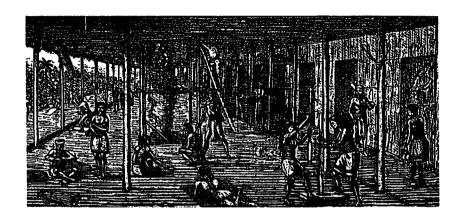
Land and Longhouse

Agrarian Transformation in the Uplands of Sarawak



R.A. Cramb





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A NOTE ON ILLUSTRATIONS

The scorpion (kala) motif on the front cover is a ritually 'cool' symbol signifying strength and cunning, an appropriate metaphor for the adaptability and resilience of Iban farmers and communities. The illustration on the back cover is a carved image of a rhinoceros hornbill (kenyalang) from the Saribas, used in elaborate collective rituals (gawai) that celebrate individual achievement within the context of the longhouse and regional community. The longhouse image accompanying the chapter headings depicts a scene from Panggau Libau, the mythical home of the Iban culture heroes such as Keling and Kumang. It is a land where crops never fail, hunters always find game, rivers have curative powers, and success attends every undertaking. The illustration is reproduced with the kind permission of Jimmy Donald from his book, Keling of the Raised World.