

Fair Trade Shopping, Books, Films, and Music *Health in Harmony, Indonesia* September 2012

Fair Trade Shopping



A beautiful fair trade gift, these [Batiked Bamboo Salad Servers](#) come in a fabric-covered box. Fabric pattern will vary. Hand wash recommended. 12 in. long – on sale now for [\\$22.50](#)

Apikri Co-Op works with artisans who live on the Indonesian island of Java, near Yogyakarta and Central Java, an area well-known for its craftsmanship, and also one of the most densely populated areas in the world. Their work offers supplemental income to artisans by promoting craft development in areas where land is scarce and unemployment is high. Apikri began in 1987 working with 25 artisan groups to promote fair trade and to empower micro and small handicraft producers and today works with over 40 artisan groups. In addition to marketing crafts, Apikri also provides training, financial support in the form of loans and a social grant fund, and environmental projects that promote reforestation, waste treatment, and conservation of vital resources. They also advocate for policies that support small and medium enterprises. Apikri is owned by its members, who hold management accountable and help to shape the philosophy and principles of the organization. Apikri is an active member of the fair trade community, and sees fairness in trading as an instrument to achieve democracy in economic life. Their products reflect the rich cultural traditions of Indonesian artisans. [Read more...](#)

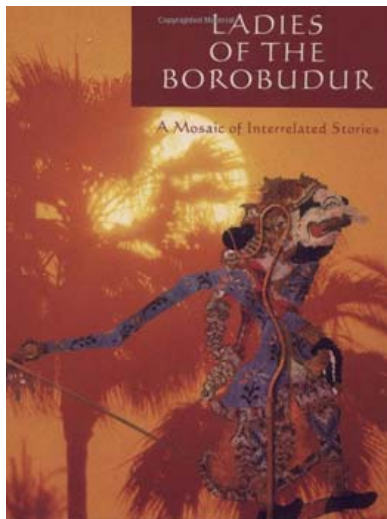
Etched birds and leaves decorate the rich red-brown glaze of this handcrafted [Tamarind Casserole Dish](#). Hand-formed by women potters of Lombok, Indonesia, this piece is low fired over a wood fire and packed in straw. Because of this, the pottery is fragile, but with careful handling will last for years. Before firing, the pots are burnished with a mixture of fine clay, water, and oil, then rubbed with a smooth stone or hard object. This compacts and strengthens the pot's surface, and creates a sheen that enhances the colors and marks created by firing. Patterning is etched by hand. Perfect for clay pot cooking, from oven to table - 9" Diam. x 4" High - [\\$38](#) [Read more...](#)



The geometric patterns of this [Hand-woven Cotton Scarf](#) are created through batik, a method of applying color to specific areas by hand using wax resist. Comfortable and elegant, the scarf makes a great accent to basic black. Hand-wash cold, line dry - 68"-[\\$9.38](#) Pekerti, the Indonesian People's Handicraft Foundation Marketing Service, has been working since 1975 to preserve traditional Indonesian handicraft skills and to promote income-generating projects among the rural, enabling them to remain in their villages with their families. In 1978 they founded Pekerti Nusantara, a non-profit trading company to help artisans find markets. The income from craft production that Pekerti has generated over its 30 years of experience has become a major source of support for many families. [Read more...](#)

Recommended Books

Fiction



Ladies of the Borobudur by Barbara Haines Howett (Outskirts Press, 2007)

For the wives of American oil industry workers living in the insulated opulence of Jakarta's Hotel Borobudur in 1976, the problems are many; and for the Indonesians who get to know them, the puzzlements are life-altering. In the hot house of culture shock, fears and conflicts can change lives in unexpected ways. Just as the shadow plays of Indonesia reveal new facets of old stories in each performance, so too the characters in this rich collection of interrelated stories discover new strengths and old weaknesses.

"Barbara Haines Howett writes with the passion and grace of one who has traveled deep into other realms of perception and brought back a precious gift--her cycle of stories, Ladies of the Borobudur. It is a realm fraught with mystery and wonder. I was amazed and enthralled by the range of emotion."

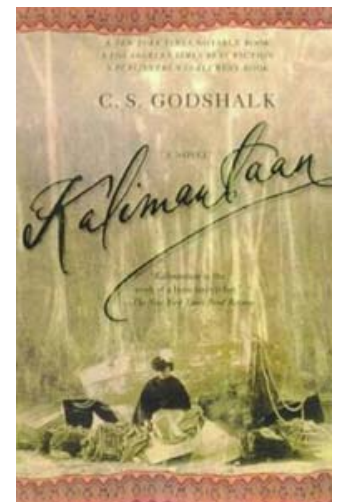
- Don Williams, Editor and publisher of New Millenium Writings

Kalimantan: A Novel by C.S. Godshalk (Holt Paperbacks, 1999)

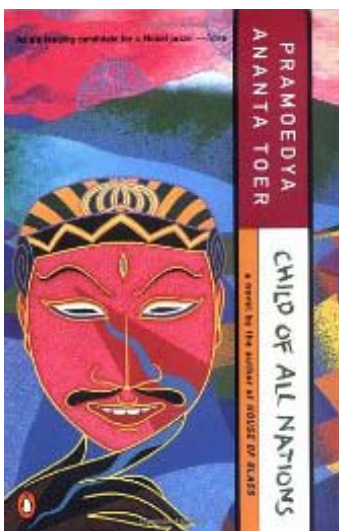
One hundred and sixty years ago a young Englishman founded a private raj on the coast of Borneo. The world he created eventually took in a territory the size of England, its expansion campaigns paid for in human heads. Here, polite Victorian conventions coexisted tenuously with one of the most violent cultures on earth, often with startling results: pockets of tenderness and extreme brutality appearing where least expected.

Kalimantan is the story of this world, these people. But the deeper story resides in the realm of the heart. It is about love in absurd conditions, the tenacity of it as well as our ability to miss it repeatedly and with perverse genius.

"A tour de force that took more than 20 years to complete, C. S. Godshalk's novel about the rise and fall of the early British ruler of Kalimantan, Gideon Barr (on whose exploits Conrad loosely based *Lord Jim*), is one of the finest examples of literary historical fiction anywhere." – *Booklist*



Child of All Nations by Pramoedya Ananta Toer (Penguin Books, 1996)



In *Child of All Nations*, the reader is immediately swept up by a story that is profoundly feminist, devastatingly anti-colonialist—and full of heartbreak, suspense, love, and fury.

Pramoedya immerses the reader in a world that is astonishing in its vividness: the cultural whirlpool that was the Dutch East Indies of the 1890s. A story of awakening, it follows Minke, the main character of *This Earth of Mankind*, as he struggles to overcome the injustice all around him.

Pramoedya's full literary genius is evident in the brilliant characters that populate this world: Minke's fragile mixed-race wife; a young Chinese revolutionary; an embattled Javanese peasant and his impoverished family; the French painter Jean Marais, to name just a few.

This book is a great novel about Dutch occupation of Indonesia. Very interesting and good history presented in novel form. – Amazon.com

Recommended Books

Non-fiction

City of Dreams: An extraordinary journey, inside the heart of Indonesia's capital –Jakarta by Mark Medley
(CreateSpace, 2009)



City of Dreams

Mark W. Medley

The city of Jakarta is described as the "City of Dreams," by visitors usually overwhelmed by its sheer size, and the unique lifestyles of the people who live there. Discover a collection of true to life stories from the "City of Dreams," that can amaze, amuse, or simply confuse you. Find out what really can happen when East meets West in a downtown club, and explore the crumbling old city that was once Batavia. Meet Chicken Harry, an expatriate in love with the city's diverse nightlife, or experience a rainy season flood. Journey into Jakarta, with each unique story, and truly discover the city of dreams.

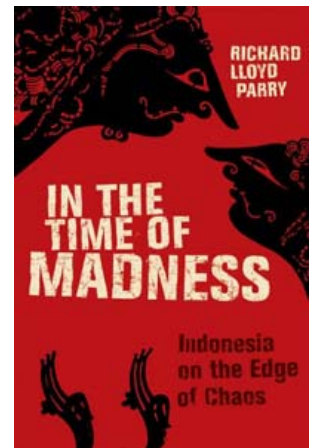
This book is written with a lot of dry humor making it entertaining to read. It reveals many funny and surprising aspects of the expat life in Jakarta, Indonesia. The author exposes his experiences in a candid and interesting manner. Reading the stories will give a glimpse of the dynamic and adventurous "city of dreams" in the capital city of the biggest country in South East Asia. – Amazon.com

In the Time of Madness: Indonesia on the Edge of Chaos by Richard Lloyd Perry (Grove Press, 2007)

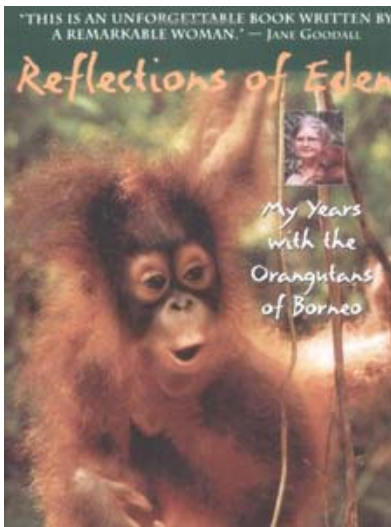
In the last years of the twentieth century, foreign correspondent Richard Lloyd Parry found himself in the vast island nation of Indonesia, one of the most alluring, mysterious, and violent countries in the world. For thirty-two years, it had been paralyzed by the grip of the dictator and mystic General Suharto, but now the age of Suharto was coming to an end.

Would freedom prevail, or was the "time of madness" predicted centuries before now at hand? A book of hair-raising immediacy and a riveting account of a voyage into the abyss, *In the Time of Madness* is an accomplishment in the great tradition of Conrad, Orwell, and Ryszard Kapuscinski.

"A must read for anyone interested in Indonesia" – Indophile



Reflections of Eden: My Years with the Orangutans of Borneo by Birute M.F. Galdikas (Back Bay Books, 1996)



In 1971, at age twenty-five, Galdikas left the placid world of American academia for the remote jungles of Indonesian Borneo. Living with her husband in a primitive camp, she became surrogate mother to a "family" of ex-captive orangutans - and gradually adjusted to the blood-sucking leeches, swarms of carnivorous insects, and constant humidity that rotted her belongings in the first year. Her first son spent the early years of his life at Camp Leakey with adopted orangutans as his only playmates.

The wild orangutans Galdikas studied and the ex-captives she rehabilitated became an extended family of characters no less vivid than her human companions. Galdikas describes the threats that increasingly menace them: the battles with poachers and loggers, the illicit trade in infant orangutans, the frustrations of official bureaucracy. Her story is a rare combination of personal epiphany, crucial scientific discovery, and international impact - a life of human and environmental challenge.

"This is an unforgettable book written by a remarkable woman." – Jane Goodall

Recommended Films & Videos

Ring of Fire: An Indonesian Odyssey (Mystic Fire Video: 5 films on 2 DVDs)



With modest financing from investors including the BBC and Ringo Starr, filmmaker brothers Lorne and Lawrence Blair arrived in Indonesia from England in 1972. They traveled through Indonesia's chain of volcanic islands known as "The Ring of Fire" and recorded their experiences in these four fascinating films.

At the time, the Indonesian archipelago still offered isolation for neolithic cultures and their ancient indigenous beliefs. The Blair Brothers spent over two decades documenting the relationships of island ecology and their peoples. One result of the Blairs' work was a PBS-distributed multi-media package - an oversized picture book, alongside the Emmy-nominated BBC/PBS television series Ring of Fire. The film is widely considered a masterwork of both adventure and ethnographic film.

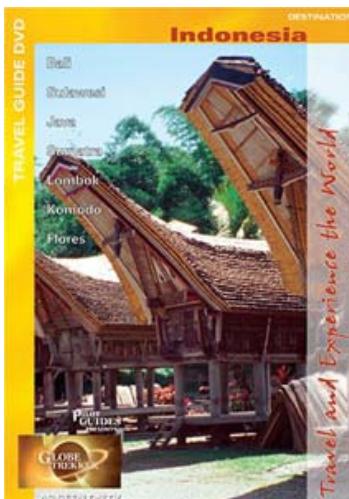
"Sets sails and sights for lands as unfamiliar and spectacular as anything dreamed up for a Steven Spielberg movie. Thoroughly fascinating nearly every harrowing step of the way." – Washington Post (also available on [Netflix](#))

At Stake is a brave and eye-opening documentary series tackling taboo issues that many women are facing in the world's most populous Islamic country. The films are a result of Project Change, a master class documentary workshop, in which four projects from five emerging filmmakers were selected and produced in anthology format. The topics range from female genital mutilation, the conflict over a woman's marital status and her access to reproductive health services, sex workers, female migrant workers, and the difficulties of being a lesbian in Indonesian society.

At Stake has been screened at the Berlin, Jakarta, and Hong Kong International Film Festivals and was the opening film during the 2009 Freedom Film Fest in Kuala Lumpur. From Engage Media – Social Justice and Environmental video from the Asia Pacific



Globe Trekker: Indonesia



If you're a geography buff, you're probably aware that Indonesia is an archipelago. But did you realize that it encompasses some 13,000 individual islands? That's just one of the facts you'll learn on this "Globe Trekker" excursion through a fascinating island nation.

3 Episodes: Bali & Sulawesi, Java & Sumatra, and the Eastern Islands. Stretching 3,000 miles from Asia to the Pacific, with a population of 175 million, Indonesia is the world's largest Moslem nation and one of the most culturally diverse regions in the world.

Join travelers Megan McCormick, Shilpa Mehta, and Mark Crowdy as they visit the archipelago's major islands of Bali, Sulawesi, Java, Sumatra, Lombok, Komodo and Flores. Along the way... Relax with a massage on Kuta Beach. Take part in Bali's New Year celebrations. Come face to face with a Komodo Dragon. Marvel at the dramatic Sulphuric lakes in Flores. Climb the Anak Krakatau volcano - The site of one of the world's most violent eruptions.

Music



Iwan Fals was born Virgiawan Listanto in Jakarta, on September 3, 1961, and is considered a legendary singer-songwriter in Indonesia. At the age of thirteen, he performed as a street performer at wedding ceremonies and other social events. His first solo album was released in 1981, and he has continued to produce records through 2011.

Fals has been compared to Bob Dylan, one of his key influences on both his early style, which made heavy use of the harmonica, and his lyrics, which have frequently been in the protest song genre. He has sung of teachers' salaries being cut, the contrast between hospital treatment of the rich and the poor, and even about an old oxcart that "requires no fuel and creates no pollution".

[Watch Iwan Fals perform *Bongkar* in concert on YouTube](#). The title translates to *Rip It Down* – and the lyrics speak of no longer tolerating greed and oppression.

Titiek Puspa - Born in 1937 in Tanjung, South Kalimantan, Puspa has been described as "the grande dame of Indonesian entertainment". As a child, she wanted to be a kindergarten teacher. However, after winning several singing competitions she decided to become an entertainer. When she won the Radio Republik Indonesia singing competition in Semarang, Central Java, Puspa was asked by the Jakarta Symphony Orchestra to sing for them, and the group elected to keep her as their regular singer.

One of Puspa's songs, *Kupu-Kupu Malam* (Nighttime Butterflies) was selected as one of the best Indonesian songs of all time by *Rolling Stone Indonesia* in 2009. The song was an unbiased look at prostitution in Indonesia, with Puspa's vocals at times sounding as though she were holding back tears and at other times roaring with strength.

[Listen to Kupu-Kupu Malam on YouTube](#)



Agnes Monica has achieved considerable fame for a 26-year old! Born in Jakarta, she entered the entertainment industry at age six, and released her second album by age nine. She became a host for several children's programs, then acted in soap operas. Due to her popularity, she became the highest-paid teenage artist in Indonesia.

Agnes has named Aretha Franklin, Madonna, and Beyoncé among her musical influences. In 2011 she was appointed as an ambassador of the MTV EXIT organization (End Exploitation and Trafficking), which combats human trafficking, for which she performed at benefit concerts in Surabaya and Jakarta. The same year she participated at the *Save Teen Charity Concert* in Jakarta, a benefit concert to raise money to help teenagers who have dropped out of school. Her personal slogan "Dream, Believe, and Make it Happen", was used to inspire young people in a 2011 cultural conference organized by the US Embassy in Jakarta.

[Watch her lively performance on YouTube](#) – (Caution – volume is set very high...)