The Malay Archipelago is a region that covers the present-day Southern Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines. Being located between the two economic and cultural centres in the east and west, China and India, the region became the area where intense cultural diffusion, economic transaction as well as political upheavals took place. The period between the 2nd to the 15th Century C.E., saw the rise of port-polities and kingdoms in the coastal and riverine settlements of the Sumatra, Malay Peninsula and Kalimantan, as well as the fertile plains of Java and Bali. The societies in these areas underwent the process of Indianization, in which they adopted various aspects of Indian cultural elements and absorbed them into the indigenous local cultural system. The Indian cultural elements, which influenced the local cultures, include religion and mythology, art and architecture as well as reckoning system. The 8th Century C.E. saw the rise of great empires in the Malay Archipelago such as Srivijaya, Champa and Angkor whose Indianized cultures had reached their maturity, observable from their material remains. One important aspect of study on these ancient societies is the research on their written documents, which may give important insights into the ancient societies, such as their statecraft, genealogy of rulers, economic system, etc. Most of the scripts in Southeast Asia were derived from the 3rd–4th Century C.E. Southern Indian Brāhmī script, which has been modified by the indigenous population over the centuries according to the phonology and semantics of their language, their writing style and ornamentation as well as medium and type of stylus. One of the interesting subjects of research in the archaeology and history of the Malay Archipelago, is about the Kingdom of Medang in Central and Eastern Java, where numerous inscriptions of Old Javanese script, written in Old Javanese, Old Malay and Sanskrit language were found.

Although most of these inscriptions have been published and transliterated, a good number of them have not yet been translated. Even some of the published transliteration by the previous scholars can still be revisited and revised. Consequently, there is a dire need for further studies on these materials to be
done, especially on the decipherments. The title of the 736 page book is *Aṇugerah Sri Maharaja: Kumpulan Alihaksara dan Alihbahasa Prasasti-Prasasti Jawa Kuno dari Abad VIII-XI*, ISBN 976-979-97404-3-0 (*Aṇugerah Sri Maharaja: Collection of transliteration and translation of Old Javanese Inscriptions from the 8th to the 11th Century C.E.*). The Old Javanese term *Aṇugerah Sri Maharaja* meaning *Gifts of the Kings* probably refers to the inscriptions that were, in fact, mostly issued by the kings. This book was written in Indonesian language by Edhie Wurjantoro, one of the prominent Indonesian Archaeologists. Mr. Wurjantoro is a retired lecturer from Universitas Indonesia who has decades of experience in the research of Hindu-Buddhist period of Indonesian history. This extensive work on Old Javanese epigraphy is a detailed corpus of inscriptions that came from the period of the development of the Kingdom of Medang in Central and Eastern Java. This book is the culmination of 13 years of hard work by Mr. Wurjantoro, who meticulously studied these inscriptions since the year 2000. His book gives special focus only on those epigraphs written in the Old Javanese language, while those written in Sanskrit and Old Malay are not included in the present volume.

Between the 8th and the 11th Century C.E. (time period chosen for this book), the areas of central and eastern Java were where the Kingdom of Medang flourished under the rule of the Sailendra Dynasty. The kingdom was initially established in the plain of Prambanan of Central Java in the 8th Century C.E. and in the 10th Century C.E. it moved to Poh Pitu in Eastern Java. The economy of the kingdom was heavily based on rice farming and supplemented by trade, while making great achievements in conquest, art and architecture. At some point, they were even believed to have extended their dominion up to the Malay Peninsula and Indochina. The well-known monuments of the Medang kingdom include the Borobodur, Prambanan, Manjusgriha and the Kalasan Temple. Among the notable rulers of the Medang kingdom are Sanjaya, Rakai Penangkaran, Dyah Balitung, Pu Sindok and Dharmawangsa Tguh. Aside from archaeological remains, most of what we know about the Kingdom of Medang came from the information retrieved from the epigraphs found in Central and Eastern Java, written in the Old Javanese script, engraved either on stones or metal plates. Most of these inscriptions were written to record the establishment of a *sima* or other subject related to land matters and religious events. These epigraphs give a great deal of information on the reign of certain kings, administrative structure, religion, bureaucracy, etc. To date, around 200 Old Javanese inscriptions have been found in Central and Eastern Java. However, many of these inscriptions are yet to be translated and their contribution to the history of Medang left unknown. This present volume had included the transliteration of 104 inscriptions, as well as their translations that were otherwise unknown before this. Although most of his translations are by no means final, this work could serve as the main reference for scholars in this field, as well as the point of departure for more revision in the translation of the Old Javanese texts of the inscriptions.

This book contains two forewords. The first foreword was briefly written by Ninie Susanti, while the second one was written by Haryani Santiko who gave a fairly detailed discussion on how the texts are structured and arranged in inscriptions. The author begins his book with a preface, giving a brief introduction about the work of previous scholars on this topic. The research gap of this work is stated, though rather vaguely, which is much of the published inscriptions have yet to be translated, and some have not yet even been transliterated. Thus, deciphering these inscriptions became the main objective of this book, though it only involves those written in the Old Javanese language dated from the 8th to the 11th Century C.E. The characteristics of the Old Javanese script are discussed, especially the special form of medial vowel -ĕ and -ö, as well as the sandhi rule. The corpus of 104 inscriptions is classified into the stone and metal engraving, in which the inscriptions are arranged according to their age from the oldest to youngest. Thus, as far as the layout is concerned, the whole book is divided only into two chapters, excluding the preface. The presentation of the data in this work is typically very good, and well articulated. For each and every inscription included into this corpus, all details known to the author are mentioned. They include the date of discovery and find-spot,
current location, accession number, the date of the inscription, length of the text, as well as the inscriptions' state of preservation and their physical characteristics. In addition, all known publications, which describe the inscription, are also listed down. After that, it is followed by the transliteration and translation. Finally, the book ends with a bibliography and glossary. The simple layout of the book is rather similar with other previously published corpus, such as by Sarkar (1972) and Boechari (1985–1986).

The materials used for this book mainly consist of the published epigraphic materials; most of them are still being preserved in the National Museum of Indonesia, Jakarta. All the 104 inscriptions compiled in the present volume have been published elsewhere. Most of these published inscriptions have already been satisfactorily transliterated, from which the author derived his translation, while some of the transliterations were partly being revisited by the author. Most of the transliterations were previously done by Brandes, Boechari, Stutterheim, De Casparis, Damais, Van Stein Callenfels, Kern, Trigangga and Krom. Fifteen inscriptions have been transliterated by the author himself, of which 5 of them were based on his reading from the photographs. The greatest contribution of this work lies in the translation of all these inscriptions, of which their contents are not known to the previous researchers. The translations have given important information about the establishment of sima, the names of important officials, royal families and rulers of the Medang Kingdom, as well as the socio-cultural landscape of the area. Seeing that many questions about the Medang Kingdom are still left unanswered, the translation of these materials provide new sources to enrich its narrative. Most of his translations only present the general meaning of the text, which may not necessarily closely follow the organization of the original text. The author did not discuss in detail how he translated the texts and included very few discussions about the grammatical aspect of the concerned inscriptions. However, considering the fact that this is the first time that the decipherments of the epigraphs were published, the free translation done by the author can be considered as a great contribution to the body of knowledge in this field.

Although some of his translations may not be final and are subject to intense review, one must bear in mind that the task of translating an epigraphic text for the first time is far more difficult than revising the existing translated text. This is caused by the fact that after the mangala, date, names and personalities, subject matter and other details of the inscriptions have already been identified; the job of scrutinizing other more intricate details of the reading would naturally be less daunting. Although the overall historical commentary on the concerned period is absent, due to the number of inscriptions translated and the bulk of data retrieved from the translation, the magnum opus of Mr. Edhie Wirjantoro stands out among other works on Indonesian epigraphy. His research could open more rooms and opportunities for future studies on these materials. Among the potential research which could be further done on these materials include detailed decipherment with proper grammatical commentaries as well as study and analysis of the palaeography of the inscriptions. From the translations, countless works on how the data retrieved could contribute to the social, religious and political history of the region. Such research may unveil more information on the Kingdom of Medang. Thus, the publication of this present volume is very much welcomed.