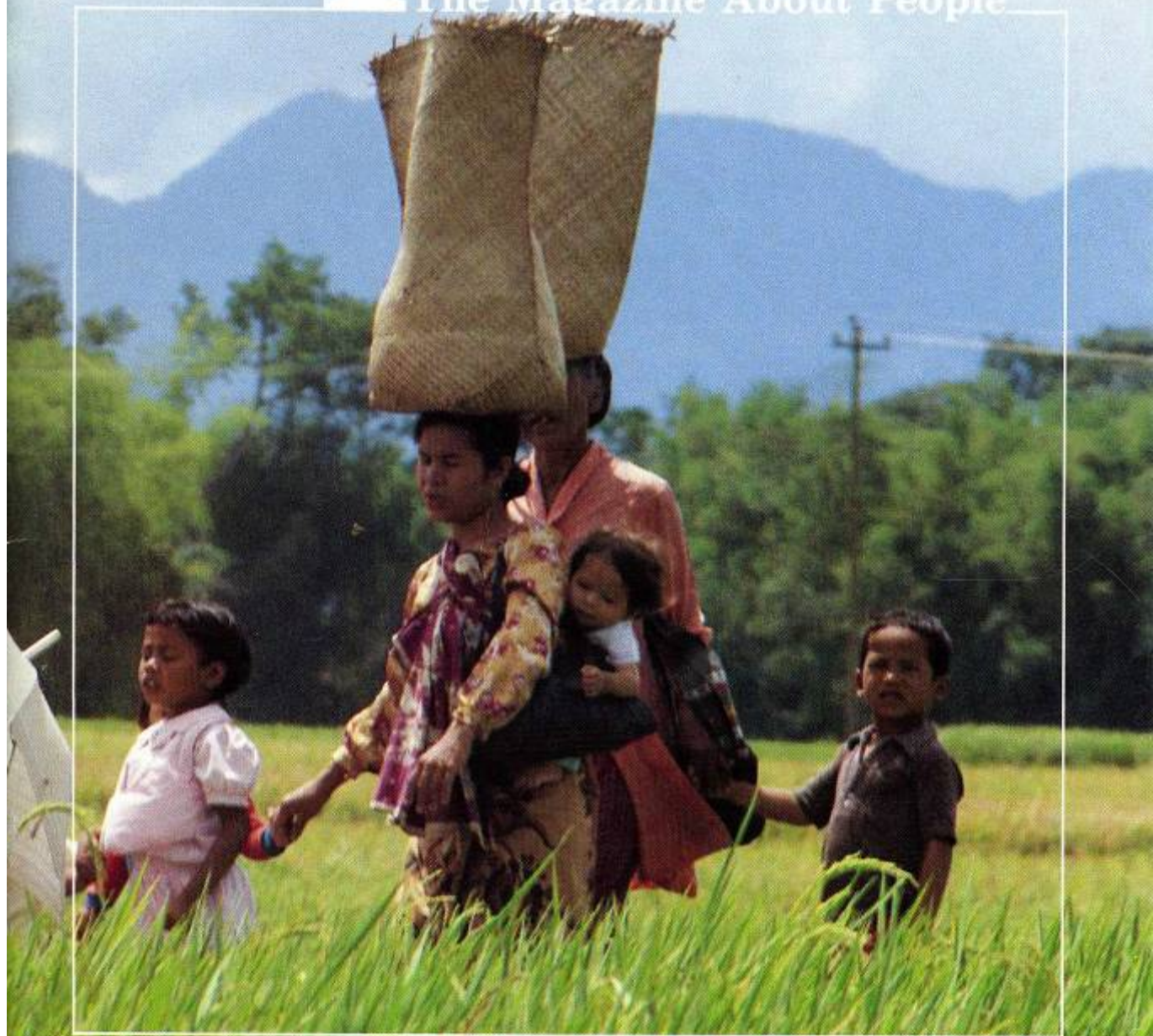


FACES

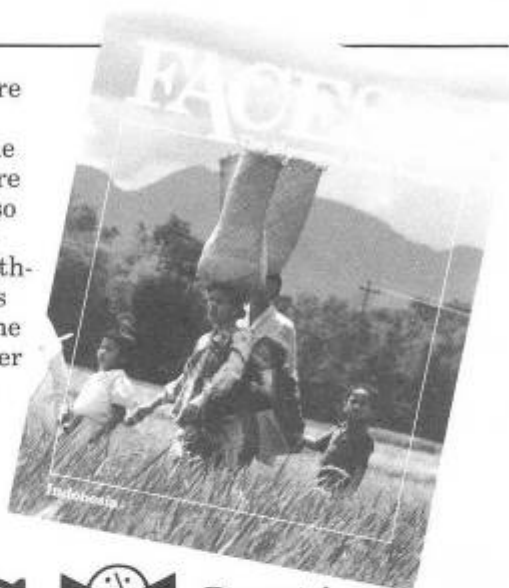
The Magazine About People



Indonesia

About the Cover

When not in school, children are usually found alongside their mother or father, sharing in the village activities. Families share not only the daily work but also preparation for important ceremonies and festivals. Grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and brothers live close together, and everyone watches over the children. Cover photograph by Owen Franken.



FACES



Parents' Choice Magazine Award Winner

The Magazine About People



Editor-in-Chief Carolyn P. Yoder
 Contributing Editor Margaret Cooper
 Senior Editorial Advisor
 Enid Schildkrout, Curator, American Museum of Natural History
 Assistant Editor Sarah E. Hale
 Copy Editor Barbara Jatkola
 Typography Fletcher Typesetting
 Art Director Coni Porter



EDPRESS
 1990 DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

Publisher Lyell C. Dawes
 Business Manager Linda Z. Taylor
 Fulfillment Assistant Amy J. Brown
 Customer Service Robyn Manley
 Assistant Promotion Manager Manuela A. Meier

FACES: The Magazine About People is published with the cooperation of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York. The original concept for a young reader's anthropology magazine was developed by Margaret Cooper.

FACES: The Magazine About People is published monthly except June, July, and August by Cobblestone Publishing, Inc., 30 Grove Street, Peterborough, NH 03458. Telephone: (603) 924-7200. (ISSN 0749-1367.) Volume 7, Number 9. Copyright 1991, Cobblestone Publishing, Inc. Second-class postage paid at Peterborough, New Hampshire, and at additional mailing offices. (USPS 743-010.) All rights reserved, including right of reproduction in whole or in part, in any form. Not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or other material. All letters assumed for publication become the property of Cobblestone Publishing, Inc. Nine issues (one year) \$21.95; \$8.00 additional for Canada, Mexico, and foreign surface mail. Please remit in U.S. funds. Prices subject to change. Back issue prices available on request. For SUBSCRIPTIONS, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, and ADJUSTMENTS, write to *FACES: The Magazine About People*, 30 Grove Street, Peterborough, NH 03458. Please give both new and old address as printed on last label. Allow six to eight weeks for change of address. POSTMASTER: Please send change of address to *FACES: The Magazine About People*, 30 Grove Street, Peterborough, NH 03458. Editorial correspondence: Editorial Department, 30 Grove Street, Peterborough, NH 03458. Printed in the United States of America.

Volume VII
 Number IX
 May 1991

CONTENTS

4. Indonesia:
Unity in Diversity
by Anne Saxon-Hersh

12. A World of
Sea and Islands
by G. Brent Ingram

17. Splendor Restored: The
Monuments of Central Java
by Cecelia Levin

22. How Stars
Became Fireflies
An Indonesian Tale
retold by Laurens Hillhouse

25. Growing Up
in Indonesia
by Lisa M. Sita

34. Performing Arts,
Performing Life
by Rachel Cooper

Features



9. Clove Cupcakes
by Caroline Bates

31. The Batik Look



Activities

2. Editor's Note

3. The Featured Places

38. Further Exploring

39. *FACES* From the Past

40. Letters and Drawings

41. The Next *FACES*

Departments



Fishing has long been important to the local economy of coastal villages throughout Indonesia and supplies many markets worldwide.

Sea and ocean cover three-fifths of the Republic of Indonesia. The sea surrounds many thousands of islands, some with farmland, big cities, and many people. Other islands in Indonesia are covered by tropical rain forest, and people live in small farming villages.

Millions of years ago, some of the large islands of western Indonesia were attached to the

continent of Asia. Sumatra, Borneo, Java, and Bali have tropical forests and mountains very much like those in parts of neighboring Southeast Asia. Similarly, tigers, elephants, and rhinoceros once lived on some of these islands, as they still do in parts of Southeast Asia. Sumatra and Java each have a type of rhinoceros that is much endangered. The orangutan, an endangered



A World of Sea and Islands

by G. Brent Ingram

great ape, also lives on Sumatra. The island in eastern Indonesia, Sulawesi, has an unusual dwarf buffalo, the anoa, and the small island of Komodo, also in eastern Indonesia, is the home of the world's largest lizard, the Komodo dragon.

The extreme eastern part of Indonesia, Irian Jaya, is part of the second largest island on earth, New Guinea. Millions of years ago, New Guinea formed

part of Australia, and it still has many of the same birds, mammals, and plants that live in tropical parts of Australia. Among these are marsupials (mammals that hold their young in pouches) like the wallaby and many brightly colored tropical birds.

Between the Asian and Australian parts of Indonesia lie hundreds of islands, some tiny and others as large as some U.S. states. These islands have names like Babar, Seram, Halmahera, Gebe, Misool, Timor, Sumbawa, Wetar, Banda, Gorong, Sula, and Sumba. Some are the tops of volcanoes; others are piles of sand and sediment that were once on the bottom of the sea, or they are mostly beaches. There are islands with high, cold moun-



Balanced on a shoulder pole, a double basket eases the task of carrying a heavy load of rice seedlings.

Opposite: *Smaller than the Australian kangaroo, the tree kangaroo found on the island of New Guinea has a bushy tail and can climb trees. Like her larger relative, the female carries her young in a pouch.*

tains; dry islands with desert scrub and few trees; and islands covered by thick rain forests where rain falls nearly every day.

The drier islands nearer to Asia, starting near Java and Bali, are called Nusa Tenggara, the Lesser Sunda Islands. The wetter islands to the east are called the Moluccas. Europeans first came to the region 500 years ago to trade for spices, so they called the Moluccas the Spice Islands. Today the trees that produce spices like nutmeg and cloves and precious materials like sandalwood are grown in many parts of the tropical world, but at that time, these islands were the only places to find them.

The combination of species on any Indonesian island de-

pends on its distance from other islands and from Asia and Australia. Sometimes species exist on only one or two islands. Because of the warm seas and rain forests, Indonesia has some of the greatest biological richness on our planet. Only a few other regions on earth are as diverse in species and habitats.

This world of sea and islands is rich, and not very many people live on most of the islands compared to other, poorer parts of Asia. There is an abundance of food, as well as many good sites for villages.

People who live by the sea fish for a living. Some farming communities grow rice, while others depend on the pounded pulp of the sago palm. In some societies, people eat nearly



every kind of wild animal, from snakes to wild pigs, and in others people eat only the meat of farm animals such as chickens and goats. Like bread for many Americans, rice is a

basic food for Indonesians, eaten three times a day.

As choices of food vary among the islanders, so do religious faiths. The majority of people in Indonesia are

Muslims, but the majority on some islands are Christians, and the people of Bali have their own form of Hinduism. Some people practice the traditional religion of their area and pray for harmony and help from the spirits of nature and their ancestors. Sometimes they ask for guidance

Some people practice the traditional religion of their area and pray for harmony and help from the spirits of nature and their ancestors.

from traditional healers.

Indonesians of all religious beliefs also follow codes of rules called *adat* that guide their behavior. Saying "It is *adat*" means "That's the way it is done." An Indonesian needs no further explanation. *Adat* dates back to a time of self-governing villages with rules of conduct that everyone understood. These local rules covered every aspect of life, from the right foods to eat to the right way to get married or inherit land. *Adat* still guides each community in its customary daily life and promotes tolerance among different groups because they respect one another's *adat*. It reflects the importance of formal ceremonies and rituals in Indonesian culture.

Wherever they live, people

are expected to respect and protect forests, reefs, and fishing grounds. But economic pressures threaten some of these rich resources. More and more of the rain forests are being cut down for wood to be sent to other countries. Overfishing and pearl diving, also for export, deplete the richness of the sea. Sometimes forests and coral reefs are destroyed because people take too much and do not think enough about the needs of future generations.

As these pressures change the islands, some birds, fish, and other animals have begun to disappear. On small islands, little natural forest and beach remains for wild species after land is cleared for farming and towns expand. When the habitats of certain species disappear, the animals may become extinct.

Fortunately, local villages, the Indonesian government, and international organizations have started new programs to conserve the precious natural resources of Indonesia. The people care very much for the land and sea and hope to find new ways both to allow people to prosper today and to protect the environment for future generations.



G. Brent Ingram is a professor of environmental planning and ecology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and advises the Environmental Management Development in Indonesia Project of the governments of the Republic of Indonesia and Canada.