

Leo Lu

Dustin Sharp

8H B Geography

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Malaysian Artifact Transcript

Hello, I am curator Leo Lu from 8(8). What you are seeing in front of you right now, is the artifact of Malaysia: the wau bulan.

This kite is a minuscule representation of the famous Malaysian wau bulan, or “crescent kite”. Waus are traditionally flown by Malaysian men in holidays. In fact, waus like such are believed to have originated back in the days of the Srivijayan Empire between the fourth and thirteenth centuries, where it is said that a prince used the wau to map out the areas he conquered and to show it to his people.

To begin with, food is among the most important aspects of Malaysian culture, and the Nasi Lemak, featured in the very center of the wau, is one of the most famous dishes. The Nasi Lemak, or “Coconut Rice”, is often considered as a national dish even though it likely originated from only Southern and Central Malaysia. In fact, it is even celebrated by Google as Malaysia’s signature dish on the current Malaysian president’s inauguration day.

Malaysia’s signature clothing for women is the tudong. It is a variation of the Islamic hijab, and despite being imported with Islamic culture in as late as the twelfth century, tudongs had already become a common practice among Malaysian Muslims. In fact, the Islamic community even holds a negative attitude towards Islamic women

who don't wear tudongs.

To conclude with, the bottom crescent of the wau features two objects: the kendang and the labu sayong. The kendang is a type of drum used in Malaysian and Indonesian dances and songs, usually with the female drum leading the male drum. It symbolizes Malaysian music in general because most of the vocal and drama performances have the kendang accompanying them. And there is the labu sayong, which is a clay container with shiny gloss. Even though Perak, a Western state in Malaysia, is exclusively famous for these potteries, the labu sayong still can act as a general symbol for Malaysian handicrafts.

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