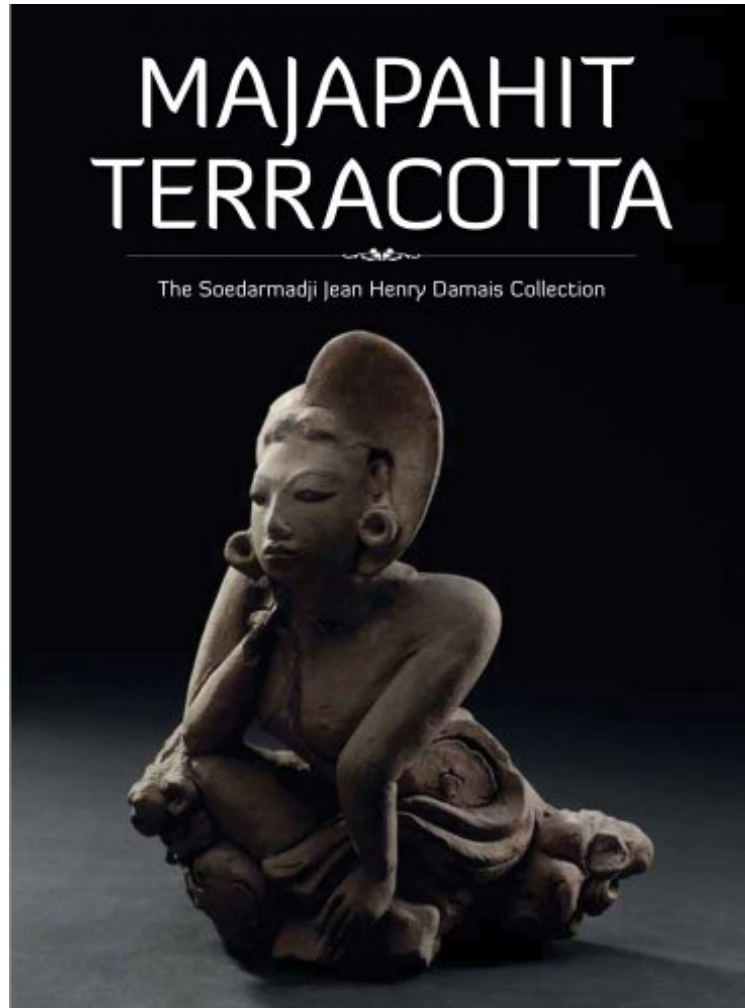


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## **Majapahit Terracotta: The Soedarmadji Jean Henry Damais Collection (Collectible Arts)**

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The Majapahit empire (13th to 16th century) was based in the contemporary regency of Mojokerta, East Java, Indonesia. Majapahit reached its peak during the reign of Rajasanagara, popularly known as Hayam Wuruk (1350-1389). Some of the brick structures of the ancient city, including gateways, temples and pools, can be still be seen today around the village of Trowulan in Mojokerto, reflecting the architecture that once defined the place. Besides

stone statues and inscriptions, this mighty kingdom also left testimonies of everyday life in the form of terracotta artifacts. Not much is known about these artifacts, and what is known is complicated by the many fakes and replicas found in the antique markets. Some of them are in the shapes of humans, animals and mythological creatures. Their functions were diverse, ranging from architectural elements to garden furniture and household utensils. *Majapahit Terracotta* is a guide for collectors of Majapahit terracotta, to enable them to better distinguish authentic pieces from fakes or replicas. It will provide readers with insight into the exciting variety of this little known art form, drawing upon selected items in the collection which the author has carefully assembled over the past thirty years.

About the Author Soedarmadji J. H. Damais is an independent scholar interested in Indonesian art, craft and architecture. He is one of the founders with the late Adam Malik (vice president of the Republic of Indonesia) of the Indonesian Ceramics Society in 1973. He is also a founder of the Wastraprema (Indonesian Society of Traditional Textiles) in 1976 and was active in various foundations and societies for the study and preservation of Indonesian art and craft. He was last the director of the Jakarta History Museum (1989-1999). His other books include *Pusaka Art of Indonesia* (Archipelago Press, 1992), *Java Style* (Editions Didier Millet, 1997), and *Asian Furniture* (Thames Hudson, 2007).