but I do like to think that is not the case. I may just not see the need to thank people who know they helped me on the first page other people will read in any book (that is, after checking the references to see whether they are in...). But I was persuaded to write a preface for this book, so here it is. First, I would like to apologize to Paul Josephson, for using the I-word throughout this book. Sorry Paul, your advice on this matter came too late. And I may disagree as well. Second, I would like to thank the many people that helped me to do the work leading to this book, particularly the colleagues from Indonesia and the very helpful staff of the Dutch National Archives. Third, I apologize for the mistakes in the book. I have tried to assure the book is free from mistakes, but I know I failed. Hopefully, the book is still interesting to many. Finally, and this may be the subject I tend to be bad at expressing, but consider it as the main reason to write a preface in the first place, allow me to assure you that publishing a book is fun, but that having the greatest children of all and being with the cutest woman on the planet is much, much more satisfying...

Maurits

Delft, April 2010

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