

# THE CENTER OF OLD SUNDANESE MANUSCRIPTS FROM THE 15TH AND 16TH CENTURY: A CASE STUDY OF THE MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS OF THE KABUYUTAN CIBURUY GARUT AND THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

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# INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country in Southeast Asia that has cultural diversity. The diversity of Indonesian culture is reflected in the motto of the Indonesian state, namely “Bhinneka tunggal ika” ‘Unity in diversity’. The phrase of Bhinneka tunggal ika is taken from the Kakawin Sutasoma manuscript, composed by the fourteenth-century poet mpu Tantular (Aoyama 1992, 1). The manuscript is one of the products of Indonesian culture.

There are tens of thousands of manuscripts in Indonesia (Chambert-Loir and Fathurahman 1999, 8). One part of the Indonesian manuscripts is the Sundanese manuscript, which has almost one thousand five hundred manuscripts (Chambert-Loir and Fathurahman 1999, 181). In the present day, most of the Old Sundanese manuscripts are stored in the National Library of Indonesia and Kabuyutan Ciburuy.

In the world of the Old Sundanese manuscript, Kabuyutan Ciburuy is really interesting to discuss. A place located at the base of Cikuray Mountain, Garut Regency, West Java, was first reported to the academia community about one and half centuries ago by Brümund (BGKW 1864). Kabuyutan Ciburuy is known as a traditional institution that has the largest collection of Old Sundanese manuscripts. However, the origin of the Old Sundanese manuscripts in that place is not yet known, as stated by a Javanese manuscript expert, Willem van der Molen. Willem van der Molen explained that the existence of the Old Sundanese manuscripts in Kabuyutan Ciburuy is as old as Merbabu manuscripts, although their origin is unknown (1983, 113).

# LITERATURE REVIEW

Discussing the initial study on the Old Sundanese manuscripts is inseparable from Karel Frederik Holle. Holle's article (1867a) entitled *Vlugtig Berigt omtrent eenige Lontar-Handschriften, Afkomstig uit de Soenda-Landen, door Raden Saleh aan het Bataviaasch Genootschap van K. en W. ten geschenke gegeven, met toepassing van de inscriptiën van Kwali* (Quick Report about some Lontar Manuscripts, Coming from the Sunda Land, given as a gift by Raden Saleh to the Batavian Society of K. and W., by an application of the inscriptions of Kawali) has revealed that he compared and studied the Old Sundanese manuscripts. However, examining an article by Netscter 1853 (469-479), Rudolf Hermann Theodor Friederich might be done the same thing around that time. It is noticed that Friederich analyzed the Old Sundanese manuscripts founded in Cilegon Village, Samarang Sub-district, Bandung (part of the present Garut). Moreover, Jan Laurens Andries Brandes did the transliteration of the Old Sundanese manuscripts currently deposited at the PNRI (Holil and Gunawan 2010, 109).

In the following period, names such as Cornelis Mairnus Pleyte and Raden Mas Ngabehi Poerbatjaraka showed up. Beginning in 1960, research on the Old Sundanese manuscripts has been well developed. In that period, some Old Sundanese manuscript researchers were raising, namely, Atja, Saleh Danasasmita, Jacobus Noorduyn, Andries Teeuw, Edi Suhardi Ekadjati, Ayatrohaedi, Partini Sardjono, Kalsum, Tien Wartini, and Undang Ahmad Darsa.

# METHOD

In this study, descriptive comparative analysis was the methodology employed. Using a comparative approach, this method aims to record, describe, and interpret data regarding, among other things, a set of circumstances encountered, the standing of a human group, an object, a relationship between activities, an emerging attitude, or even an ongoing thought process (Surachmad, 1975: 131). In practice, data about the place of writing found in Old Sundanese manuscripts is thereafter examined and contrasted in order to determine that it is a center for Old Sundanese manuscripts.



# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Colophon of the Jatiraga also known as the Jatiniskala manuscript



## Translation

...

1. *men luput, bisi papa digeusana luput, ...*
2. *sumangsang, ulah sumirep, ga, ga, ro, ro ❀ ra ❀ Tapak tanga(n) ngaran Sang Pandita, Tungga ...*
3. *di panten **Cisanti**, désa Mahapawitra pun. Dipacana dina Kasa, dina kapa ...*
4. *Kabuyutan Dayeuhan di **Li(ng)ga Payung** pun. ra, ra, a, a, u, u, nis, sohah ❀*

...

## Transliteration

...

1. *men luput, if there sins to avoid, ...*
2. *Come up don't drown, ga, ga, ro, ro ❀ ra ❀ Handwriting name of Pandita, Tungga ...*
3. *di the head of **Cisanti**, Mahapawitra Village. Compiled in the month of Kasa, dina kapa ...*
4. *Kabuyutan Dayeuhan at **Lingga Payung**. ra, ra, a, a, u, u, nis, sohah ❀*

## Excerpt of the *Bujangga Manik* manuscript

...  
Éta huluna Cisokan,  
lan(n)deuheun bukit Patuha,  
heuleut-heuleut **Li(ng)ga Payung**,  
nu/awas ka Kreti Haji. /25v/

...  
(Noorduyn and Teeuw 2006, 271).

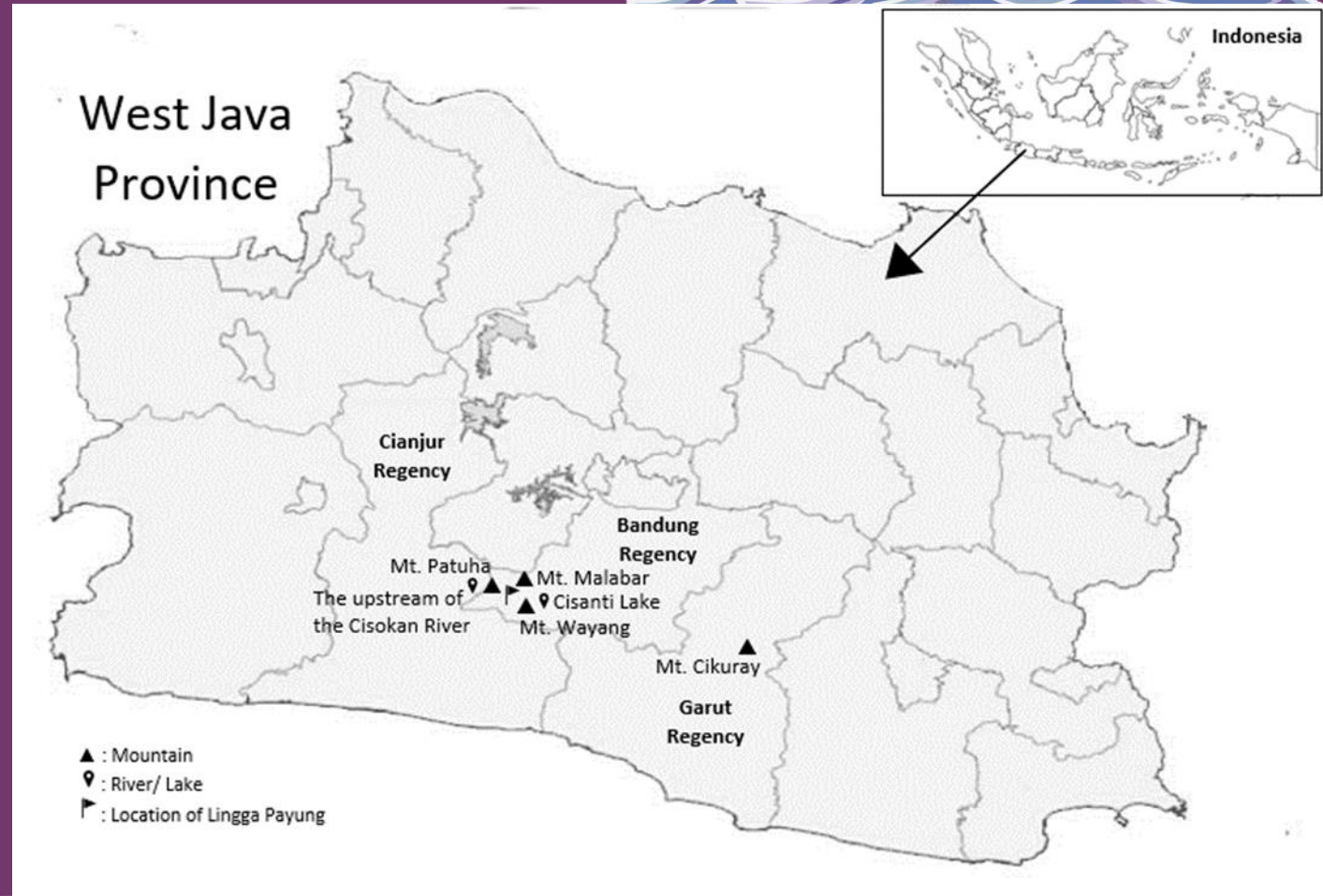
...  
That is the source of the river  
Ci-Sokan,  
downhill Mount Patuha,  
half-way to **Lingga Payung**,  
which faces Kreti Haji.

...

# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The place of writing of the Jatiraga manuscript also known as the Jatiniskala manuscript based on colophon analysis and information on the Bujangga Manik manuscript.

Estimation of the location of Lingga Payung based on reconstruction on the West Java Map



# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The results of the colophon analysis and the similarity of text analysis to find the origin of the manuscript are as follows:

There are 5 manuscripts that have colophons. Information regarding the place of writing or copying of the manuscript on the colophon is as follows:

NO	Title of manuscript	Place of writing
1	The <i>Sang Hyang Sasana Maha Guru</i>	Batur Sunyi Leuwih (Garut Regency West Java)
2	The <i>Jatiniskala</i> also known as the <i>Jatiraga</i>	Kabuyutan Lingga Payung (Bandung Regency West Java)
3	The <i>Pangatistian Sang Hyang Pretiwi-I</i>	Nusahérang (Kuningan Regency West Java)
4	The <i>Jati Pandita</i>	Cikajang (Garut Regency West Java)
5	The <i>Sang Hyang Hayu-I</i>	Panusupan in Linggamanik (the exact location at present-day is unknown yet)

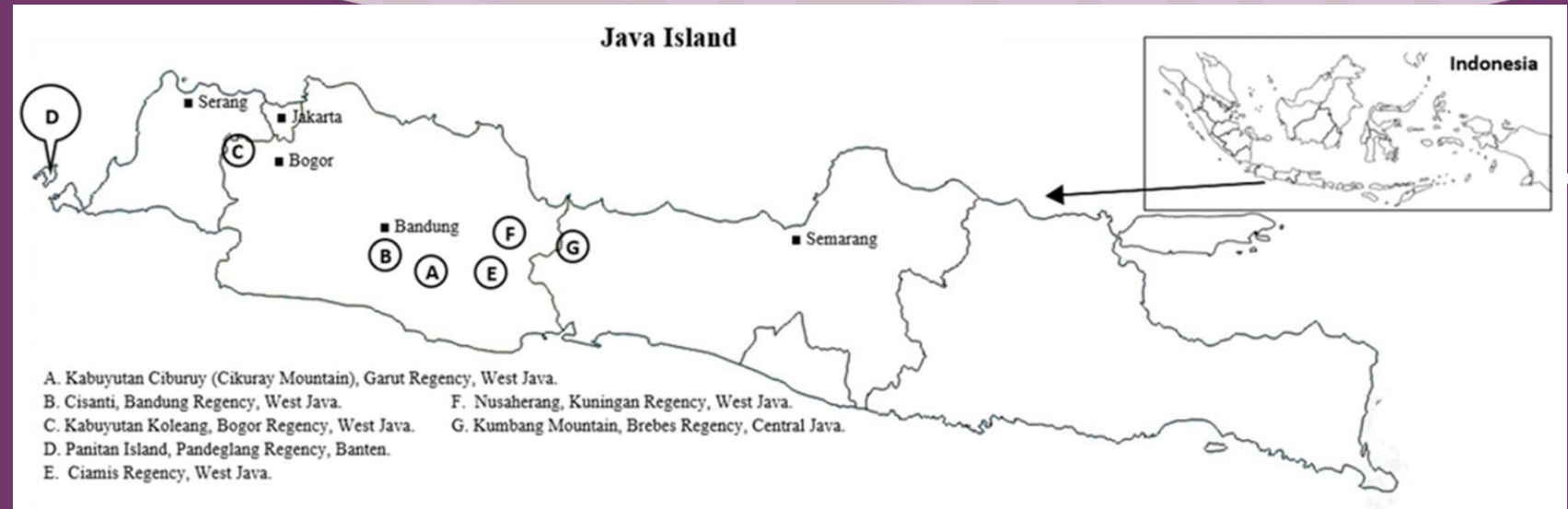
# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

There are 11 manuscripts that have similar texts to manuscripts outside of Kabuyutan Ciburuy. The similarity of texts between manuscripts indicates that there is a direct or indirect relationship between the manuscripts. The manuscripts are as follows:

No	Kabuyutan Ciburuy manuscript	Manuscripts outside of Kabuyutan Ciburuy	
		Title	Origin
1	The Story of Sons of Rama and Rawana-I (1)	The Story of Sons of Rama and Rawana (West Java State Museum 07.28)	Kabuyutan Koléang, Bogor Regency, West Java (no colophon)
	The Story of Sons of Rama and Rawana-II (2)		
2	The <i>Sewaka Darma</i> -I (3)	The <i>Sewaka Darma</i> (PNRI 408)	Galuh, Ciamis Regency West Java Province (in colophon written in Kumbang Mountain, Brebes Regency, Central Java Province)
	The <i>Sewaka Darma</i> -II (4)		
3	The <i>Jatiniskala</i> also known as the <i>Jatiraga</i> (5)	The <i>Jatiniskala</i> also known as the <i>Jatiraga</i> (PNRI 422)	Galuh, Ciamis Regency West Java Province (no colophon)
4	The <i>Bima Swarga</i> (6)	The <i>Bima Swarga</i> (PNRI 623)	Bandung West Java Province (in colophon written in Cikuray Mountain Garut Regency West Java Province)
5	The <i>Sang Hyang Sasana Mahaguru</i> (7)	The <i>Sang Hyang Sasana Mahaguru</i> (PNRI 621)	Bandung West Java Province (in colophon written in Panaitan Island Banten Province)
6	The <i>Warugan Lemah</i> (8)	The <i>Warugan Lemah</i> (PNRI 622)	Bandung West Java Province (no colophon)
7	The <i>Sanghyang Hayu</i> -I (9)	The <i>Sanghyang Hayu</i> (PNRI 634)	Tarogong, Garut Regency West Java Province (in colophon written in Tajak Barat Village (the exact location at present-day is unknown yet))
	The <i>Sanghyang Hayu</i> -II (10)		Tarogong, Garut Regency West Java Province (in colophon written in Tajak Barat Village (the exact location at present-day is unknown yet))
	The <i>Sanghyang Hayu</i> -III (11)	The <i>Sanghyang Hayu</i> (PNRI 638)	Tarogong, Garut Regency West Java Province (in colophon written in Mount Cupu (the exact location at present-day is unknown yet))



# CONCLUSION



In conclusion, the centers of Old Sundanese manuscripts occurred from the 15th century until the end of the 16th century, with one of the causes being the activity of scholars. These locations were identified through analysis of manuscript colophons and comparison of manuscript stories. Although currently old Sundanese manuscripts are concentrated in the National Library of Indonesia in Jakarta and Kabuyutan Ciburuy Garut, in the past there were manuscript centers spread across the western part of the island of Java or Tatar Sunda.

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