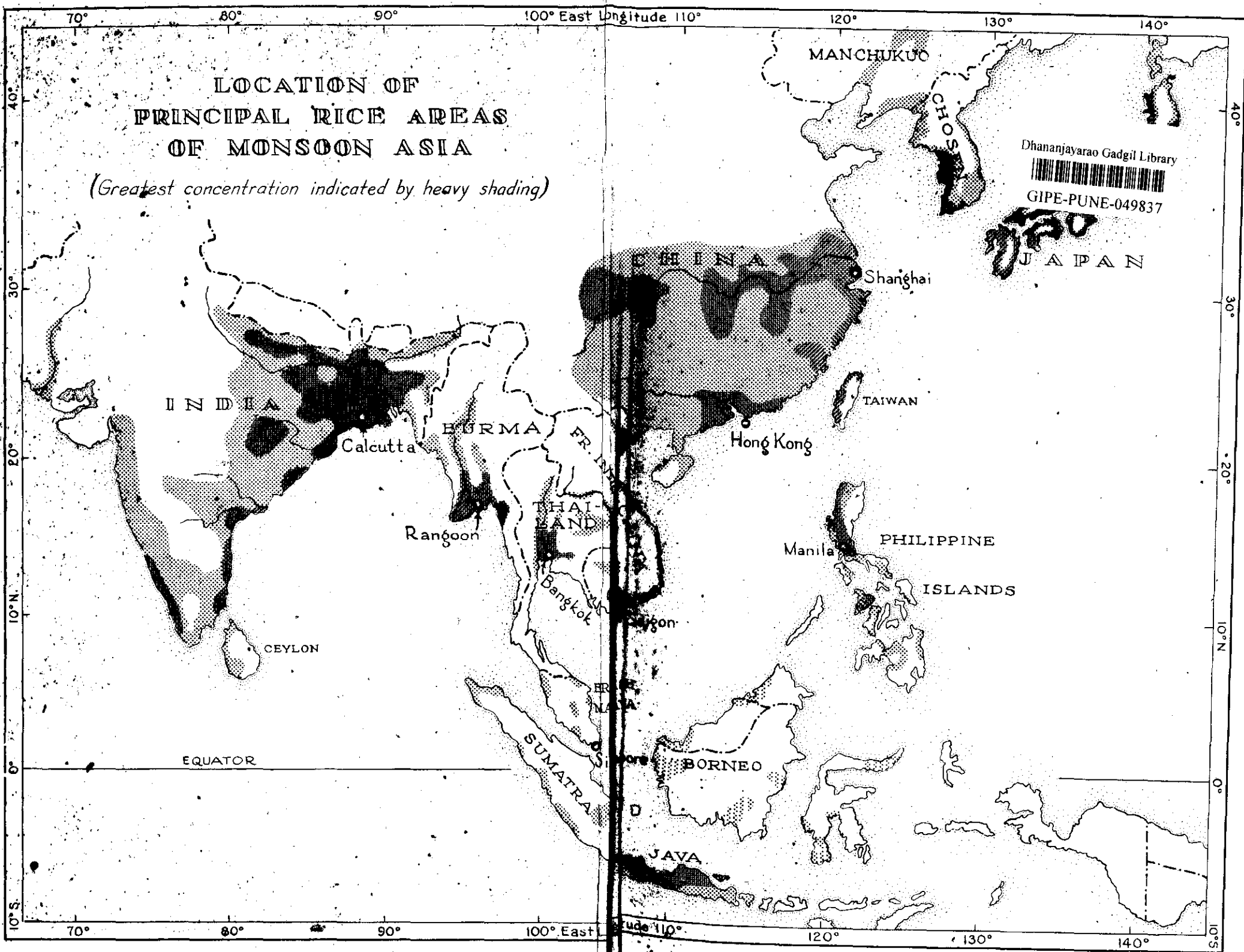


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***The* RICE ECONOMY *of* MONSOON ASIA**

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MONSOON ASIA

By

**V. D. WICKIZER and
M. K. BENNETT**



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STAFF

JOSEPH S. DAVIS, *Director*

M. K. BENNETT, *Economist*

HOLBROOK WORKING, *Economist*

KARL BRANDT, *Economist*

V. D. WICKIZER, *Acting Economist*

V. P. TIMOSHENKO, *Economist*

HELEN C. FARNSWORTH, *Associate Economist*

ALONZO E. TAYLOR, *Director Emeritus*

PUBLICATIONS

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DIRECTOR'S PREFACE

Rice is the great staple in the diet of hundreds of millions of people, particularly in the Orient, and it is the cereal preferred by millions more whose poverty forces them to eat even cheaper foods. Wheat holds the premier position among the food grains for other hundreds of millions—in Europe, Australasia, and the Americas as well as parts of the USSR and the Orient. Both rice and wheat are of major importance in the world's agriculture, but rice dominates agriculture and economic life in Monsoon Asia to a degree that is equaled by wheat in only a few limited regions.

The economics and politics of wheat have been much explored. The Food Research Institute alone has devoted a large part of its energies for twenty years to national and world wheat developments and problems. The world rice economy has been far less adequately investigated. Despite the importance of rice, there has been available no comprehensive study of its position in even the agriculture, trade, and consumption of Monsoon Asia, where 95 per cent of the world's rice is produced and consumed. It is hoped that this book will not only help to fill this need but also contribute to a better understanding of Far Eastern food problems, at a time when many eyes are turned toward the Orient, and that it will stimulate the growth of fuller knowledge through the work of others in the years ahead.

Study of rice at the Food Research Institute was initiated by the late Carl L. Alsberg, while he was one of its directors. As an outgrowth of discussions at the Honolulu conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations in 1927, that Institute secured substantial grants of funds from the Social Science Research Council for two related series of investigations under Dr. Alsberg's direction. These were on trends in consumption of agricultural products in southeastern Asia and trends in Pacific agriculture from subsistence farming to cash-crop farming. In connection with this enterprise Dr. Alsberg

spent several months in the Orient in 1929, and subsequently directed the work of a number of research workers in China and at Stanford University. Among the products published in Food Research Institute series were W. Y. Swen and C. L. Alsberg, "Japan as a Producer and Importer of Wheat" (*Wheat Studies*, July 1930) and E. F. Penrose, *Population Theories and Their Application, with Special Reference to Japan* (Miscellaneous Publication 7, September 1934).

In the course of these investigations, materials on rice were gradually assembled, with aid from officials and others in the rice world. Before the grants expired in June 1933, Mr. Penrose and Mr. Wickizer had devoted months of their time specifically to rice. Dr. Alsberg long planned to utilize their manuscripts in producing a joint work. This he never succeeded in doing—chiefly because so much of his energy was absorbed by other heavy responsibilities on behalf of the Institute of Pacific Relations and the Social Science Research Council.

The present book is largely the work of V. D. Wickizer. Because of his own plans to study in the Far East, and his earlier work on rice, the Food Research Institute arranged in 1939 for him to pursue the subject afresh. In the course of his travel he visited most of the countries of Monsoon Asia. Upon his return to this country in 1940 Mr. Wickizer rejoined the Institute staff, and he has since devoted himself primarily to the completion of this project. Dr. Alsberg's untimely death in October 1940 put an end to a collaboration which had been strongly counted upon. Thereafter, M. K. Bennett worked with Mr. Wickizer in revising and completing the manuscript, and contributed portions involving his own specialized knowledge. In various other respects, experience accumulated in the Food Research Institute has facilitated the present work.

As noted on the title page, *The Rice Economy of Monsoon Asia* is published in co-operation with the International Secretariat of the Institute of Pacific Relations; but neither the

DIRECTOR'S PREFACE

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secretariat nor the national councils of that Institute assume any responsibility for statements of fact or opinion contained herein.

Perfection in a task of this sort is at best an unattainable goal, and the authors are aware that the book has various shortcomings. Many of these are attributable to difficulties inherent in the subject and limitations of accessible materials, to the unforeseen absence of Dr. Alsberg's potentially rich contributions, and to war conditions that have interfered with having drafts given critical readings by qualified persons in the Orient. Nevertheless, the very protraction of the research period has permitted an unusual degree of maturing of the study, and our experience strongly points to the desirability of avoiding extreme delays incidental to eliminating every remediable flaw. We shall of course be grateful to readers, including reviewers, who bring errors and omissions to our attention.

JOSEPH S. DAVIS

October 1941

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors feel peculiarly indebted to the late Carl L. Alsberg, whose interest in Far Eastern agriculture and food problems provided the stimulus for initiating and pursuing an extended economic study of rice. Joseph S. Davis shared Dr. Alsberg's view of the importance of the subject, actively sponsored the project which resulted in this book, and has contributed generously to its completion. Other colleagues have critically read all or portions of the proof and have been most helpful.

The chief burden of statistical compilations, computations, and revisions has fallen on Rosamond H. Peirce; the drawing and finishing of charts and maps on P. Stanley King; and the typing, checking, and general assistance in seeing the book through the press, on Ruth Lee Young. The co-operation of these three principal assistants has been invaluable, and the authors' appreciation is far greater than can be expressed in a brief note of acknowledgment.

To those both in this country and in the Far East who have indirectly contributed to this book through conversations, correspondence, or help in uncovering materials, the authors wish to express their thanks even though the specific influence of these individuals on the final product can no longer be identified.

V. D. WICKIZER
M. K. BENNETT

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