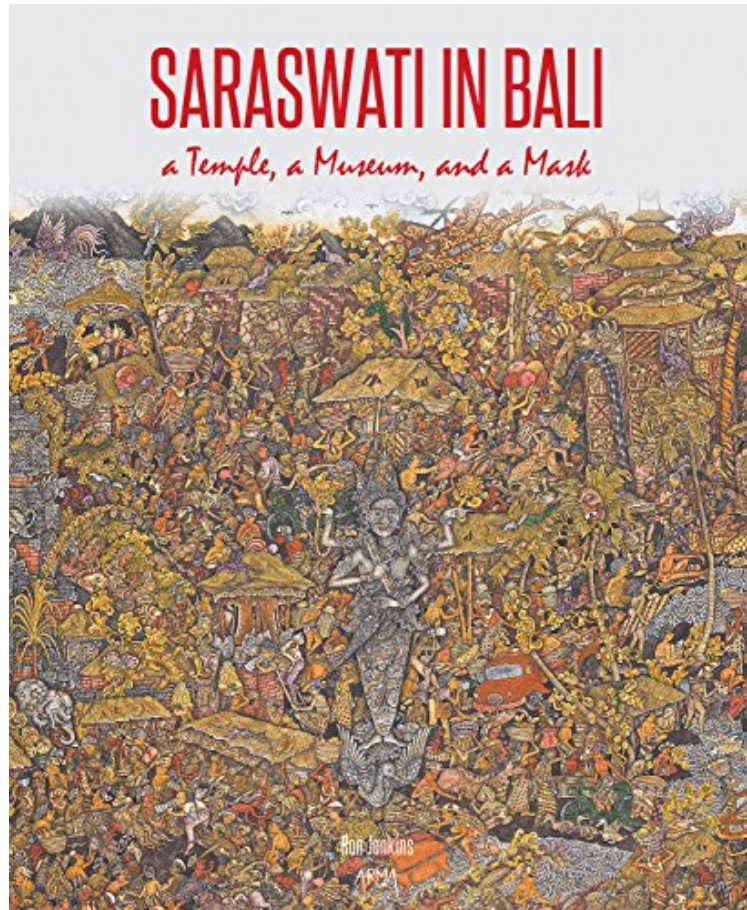


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Saraswati in Bali: A Temple, A Museum, and a Mask

Ron Jenkins

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Ron Jenkins : Saraswati in Bali: A Temple, A Museum, and a Mask before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saraswati in Bali: A Temple, A Museum, and a Mask:

Worshipped as the goddess of knowledge, beauty, and the arts, Saraswati continues to influence daily life in the Balinese village of Peliatan. Saraswati in Bali explains how one of the world's most famous tourist destinations strives to preserve its cultural traditions through the ceremonies, shadow plays, and masked dances held at the Pura Madya temple festival as well as the art collection, landscaped gardens, and cultural events at the nearby ARMA Museum. Theater professor Ron Jenkins has studied Balinese arts and culture for more than thirty years. In this enlightening volume, he shares vivid descriptions of the festival and lively interviews with painters, dancers, farmers, kings, and priests to illustrate Balinese beliefs in the sacred power of art and literature. He also documents how ancient texts inscribed on palm-leaf manuscripts suggest that Saraswati's teachings enrich human life with invisible meaning. Anyone interested in the performing arts or world mythology will be fascinated by the way the museum and temple

have helped to keep Bali's hidden wisdom accessible in changing times.

"What are the hidden meanings of the theatrical spectacles of a temple ceremony in modern Bali? Jenkins explores deep spiritual themes with the help of Balinese mask carvers, dancers, painters and the creator of a great museum who give him probing interpretations of a marvelous temple festival." Hildred Geertz Princeton University, author of *The Life of a Balinese Temple*"Saraswati in Bali by Professor Ron Jenkins is an excellent and comprehensive account of Saraswati. For the Balinese, the goddess Saraswati is the symbol of knowledge, science, wisdom, beauty, and creativity. This book is essential for understanding Balinese culture." Professor I Made Bandem; Former Director of The Indonesian Institute for the Arts"This offers a glimpse [into] Balinese culture via life in the village of Peliatan, which is heavily influenced by the Hindu goddess Saraswati. Here, faith is used to maintain cultural identity and the villagers' spirituality is manifested in festivals and rituals." *Travel Life* magazine

About the Author Ron Jenkins, a former Guggenheim Fellow, has investigated Balinese arts and culture for over thirty years with the support of the Thomas Watson Foundation, the Asian Cultural Council, the Institute for Intercultural Studies, The Wianta Foundation, and a Fulbright Senior Research Grant. He is the author of several books and has translated the plays of the Italian Nobel Laureate Dario Fo for production in theaters throughout the world. He has been a resident writer at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center and written articles for the *New York Times*, the *Jakarta Post*, the *Kyoto*, and the *International Herald Tribune*. A professor of theater at Wesleyan University, Jenkins holds a Doctorate from Harvard University and a Masters of Buffoonery from the Ringling Brothers Clown College.