

Vol 2, Issue 4, January 2007

bilioasia

ISSN: 0219-8126



National Library Board
Singapore

04 Of Towchangs and the 'Republic Beard'
Dr Lim Boon Keng's Life and Achievements

12 சிங்கப்பூரின் தமிழ் இலக்கிய முன்னோடி
திரு நா பழநிவேலு அவர்களைப் பற்றிய தொகுப்பு.

24 Babas and Nonyas
The Peranakan Chinese in Singapore

Contents



Features

04 Of *Towchangs* and the 'Republic Beard':
Dr Lim Boon Keng's Life and Achievements

10 'Reading' Contemporary Art:
The Singapore Biennale

12 சிங்கப்பூர் இலக்கிய முன்னோடி திரு. ந. பழநிவேலு

Collection Highlights

18 走近传统中医药 – 李光前参考图书馆“医药保健”专题

24 Babas and Nonyas:
The Peranakan Chinese in Singapore

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions about this publication, please direct them to:

Publishing & Research Services

National Library Board

100 Victoria Street, #07-02

Singapore 188064

Tel: 6333 7977

Fax: 6333 7990

Email: cis@nlb.gov.sg

Website: <http://www.nlb.gov.sg>

Cover image: Dr Lim Boon Keng

Source: Teh Guat Kheng

Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

©National Library Board Singapore 2007

ISSN: 0219-8126

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of the publisher, the National Library Board Singapore.

Whilst the National Library Board Singapore has used reasonable endeavours to ensure that the information provided in the publication is accurate and up to date as at the time of issue, it reserves the right to make corrections and does not warrant that it is complete.

The National Library Board disclaims all liability and responsibility for any loss caused to any person by any act or omission, due to the material contained in this publication.

Regulars

03 Director's Column

28 Book Reviews

35 Your Say

News

30 Digital Terrorism Conference

Mrs Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States of America, Visits the National Library

Partnering with Librarians in Vietnam

Heritage Road Show @ the National Library

XIMedialab Comes to the Library

Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship Series



Editorial/Production

Editor

Lynn Fong

Sub-editors

Leslie Koh

Contributors

Ang Seow Leng, Roberta Balagopal, Sundari Balasubramaniam, Vicky Gao, Bonny Tan, Tang Puay Eng, Tan Pei Jiun, Rokiah Mentol, Sukinah Suradi, Jane Wee, Ronnie Tan, Ivy Lee, Damien Wang, Leslie Koh

Photographers

Ronnie Tan

Production Coordinator

Publishing and Research Services

Designer

Dreamworks Communication

Print Production

GPS Print Media



Director's Column

History is not just about personalities but also about their deeds, their contributions and their culture. A mix of history and cultures forms essential components of Singapore past and present. This provides a varied look at Singapore culture from all angles, from individual personalities and entire groups to their practices and writings. The pioneers of Singapore have together moulded and influenced Singapore local culture.

In this issue, we celebrate two of our pioneers: Dr Lim Boon Keng and N Palanivelu, both of whom in their own ways have contributed much to the progress of Singapore. Dr Lim was a great advocate for Chinese education. He also played an instrumental role in the survival and growth of early immigrant Chinese even during the Japanese Occupation. 2007 marks the 50th anniversary of Dr Lim Boon Keng's death and at the start of this new year, the Library commemorates this important man in Singapore's history with an exhibition, "Lim Boon Keng: A Life to Remember" on the life and times of Dr Lim. A series of related programmes will be held in conjunction with the exhibition, including a musical performance put together by Stella Kon, the great-granddaughter of Dr Lim, a special heritage bus tour to places related to Dr Lim Boon Keng, and a conference. More information can be found at <http://www.nlb.gov.sg>.

Mr N Palanivelu, a novelist, playwright and poet, contributed much to the Singapore Tamil literary scene. Mr N Palanivelu had been an active writer for more than 50 years and wrote some 50 stories over a period of 25 years. He also staged plays on the themes of social reform. Winner of several awards, including the prestigious Cultural Medallion for Drama in 1986, Mr N Palanivelu is featured in this issue and is also one of the authors highlighted in the Singapore Literary Pioneers Gallery at the National Library.

Besides individuals, ethnic groups also play a part in the evolution of Singapore's history. One of these groups is the Peranakan community. Commonly known as Babas, the Peranakans play a significant role in shaping local culture with their food, beadwork and jewellery. To provide better access to the materials on Peranakan culture and history,

“ The Library has compiled and published a bibliography, *Prominent Singaporeans: Sources of Information*, to guide library users in locating relevant materials for their research. **”**

a resource guide, *A Baba Bibliography*, with more than 1,500 annotated citations of books, chapters in books, magazine and newspaper articles, websites and audiovisual materials on the subject, will be published in the coming months. These materials span a period of almost 200 years of writing, from the early 19th century to the 21st century. An article in this issue discusses this in detail.

To assist you in getting a deeper insight into the lives of our pioneers, I am pleased to say that you can consult reference sources authored by pioneers available at the National Library. One item is *Chinese Crisis from Within*, articles on the political situation of China written by Dr Lim Boon Keng. Another is *One Hundred Years' History of the Chinese in Singapore*, which is also available online in the Digital Library. Written by Mr Song Ong Siang, a prominent Straits Chinese leader in 1923, the title is an authoritative source on the Chinese community in Singapore then. You can also find other books written about the pioneers of Singapore; some of them though, may only discuss a particular pioneer. To help you with your reference and research, the National Library has compiled and published a bibliography, *Prominent Singaporeans: Sources of Information*, to guide you in locating relevant materials more effectively. The research guide is available in the Digital Library (<http://www.nlb.gov.sg>) located under "e-Resources, e-Collections".

In addition to the above, there are other programmes and exhibitions organised by the National Library in the coming months. I would like to encourage you to sign up for the programmes at <http://www.nlb.gov.sg>. We look forward to seeing you at the Library, and happy reading!

Ms Ngian Lek Choh

Director
National Library

OF



LOWCHANGS
AND THE 'REPUBLIC BEARD':
DR LIM BOON KENG'S
LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

By Ang Seow Leng, Senior Reference Librarian, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

A REMARKABLE MAN

A prominent pioneer of early Singapore, Dr Lim Boon Keng was an accomplished businessman and doctor. He also contributed his time and effort to resolving the various issues faced by the Chinese community during the colonial times.

As one of the respected Chinese leaders in Singapore, he advocated several social reforms through his writings and debates in the Chinese Philomathic Society, which he co-founded with community leader Song Ong Siang. Convinced that Confucianism would be the way for the Chinese community to improve, he was passionate about having all Chinese learn the Chinese language. He also participated in creating a milestone in China's history with Dr Sun Yat-sen, and spent 16 years of his life heading Xiamen University (Amoy University) as its president.

This remarkable man was born on 18 Oct 1869. A third-generation Straits Chinese, Dr Lim Boon Keng's life and experiences were closely linked to the developments of the British colonial powers in the region and China at the turn of the century. His ability to deal with both the colonial powers and the Chinese government allowed him to fully use his potential and capabilities.

LIM BOON KENG, THE DOCTOR

Dr Lim's education started out with a brief stint at a school set up by the Hokkien Clan Association, where he learnt



(from left) Song Ong Siang, Dr Gnoh Lean Tuck and Dr Lim Boon Keng – First Queen's Scholars

Reproduced from *One Hundred Years' History of the Chinese in Singapore*
All rights reserved, Murray, 1923

Chinese classics. He then moved on to the Government Cross Street School to start his English education, then on to Raffles Institution. He was nearly unable to complete his education because of financial difficulties resulting from his father's death, but the headmaster of Raffles Institution, Mr R.W. Hullett, provided financial assistance and moral support (Song, 1984).

The young man did not disappoint the headmaster. After finishing school at Raffles Institution, he won a Queen's Scholarship in 1887 to study at the University of Edinburgh for six years, graduating in medicine and surgery with first class honours in 1892.

He was also a Fellow and one-time President of the Royal Medical Society, as well as research scholar in pathology at Cambridge University. When asked at the age of 80 what his happiest memories were, he fondly recounted his school days and the words of wisdom that the RI headmaster had shared with him before he left for London: "You are a Chinese going to the West and remember to respect yourself and do right. Never mind what other people, the rich and the influential, may think of you. As long as you do right and remain right, you will always be happy" (Ferroa, 1948).

Upon returning to Singapore in 1893, the young doctor set up a clinic at Telok Ayer Street. He also gave a course of seven lectures on 'First Aids in Ambulance' during what was supposed to be a fortnightly meeting of the Chinese Christian Association. It was well attended by 35 participants (*Straits Chinese Magazine*, 1898).

His contributions to the medical field extended beyond Singapore shores. Apart from being the medical delegate of the Chinese Government to Paris and Rome at the Conference Sanitaire Internationale, Dr Lim was also the Medical Director of the Chinese Section of the International Hygiene Exhibition in Dresden. Back home in Singapore, he raised funds for the founding of the King Edward VII Medical School in 1905, and volunteered to be a lecturer on Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and Materia Medica at the same school. He also co-founded the Anti-Opium Society in 1906, and in 1912, was made president of the Board of Health in the Republican Government at Nanking.

In 1895, at a young age of 26, Dr Lim was appointed as a Chinese member of the Straits Settlements Legislative Council. For more than 10 years, he was nominated repeatedly for this position. For several years, he also served as a Justice of Peace, a Municipal Commissioner and a member of the Chinese Advisory Board. He was also very active in participating in major events related

to the British colonial government, attending the coronation of King Edward VII and King George V in 1902 and 1911 respectively (Song, 1984). He even wrote an article about the Diamond Jubilee in the *Straits Chinese Magazine* in 1897.

LIM BOON KENG, THE BUSINESSMAN

Lim Boon Keng's business acumen led him to initiate rubber planting in Malaya, after listening to the advice of Henry Nicholas Ridley, then the Director of the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Believing that there would be good prospects for this business venture, Dr Lim pioneered large-scale rubber planting with Mr Tan Chay Yan of Malacca. Those who heeded his call to start rubber plantations enjoyed a booming success.

The accomplished businessman also helped to establish the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce in 1906, joining the Chamber as a member. He also established three banks with other prominent Straits Chinese: the Chinese Commercial Bank, the Ho Hong Bank and the Oversea-Chinese Bank.

Being passionate about improving the life of Straits Chinese and the Chinese community, Dr Lim and his friends also formed a number of societies, started a magazine, ran a newspaper, founded a school for girls and started a Mandarin class.

LIM BOON KENG, THE EDUCATION ADVOCATE

In 1896, he started the Chinese Philomathic Society with the support of other prominent Chinese. The Society's main focus was to study English literature, Western music and the Chinese language. In 1919, together with Tan Jiak Kim, Seah Liang Seah and Song Ong Siang, Dr Lim co-founded the Straits Chinese British Association, which served as a voice for the Straits Chinese, and was elected president twice in its first two decades. He was also a member of the Ee Hoe Hean Club, which was set up in 1895 and is one of the oldest Chinese clubs in Singapore.

Concerned by the low literacy levels of Straits Chinese women, Dr Lim co-founded the Singapore Chinese Girls' School with Song Ong Siang in 1899. That year, on 1 July, the school opened with seven Straits Chinese girls as students. It was located at the junction of Hill Street and Armenian Street, next to the Masonic Hall, (Ooi, 1999).

In an attempt to popularise the learning of Mandarin, he started Mandarin classes in his house in 1898, drawing a steadily increasing number of students. The "old and young were attracted not only by his new method of teaching

Chinese, but also by his eloquent lectures on Confucius and Confucian teachings..." (Kiong, 1907).

Dr Lim also urged the use of Chinese as a medium of instruction for Chinese children, in addition to English. In one of the issues of the *Straits Chinese Magazine*, he wrote that it was impossible to cut adrift from a nation all its traditions and yet expect it to prosper; for far away from its historical and radical connections, a people, like a tree severed from its roots, must wither away and degenerate (Lim, 1897). He believed that Chinese children should be trained in two languages, so as to retain their ethnic roots while still being able to contribute to the society economically.

LIM BOON KENG, THE PATRIOT

Apart from serving the Chinese community in Singapore, he also played a large role in the politics of China as an overseas Chinese. In 1900, when China's prominent reform movement leader Kang Youwei was in exile in Singapore, Dr Lim was briefly involved in ensuring his safety. Later, Dr Lim assisted Dr Sun Yat-sen in raising funds and recruiting supporters.

He recalled later that after attending the coronation of King George V in 1911, he went to Dresden, Germany, where he took charge of the Chinese pavilion at a Health and Hygiene Exhibition. When he received news of the Chinese Revolution, he immediately left for China and stayed at Hankow with Dr Sun Yat-sen. While in China, he witnessed the birth of the Chinese Republic. The training that he had received during the four years he spent with the Chinese Company of the Singapore Volunteer Infantry from 1901 was likely put to good use then (Ferroa, 1948).

During the days of the revolution, Dr Lim grew a beard which he called the "Republic Beard". He kept it for the rest of his life. In 1911, he was appointed medical adviser to the Chinese Ministry of the Interior as well as Inspector-General of Hospitals in Peking, and in 1912, as confidential secretary and personal physician to Dr Sun Yat-sen. He became one of the original principal officials of Singapore's Kuomintang branch in 1913 (Png, 1961).



**Dr Lim Boon Keng's
"Republic Beard"**

Image reproduced from *Pieces of Jade and Gold: An Anecdotal History of the Singapore Chinese Girls' School 1899-1999*. All rights reserved, Singapore Chinese Girls' School, 1999

When World War I broke out, he put his talent in fund raising to use again, lending his support to the British colonial government by getting Straits Chinese to contribute funds to the Prince of Wales Relief Fund and towards the purchase of warplanes.

Dr Lim's relationship with China did not end there. In 1921, at the age of 52, he accepted Tan Kah Kee's invitation to be the president of Xiamen University (University of Amoy), and for the next 16 years, devoted himself to running the University.

When the Depression came about in 1929, it threw more challenges at the pioneer. Insufficient funds prompted him to travel to the Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore to secure funds from overseas Chinese for the university. Unfortunately, he could not get along with lecturers and students who did not agree with his education ideology (毕, 1985). All these contributed to his resignation from the university later, after which he finally settled down in Singapore for good in 1937.

In 1942, World War II broke out in Singapore. At the age of 73, Dr Lim was forced by the Japanese to lead the Overseas Chinese Association. Surrounded by Japanese spies and informers and the *Kempeitai*¹, the Association was formed by the Japanese to serve the needs of the Chinese community. Dr Lim was ordered to raise a 'donation' of \$50 million for Japan on behalf of all Malayan Chinese. He alone was expected to come up with \$2,200. Unable to meet this request, he took to drinking to forget his worries.

Fortunately, his former students helped him raise the sum. However, it was an impossible task to raise \$50 million. When the deadline was up, Chinese leaders from all the states had to suffer verbal abuses. Dr Lim gave an emotional retort, "We never told a lie. When we promised to give the military contribution, we meant to do it. Financial conditions are now such as to be beyond our control. If we are unable to pay, then die we will. I wish to point out, however, that the manner in which the Government raises this military contribution is without any parallel in any country" (Tan, 1947). This issue was solved later with a loan from the Yokohama Specie Bank for the outstanding \$22 million.

The Japanese did not pass up any opportunities to make use of Dr Lim while carrying out their propaganda activities. A member of Force 136, Lin

Jinquan, remembered that Dr Lim was so upset by a Japanese that he attempted to commit suicide. Another Force 136 member, Lin Shuyan, also recalled that Dr Lim would get drunk and say he wanted to dance. Once, while drunk, he cried and said that he should not have done all the things he had been doing (毕, 1985).

LIM BOON KENG, THE AUTHOR

Dr Lim and Song Ong Siang started the *Straits Chinese Magazine*, and served as its editors. This quarterly magazine ran for 11 years from 1897 to 1907. Dr Lim contributed no less than 20 articles to the magazine, mainly covering health issues, his ideas on various social reforms, and Confucianism.

In 1899, he started writing about social reforms, covering the question of whether Chinese should keep their queues, dress and costume, the education of children, religion, filial piety and funeral rites. His call to Chinese men to remove the queue (also known as the towchang), in particular, caused an uproar.² Even in his later years, he continued to stand by his conviction that long hair was unnecessary, unhygienic and disgraceful to the Chinese. It represented an era of Subjugation (Morgan, 1956). He also condemned the smoking of opium in the Chinese community and wrote numerous articles in support of Confucian practices. Some of the concepts that he brought up included Confucian cosmogony and theism; the basis of Confucian ethics; the Confucian doctrine of brotherly love; the status of women under a Confucian regime; Confucian code of conjugal harmony and Confucian ethics of friendship.

Dr Lim and his father-in-law, Wong Nai Siong, also bought over a Chinese newspaper, *Xing Bao* (星报), and renamed it *Ri Xin Bao* (日新报). Once again, this paper became a medium for him to reach out to the Chinese community. In order to broaden the



The first issue of the *Straits Chinese Magazine*, published in 1897.

A copy of this is available in the National Library



One of the earlier editions of *Ri Xin Bao*.

Copies of the newspaper are available in the National Library

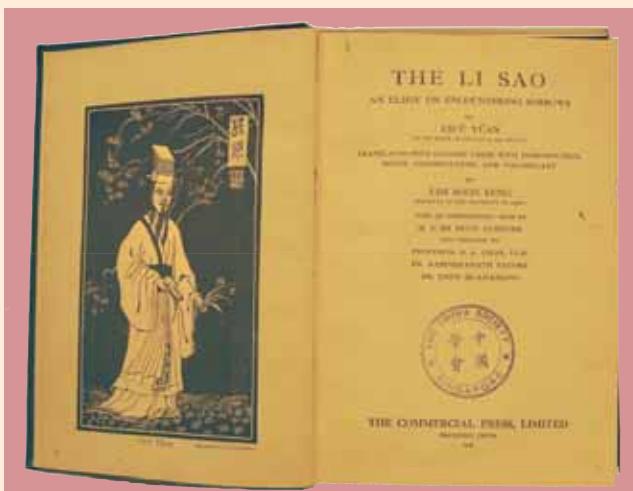
horizon of this community, he included international news and reports on science and technology in the Western countries. Unfortunately, the paper ran for only two years because of financial problems (Hui, 1985).

Being a prolific writer, Dr Lim wrote many books and did some translations.

<<普通卫生讲义>> or Elements of Popular Hygiene (1911) and

<<孔教大纲>> or Principles of Confucianism (1914) were two examples of his Chinese works. Examples of his English publications include The Chinese Crisis from Within (1901), The Great War from the Confucian Point of View, and Kindred Topics: Being Lectures Delivered during 1914-1917 (1917), Tragedies of Eastern Life: An Introduction to the Problems of Social Psychology (1927), and The Li Sao: An Elegy on Encountering Sorrows (1929).

OUTSTANDING PIONEER



The Li Sao, published in 1929

All rights reserved, Commercial Press, 1929

Dr Lim received several eminent awards in his life. In 1918, he received the Order of the British Empire in recognition of his public service. He was also decorated with the Commander Crown of Italy, and received the Albertus Medal of Saxony. The Qing Government awarded him the Wen Hu Jiang



普通卫生讲义
published in 1911



Death of Dr Lim Boon Keng

Published in Xin Zhou Ri Bao, 1957

(文虎奖) and the Jia He Jiang (嘉禾奖). In 1919, he received an honorary Doctor of Laws from the Hong Kong University. In 1930, he was made an F.R.C.S. (London).

After the war, in contrast to his illustrious pre-World War II years, Dr Lim lived his last 12 years as a recluse.

The Straits Times interviewed him twice. Once was in 1948, at his 80th birthday, when he was quoted as "The Sage of Singapore". Asked for his recipe for a ripe, old age, he replied, "I have no recipes or formulas. The main thing I would say to you, if you want to go on living, is: Don't worry, and don't cry over split milk" (Ferroa, 1948).

The other interview was done in 1956, at his 88th birthday. It was reported that he spent most of his time reading books and newspapers. He regarded himself as a graduate in the art of living who had majored in tolerance (Morgan, 1956). As Singapore society was then being rocked by riots and strikes, Dr Lim took the opportunity to urge the Chinese community to:

Go forward in friendship with other communities towards the common goal of a unified interracial family.

Accept and adjust yourselves to change in the interest of all.

Grasp every opportunity for education because ignorance is a sin (Morgan, 1956).

On 1 Jan 1957, Dr Lim Boon Keng passed away peacefully at 5.46am. His passing marked the end of a man who gave selflessly towards improving the Chinese community during colonial times.

Book Launch (24 January 2007)

There will be a book launch of the republished edition of Dr Lim Boon Keng's seminal work, *The Chinese Crisis from Within*.

Musical (24 January 2007)

A half-hour programme of songs from the musical One Voice by Stella Kon will be presented on the day of the book launch. It was inspired by the life and times of Dr Lim Boon Keng. Stella Kon will introduce the musical, which she wrote in tribute to her great-grandfather, Dr Lim.

Exhibition: Lim Boon Keng: A Life to Remember

(24 January 2007 - 18 March 2007)

This exhibition will feature the multi-faceted life of Dr Lim, and present issues on the identity, ideals and social problems of Singapore and Chinese society during his lifetime.

Conference: Lim Boon Keng and the Straits Chinese: A Historical Reappraisal (27 January 2007)

At a full-day conference held at the National Library, academics will present their research on Dr Lim and the Straits Chinese. Associate Professor Philip Holden will start with a biographical account of the pioneer, and this will be followed by two sessions on Dr Lim and his times, as well as issues on Straits Chinese history. Associate Professor Lee Guan Kin will also deliver a public lecture in Mandarin, covering "The Boon Keng Pavilion at Xiamen University: History Recovered, Nanyang Link Reconnected". There will be a simultaneous translation in English for her lecture.

ENDNOTES

¹ Kempeitai was the military police of the Imperial Japanese Army.

² In China, the abolition of the queue came into force only when Dr Sun Yat-sen formed the Republic of China (1911-1949).

REFERENCES

(1957, January 2). Singapore's grand old man dies. *The Straits Times*, pp. 1 and 7.

Microfilm no.: NL 1805

毕观华. (1985). 林文庆 (Lim Boon Keng). 自黄溢华主编. 怡和轩九十周年纪念特刊, 1895-1985 (Ninetieth anniversary of Ee Hoe Hian Club, 1895 1985). 新加坡: 大水牛出版机构.

Call no.: RSING 369.25957 YHX

Chinese Christian Association. (1898). *The Straits Chinese Magazine*, 2(7) September, 124.

Microfilm no.: NL 267

Ferroa, R. (1948, October 22). The sage of Singapore. *The Straits Times*, p. 4.

Microfilm no.: NL 5338

Khor, Eng Hee. (1958). *The public life of Dr Lim Boon Keng*. Singapore: University of Malaya.
Call no.: RCLOS 361.924 LIM.K

Kiong, Chin Eng. (1907). The teaching of Kuan Hua in Singapore. *Straits Chinese Magazine*, 11(2), 105-108.
Microfilm no.: NL 268

李元瑾. (2001). 东西文化的撞击与新华知识分子的三种回应: 邱菽园, 林文庆, 宋旺相的比较研究 (Three different responses to Eastern and Western Cultures among Chinese intellectual elites in Singapore: A comparative study of Khoo Seok Wan, Lim Boon Keng and Song Ong Siang)
新加坡: 新加坡国立大学中文系, 八方文化企业.

Call no.: RSING 305.552095957 LYJ

Lim, Boon Keng. (1897). Our enemies. *Straits Chinese Magazine*, 1(2), 52-58.
Microfilm no.: NL 267

Morgan, L. (1956, October 17). Singapore's grand old man (88 tomorrow) calls for tolerance In this age of change. *The Straits Times*, p. 2. Microfilm no.: NL 1822

Ooi, Yu-lin. (1999). *Pieces of jade and gold: An anecdotal history of the Singapore Chinese Girls' School 1899-1999*. Singapore: Singapore Chinese Girls' School.
Call no.: RSING 373.5957 OOI

Png, Poh Seng. (1961). The Kuomintang in Malaya. *Journal of Southeast Asian History*, 2(1), March. 1-32.
Call no.: RCLOS 959.05 JSA

Song, Ong Siang. (1984). *One hundred years' history of the Chinese in Singapore*. Singapore: Oxford University Press.
Call no.: RSING 959.57 SON

Tan, Yeok Seong. (1947). *History of the formation of the Oversea Chinese Association and the extortion by J.M.A. of \$50,000,000 military contribution from the Chinese in Malaya*. Singapore: Nanyang Book Co.
Call no.: RDTYS 940.53109595 TAN

叶观仕编著 (1999). 马新报人录 (1806-2000) = Who's who in the press, Malaysia & Singapore (1806-2000). (p. 27).名人出版社.
Call no.: RSING 070.922595 WHO

'READING'

CONTEMPORARY ART: THE SINGAPORE BIENNALE

By Roberta Balagopal, Senior Reference Librarian, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

My interest in the inaugural Singapore Biennale, which opened to the public on 4 September 2006 and ended on 12 November 2006, has been mainly in its documentation – what people have been saying and writing about it, and whether this information is likely to shape the way we view contemporary art in Singapore. I have found a fairly substantial amount of information on the event, but less about its content and its overall impact. I expect this will emerge over time, from various stakeholders in the local arts, and possibly from some new voices among student artists.

However, I am certain it will remain difficult to get information from the most elusive group of all - the "general public", who sought for and discovered these artworks, and maybe also sought to understand them.

As a member of the general public, I did try to educate myself on the methods and motivations of the contemporary art that appears in biennales. I found a great amount of interesting, contradictory and sometimes, frustrating information. Do we need to understand art in order to appreciate it? One message that I have been pleased to hear being reinforced by artists and audiences is this: that art creation and appreciation both begin with research.



Eugenio Ampudia. *En Juego (In Play)*, 2006.

Organised by Singapore Biennale. Exhibited at the National Library.
Robert Hughes's story of modern art *The Shock of the New* gets rough treatment
in the 2002 World Cup

Much has been written about the Singapore Biennale in the press and on the Internet, which I will try not to repeat here. News of a Singapore Biennale first appeared in the press around the time that SENI was being planned. Held in October 2004, SENI was a two-month-long art exhibition and symposium, and was described as a precursor to – or practice run for – the Biennale of 2006.

It was hoped that the Biennale, as an international event, would bring the "world" to Singapore as well as showcase Singapore artists to their global counterparts. The concern of local arts advocates was not whether Singapore could or should host a

Biennale of this scale, but what it would really do for the arts scene here. Would it bring the visual arts to the attention of those outside the artist and art critic enclaves, and encourage dialogue, exploration and discovery?

Judging from what has been reported in the local press, the inaugural Singapore Biennale has indeed captured attention and encouraged the asking of some questions, most notably, "Is that art?" This question goes in tandem with the ultimate unanswerable question, "What is art?"

The implied consensus seems to be, if it is part of a Biennale – that is, an artist must have made a case for it to be included and a judging panel or person must have agreed – then it is art. We like to have the art pointed out to us, though we may well disagree on who is qualified to do this. Or, perhaps it is a general consensus, and is based on what we have heard or read about in other countries. Though it will not resolve the debate, a more answerable question might be: "How do we feel about this being called art?"

To complicate the matter, the sites chosen for the Biennale seemed to have drawn almost as much attention as the artworks. The exhibition used some 16 venues, including City Hall, the Singapore Art Museum, the Church of St. Peter & St. Paul, St Joseph's Church, the National Library, Sculpture Square, Sri Krishnan Temple, Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple, Sultan Mosque and the Tanglin Camp.

If you had never entered these places, it would have been easy to get distracted and to feel nostalgic about them, or to start telling unrelated anecdotes to your neighbours. It would also have been easy to miss the artworks in unfamiliar surroundings, and if you had gone when there was a crowd, it would have been nearly impossible to catch the sound art. That said, the "treasure hunt" process of finding art in Singapore was an interesting idea in itself, as was watching the regular patrons of these places coming over to see what the groups of young people and tourists had come to look at.

As for engaging the community, the Biennale held a number of peripheral events called the "Encounters" Series, which brought artists, curators and the public together. As not much has been reported in the press about these events, it is difficult to say how well they had bridged the gap between the artists and curators, and the rest of us.

I attended a couple of these events, and found the main benefit to be the demystifying of the whole Biennale concept. It was a good idea to hold such talks, and I hope they will continue in some form even after the Biennale has ended. Having such a regular feature may find a niche beyond the usual crowd who attends art talks – in short, it could create a new community.

As with any community, of course, the drive and the interest must be there to sustain it.

The jury is largely still out with regard to international impressions of the Biennale, although several writers have expressed surprise that Singapore had hosted a Biennale at all. This is probably due at least in part to the prevailing attitude that artistic expression is stifled in Singapore, a debate that I will not go into here. I can, however, make the observation that the liveliest scholarship, journalism and general interest tend to focus on the censorship of the arts – not in Singapore alone, but everywhere – and it is not unlikely that art scholars, critics and artists themselves would be a shade disappointed if nobody protested.

In international news, the Singapore Biennale has often been mentioned in conjunction with the other Asian biennales taking place around the same time, and this might have served to confuse the international art world more than it did to educate them. That said, the Biennale might yet have its good effect in getting artists from various countries to meet. The best way to understand a place is to get to know someone from that place, and this is perhaps one of the best reasons for holding international art exhibitions to begin with.

I will not go into great detail about the exhibits themselves. Chances are, you would have seen some of them or seen pictures on the news or the Internet. There are difficulties in recording such events for posterity, as installation works need to be experienced in person, and pictures do not convey much for multimedia or sound-art works. Also, it is often (though not always) in the nature of installations to be ephemeral, and the element of impermanence



Wilfredo Prieto (*White Library*), 2006.

Organised by Singapore Biennale. Exhibited at the National Library.
This work features a collection of beautifully bound, neatly shelved
- and completely blank - books.

is part of the point. Despite this, we librarians do try to keep track of as many materials in printed or digital form as are available, to add to our recorded knowledge of local art. The reason for this is simple: we keep it just in case any future researchers want to know, and experience tells us they will.

It is certainly best to see the actual works if possible, and though the Biennale is over, rest assured we have not seen the last of contemporary art exhibitions in Singapore. It is, after all, a Biennale, so it will presumably be back two years from now. In the meantime, the rest of us can prepare for the next encounter, and hopefully enrich our experience by exploring the wealth of information available on Singapore's first Biennale, and the multifarious world of contemporary art.

Websites

Singapore Biennale 2006

<http://www.singaporebiennale.org/>

More information is available on the Singapore Biennale official website.

Singapore Biennale – Information by Universes in Universe

<http://universes-in-universe.de/car/singapore/english.htm>

Universes in Universe – World of Art has created this webpage on the Singapore Biennale, complete with photographs and video clips.

Asian Art Archive

<http://www.aaa.org.hk/> (click on "Online Projects").

News on international Biennales can be found at the Asian Art Archive website.

News Coverage

<http://www.nlb.gov.sg/> (Click on eResources>eDatabases>News)

If you would like to read more news coverage of the Biennale, check our Digital Library collection

Select Books on Contemporary Art

Making Contemporary Art: How Today's Artists Think and Work

by Linda Weintraub.

Publisher: London: Thames & Hudson, 2003

Call no.: RART 709.22 WEI

Today's artists have unprecedented freedom in the ways they can create and present their art. This book explores, in all its stages, the quests of these "free radicals" to express themselves through their work, in an era where anything and

everything can come into question, including the idea of radicalism itself. Each chapter draws from the works of contemporary artists with widely different goals and methods, producing works ranging from the deliberately innocuous to the pointedly disturbing.

Installation Art: A Critical History

by Claire Bishop

Publisher: London: Tate, 2005

Call no.: RART 709.04 BIS

The history and evolution of installation art is difficult to pin down, perhaps because there are several histories, or perhaps because the art form is itself so fluid and diverse as to defy description as either a medium or a movement. There seems to be, however, some common underlying elements of installation art, particularly in its multi-sensory, multi-media and participative nature.

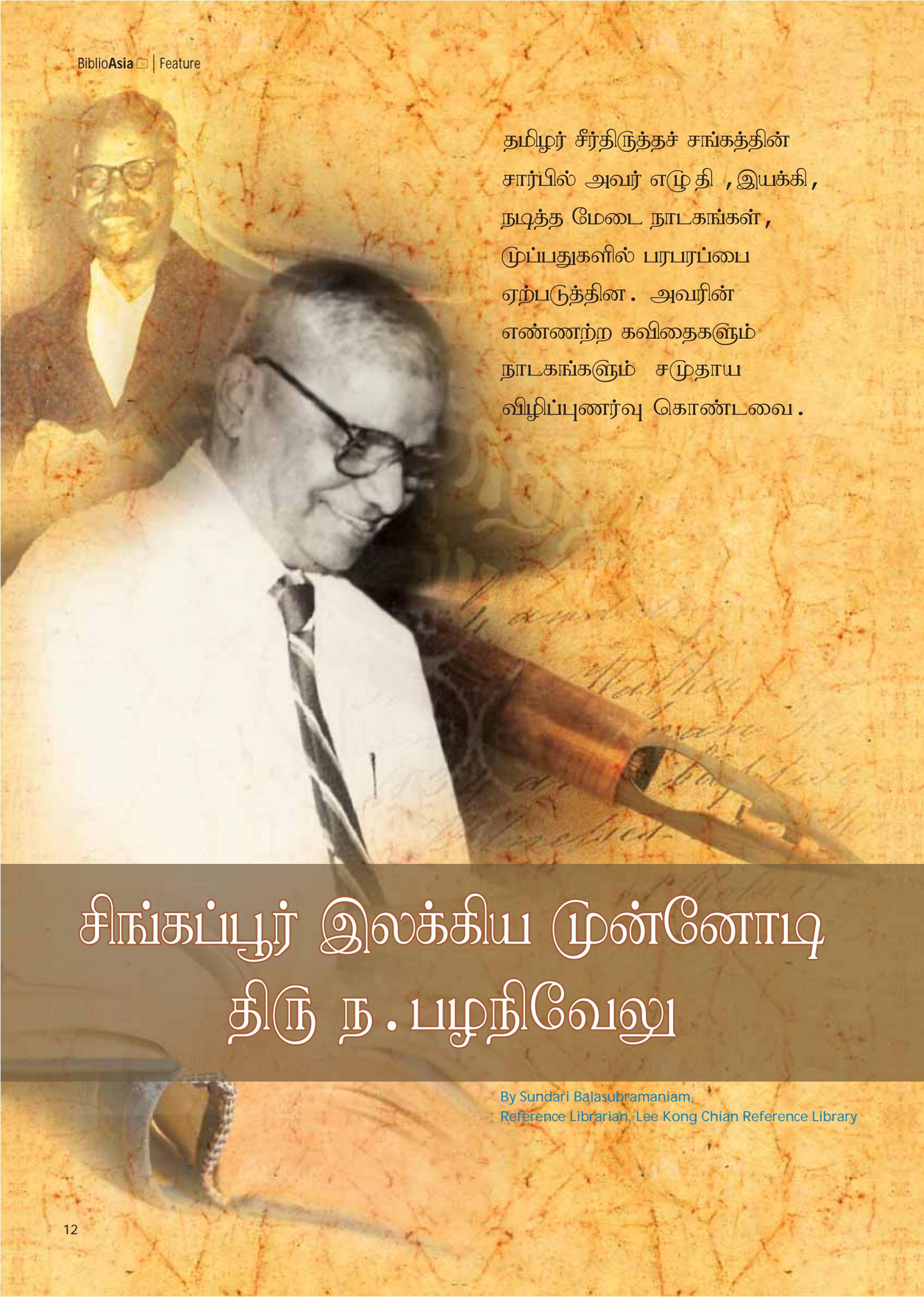
Creative Code: With Over 600 Illustrations

by John Maeda

Publisher: London: Thames & Hudson, 2004

Call no.: RART 709.2 MAE

Digital designer and artist John Maeda is a pioneer in the bafflingly diverse world of digital art. Describing the tools available to the digital artist as an "instantaneous rush of tremendous resources", Maeda provides illustrations of the possibilities computers provide when harnessed to the human imagination. Artworks that at first glance seem to be obscure or simply entertaining experiments, can be seen to have a much deeper resonance in our ways of thinking about art in the age of digital expression.



தமிழர் சீர்திருத்தச் சங்கத்தின்
சார்பில் அவர் எழுதி, இயக்கி,
நடித்த மேடை நாடகங்கள்,
முப்பதுகளில் பரபரப்பை
ஏற்படுத்தின. அவரின்
எண்ணற்ற கவிதைகளும்
நாடகங்களும் சமுதாய
விழிப்புணர்வு கொண்டவை.

சிங்கப்பூர் இலக்கிய முன்னோடி திரு ந. பழநிவேலு

By Sundari Balasubramaniam,
Reference Librarian, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

தமிழிலக்கியம் என்பது தமிழ் நாட்டுக்கு மட்டும் என்ற நிலை மாறி இன்று உலகெங்கும் புலம் பெயர்ந்த தமிழர்களால் மட்டுமன்றி பல வெளிநாட்டவர்களாலும் செழுமைபடுத்தப்படுகிறது. குறிப்பாக இலங்கை, சிங்கப்பூர், மலேசியா ஆகிய நாடுகளில் வாழும் எண்ணற்ற தமிழர்கள் இன்றும் சிறந்த படைப்புகளை வெளியிட்டு தமிழை உண்ணத் நிலைக்குக் கொண்டு செல்கின்றனர். இக்கட்டுரையில் சிங்கப்பூரில் தமிழ் வளர்த்த இலக்கிய முன்னோடிகளில் ஒருவரான திரு ந. பழநிவேலு அவர்களை பற்றிப் பார்ப்போம்.

சிங்கப்பூரின் தமிழ் இலக்கிய வளர்ச்சி:

சிங்கப்பூர் கலாசாரப் பின்னணியில் எழுதப்பட்ட சிங்கப்பூரின் ஆரம்ப கால இலக்கியங்கள் கவிதை வடிவிலே இருந்தன. 1887 ஆம் ஆண்டு யாழ்ப்பாணம் சி. ந. சதாசிவ பண்டிதர் அவர்களால் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட சிங்கை நகரந்தாதி, சித்திரகவிகள் ஆகிய இரண்டும் சிங்கப்பூர் சுப்பிரமணிய சுவாமிமேல் பாடப்பெற்றவை. இந்நாலே சிங்கைத் தமிழ் இலக்கியத்தின் முன்னோடி நூலாகத் திகழ்கிறது. அடுத்து நா. வ. ரங்கசாமி தாசனின் அதிவினோத குதிரைப் பந்தய லாவணி (1893), க. வேலுப்பிள்ளையின் சிங்கை முருகேசர் பதிகம் (1893), முகமது அப்துல் காதரின் கீர்த்தனை திரட்டு (1896) ஆகிய நூல்களும் சிங்கைத் தமிழ் இலக்கிய முன்னோடி நூல்களாகக் கருதப்படுகின்றன. இதில் அதிவினோத குதிரைப் பந்தய லாவணி, தமிழ் முதாதையர் எவ்வாறு தஞ்சை மாவட்டப் பகுதியிலிருந்து கப்பலில் சிங்கப்பூர் வந்து குடியேறித் தங்கள் வாழ்க்கையை அமைத்துக்கொண்டனர் என்பதைச் சித்தரிக்கிறது. மற்ற நூல்கள் யாவும் பக்தி நூல்களே.

நீண்ட இடைவெளிக்குப் பிறகு 1935லிருந்து சிங்கைத் தமிழ் இலக்கியத்தில் மாற்றம் ஏற்படலாயிற்று. சமய இலக்கியங்கள் குறைந்து சமுதாயச் சிந்தனையுள்ள இலக்கியங்கள் தோன்றின. தமிழர் சீர்திருத்தச் சங்கத்தின் தமிழ் முரசு நாளிதழ் மற்றும் சீர்திருத்தம் என்ற மாத

இதழ் வெளிவரத் துவங்கியதும் சமூக உணர்வுகளைப் பிரதிபலிக்கும் கடைகள், நாவல்கள், நாடகங்கள் என இலக்கியம் வளர்ச்சி கண்டது. சிங்கப்பூரின் தமிழ்க் கவிதை எழுச்சிக்கு அடித்தளம் அமைத்தவர்களாகிய திரு ந. பழநிவேலன், சிங்கை முகிலன் ஆகியோரின் படைப்புகள் சீர்திருத்த உணர்வோடும் துடிப்போடும் விளங்கின. சாதிமதக் கொடுமை, கிழமணக் கொடுமை, ஈழத் தமிழ் அதிகாரிகளின் அதிகாரத்திற்கு உட்பட்ட தென்னிந்தியத் தமிழர்களின் அவை வாழ்க்கை, சாதி ஒழிப்பு, கைம்பெண் மணம், பொந்தா மணம், மத உழூல் எதிர்ப்பு, பிராமண எதிர்ப்பு, மதச் சீர்திருத்தம், இதிகாச எதிர்ப்பு முதலிய பல சீர்திருத்தக் கடுத்துக்கள் திரு ந. பழநிவேலுவின் படைப்புகளில் மினிர்ந்தன. இரண்டாம் உலகப் போர்க்குப் பிறகு நாளிதலாகத் தொடங்கப்பட்ட மலையா நண்பன், தமிழ் முரசு பல எழுத்தாளர்களையும் பத்திரிக்கையாளர்களையும் உருவாக்கியது.

சிங்கப்பூர் குடியரசான பின்பு மரபுக் கவிதைகள், குழந்தைப் பாடல்கள், புதுக்கவிதைகள், சிறுகதைகள், நாடகங்கள் என இலக்கியம் வளர்த்தொடங்கியது. இவ்விலக்கிய வளர்ச்சியின் முன்னோடிகளாக ந. பழநிவேலு, சிங்கை முகிலன், சே. வெ. சண்முகம், கா. பெஞ்சாள், நா. கோவிந்தசாமி, பி. கிருஷ்ணன் ஆகியோர் கருதப்படுகின்றனர். இவர்களில் முத்தவரான திரு ந. பழநிவேலு அவர்களைப் பற்றி இங்கு பார்ப்போம்.

அறிமுகச் சுருக்கம்

சிங்கை, மலேசியாவின் முதுபெரும் பாவலர்களில் ஒருவராகிய திரு ந. பழநிவேலு அவர்கள் கவிதை, சிறுகதை, கட்டுரை, மேடை நாடகம், வானோலி, தொலைகாட்சி நாடகம் எனப் பல துறைகளிலும் கைவந்தவர். தமிழ் முரசு நாளிதழ், சிங்கப்பூர் தமிழர் கழகத்தின் வெளியீடாகிய சீர்திருத்தம், திராவிடமுரசு ஆகிய இதழ்களில் 1936க்கும் 1964க்கும் இடைப்பட்ட காலத்தில் இவர்

பல சிறுக்கதைகளைப் படைத்துள்ளார். தம் வாழ்நாளின் இறுதிவரை ஜம்பகு ஆண்டுகளுக்கு மேல் எழுத்துப்பணியைத் தொடர்ந்தார். வானோலியில் தயாரிப்பாளராகப் பணியாற்றும் போது பல நாடகங்கள் எழுதியுள்ளார். இவர் நாடகங்களில் சமுதாயம், குடும்பம், காதல், இலக்கியம், ஆகிய குந்துக்களே மேலோங்கி நின்றன. தமிழிலக்கிய வளத்திற்கு மலேசிய, சிங்கப்பூர்த் தமிழ்ப்படைப்பாளிகள் பலர் பெரும் பங்காற்றியுள்ளனர். இப்பணியில் திரு ந. பழநிவேலு அவர்களின் சிறந்த படைப்புகளும் அடங்கும்.



திரு ந. பழனிவேலு
அவர்களும் மனைவி
சம்பூர்ணம் அம்மையாரும்

திரு ந பழநிவேலு அவர்கள் 1908 ஆம் ஆண்டு தமிழ்நாட்டில் தஞ்சை மாவட்டத்தைச் சேர்ந்த சிக்கல் என்ற ஊரில் பிறந்தார். நடேசன், ஜானகி அம்மாள் ஆகியோரின் ஒரே மகனான திரு பழநிவேலு அவர்கள், தமது 21வது வயதில் மலையா சென்று சில காலம் அங்கிருந்த பிறகு 1930 இல் சிங்கப்பூரில் குடியேறினார். 1938 இல் சம்பூர்ணம் அம்மையார் அவர்களைத் திருமணம் முடித்து நான்கு ஆண்மக்களுக்கும் மூன்று பெண்மக்களுக்கும் தந்தையானார்.

எழுத்துத்துறையில் ஆற்றிய பங்கு:

பாவேந்தர் பாரதிதாசன் அவர்களால் பாராட்டப்பெற்ற தமிழ்வேள் திரு ந பழநிவேலு அவர்களுக்கு கோ சாரங்கப்பாணியின் நட்பு, அவர்தம் எழுத்துலக வாழ்க்கைக்கு ஒரு திருப்புமுனையாக அமைந்தது. தமிழர்

சீர்திருத்தசங்கத்தின் உறுப்பினரான இவரின் தொடக்கக் கால நாடகங்களும், சிறுக்கதைகளும், கவிதைகளும் சீர்திருத்தக் கொள்கையைப் பரப்புவனவாக இருந்தன. தமிழர் சீர்திருத்தச் சங்கத்தின் சார்பில் அவர் எழுதி, இயக்கி, நடித்த மேடை நாடகங்கள், முப்பதுகளில் பரபரப்பை ஏற்படுத்தின. அவரின் எண்ணற்ற கவிதைகளும் நாடகங்களும் சமுதாய விழிப்புணர்வு கொண்டவை. எனிய நடையில் நாற்பதுகளிலும், ஜம்பதுகளிலும் வழங்கிய மலாப் கலந்த பேச்சுத் தமிழில் சமுதாயச் சிந்தனையையும், மனித நேயத்தையும், சிறந்த ஒழுக்கங்களையும் தம் படைப்புகள் மூலம் வெளிப்படுத்தினார்.

திரு ந. பழநிவேலு அவர்கள் கவிஞர், கட்டுரையாளர், சிறுக்கதை எழுத்தாளர், மேடை, வானோலி, தொலைகாட்சி நாடகங்களின் எழுத்தாளர், பாடலாசிரியர், நாடக இயக்குநர், நடிகர் எனப் பல துறைகளிலும் ஆற்றல் மிகுந்த சிறந்த கலைஞராவார்.

1935 லிருந்து 1960 வரை ந. பழநிவேலு அவர்கள்



நாடக நடிகராக
இருவேறு நாடகங்களில்
கவிஞர்

50 கதைகள் எழுதியுள்ளார். கற்பனை, திருப்பம், நாடக பாணி உரையாடல் முதலியவற்றை இவர் கதைகளில் காணலாம். இவரது தொடக்க காலக் கதைகள் தமிழர் சீர்திருத்தம் பற்றியவை ஆகும். ‘செக்கு மாடு’, ‘நத்தை’ கதைகள் அர்த்தமற்ற வழிவழி உபசரிப்புகளையும், சம்பிரதாயங்களையும்



கண்டிக்கின்றன. சுகுணசுந்தரம் அல்லது ஜாதி பேதக் கொடுமை'(1936) என கதைகளுக்கு இரட்டைப் பெயர் சூட்டும் முறையும், எதிர்த்த வீட்டுக்காரர் (1953) என்ற கதையில் ஜப்பானியர் ஆட்சிக் குறிப்பு பற்றியும், பெயர் சூட்டல் (1948) கதையில் டிராம் வண்டியில் பர்சு பறிபோதல் என மலாய் கலந்த தமிழில் வசனங்கள் எழுதியும் அக்கால வழக்கத்திற்கு நம்மை இட்டுச் செல்கின்றார். இவரது 'காதற்கிளியும் தியாகக் குயிலும்' என்னும் சிறுகதைத் தொகுப்பு (1977) இல் வெளிவர்த்தது.

கால வரைகோடு

- 1908 - தமிழகத்தின் தஞ்சை மாவட்டம் சிக்கலில் பிறந்தார்
- 1930 - சிங்கப்பூரில் குடியேறினார்
- 1931 - "வலிமை" எனும் முதல் கவிதை "நவநீதம்" இதழில் வெளிவந்தது.
- 1936 - "கெளரி சங்கர் அல்லது கிழமணக் கொடுமை" எனும் நாடகம் எழுதி அரங்கேற்றப்பட்டது
- 1938 - சம்பூர்ணம் அம்மையார் அவர்களைத் திருமணம் செய்தார்.
- 1947 - தமிழ் முரசு வெளியீடாக "கவிதை மலர்கள்" முதற் பதிப்பு.
- 1948 - மலாயா வானோலியில் ஒலிபரப்பாளராகவும் மொழி பெயர்ப்பாளராகவும் சேர்ந்தார்.
- 1975 - "கவிதை மலர்கள்" இரண்டாம் பதிப்பு.
- 1976 - "காதற்கிளியும் தியாகக் குயிலும்" சிறுகதைத் தொகுப்பு.
- 1978 - "நாடக சிகாமணி" விருது சிங்கப்பூர் பாஸ்கர் நாட்டியப்பள்ளி வழங்கியது.
- 1981 - "கவியின் நலிவு" பாவியல் நாடக நூல்.
- 1987 - "கலாசாரப் பதக்கம்" - சிங்கப்பூர் சமூக வளர்ச்சித் துணை அமைச்சு வழங்கியது.
- 1987 - "கலா ரத்னா" - சிங்கப்பூர் இந்திய நுண்கலைக் கழகம் வழங்கியது.
- 1997 - "தமிழ்வேள்" - சிங்கப்பூர்த் தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர் கழகம் வழங்கியது.
- 2000 - இயற்கை எய்தினார்.

வெளியீடுகள்

- 1931 - "வலிமை" என்னும் முதல் கவிதை நவநீதம் இதழில் வெளிவந்தது.
- 1947 - "கவிதை மலர்கள்" முதல் பதிப்பு.
- 1975 - "கவிதை மலர்கள்" இரண்டாம் பதிப்பு.
- 1976 - "காதற்கிளியும் தியாகக் குயிலும்" சிறுகதைத் தொகுப்பு.

1981 - "கவியின் நலிவு" பாவியல் நாடக நூல்.

1990 - "பாப்பா பாடல்கள்" சிறுவர்களுக்குரிய நூல்.

1997 - "கவிஞர் ந. பழநிவேலு படைப்புக் களஞ்சியம்" முதல் பதிப்பு.

1999 - "கவிஞர் ந. பழநிவேலு படைப்புக் களஞ்சியம்" இரண்டாம் பதிப்பு.

விருதுகள்

வந்தும் விருது

1978 "நாடக சிகாமணி" - சிங்கப்பூர் பாஸ்கர் நாட்டியப்பள்ளி வழங்கிய விருது.

1987 கலாசாரப் பதக்கம்" - சிங்கப்பூர் சமூக வளர்ச்சித் துணை அமைச்சு வழங்கியது.

1987 "கலா ரத்னா" - சிங்கப்பூர் இந்திய நுண்கலைக் கழகம் வழங்கியது.

1997 "தமிழ்வேள்" - சிங்கப்பூர்த் தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர் கழகம் வழங்கியது.



அமைச்சர் திடு வாங் கான் செங் கவிஞருக்கு "கலாசாரப் பதக்கம்" வழங்குகிறார்.



சிங்கப்பூர் இந்திய நுண்கலைக் கழகத்தின் 'கலாரத்னா' விருது பெறுகிறார் கவிஞர்

சிறுக்கதைகள்

அழிவாற்றல்
இருக்கம் வென்றது
கானல் நீர்
தற்கொலை
பத்திராதிபன்
புலிவேட்டை
வண்டின் ரீங்காரம்
என் கதாநாயகி
கடிதம் கிடைத்தது
சந்தேகம்
திட்டம்
நத்தைகள்
நினைத்ததும் நடந்ததும்
பிரிவு
மத்தாப்புச் சுந்தரி
வாடகை அறை
விழிப்பு
அப்பாவும் மகனும்
இதுதான் வாழ்க்கை
காதல் உள்ளும்
காதற்கிளியும் தியாகக்
குமிலும்
காயும் கனியும்
குழந்தைக் காலைர்
செல்லாத நோட்டு

கவிதை

இறைப்பற்று
இயற்கை
சமுதாயம்
சமுதாயச் சிற்பிகள்
உறவுகள்
நாடு
வாழ்வியல்
பாப்பாவுக்கு

கட்டுரை

வெற்றியின் இரகசியம்

உறையாடல்

செந்தமிழ் கொடுந்தமிழ்
பழமொழிகள்
பேச்சுவழக்கு, கவிதை
இலக்கியம்
மரபு
உள்ளுறை
அந்தாதி

சீட்டுக்கவி

அவைச் சூவை
சந்தர்ப்பப் பாடல்கள்
சர்ச்சைக்குரிய செய்யுள்
உறைநடை நால்கள்
ஜங்குறுநாறு
பதிற்றுப்பத்து
போந்தாற்றுப்படை
குறிஞ்சிப்பாட்டு
மூல்லைப்பாட்டு
குறிஞ்சிக்கவி
மூல்லைக்கவி
மருதக்கவி, நெய்தற்கவி
நாலடியார்
நானாற்பது : இன்னா நாற்பது,
இனியவை நாற்பது, கார் நாற்பது
இடுதமிழ் நால்கள்
சூளாமணி

நீலகேசி
நாவெண்பா
தேம்பாவணி
வஞ்சிக்காண்டம்
முத்தொள்ளாயிரம்
முத்தொள்ளாயிரம்
தஞ்சைவாணன் கோவை
கபிலரகவல்
கலிங்கத்துப்பரணி
கலிங்கத்துப்பரணி
நந்திக்கலம்பகம்
திடுப்பாவை, திடுவெம்பாவை
திடுக்கோவையார்
திடுவாப்மொழி
குட்டித் திடுவாசகம்
ஜவேல் அசதிக்கோவை
புலவர் வரலாறு
முற்கால, தற்காலப் புலவர்கள்
வையார்
கல்லாடனார்
சூவல் மைந்தன்
ஆப்மன்னன் ; பெறுஞ்சித்திரனார்
கணியன் பூங்குன்றனார்
சேஷுன் கரிகாலன்
திடுமூலர்
புத்தரும் திடுமூலரும்
செம்பியன் மாதேவியார்
கம்பச்சித்திரம்
ஒட்டக்குத்தர்

பூரணவிளங்கம் பிள்ளை

திடு வி.க.
சொல்லின் செல்வர்
நீலாம்பிகை அம்மையார்
இசைத்தமிழ்ச் செல்வர்
கா.சுப்பிரமணிய பிள்ளை
சடையப்ப வள்ளால்
நம்பியாண்டார் நம்பி
இராமானுஜர்
குஞ்சைத் தேய்வமாய்க்
கொண்டாடியவர்
விபுலானந்த அடிகள்
இராமலிங்க அடிகள்
அழகிய சொக்கநாதர்
மாம்பழக் கவிச்சிங்க நாவலர்
கடவுள்
பண்டைத்தமிழர்
வாழ்க்கைமுறை
பண்டைத் தமிழர் சமய நெறி
நவராத்திரி
பழங்கால வரலாற்றுக்
குறிப்புகள் ; அத்திரி
நடுகல்
பறம்பு மலைப் போர்
முளிதயிர்
யானைப்போர்
பாம்புச் செடி
நகில் குறைத்தல்
சுத்து
ஜயத்தின் விளைவு
பத்தினிப் பெண்டிர
மகளிர் பண்டு
கணவரோடு வாழ்வு
பத்தினித் தெய்வம்
குலக்கொடிகள்
கானல்வரி
மாடலன்
இலக்குமணன்
குஞ்சுலம்
இலங்கை
குடிக்கொடுத்த கடர்க்கொடி
கயவர்
நால்வர்
குற்றாலம்
சீக்கியமதும்
வியோ டால்ஸ்டாம்
தமிழிசை இயக்கம்

நாடகங்கள்

கமிதை நாடகம்:

கடற்கரையிலே

சமுதாய நாடகங்கள்:

ஆயிரத்தில் ஒருத்தி
பாடம்
போகும் வழியில்
மிரட்டல் பணம்

கும்பம்

இரகசியம்
எதிர்வீடு
ஓரே நாள்
கல்லில் நார்
சந்தேகம்
பட்டாச
பாசப்போட்டி
மியா ! மியா !
மாப்பிள்ளை விஜயம்
முரட்டு மாப்பிள்ளை
வசிய மருந்து

இளைஞர்

இடு நண்பர்கள்
உழைப்பின் உயர்வு
உறுதி
கடிதக்காதலி
காதல் நாடகம்
துணிந்தவர்க்கு !

இலக்கியம்

புலவரும் புரவலனும்
கயமனார்
பிசிராந்தையார்
பெருந்தலைச்சாத்தனார்
குமணன்
பொற்கைப் பாண்டியன்
அக்டும் புற்டும்
சாதனன
சோர்விலாள் பெண்
காளிதாசன்
குமரகுடுபுர்
தாயுமான அடிகள்
மனோன்மனீயம்
யானைக்கும் அடி சறுக்கும்

பா பயில் நாடகம்-சமுதாயம்

கௌரிசங்கர் அல்லது
கிழமணக்கொடுமை
சுகுணசுந்தரம் அல்லது சாதிபேதக்
கொடுமை
நட்பு

கும்பம்

ஏமாற்றம்
மயக்கமும் தெளிவும்

காதல்

கைக்கிளை
பாடும் மாப்பிள்ளை

தத்துவம்

இந்பம் எங்குள்ளது

புராண இதிகாசம்

வாலி
கும்பகர்ணன்
கைரந்திரி
பழக்குப் பழி
ரிஷிய சிருங்கக்
கொடுத்தான் (பாரதம்)

பா நடை நாடகம்

கலியின் நலிவு
சாதுந்தலம்
கடல்

ஆதாரக் குறிப்புகள் :

- சிங்கப்பூர்த் தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர்கள் தொகுப்பு நாள் .
- சிங்கப்பூரில் தமிழும் தமிழிலக்கியமும் - ஆய்வரங்க மாநாட்டுக் கட்டுரைகள் ,
- கவிஞர் ந. பழநிவேஹு படைப்புக் களஞ்சியம் .

N PALANIVELU (1908 – 2000)

N Palanivelu was born in 1908 in the Tanjore district of Sikkal in Tamil Nadu. At the age of 21, he went to Malaya and then to Singapore in 1930. In 1938, he married Sampoornam and became the father of 4 sons and 3 daughters.

A novelist, playwright and poet, Palanivelu was an active writer for more than 50 years. From 1935 to 1960, Palanivelu wrote 50 stories. A turning point in Palanivelu's literary life came about when he befriended Thamizhavel Ko Sarangapani, the founder of Tamil Murasu. Sarangapani published many of Palanivelu's poems and stories in Tamil Murasu. Palanivelu's earlier works reflected the philosophies of the Tamil Reform Association, of which he was a member. He also staged plays with the themes of social reform.

Palanivelu's poems, short stories and plays were published in newspapers and magazines and broadcast over radio as well. His writings centered on the themes of community, family, love and literature. His first collection of poems, titled *Valimai*, was published in the magazine *Navaneetham* in 1931. In 1936, he wrote a comedy entitled *Kalyana Panthalil*. His first book of poems, *Kavithai Malargal* was published in 1947. Besides several other books, he also published *Kathal Kiliyum Thiyaga Kuyilum* (short stories) and *Kaliyin Nalivu* (a play).

Palanivelu received several awards in his lifetime. He was bestowed the title of "Naadaga Sigamani" (jewel of drama) by the Bhaskar's Dance Academy in 1978, the Cultural Medallion for Drama in 1986, "Kala Rethna" award by the Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society in 1987, and the "Tamizhavel" literary award by the Association of Singapore Tamil Writers in 1987.

走近传统中医药

中医药作为中国传统医药学有着非常悠久的历史，早在2000多年前的春秋战国时期就有了著名的 经典医学文献《黄帝内经》。涵盖中医理论、养生、诊法、疗法、方剂、中药、针灸和民族医药的中国传统医药，是在充分吸取了汉族、藏族、蒙族、彝族、回族等各少数民族传统医药学理论基础上发展起来的东方医药学体系，也是迄今为止世界传统医学理论最系统、内涵最丰富、保留最完整的传统医药学。¹

- 李光前参考图书馆“医药保健”专题

By Vicky Gao, Reference Librarian, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

近年来，随着世界范围内人口结构趋向老年化，回归自然、重视传统医药已经成为新趋势，世界卫生组织(WHO)在《传统医药全球策略 2002–2005》的报告中建议各国政府开展对传统医药的规范化管理，促进传统医药的合理使用，保护历史遗产及传统文化。²

作为中华民族的优秀传统文化，中国政府非常重视保护和发展中医药事业，2003年4月7日，中国总理温家宝签署国务院令，正式颁布了《中华人民共和国中医药条例》，为中医药在中国的发展提供了政策上的保障。³

中医药在新加坡

根据史书记载，新加坡早在莱佛士登陆之前已是一个商船往来的港口，明代郑和下西洋时也从东南亚带回乳香、没药、血竭、檀香、丁香、胡椒等药材，显示了中草药及贸易在东南亚有着悠久的历史。⁴



中医师, 1890s
源自 A Vision of the Past:
A History of Early Photography in
Singapore and Malaysia.
Singapore: Times Edition.
1987版权所有。

1819年新加坡开埠以来，许多华人从中国南来谋生，他们“入乡随俗”的同时，也把家乡的习俗带入异乡。在当时，贫苦劳工常用针灸疗法和中草药治疗腰腿疼痛和跌打损伤。

早期中医师行医比较集中的地点是免费施医赠药，扶弱济贫的慈善机构，最有代表性的是创立于1867年的同济医院，它是新加坡历史最早的中医院，也是新加坡中医药历史的见证。



同济医院旧址
源自《同济医院一百二十周年历史专集》。
新加坡：同济医院。
Singapore: Times Edition.
1989版权所有。

由于政治经济、历史与地理环境的关系，经英殖民地时代、日治时期，到新加坡的独立建国，新加坡始终以西方的文化为主流，医疗卫生主要是西医和西药，中医药则处于主流医疗机构之外。



六十年代，医师为病人针灸。
源自《同济医院一百二十周年历史专集》。
新加坡：同济医院。
Singapore: Times Edition.
1989版权所有。

几十年来，推动新加坡中医药发展的主要动力来自民间大众的需求和中医药团体和组织。成立于1946年的新加坡中医师公会以及它属下的中华医院、中医学院、中华医药研究院和中华针灸研究院四大机构，本着取之社会，用之社会的精神，半个多世纪以来，在服务社群，弘扬中医药文化，宣传中医药和培养中医药人才等方面发挥了重要的作用。⁵

近年来，生命科学受到重视，中医药界与西医界、科学界的合作日益增多，促进相关学科的相互渗透，中医药在辅助治疗方面也扮演着越来越重要的辅助作用。为此，新加坡政府也开始重新检讨中医药政策，并在中医药的立法与培训方面取得了突破性进展：

- 2000年11月14日，新加坡国会通过了《中医师法案》建立中医师(包括针灸师)注册制度，标志着中医师行医的法定地位得到正式认可。
- 2002年1月1日起，只有在中医管理委员会注册的针灸师才有资格在针灸领域合法行医。
- 2003年5月，政府颁布指导原则，允许中医诊所将接诊的非典疑似病人转往政府指定的非典点医院就诊，这是新加坡政府首次允许政府医院接收中医师转诊的病人，也是政府在防治疾病工作中首次邀请中医药团体为合作伙伴。
- 2004年1月1日起，只有在中医管理委员会注册的中医师才有资格在中医全科领域合法行医。



1940年6月2日（民国廿九年），新加坡中药公会筹备委员会正式成立，掀开了新加坡中药界团体一致，推动本会五十年来会务发展的第一个里程碑。

源自《同济医院一百二十周年历史专集》。新加坡：同济医院。Singapore: Times Edition. 1987版权所有。

- 2005年，新加坡南洋理工大学率先推出了“生物医药科学和传统中药”双学士学位课程，受到市场欢迎，在最近的2006年招生中，有711名学生争夺60个学额。
- 2006年3月28日
新加坡中医管理委员会推出“中医执业者道德准则及道德指导原则”，进一步规范新加坡3000多名注册中医师和针灸师更明确的行医准则，提升本地注册中医师针灸师的专业水平和形象，推动中医进一步专业化。
- 2006年5月新加坡中医学院首次为西医开办以英语授课的针灸培训课程，获得热烈响应，这些接受针灸培训的西医医生一旦顺利通过英语针灸统一考试并注册针灸师，将能在西医诊所为病人施针治疗，为中西医合璧，在中西交汇的新加坡探索传统中医学走进西医诊所，迈出了重要的一步。
- 2006年6月6日北京同仁堂在亚历山大医院开设中医专科医疗保健中心，创立于公元1669年，历经八

代皇帝钦定供奉清宫御药房用药、独办官药达188年之久的中国著名老字号走进了新加坡西医院。

(以上新加坡新闻源自商业新闻信息库Factiva.com,读者可在本馆的多媒体电脑上使用该数据库。)

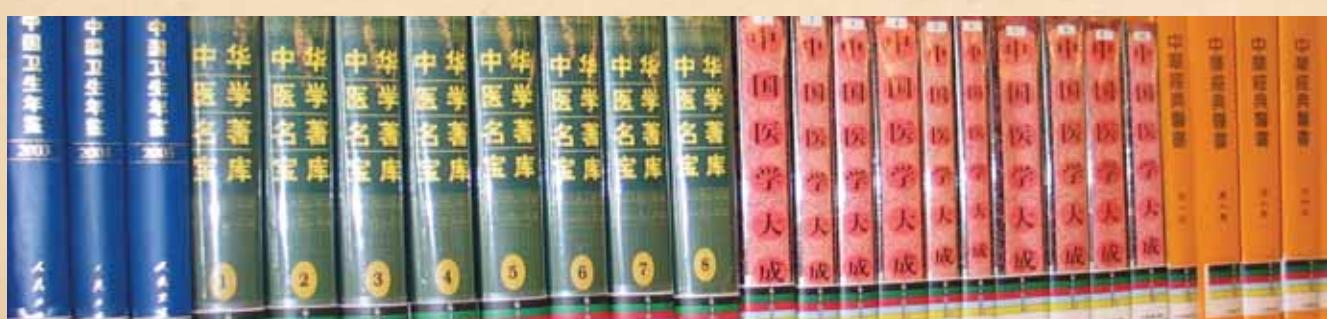
到目前为止，新加坡本地主要医院如新加坡国立大学医院、陈笃生医院、莱佛士医院、樟宜综合医院和亚历山大医院都聘有中医师在院内驻诊，新加坡中医治病种类也相当广泛，包括高血压、心脑血管病、糖尿病、高血脂症、类风湿性关节炎、中风后遗症、胃肠疾病、风湿疼痛、颈椎病、皮肤病等，求诊者除华人外，也包括印度人、马来人和外国人，中医药的影响超越了国籍、宗教和种族的界限，成为人类共同的财富。

李光前参考图书馆中文“医药保健”专题

来到位于九楼书墙的“医药保健”专题，你会感受到浓浓的中医药文化氛围。作为一门古老而神奇的学科，大多数人都不曾真正地认识它，为了帮助读者了解到真实的中医药的理论，探索中医药的奥秘，李光前参考图书馆中文馆藏部门在2005年7月迁入新馆大厦第9层时，特别设立了“医药保健”专题，专题以中医药书籍为主，现代医学书籍为辅，馆藏发展致力于理论联系实际，强调临床实用价值。

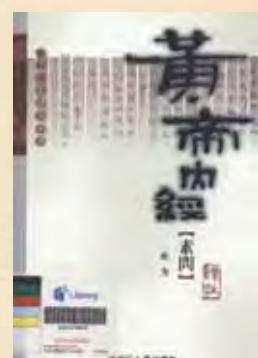
中医药书籍

现有书籍1300余册，涵盖中医内科学、中医妇科学、中医儿科学、中医五官科、中医外科学、中医老年病学、中医急诊学、中医诊断学、中医养生康复学、中药药剂与炮制学、中医骨伤推拿、方剂学和针灸学等。



主要参考书目有：

- 成书于春秋战国时期，为中华民族传统医学理论体系的奠基之作的《黄帝内经》
- 被誉为“东方药学巨典”，明代李时珍所撰的《本草纲目》
- 被古今医家奉为中医的经典，汉代张仲景著述的《金匮要略》
- 获得中国国家中医药管理局中医药基础研究奖的《近代中医珍本集》
- 全面地反映了邓铁涛学术思想的《邓铁涛医集》
- 对中医临床有较高的参考价值的《证治准绳》
- 2000余名专家、教授临床第一手资料的大型医学工具书《临床病案专家手记》
- 300余中医药学专家提供资料，历时10余年编纂的大型工具书《中国医籍大辞典》
- 收录中国30位医家、集成30册医学全书的《明清名医全书大成》
- 规模宏大、中国中医药出版社推出的《中华经典医书》



- 中国第一部以“一物一名”为规范的全国中药材正名汉拉英对照词典《中药材正名词典》
- 黄龙祥主编的《中国针灸穴位通鉴》，《中国针灸刺灸法通鉴》和《中国针灸证治通鉴》
- 100多位作者编撰，审定配有形象直观的药物标本彩色插图的《中国本草彩色图鉴》
- 被列为中国重点图书、蜚声海内外近30年的巨著《中药大辞典》
- 由中国数十位中医药学博士后、博士、硕士历时5年编写的《中医辞海》
- 获中国国家中医药管理局基础研究一等奖、将历代中医药著作中的方剂进行整理、研究、编纂而成的方剂学大型工具书的《中方剂大辞典》
- 获中国全国第五届图书奖荣誉奖的《中华本草》
- 对仲景方药作了大量的基础和应用研究的《仲景方药研究应用》
- 由台湾医师公会全国联合会17名专家编著的中英对照《中西医病名对照大辞典》

● 医学期刊

拥有专业医学期刊14种，包括中国国家中医药管理局主管的国家级综合性学术期刊和中国中医药核心期刊如《新中医》、《实用医学杂志》、《中华中医药杂志》、《中华老年医学杂志》、《糖尿病新世界》、《中国民族民间医药杂志》、《中国民族医药杂志》、《华夏医学》、《中医杂志》、《中国针灸》和《中国中医药信息杂志》等。内容既有专业的理论，又有丰富的临床医疗案例。



电子资源:

通过李光前参考图书馆的多媒体电脑，读者可以检索下列中文数据库：

CNKI中国期刊全文数据库

注：该库包含电子医学期刊如《上海中医药杂志》，《世界骨伤杂志》，《中医正骨》，《中医药学报》，《中国中西医结合杂志》，《中国中西医结合肾病杂志》，《中国民族民间医药杂志》，《中国针灸》，《中西医结合心脑血管病杂志》《北京中医药大学学报(中医临床版)》，《南京中医药大学学报(自然科学版)》，《天津中医学院学报》，《天津中医药》，《广州中医药大学学报》，《新中医》，《浙江中医药大学学报》，《现代中医药》，《现代中西医结合杂志》等60多种杂志。

中国资讯行-中国医疗健康库

注：中国资讯行 (China Infobank) 的“中国医疗健康库”收录了中国一百多种专业和普及性医药报刊的资料，向用户提供中国医疗科研、新医药、专业医院、知名医生、病理健康资讯。

结束语

在过去的一年里，我们欣喜地看到，新加坡在推进中医药规范化和专业化进程方面迈出了新的一步。历经半个多世

纪的努力，中医药正在新加坡发扬光大。我们期望“医药保健”专题的设立，能够顺应现代医学的发展潮流，唤起广大读者对传统中医药文化的兴趣和认识，满足中医药在新加坡的需求和发展，推动中医药在新加坡的普及与研究，使拥有数千年历史的中华传统医学文化能在中西交汇的新加坡薪火相传，源远流长，服务社会，造福人民。

李光前参考图书馆中文参考咨询部本着方便读者，服务大众的宗旨，提供远程参考咨询服务，协助读者检索各类中文资料，及时回答读者的中文询问。我馆也同中国的图书馆合作，努力开拓更丰富的资源，满足不同层面读者的需求。读者可以将[中文提问电邮到 ref@nlb.gov.sg](mailto:ref@nlb.gov.sg) 或发送手机简讯到 91787792。

附注:

¹ 李致重，“中医在人类医学中的地位和作用”。《光明中医》，2000。

² WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2002–2005
http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2002/WHO_EDM_TR_M_2002.1.pdf

³ 中华人民共和国中医药条例

<http://www.china.org.cn/chinese/zhuanti/medicalnote/406593.htm>

⁴ 《瀛涯胜览校注》，冯承钧校注。上海：商务印书馆，1935。

⁵ 《中华医院成立五十周年金禧纪念特刊》。新加坡中医师公会，2002。

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) has had a long history; its origins date back to more than 2000 years ago in China. With the influence and medicinal knowledge of the Chinese minority tribes, TCM has evolved and developed into an all-encompassing medical science.

According to historical sources, when the Ming admiral, Zheng He, returned to China after a voyage to South East Asia, he brought with him Chinese medicinal herbs. This signifies that TCM was already in practice during that period in history. In the early 19th century, many Chinese immigrants came to Singapore for work, bringing with them their culture as well as their medicine.

Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO), in a report, encouraged governments around the world to lessen its regulations against traditional medicine so as to promote preservation of local and cultural traditions.

In 2000, TCM in Singapore received a new lease of life when it achieved legal status. In November 2000, the parliament passed the “Chinese Physicians Act”. The Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners’ Board was set up shortly after this. From 1 January 2002 only acupuncturists registered with the board can legally practice acupuncture while only registered Chinese physicians can practice from 1 January 2004.

The National Library has currently an estimated number of 1300 titles on TCM. The Library also carries journals and subscribes to databases which focus on TCM. The collection is available at Level 9, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library. References enquires can be sent via SMS (91787792) or e-mail (ref@nlb.gov.sg).



Babas and Nonyas: THE PERANAKAN CHINESE IN SINGAPORE

by Bonny Tan, Reference Librarian, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

WRITINGS ON THE BABAS

The local Baba community has a social history that is as fascinating as their material culture is colourful. Popularly referred to as the Peranakan (or Peranakan Cina - Malay for Chinese Peranakan¹), the Babas are an acculturated community of Southern Chinese domiciled in the colonial Straits Settlements since they first settled in Malacca in the 16th century². Their long residence in the Malayan Peninsula saw the primarily Hokkien community adopting cultural elements from the Indonesians, Malays, Indians and colonial British, and developing a unique cultural tapestry seen in their use of Baba Malay language, *nonya* attire and cuisine. Yet, defining a Baba and his community remains a complex task both for the researcher and community member, as the community continues to adapt through difficult periods and different eras.

While ferreting through books in the National Library's Singapore and Southeast Asian Collections, new-old materials were uncovered which could shed more light on the complex study of Baba identity. These books by the Babas and about the Babas serve as a window into the community, providing a peek into their lives, stories and values. With the publication

of *A Baba Bibliography*, more than 1,500 annotated citations of books, chapters in books, magazine and newspaper articles, websites and audiovisual resources on the subject were brought together in a single publication. They span almost 200 years of writing, from the early 19th century to publications in the 21st century.

Most studies on the Babas focus on specific subjects such as literature and language, material culture, social history and identity. This bibliography, however, brings together these disparate subjects, spanning across popular perspectives and including obscure academic studies in the hope that new insights and a more integrative concept of the Babas can be articulated.

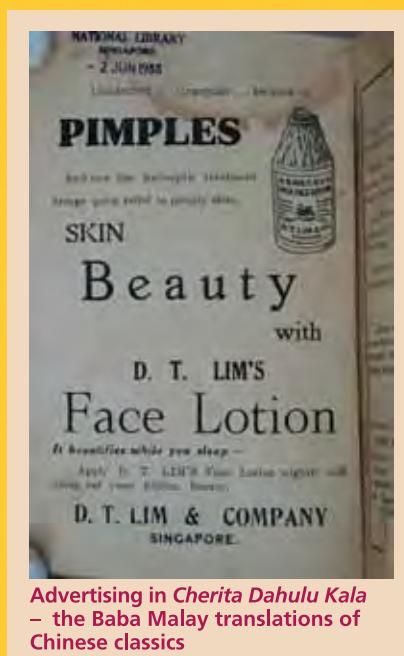
STORIES FROM LONG AGO

When discussing Baba writings, the traditional stories of the Babas, known in short as *Chrita dahulu-kala*, or "Stories of long ago", published between the late 19th century and the early 20th century, come to mind. These publications are Baba Malay translations of Chinese classics, adventures and romance.

Studies of these publications often focus on their holdings in various libraries in Asia and the West. Salmon & Destenay's (1977) *Writings in Romanized Malay by the Chinese of Malaya* was one of the earliest to detail the holdings of these titles in various libraries, including the British Library, the National Library in Singapore and the Dewan Bahasa Library in Kuala Lumpur. This was followed by an analysis by Tan (1981) and Proudfoot (1989, March), with added information on publishing histories. The most recent studies are by Yoong (2001, 2002, 2004), which besides reviewing holdings and publishing trends, has categorised the titles by types of stories and studied the persons behind the publications, including translators, illustrators and publishers.

Most studies indicate that the National Library in Singapore has less than 30 such titles, but the process of compiling this bibliography uncovered at least 44 distinct titles of these unique translations. Many were donated by Linda Lim through the National Museum in 1986. These have been microfilmed and are stored along with other purchased microfilm titles to provide access to a wider range of such titles.

The Chinese stories and why the Babas chose to translate is not generally the subject of analysis. Instead, the books are studied for the Baba Malay used. It is a vibrant mix of Baba Malay and Hokkien – unadulterated and not standardised, written as if to be read aloud. Peppered within the text are proper English translations and sometimes Chinese scripts, which attempt to clarify some aspects of the story.



advertisements and appended short essays in the well-thumbed paperbacks also speak of the social life of the community at the turn of the century. Publishers such as D. T. Lim were involved in sales of consumables such as face lotions, diabetic teas and sambal spices which they gamely advertised in their books.

Besides Chinese classics, the bibliography also covers articles which analyse these writings as well as Baba poetry (*pantun* and *syair*), Baba performance as seen in the *Dondang Sayang*, *Wayang Peranakan*, and dramas of the late 20th century and analysis of these. Language use and structure, word-lists and dictionaries, and general challenges in language acquisition are also listed.

MATERIAL CULTURE

In the 1980s, there was a revival of interest in the Baba community as older families sold off their family heirlooms and their material culture spilled into the open market, attracting the interest of discerning buyers and the curious.

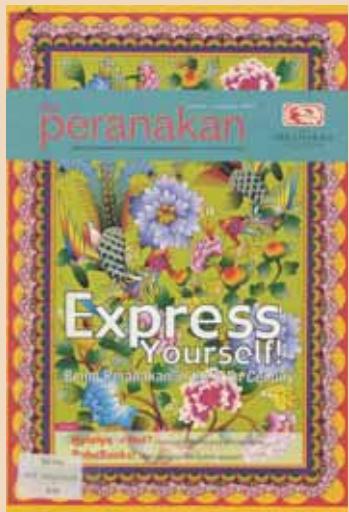


Publications by Dr Ho Wing Meng on the Baba culture

Fuelled by this influx of material culture, museums began to focus on exhibitions solely on the Babas. In Singapore, the National Museum began with a showcase of domestic items, beadwork and jewellery of the Babas. Then in 1997, the Asian Civilisation Museum opened its first wing off Armenian Street, where a large part of the space was dedicated to displays of Baba material culture.

Philosophy lecturer, Ho Wing Meng, turned his hobby³ of collecting Straits Chinese material into four publications, published in the 1980s⁴, analysing the Baba material culture. The detailed photographs in these publications, as well as exhibition guides and auction brochures published around the same period, increased the interest in the material wealth of the Babas of the past. The pink-blue and yellow-green of *nonya* ware are reflected in similar colours in their *kebaya* and *kasut manek*.⁵ Singapore's Peranakan Association saw younger members join, many seeking to savour the culinary fare of the true-blue Nonya or to acquire a set of *kerosangs*⁶ to accompany their new *kebayas* or develop a new hobby in *kasut manek* beadwork.

Even as recent as the 21st century, the late Datuk Seri Endon Mahmood's patronage⁷ of the *nonya* *kebaya* encouraged a revival in the making and use of these delicately embroidered dresses, and led both Malaysians and Singaporeans to acquire these as their own local costumes.



The quarterly newsletter of the Peranakan Association

Interestingly, although the hues and decorative details of things Baba seem so clearly defined today, there is limited information on a unique style that can be said as truly Baba. Whether it is architecture or jewellery, scholars do not seem to agree over a distinctly Straits Chinese style, although certain details may be

construed as peculiar to the Babas. Even so, the mish-mash of styles reflecting the best of the Chinese, British or Malays as used by wealthy Straits Chinese have become acknowledged as typical of Baba taste and have today acquired a standing of high regard.

The bibliography attempts to capture all material aspects of the Baba, from architecture to interior furnishing, kitchenware and porcelain, silver and jewellery, attire and dress sense.

SOCIAL LIFE

The Baba community expresses its values through ritual practice and social interactions. Early studies of the community focus on descriptions of the early Chinese settlement in the coastal city of Malacca. Malaccan-born De Eredia (1613)⁸, a navigator and explorer, made some of the earliest observations of the community. However, it was later colonials and adventurers who captured the unique expressions and style of the Babas. Isabella Bird (Isabella Bishop) described the Anglo-Chinese and their peculiarities in some detail⁹ in her famed publication *The*



Porcelain ware in typical Nonya colours

Golden Chersonese, published in 1883. Vaughan had, as early as the 1850s, written notes on the Penang Chinese¹⁰ but it is his *Manners and Customs of the*

Chinese, published in 1879, that provided a detailed analysis of the Straits Chinese. Victor Purcell, who had served in the Malayan Civil Service between 1921 and 1946, continued an in-depth description of the Chinese from the Occupation to the post-war period, based on research conducted in the 1930s.

After the war, the Straits Chinese British Associations of Singapore, Malacca and Penang voiced the struggles of the Babas in retaining their treasured British rights in the face of an increasing nationalistic fervour that sought to throw off colonial restraints. While individual Babas took on key political leadership posts in the fledgling nations of Singapore and Malaysia¹¹, the Baba community itself was being derided for its political apathy. Much of the struggle with its sense of political and nationalistic identity can be found in newspapers and magazine articles of the period.

Thereafter, while the notion of being Baba no longer carried political connotations, cultural aspects of Baba practices became more and more a subject of study in post-independent Singapore and Malaysia. These were found in publications of specific rituals such as wedding ceremonies¹² and in autobiographies of the ordinary Baba, where descriptions of kinship ties and everyday rites showed the lifestyle of Babas in the past and their struggles through the Japanese Occupation.

In the 1980s, several ethnographic studies and landmark publications on the social practices of the Baba were published. John Clammer (1980) looked at the community from a sociological perspective, providing an academic analysis of ethnicity and its expression¹³. On the other hand, Felix Chia's (1980) publication in the same year described the Baba from within the community, giving anecdotal accounts, personal reflections and insiders' notes over and above a researched background to the community¹⁴. Soon after, Tan Chee-Beng (1988)¹⁵ provided a detailed ethnographic study of Malaccan Babas, capturing ritualistic practices as



Some ladies from the Peranakan Voices, a local singing group specialising in Peranakan tunes

well as social customs and interactions, thus giving flesh to the actual workings of the community. With Rudolph's (1994) publication¹⁶, the Babas were described based on how they were perceived and how they perceived themselves through distinct time periods. Social identity was not defined merely by ritual practices or material culture but also by the community's political and nationalistic affiliations.

The Baba community gained a new dimensionality as they were studied within the context of their time, complementing specific studies of rituals and aspects of the community. The beautifully illustrated and well-researched tome by Khoo Joo Ee (1996) *The Straits Chinese: A Cultural History* is such an example: it captures both the intricacies of the material culture as well as the issues of social identity among the Babas of Penang.

Both the broad study of the Baba community and the specific papers on ritualistic aspects of Baba culture are listed in the bibliography. Added to these are area studies of the Babas in Singapore, Penang and Malacca and broader studies of

Babas. The latter compares the Babas to the acculturated Chinese in Southeast Asia and the related acculturated non-Chinese such as the Chetty Melaka, the Adjarns of Phuket and the Peranakan-like Chinese in Kelantan and Terengganu.

FUTURE WRITINGS ON THE BABAS

The lines between social and material culture, physical and spiritual space, past and present, are seldom static. Thus, as the community evolves and questions of identity continue to be raised, it is hoped that *A Baba Bibliography* may serve as a resource to nurture new interpretations of what makes a Baba.

More importantly, through the publication of *A Baba Bibliography*, it was found that many unique resources on the Babas were not available in the National Library of Singapore. Patrons of the Baba community are thus encouraged to donate their own wealth of resources to the National Library so that a wider community can glean from the treasures of their forefathers and the generation of today can appreciate afresh the wisdom of the past.

ENDNOTES

¹ Various scholars and Baba authors have made a distinction between the terms Straits Chinese, Straits-born Chinese, Peranakan Chinese and Baba. In fact, technically, the term Baba refers to the men within the community and Nonya refers to the women. Rudolph (1998), however, notes that in the pre-war Straits Settlements, such distinction of terms were not always implied and the names were often used interchangeably for the Baba community. For the sake of simplicity, the community is referred to as Baba in this essay.

² Early Chinese records indicate that Chinese settlements were in Malacca much earlier but the beginnings of an acculturated Chinese community is often traced from the 16th century.

³ de Souza, John. (1984, June 11). Scholar, writer, collector. *The Straits Times*. Section Two, p. 1.

⁴ At least three of his publications were published in the 1980s while the fourth was published in the 1990s – *Straits Chinese Porcelain* (1983), *Straits Chinese Silver* (1984), *Straits Chinese Beadwork and Embroidery* (1987), *Straits Chinese Furniture* (1994).

⁵ *kebaya* – the full dress comprises a blouse and a sarong skirt. The intricately embroidered blouses of the *nonya*, through the technique known as *sulam*, would have delicate holes enhancing the designs of flowers, peacocks and other aspects of nature.

kasut manek – the beaded slippers were made of *manek potong*. The beads had cut sides that added to the glitter in the design of flowers and nature.

⁶ *kerosangs* – often in a set of three and made of gold, set with cut diamonds, the Kerosang acted as brooch-like buttons for the baju kebaya or the blouse of the kebaya.

⁷ Datin Seri Endon Mahmood published two books on the Nonya kebaya, namely *The Nyonya kebaya: A Showcase of Nyonya Kebayas from the Collection of Datin Seri Endon Mahmood* (2002) and *The Nyonya Kebaya: A Century of Straits Chinese Costume* (2004). Her collection was also exhibited in both Malaysia and Singapore museums, attracting a large following.

⁸ The J. V. Mills translated the Portuguese publication into English in the *Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* in 1930

⁹ Bishop, Isabella L. (Isabella Lucy). (1990). *The golden chersonese: The malayan travels of a victorian lady*. Singapore: Oxford University Press

¹⁰ Vaughan, Jonas Daniel. (1854). Notes on the Chinese of Pinang. *The Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia*, 8, 1 - 27

¹¹ In Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew and Goh Keng Swee were some individual Babas who took on the mantle of political leadership while in Malaysia, the Malaccan Baba Tan Cheng Lock and thereafter his son, Tan Siew Sin, reigned as heads of the Chinese political party and as Finance Ministers.

¹² Cheo Kim Ban (1983) published *A Baba Wedding*. This was just one of many articles and publications on the elaborate Baba wedding.

¹³ Clammer, John R. (1980). *Straits Chinese society: studies in the sociology of Baba communities of Malaysia and Singapore*. Singapore: Singapore University Press

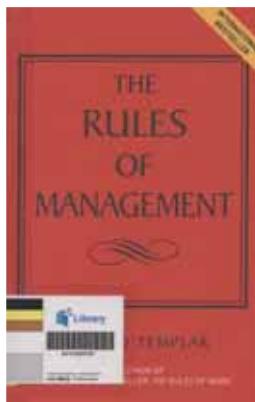
¹⁴ Chia, Felix. (1980). *The Babas, Ala Sayang!* (1983), *The Babas Revisited* (1994)

¹⁵ Tan, Chee Beng. (1988). *The Baba of Melaka: Culture and identity of a Chinese Peranakan community in Malaysia*. Selangor: Pelanduk Publications

¹⁶ Rudolph, Jurgen. (1998). *Reconstructing identities: A social history of the Babas in Singapore*. Aldershot: Ashgate.

BOOK REVIEWS

Please check the availability of the materials at: <http://vistaweb.nlb.gov.sg>



The Rules Of Management: A Definitive Code For Managerial Success

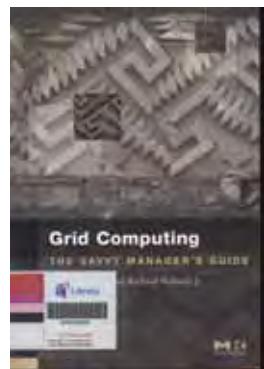
By Richard Templar

Publisher: Harlow, England; New York: Pearson/Prentice Hall Business, 2005.

Call Number: 658 TEM -[BIZ]

As any manager will know, it is both a delicate art and precise science when it comes to managing intricate interpersonal relationships in the workplace and leading teams effectively. To ensure optimum performance from the team, the manager needs to learn how to handle staff with different personalities and to respond to various situations.

The author of many business bestsellers, including *Rules of Life*, *Rules of Work* and *I Don't Want Any More Cheese, I Just Want Out of the Trap!*, Richard Templar culls together established strategies for successful management behaviour in this single volume. Useful for both novice and seasoned managers, this book dispenses practical advice on topics ranging from encouraging staff and inspiring loyalty to developing traits of a good manager.



Grid Computing: The Savvy Manager's Guide

by Pawel Plaszczak and Richard Wellner, Jr.

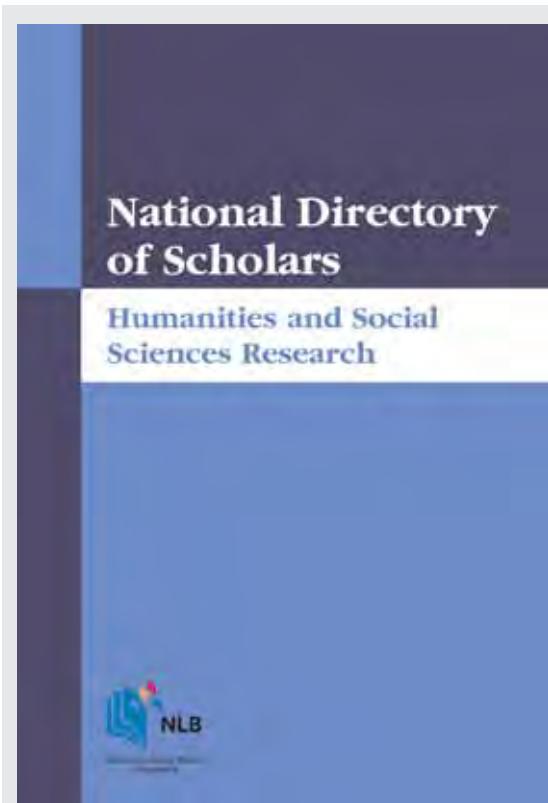
Amsterdam; Boston : Elsevier/Morgan Kaufmann, c2006.

R 004.36 PLA

Recently, grid computing has been touted as a set of emerging technologies that can create new competitive advantages for commercial organisations. Plaszczak and Wellner's book is timely written for non-technical business managers who want to know if they should plug into the grid.

Once considered the domain of scientists, grid technology is now beginning to make inroads into mainstream business, thanks to the maturing of its technologies and the support of industry heavyweights (such as IBM and Sun).

Using case studies such as Wachovia and Rolls-Royce for the treatment of this topic, the authors adopt a different approach instead of the usual equations and programming codes. The chapter on management issues is especially useful for managers who face problems in building and selling a grid business case.



National Directory of Scholars: Humanities and Social Sciences Research

The National Directory of Scholars: Humanities and Social Sciences Research is a collaborative initiative of the National Library Board Singapore and the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences faculties of the universities and research institutes in Singapore. This is a result of contributions from about 320 researchers. The Directory lists over 2,530 titles of their research publications and research papers.

The aim of this Directory is two-fold:

- (a) to produce an aggregated list of researchers in the humanities and social sciences disciplines in Singapore; and
- (b) to create awareness of the research landscape in these disciplines covering past and current scholarly research. The Directory presents profiles of researchers and their research interests / areas of expertise, and current research as well selected significant research publications and papers.

The publication is priced at S\$45 (US\$30 for orders outside of Singapore). For more information, please email cis@nlb.gov.sg.



Tradisi Penulisan Manusrip Melayu.

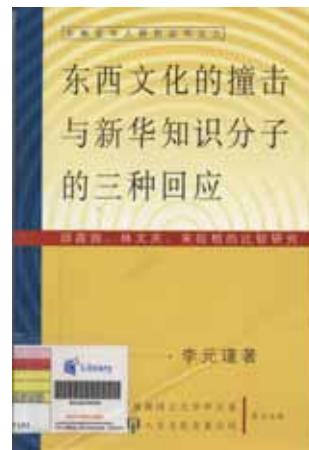
Kuala Lumpur : Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia, 1997.
Call no: R q499.2811 TRA

Manusrip Melayu mencerminkan pemikiran bangsa Melayu. Tulisan berkembang dengan pesatnya dalam tamadun Melayu. Ia membuktikan keintelektualan dan kemahiran masyarakat Melayu pada zamannya.

Buku Penulisan Manusrip Melayu ini merupakan himpunan 17 buah kertas kerja yang di bentangkan di seminar antara bangsa manusrip Melayu.

Melalui salah satu kertas kerja, James T Collins telah mengutarakan perihal ciri-ciri Bahasa Melayu pada Abad ke-17. Tiga perkara yang telah dibincangkannya ialah orotografi, ekologi dan keglobaan media. Beberapa tulisan Bahasa Melayu dalam berbagai ortografi yang menunjukkan keindahan dan kewibawaan Bahasa Melayu dalam aksara Jawi telah ditampilkan sebagai contoh. Aksara Nusantara lain seperti Rencong dan Lampung juga telah digunakan untuk menghasilkan shair, mantera dan manusrip Melayu. Buktinya Hikayat Nur Muhammad ada terdapat di perpustakaan Bodley.

Collins berpendapat penyelidikan Bahasa Melayu tidak terbatas pada ortografi Jawi sahaja tetapi membuat perbandingan dengan bahasa2 lain di rantau ini pada abad yang sama.



东西文化的撞击与新华知识分子的三种回应: 邱菽园、林文庆、宋旺相的比较研究。

李元瑾编

Publisher 新加坡 : 新加坡国立大学中文系, 八方文化企业, 2001.
Call no: RSING / RCO 305.552095957

作者通过邱菽园、林文庆、宋旺相三位19世纪末至20世纪初的新加坡杰出知识分子人格的形成与展现做了一个全面的比较，并分析他们在文化认同与思想模式的异同。

邱菽园是杰出的文学家、出色的报人、维新运动志士、女学运动领袖，在中国出生与求学，深受中国文化的熏陶，但又对西方文化抱持开明的态度。林文庆与宋旺相同是海峡土生华人，同样的先在新加坡受过教育后再到英国升造，但却有非常不同的思想与文化认同。林文庆是个议员、商人、医生、教育家、社会改革家和儒学运动领袖，曾任厦门大学校长长达十六年。宋旺相是一名律师、议员、社会改革家和著名史学家，还是第一位获颁英帝国二等爵士勋章的亚洲人。

全书分为上、中、下三篇，共十一章。作者突破了传统人物传记研究和写作方法，将三个来自同时代的人物放在同一个平台上，进行了深入的比较和讨论，为研究海外华人增添了一个新的层面。



கவிஞர் ந. பழநிவேலு படைப்புக் களஞ்சியம் (2 தொகுதிகள்)

ந. பழநிவேலு

Publisher: சிங்கப்பூர்: ப. பாலகி இட்டினன், 1997

Call number: RSING S894.81171 PAL or SING S894.81171 PAL

சிங்கை, மலேசியாவின் முதுபெரும் பாவலர்களில் ஒருவராகிய திரு. ந. பழநிவேலு அவர்கள் கவிதை, சிறுக்கதை, கட்டுரை, மேடை நாடகம், வாணோவி, தொலைகாட்சி நாடகம் எனப் பல துறைகளிலும் கைவந்தவர். தம் வாழ்நாளின் இறுதிவரை ஜம்பது ஆண்டுகளுக்கு மேல் எழுத்துப்பணியைத் தொடர்ந்தார். வாணோவியில் தயாரிப்பாளராகப் பணியாற்றும் போது பல நாடகங்கள் எழுதியுள்ளார்.

திரு. ந. பழநிவேலு அவர்களின் நாடகங்களில் ஒரு பகுதியே "கவிஞர் ந. பழநிவேலுவின் படைப்புக் களஞ்சியம்" என இரு தொகுதிகளாக அவரின் மகனார் திரு. ப. பாலகி இட்டினன் அவர்களால் வெளியிடப்பட்டுள்ளது. இவர் நாடகங்களில் சமுதாயம், குடும்பம், காதல், இலக்கியம், ஆகிய கருத்துக்களே மேலோங்கி நின்றன. நகைச்சுவையும் சமுதாய நலன் தேடும் கருத்துகளும் அவரின் நாடகங்களில் பார்க்கலாம். வசனங்களில் நாற்பது ஜம்பதுகளில் வழங்கிய பேச்சுக் தமிழின் வடிவமும் அதில் கலந்து ஒலித்த மலாய்ச் சொற்களும் நம்மை அக்கலத்திற்குக் கொண்டு செல்லும். தமிழிலக்கிய வளத்திற்கு மலேசிய, சிங்கப்பூர், தமிழ்ப்படைப்பாளிகள் பலர் பெரும் பங்காற்றியுள்ளனர். இப்பணியில் திரு. ந. பழநிவேலு அவர்களின் சிறந்த படைப்புகளும் அடங்கும்.

NEWS

MRS LAURA BUSH, FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VISITS THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

In a two-day official visit by President George W Bush and First Lady Mrs Laura Bush to Singapore on 16-17 November 2006, Mrs Bush, a former librarian, who is passionate about the importance and pleasures of reading, chose to visit the National Library.

Upon arrival, Mrs Bush was taken on a tour of the Singapore and Southeast Asian collections, and viewed rare titles and manuscripts such as a letter written by Sir Stamford Raffles and *The History of Trauayle in the West and East Indies* (1577), the oldest title in the collection which described the archipelago during pre-British colonial times.

As camera shutters snapped away, Mrs Bush graciously signed the National Library Board (NLB) guestbook and proceeded to the Children's Section



(from left) Mrs Wong Kan Seng, Ms Denise Phua, Member of Parliament, Mrs Laura Bush, First Lady of USA, Dr Varaprasad, Chief Executive, NLB and Ms Judy Ng, Deputy Director, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library



Mrs Laura Bush reading a story to children from the KidsRead Programme and Jamiyah Children's Home

of the Central Lending Library, where a group of children were eagerly waiting for her arrival. The children, aged seven to nine years old, were from the KidsREAD programme at St Anthony's Primary School and from the Jamiyah Children's Home. As Mrs Bush arrived, the children gave a warm hello in unison, and Mrs Bush's beaming smile put all present at ease.

Reading from David Kirk's *Miss Spider's Tea Party*, Mrs Bush kept the children rapt with attention and interspersed her reading with questions to the children, such as whether there were fireflies in Singapore. At the end of the reading, there was a Question & Answer session with the children and the First Lady sportingly fielded their innocuous questions with much aplomb. One particular question and answer that stood out was on Mrs Bush's hobbies. She said her hobby was reading and that it was the love for reading that led her to pursue a master's degree in library science and also to work as a librarian before she became the First Lady.

The session ended with Mrs Bush taking photographs with the children and presenting NLB with the autographed copy of the book she had read to the children.

DIGITAL TERRORISM CONFERENCE

by Ronnie Tan, Reference Librarian,
Publishing and Research Services

A one-day conference on digital terrorism organised jointly by the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, Nanyang Technological University, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Los Angeles, was held on 14 November 2006 at the National Library. The aim of the conference was to educate and heighten awareness of the use of the Internet by extremist groups to influence public thinking. To this end, the five conference speakers touched on topics such as the use of the Internet by various militant and religious groups to spread their hate messages and Jihadi beliefs. The speakers also pointed out that the use of the Internet for such infernal purposes was not confined to militant Islamic groups alone but was also pervasive among some racist groups too. About 60 researchers attended the conference.



Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Simon Wiesenthal Center, Los Angeles, sharing on militant propaganda on the Internet

PARTNERING WITH LIBRARIANS IN VIETNAM

By Ivy Lee, Reference Librarian, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

Hot on the heels of our Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's visit to Vietnam to explore partnership opportunities in September, the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library (LKCR) collaborated with the General Sciences Library (GSL) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, to establish a reference service delivery workflow. Singapore is one of Vietnam's major investment and trade partners. The other countries include Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the Republic of Korea.

The objective of this collaboration is to enable LKCR to tap on GSL's resources and expertise, especially when handling enquiries on Vietnam where print and digital resources in English are scarce. This collaboration also applies to GSL for enquiries that can be better handled by LKCR when the enquirer is located in Vietnam. In time to come, GSL may promote its newly minted reference services to its blossoming business community who can then benefit from the two libraries' co-operation.

In order to communicate LKCR's reference delivery standards with the Vietnamese librarians, one of the LKCR reference librarians visited GSL in late September. Ms Le Thi Thanh Thuy, Deputy Head of Professional Research & Guidance at GSL and LKCR Reference Librarian, Mrs Bonny Muliani Tan, initiator of the collaboration and currently working from Ho Chi Minh City, were there to provide a warm welcome.

The suite of reference services offered to the public by LKCR, especially dealing with business enquiries about Vietnam, was the focus of a sharing session. A tour of GSL also revealed a rich collection of local newspapers and periodicals providing rich information about the Vietnamese economy.

Apart from the rich Vietnamese historical and statistical resources in GSL, GSL has a strong outreach programme to the visually handicapped. Spearheaded by the vivacious Mrs Nguyen Thi Bac, Director of GSL, its services boasts of two well-equipped recording studios for recording audio books and a unit where staff hand-craft 3D tactile books and publish their own Braille books for visually handicapped children and adults. The vision that Mrs Bac shared for the visually handicapped library users was inspiring, especially for a library that runs on a very tight budget.

This collaboration is one of the partnerships that LKCR is attempting to establish with libraries in the region. Our common objective is to ensure our customers receive the best reference services from a greater pool of experts and library specialists.



General Sciences Library, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



Librarians from GSL

General Sciences Library (GSL), Ho Chi Minh City

GSL is one of the key branch libraries under the library system of Vietnam, where the National Library in Hanoi is the premier institution. GSL, however, has an established history, having inherited the collections of the Library for Admirals and Governors established by the French in 1868 and controversial American resources prior to the reunification of Vietnam in 1975. It used to be the National Library in South Vietnam.

It serves 270,000 patrons annually, ranging from students to businessmen and government agencies, although these figures exclude the users of 24 provincial libraries under its wings. With renewed business interest in Ho Chi Minh City and a central location in the heart of the tourist and business district, the library has recently launched a new Reference Service (September 2006) and is planning to open a Children's Library (December 2006). Many expatriates from the business and educational sectors actively participate in the library's programme as volunteers and partners.

Ho Chi Minh City

Since Vietnam launched its economic reformation "Doi Moi", Singapore has been one of its earliest and largest investors despite the island's small size. On 7 November 2006, Vietnam became the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) 150th member, a privileged position that enables it to enter the global market on an equal footing.

This makes information all the more important, particularly for business investments. Much of this information is still not published, and those that are, are in Vietnamese. Thus, a collaboration between relevant agencies can serve to aid investors in both Vietnam and Singapore.

HERITAGE ROAD SHOW @ THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

by Damien Wang, Librarian, INVENT; inputs from Mr Lai Yeen Pong, Consultant, Heritage & Asia Division and Mdm Azizah Sidek, Reference Specialist, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

The National Library held its very first Heritage Road Show on 11 and 12 November 2006, in conjunction with the "Explore Singapore!" campaign co-organised by the National Heritage Board (NHB), National Library Board (NLB) and Media Development Authority (MDA) to spark a desire among Singaporeans to rediscover their heritage.

Underlying the carnival-like atmosphere was a serious effort to collect our local print heritage for preservation and conservation purposes. In particular, print resources which were rare, historically significant and in sufficiently good condition to fill NLB's collection gaps were most sought-after. The challenge was in getting Singaporeans to part with their family heirlooms.

One of the unique features of the road show was the option for participants to either donate the physical copy of the print material to NLB, or to make a 'virtual donation'. The latter procedure involved the instant capturing of an entry or its first page (for multi-page documents) via digital photography or scanning. This provided an avenue for Singaporeans who were reluctant to part with their family treasures to come forward and share them everyone. This will also enable NLB to approach each and every owner if a follow-up was necessary.

The subject on cash prizes totalling \$10,000 was hardly broached. Donors were more concerned about the use of the items after donation. Some of the donations were done in good faith, with a firm belief that NLB would be in a better position to conserve them for posterity. There were also some donors who were second or third-generation owners unable to make sense of artefacts.

Fortunately, there were some experts who were willing to lend a hand. Mr Lai Yeen Pong (Consultant, Heritage & Asia Division), Mdm Azizah Sidek (Reference Specialist, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library) and Mr Leong Sek Choon (Specialist, SILAS Secretariat), were some of the busiest staff members on duty, zipping from booth to booth to help appraise the rarer artefacts brought in by potential donors. Mr Lim Chen Sian, a NUS graduate research student specialising in colonial archaeology, was one of the volunteers who lent his expertise at the Road Show. The para-professionals from Lee Kong Chian Reference Library also played a crucial role in transcribing Chinese and Malay bibliographic details for record-keeping purposes.



Volunteer appraiser, Mr Lim Chen Sian, examining an old photograph.



Dr N Varaprasad, Chief Executive of NLB, launched the 2-day Heritage Road Show by striking a traditional Malay gong.



Two 'virtual donations' being processed at the on-site digital studio. The original items were then returned to their respective owners.

So what happens to the donated print material? Suitable physical donations will be processed and made available for research purposes. Plans are also under way to digitise some of the rarer items for preservation and conservation purposes, so that more users will be able to access the digitised copy without having to handle the original.

In all, over 700 physical and virtual donations were received over the two days, of which 400 were Chinese textbooks dating between 1915 and the 1980s. These were donated by a 67-year old bookstore owner, Mr Yeo Shan Chai.

The panel of judges comprised Mr Iskander Mydin (Senior Curator, National Museum), Mr Lai Yeen Pong (Consultant, Heritage and Asia, NLB), Dr David Chng (Research Fellow, Centre for Chinese Language & Culture, Nanyang Technological University) and Mr Lim Guan Hock (Senior Archives Officer, National Archives).

Some of the winning entries:

(An asterisk* denotes donation of a physical copy to NLB)

Mr Yeo Shan Chai*

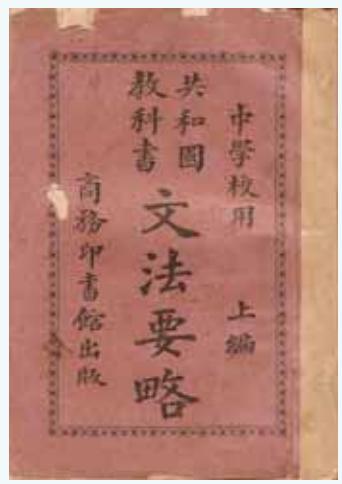
Mr Yeo donated over 200 old school textbooks used in Singapore published between the 1910s and the 1980s. One of the oldest dates back to 1915.

Title: Outlines of Chinese Grammar

Author: Commercial Press (China)

Year: 1915

Significance: Used as Chinese textbook in Singapore. The Commercial Press was founded in China in the late 19th century.



Mr Tan Lai Huat*

Title: Shayer "Silam Bari" dan Shayer "Kampong Glam Terbakar" dan "Pantun Lain Lain"

Publisher: "Printed specially for Mr Chuah Thean Lye, Penang, by Alwee Brothers, printers, Singapore." (as printed on cover)

Publication date: 1908

Significance: Malay syaer on "Kampong Glam Terbakar". Early history of Singapore & Kampong Glam.



Additional notes: Shayer, shaer, syaer and syair = they are the same. It means "Poem" or "Poetry". Terbakar means "on fire". Thus Shair Kampong Glam Terbakar means "Poetry on the Inferno/Fire at Kampong Glam"

Mr Wong Han Min*

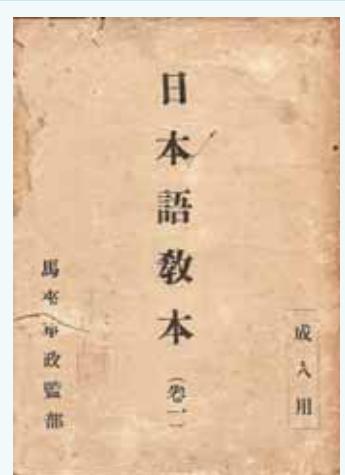
Title: Japanese language textbook for adults

Author: Japanese Military Administration

Publisher: Syonan publisher

Year of publication: 1940s

Significance: Very few textbooks used during the Japanese Occupation are found today.



Ms Shermeen Ng*

Title: Scroll bearing text:

"This scroll commemorates Lance-Corporal Ng Mong Guan, Straits Settlements Volunteer Force, held in honour as one who served King and Country in the world war of 1939-1945 and gave his life to save mankind from tyranny. May his sacrifice help to bring the peace and freedom for which he died."



Year: 1940s

Significance: Awarded posthumously to family of the late Lance-Corporal Ng Mong Guan, who was the donor's grandfather. Unlike medals, very few paper scrolls survive over 50 years.

Mr Lim Soon Hoe

Title: On the Trade To China and the Indian Archipelago with Observations on the Insecurity of the British Interests in that Quarter

Author: Charles Assey, Esq. (Secretary to Government of Java)

Year of publication: 1819

Significance: Charles Assey was adamant in the British having a settlement in Singapore.



XIMEDIALAB COMES TO THE LIBRARY

by Leslie Koh, Senior Manager, Publishing and Research Services



Great ideas and great advice flowed freely at the two-day XIMedialab.

The buzz, excitement and sounds of high-tech games turned the National Library into a games arcade of sorts in early December, when a gaming workshop was held at the Pod over two days.

But this workshop was like no other: the games were educational, the players had much more than mere entertainment in mind, and there were mentors on hand to help them improve the games that they had designed themselves.

On December 7 and 8, 14 groups came together at NLB to take part in the recent XIMedialab, to work on projects that involved game-based education. Standing alongside were mentors from around the world, international experts who had designed best-selling games and were on hand to help the designers improve their games. The National Library Board hosted a two-day session at the Possibility Room.

Although XIMedialab's latest gathering was themed "Learning from Games", mere play was far from the only thing on the participants' minds. The Lab was in fact an intensive creative

workshop that allowed project teams to tap on the expertise and experience of top digital media experts from around the world. The aim: To help local firms, entrepreneurs and institutions commercialise their brilliant ideas and enter the digital market.

This is the third time the Lab has been held in Singapore.

Over two days, the teams sought their mentors' views and help on how to market their project ideas for commercial use. Not only did they get one-on-one personal consultation from these mentors, but they also got to tap on the digital experts' international networks.

The Lab was organised by XIMedialab, an internationally-acclaimed digital media think-tank. It counts among its network a range of top digital media practitioners, innovators and power-brokers.

Ms Megan Elliot, a director of XIMedialab, said the economic potential of game-based learning was huge. "Game-based learning completely re-configures the economics of all forms of education, corporate training, health services, all science and visualisation, and all forms of simulation."

Likewise, Mr Siddarth Jain, a mentor at the Lab and the chief creative director of games designer Playware Studios Asia, also believes that Singapore has a huge potential for educational games. "The market potential for games round the world runs into the trillions of dollars. And as much as 60 percent of education materials have the potential for some form of game-based learning."

LEE KONG CHIAN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP SERIES: PIONEER BATCH SHARE THEIR FINDINGS

by Leslie Koh, Senior Manager, Publishing and Research Services



Ms Adeline Koh discussing her research findings on old colonial English textbooks

The Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship passed a significant milestone in December 2006, with two of the pioneer batch of Research Fellows presenting their findings at the first of a series of talks. Mr Chan Chow Wah and Ms Adeline Koh were the first two to be offered the LKC Research Fellowship in May 2006.

The same month also saw the Fellowship Series welcome its fourth Fellow, Ms Chiam Ching Leen.

Established by the National Library of Singapore, the Fellowship awards researchers who are making use of the Library's archived and preserved collections. It reflects the National Library's efforts to be the preferred stop for Asian content scholarship.

Mr Chan and Ms Koh shared their findings at a seminar on 11 December 2006 at the National Library, following a welcome address by Dr N. Varaprasad, the Chief Executive of the National Library Board.

Mr Chan, a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute and Member of the American Anthropological Association, detailed

the historical background of the Shuang Lin Monastery, a historical landmark in Singapore. His research, *Storms in Shuang Lin: Ethnography of Social Actors in the Political Climate of 1939-1942*, showed how the monastery and Singaporeans had played a great part in the Sino-Japanese war.

Ms Adeline Koh, a PhD candidate in Comparative Literature, The University of Michigan, then presented her findings on the motivations behind British colonial education in her talk, *Educating Malayan Gentlemen: Establishing an Anglicized Elite in Twentieth-Century Colonial Malaya*.



Mr Chan Chow Wah presenting his topic on the Shuang Lin Monastery

The same day, the National Library also signed an agreement with the fourth Fellow, Ms Chiam, a doctorate candidate at the National Institute of Education. She will be researching into knowledge sharing in Singapore's post-secondary institutions.



On BiblioAsia

I enjoyed the newsjournal, especially the piece on the Haj. The account of woodcut in Singapore is intriguing. Congratulations. Please keep up the good work.

- **Edwin Thumboo**
Emeritus Professor / Professorial Fellow
Dept of English Language & Literature
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
National University of Singapore

I have just received vol. 2, issue 3, and as expected I found everything in it of interest and value. You are doing a marvellous job of highlighting your collections and Singapore history. Well done!

- **Raymond Lum, PhD**
Chairman CORMOSEA and Asian Bibliographer
Harvard University

On "Imprints of the Past: Remembering the 1966 Woodcut Show" Exhibition

The exhibition is an eye opener. I am indeed glad to see the works displayed again."

- **Lindy Ng**

"Lovely exhibition, beautiful work."

- **Claire Huges**

I think it is great that this exhibition has been organised to preserve, and at the same time create, a part of Singapore's history. I wish the exhibition all success and hope that more like-minded people will be similarly inspired to do more of the same."

- **Kevin Ng Pek Kee**

On Staff

For Gracie Lee Siew Kheng

"Ms Gracie Lee made a difference by helping me to search for a historical street in Singapore most effectively."

- **Senkuthran Malar**

For Yit Chin Chuan

"I want to thank the staff of the National Library of Singapore, especially the gentleman who helped me at the counter on level 7. You are a very professional outfit and I am very grateful for your efforts in finding out the information. I had not expected to hear from you once I had left Singapore and am very pleasantly surprised. Thank you very much."

- **Marco Felix**

For Ambika Raghavan

"Thank you for meeting our visitors from Vietnam who were participating in the Study Visit on Public Administration Reform in Singapore on 4 Oct 2006. We would like to express our appreciation to you for taking time out to meet and share your experiences on e-government with our delegates. I hope you have also enjoyed the experience of meeting the group and exchanging views with them."

- **Joanne Lim,**
Senior Executive,
CSC International

For Azizah Sidek

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your hospitality during our visit to the National Library of Singapore. We really appreciate you making us feel welcomed and at home during our visit to the library. The tour and visit to other libraries like Esplanade and Woodland Regional Library were memorable too."

- **Fe Abelardo**

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR FEEDBACK, SUGGESTIONS
AND COMPLIMENTS TO:**

Quality Service Manager (QSM)
Telephone: 1800-332 3370
Fax: +65 6332 3611
Email: qsm@nlb.gov.sg

National Library of the Republic of Albania • National Library of Angola • National Library of Australia • State Library of Victoria University of Queensland Library • Royal Library of Belgium • Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Brunei • Bibliotheque Nationale du Burundi National Library of Cambodia • Library & Archives Canada • Biblioteca Nacional de Chile • Shanghai Library • National Library of China The Royal Library • Danish National Library Authority • National Library and Archives • Bibliotheque Nationale de France National Library • Die Deutsche Bibliotek • National Library of Greece • l'Institut de Recherche et de Documentation de Guinée (INRDG) Bibliotheque Nationale d'Haiti • Hong Kong Public Libraries • National Library of India • National Library of Indonesia National Library of Ireland • Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze • National Diet Library • National Library and Archives Latvijas Nacionala Biblioteka • Liechtensteinische Landesbibliothek • Lesotho National Library Service • Bibliotheque Nationale Malawi National Library Service • Dewan Bahasa Dan Pustaka • National Library of Malaysia • National Library of Maldives Bibliotheque Nationale • Biblioteca Nacional de Mexico • Bibliotheque Generale et Archives • Biblioteca Nacional de Mozambique National Library of Myanmar • International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) • National Library of the Netherlands National Library of New Zealand • National Library of Norway • Norwegian Library Association • National Library of Pakistan Biblioteca Nacional del Peru • National Library of the Philippines • National Library of Portugal • The National Library of Korea National Library of Laos • Bibliotheque Nationale du Congo • Bibliotheque Nationale du Benin • National Library of Russia Russian State Library • Bibliotheque Nationale du Senegal • National Library of South Africa • Biblioteca Nacional de Espana National Library of Spain • J.R. Jayewar Jene Centre • University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka • Kungliga Biblioteket Schweizerische Landesbibliothek • Tanzania Library Service • National Library of Thailand • Bibliotheque Nationale National Library and Archives • National Library Ukraine • The British Library • National Library of Wales • The Library of Congress Alisher Navoi State Library of the Republic of Uzbekistan • National Library of Vietnam • National Archives of Zambia

LIBRARIES RECEIVING BIBLIOASIA

For library enquires, please call: **+65 6332 3255**

Operating hours: Mon - Sun 8am - 9pm

For reference enquires, please visit: www.nlb.gov.sg

For loan status and renewal, please call:

T: **+65 6774 7178** 24-hour Library Automated Service

All rights reserved. National Library Board 2006

National Library Board

100 Victoria Street #14-01

Singapore 188064