

Literature as a source for history

The case of the *Repen Ripangi* (1886)

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ABSTRAK

Teks sejarah berbeda dengan teks sastra. Teks sejarah menceritakan apa yang benar-benar terjadi di masa lalu sementara teks sastra tidaklah demikian. Oleh karena itu, sejarawan sering menghindari penggunaan teks sastra dalam penelitian mereka. Saya berargumen bahwa teks sastra dapat menambahkan dimensi lain pada wawasan sejarah, yang tidak ditemukan dalam dokumen sejarah. Analisis puisi Jawa berjudul *Repen Ripangi* dari abad kesembilan belas menunjukkan bahwa teks ini, selain memberikan laporan yang sangat menarik tentang pendamaian ideologis seorang reformis muslim, juga membuka jalan bagi penulisnya dalam menyuarakan kritiknya terhadap kekuasaan kolonial Belanda.

KATA KUNCI

Javanese literature (sastra jawa), *nineteenth century* (abad kesembilan belas), *repen*, Ahmad Rifa'i, Islam, *reformism* (reformisme), Snouck Hurgronje.

Kyai Ahmad Rifa'i or Ahmad Ripangi or Muhammad Ripangi (± 1786-1875) was a religious teacher who lived in Central Java, in the area of Pekalongan. But he was much more than just a religious teacher, he was also a reformist. Furthermore, he founded a religious movement, made a distinct contribution to Javanese literary history, and became the subject of Javanese literature himself. It is in this latter quality that I want to discuss him in this article.

The work of Javanese literature that has Ahmad Rifa'i as its subject is a poem with the name *Repen Ripangi*. This poem is interesting for two reasons: for what it has to say about the historical figure of Ahmad Rifa'i, and for the use made of it as a source of historical information about him.

A major event in Kyai Ahmad Rifa'i's life took place in 1859. In that year he was arrested and exiled to the island of Ambon. These severe steps were taken by the Netherlands-Indies government because Ahmad Rifa'i was considered a threat to peace in Java; there had been repeated complaints about him from

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