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Dear Readers

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

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conferences and publications form a basis to present and deliberate upon the scientific research results. In the "Nurt SVD's" Special Issue of 2010 we hereby submit the speeches and lectures delivered during the First Indonesian Meeting (Olsztyn, April 14-15, 2010), organised by the Scientific Circle for Cultural Anthropology, that functions at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, and by the Scientific Circle of the Ethnology Students, that functions at the Faculty of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the Nicholas Copernicus University in Toruń. The material – presented during five lecture sessions – reveals the individual aspects of the Malay Archipelago cultures, with the Bali Island taken into exclusive consideration.

Indonesia's (the Indian Island's) coat of arms depicts Garuda – the mythological bird (a golden eagle), waving a scroll gripped in his legs that bears a motto: *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* – "a Unity in Diversity." This old Javanese motto declares the unity of the Indonesians over the ethnic diversity of the multiple cultures. Such a message is delivered by the announcements discussing: the bahasa language's national meaning, the functions of the *wayang orang* traditional theatre, the strength of the beliefs connected with the Gunung Agung Volcano, a general appearance of the ritually worshipped kris daggers, or the "ecumenism" of the Catholic and Muslim communities – a piece of evidence demonstrated by an SVD-Missionary from Flores. The significance of the Bali Island is, on the other hand, applauded in the articles describing: the *potong gigi* rite of teeth filing, the functions of music in the funeral rituals and the musical presentation of gamelan. The phenomenon of the Chinese minority in Indonesia Raya – „the Great Indonesia” – is yet another, extraordinary, topic of the Issue.

The passionate enthusiasts of the Malay Archipelago cultures – are this "Nurt" Issue's Authors; most of them conducted their research in Indonesia within government, scientific and linguistic scholarships, mainly within the Darmasiswa RI Programme. This research' common feature was the ability to finely identify the subtle phenomena of the specific local cultures – out of this country's highly cosmic characteristics (241 million citizens dwelling 17,508 islands; 300 ethnic groups speaking c. 583 languages and dialects).

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