Part I

Tradition, Modernity, and the Challenge of Prosaic Hinduism

The history of religions in South and Southeast Asia, as [Paul] Mus interprets it, is a history in which the basic pattern and logic of indigenous cadastral religion is challenged, enriched and compromised and reasserted in new forms.

—Reynolds, “Toward a History of Religions”

It would appear that there is an intrinsic connection between the “Hinduism” that is being constructed in the political arena and the “Hinduism” of academic study.

—Friedhelm Hardy (cited in King, Orientalism and Religion).