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| Anwar, Chairil (1922 – 1949) |
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| Chairil Anwar (Medan, 1922 – Jakarta, 1949) is known in Indonesia as the Poet of the Revolution. His life and work epitomize not only the turmoil of the Japanese occupation of the Dutch Indies and Indonesia’s struggle for Independence but also the radical transformations in the use of Malay, the national language of Indonesia since August 17, 1945. Until today, Chairil, bohemian and wanderer, is seen as the model of the so-called Angkatan ’45 (the Generation of ‘45), a diffuse group of authors and intellectuals in Jakarta who shared little more than a cautiously expressed desire to create a novel Indonesian culture that was to transcend colonial as well as regional cultures; they claimed to be ‘the heirs of world culture’ and Chairil, western educated and well-aware of Malay writing traditions, certainly was one of them. |
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