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04 Harun Aminurrashid
A Prominent Malay Writer and His Works

11 Tapping History
Discover the World of Gutta Percha

26 Creating the Right Environment:
Poster Collection at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

Contents



Features

04 Harun Aminurrashid

11 Tapping History

16 The Access to Learning Award: Improving Lives through Greater Access to Information through Technology

21 族群、文化认同:从华文报纸历史
看其与新马华人的关系

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Regulars

03 Director's Column

34 Book Reviews

News

36 Publications by the National Library Board

Managing Regional Change: Singapore in a Larger Asia

Exhibitions at the National Library

The National Library Board and Raffles Institution Sign a Memorandum of Understanding

Singapore International Story Telling Festival

Conferences by the National Library Board

Collection Highlights

26 Creating the Right Environment: Poster Collection at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

Early Maps of Singapore

Editorial/Production

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Director's Column

Do you know that maps on Singapore were already in existence as far back as the 16th century? The National Library, Singapore recently acquired one of these maps. This is an early 17th century map, published in 1607, which shows a close-up view of Singapore and its surrounding region. An uncoloured map measuring 324 x 255mm in size, it shows the southern coast of "Sinca Pora" (i.e. Singapore), "Straet van Sinca Pora" (Straits of Singapore) and Valsch Sinca Pora (False Straits of Singapore).

A slice of Singapore's history can be gleaned from these maps and the poster collection at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library. The poster collection started from 1969 and now comprises over 4,000 posters in the four official languages covering a wide range of topics related to Singapore such as language, etiquette, health, environment, reading and literacy, and the performing arts. The collection is a closed access collection and is available for consultation upon request at the Information Counter located at Level 11 of the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library. Do contact our reference librarians at ref@nlb.gov.sg if you are keen to find out more. We welcome donations and gifts of Singapore posters of all kinds.

In this issue, we profile another of Singapore's literary pioneers, Mr Harun Aminurrashid. Mr Harun was the editor of Malay newspapers and magazines such as "Hiburan", "Mutriara", "Melayu Raya", "Mingguan Melayu" and "Medan Sastera". He was awarded the Certificate of Merit from Dictionary of International Biography, London in 1968 to commemorate his significant contributions to Malay literature and was posthumously awarded the "Anumerta Tun Seri Lanang" by the Singapore Council of Malay Language in 1995. Mr Harun is one of the authors highlighted in the Singapore Literary Pioneers Gallery at Level 12 of the National Library.

You will recall that we had successfully launched the Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship programme a year ago. Our fifth Lee Kong Chian Research Fellow, Mr Peng Weibu, recently completed his research programme. In this issue, please read an extract of Mr Peng's paper presented soon after the completion of his research.

The National Library warmly welcomes three new Lee Kong Chian Research Fellows: Mr Kuik Cheng-Chwee, Mr Tay Thiam Chye and Mr Leander Seah. The Research Fellowship aims to encourage research into various aspects of Asian content to enrich the library's strong Asia-centric collections and resources. The closing date for the next Fellowship programme is 31 August

2007. The brochure and application form are available for download at <http://www.nlb.gov.sg>.

Moving on, I am happy to announce two new research publications that were recently launched by the National Library at a colloquia on "Managing Regional Change: Singapore in a Larger Asia". The first, entitled "National Directory of Scholars" profiles 325 researchers in the arts, humanities and social sciences disciplines in Singapore. The second, "Statistical Snapshots of Asia-Pacific Countries" provides a detailed comparative analysis of key socio-economic indicators of 14 Asia-Pacific countries. For more details, please contact the Publishing and Research Services Division, National Library at this email address, cis@nlb.gov.sg.

I am also happy to highlight two international library conferences jointly organised by the National Library Board that will be held in August and October this year. The first is on Dublin Core and Metadata Applications, which will be held from 27 - 31 August 2007. The conference will bring together world-renowned specialists from the networking and digital library research communities, knowledge management, e-government and the public sector information as well as the library community. This year's theme is "Application Profiles: Theory and Practice", featuring keynote speakers Johannes Keizer from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and Zhang Xiaoxing from the National Cultural Information Resource Centre of China. Details of the conference are available from <http://www.dc2007.sg>.

If you are interested to know more about interlending and document supply services, do register for the "10th IFLA ILDS International Conference" to be held from 29 - 31 October 2007 on the theme "Resource Sharing for the Future, Building Blocks for Success". Speakers include Mr Mike McGrath, Editor of the Interlending and Document Supply Journal and Mr Mat Pfleger, Head of Sales and Marketing, The British Library. Find out more about this conference at <http://www.nlbconference.com/lds/about.htm>.

Happy reading and do keep your comments and feedback coming! We look forward to seeing you at the National Library.

Ms Ngian Lek Choh

Director
National Library



Harun Aminurrashid

By Sundusia Rosdi, Assistant Manager,
Professional Services, National Library Board

Harun Yang Dikenali

Harun Aminurrashid atau Harun Haji Mohd Amin merupakan segelintir sasterawan tempatan yang banyak memberi sumbangan terhadap penulisan sastera Melayu, Singapura, khususnya novel sejarah sejak tahun-tahun 1940an. Beliau yang lebih dikenali sebagai Pak Har ini, lahir pada 8 Ogos 1907 di Singapura dan pernah mendapat didikan di Sekolah Melayu Kallang dan Sekolah Melayu Telok Kurau, Singapura.

Beliau merupakan satu-satunya pengarang Melayu yang tercatit namanya di antara 2,000 catatan mengenai orang ternama di dunia dalam *Dictionary of International Biography*, 1968:¹

Harun bin Haji Mohd Amin: Journalist, Teacher, Author

Graduated: Tanjong Malim Teacher's Training College

Appointment: Including Superintendent of Education Malay Schools, Brunei. Member of Staff Melayu Raya (defunct).

Member of Local Community Organisation including Malay Language Committee. Author of historical novels - Malay.

Address: Pustaka Melayu, 745/747 North Bridge Road, Singapore

Harun Sebagai Pelajar dan Pendidik

Setelah tamat pengajiannya di sekolah rendah Melayu, beliau menerima tawaran sebagai guru pelatih walaupun umurnya masih muda, hanya 14 tahun sahaja. Tidak lama kemudian, pada tahun 1924, beliau berjaya melanjutkan pelajarannya di Maktab Perguruan Sultan Idris (MPSI), Tanjung Malim, Perak, Semenanjung Tanah Melayu.

Sejarah merupakan mata pelajaran yang paling diminati sejak beliau menuntut di MPSI. Syarahan guru sejarahnya tentang kegemilangan Kesultanan Melaka dan kedatangan pihak penjajah yang memeras tenaga penduduk tempatan telah memberi kesedaran beliau terhadap "nusa dan bangsa" dan telah menanamkan bibit semangat kebangsaan dalam jiwynya.

Pada awalnya beliau terpengaruh dengan perkembangan politik di Indonesia melalui pembacaan majalah dan akhbar Indonesia terutamanya Suara Rakyat yang juga organ Partai Nasional Indonesia.² Minat beliau terhadap gerakan angkatan muda di Indonesia tidak hanya tertumpu kepada bidang politik, malah termasuk agama misalnya Gerakan Muhammadiyah dan Al Irshad.

Adalah menjadi tradisi di MPSI iaitu setiap Hari Jumaat (malam Sabtu), guru-guru akan memberi syarahan bergilir-gilir kepada penuntut. Isu yang disentuh berkaitan kemunduran dan buaian penjajah Barat. Sepanjang tahun 1927 hingga 1938 sebagai penuntut dan guru pelatih di MPSI, Harun telah menyumbangkan sejumlah 11 syarahan yang menghangatkan api kesedaran kebangsaan di jiwa penuntut-penuntut Maktab itu.³ Syarahan-syarahan Harun ini telah memberi perangsang kepada penubuhan gerakan yang telah mencatatkan sejarah dalam politik orang Melayu era 1930an iaitu Kesatuan Melayu Muda (KMM).



Buku Sinar Baru digunakan sebagai teks sekolah di tahun-tahun 60an

secara aman oleh penuntut-penuntut MPSI yang telah berbaris berjalan mengelilingi kawasan Maktab dengan menyanyikan lagu kemerdekaan dan kebangsaan seperti "Pemuda Kita" gubahannya Cikgu Ayub Rawan dan liriknya oleh Harun sendiri. Bagi penjajah Inggeris, peristiwa ini amat merbahaya dan boleh mengganggu kedudukan Inggeris di Tanah Melayu. Pada tahun 1939, beliau telah diarahkan supaya berpindah ke Brunei dengan menyandang jawatan baru sebagai Pengusaha Pelajaran di sana. Pada zahirnya jawatan ini merupakan satu penghormatan bagi anak Melayu ketika itu tetapi sebaliknya dapat terlihat kecurigaan pihak penjajah terhadap kegiatan Harun yang ditakuti meracuni fikiran dan jiwa penuntut MPSI. Dengan memegang jawatan baru ini, Harun terpisah serta terasing dari kumpulan bakal pendidik dan pejuang tanah air di MPSI.

Aktiviti Harun yang melampau di mata pentadbiran Inggeris pada tahun 1938 itu tidak digemari oleh pihak yang berkuasa di MPSI. Kemuncak pengaruh kesedaran kebangsaan yang ditiupkan oleh Harun telah mencetuskan satu tunjuk perasaan

Pengalaman Harun Semasa Pendudukan Jepun di Brunei

Walaupun beliau terpisah dari rakan-rakan seperjuangannya, beliau tetap bergiat dalam bidang politik di Brunei dengan mempelopori gerakan kebangsaan seperti badan Kesatuan Melayu Brunei. Beliau juga bertanggungjawab dalam penubuhan Barisan Pemuda Brunei (BARIP) dan Partai Kebangsaan Melayu Malaya (PKMM) cawangan Labuan.

Harun meneruskan kegiatannya di bidang pelajaran sehingga kemasukan Jepun pada bulan Disember 1941 dengan tercetusnya Perang Dunia Kedua. Semasa pendudukan Jepun, beliau diminta terus memegang jawatannya sebagai Pengusaha Pelajaran atau *Shigakukan* oleh pemerintah Jepun. Pengalaman Harun semasa pendudukan Jepun dapat dibaca dari buku "Siapakah yang Bersalah?"

Hubungannya dengan pegawai-pegawai Jepun begitu akrab kerana beliau pernah menjadi penterjemah Bahasa Jepun untuk perbualan sehari-hari antara pegawai Jepun dengan penduduk tempatan. Beliau sendiri pernah ditawarkan jawatan Gabenor Brunei jika Pemerintahan Jepun dapat mengekalkan kedudukannya di rantau ini.

Di saat-saat Jepun di ambang kekalahan, Harun dan keluarganya terpaksa lari ke kawasan pedalaman kerana pergolatan sengit antara pihak Jepun dan askar British yang akhirnya dapat mengusir Jepun dari rantau ini. Semasa Tanah Melayu ditadbirkan oleh Pentadbiran Tentera iaitu British Military Administration (BMA) dari September 1945 - 1 April 1946, Harun telah disyaki subversif dan dipenjara tanpa dibicara selama 86 hari.



Karya terjemahan Darah Kedayan dalam Bahasa Inggeris

Semasa dipenjara, anak isterinya ditinggalkan dan mendapat perlindungan penduduk pribumi Kedayan. Jasa mereka melindungi keluarga Harun telah diabadikan dalam novelnya Darah Kedayan. Kehidupan dipenjara memberi inspirasi yang menguatkan semangat perjuangannya terhadap kemerdekaan negaranya.

Selepas perbicaraan mengenai penglibatannya dalam masa pemerintahan Jepun, beliau didapati tidak bersalah dan diarahkan untuk pulang ke Singapura. Sebenarnya, beliau pernah ditawarkan sebagai Ahli Mesyuarat Negeri (Kawasan Ulu Yam Selangor) tetapi beliau menolaknya kerana tidak lagi mempercayai penjajah Inggeris.

Harun Sebagai Penulis

Di Singapura, beliau sekali lagi menerima tawaran sebagai guru dari pemerintahan British pada tahun 1946 tetapi beliau menolaknya kerana tidak mahu terikat dengan pemerintah.

Sejak itu, beliau mula aktif menulis secara serius walaupun sebelum itu beliau pernah menerbitkan novel pertamanya, "Melor Kuala Lumpur", pada tahun 1930an. Beliau kemudian menulis apa saja corak penulisan yang sesuai bagi segenap lapisan masyarakat sebagai sumbangannya terhadap alam penulisan yang amat berkurangan di tahun-tahun 1940an.

Buku-buku karya beliau merangkumi novel sejarah, puisi dan lain-lain lagi. Waktu di MPSI, beliau lebih cenderung menulis rencana dan puisi untuk mengisi masa lapangnya dan diterbitkan dalam akhbar Warta Jenaka dan Warta Ahad dengan nama samaran "Penulis Khas Tanjung Malim".

Harun juga aktif dalam bidang kewartawanan dan pernah menjadi wartawan akhbar Melayu Raya⁴ dan berkarya melalui majalah-majalah terbitan Al-Ahmadiah Press, Singapura. Bersama-sama Cikgu Amir Haji Omar, beliau pernah menerbitkan majalah Kencana iaitu majalah tulisan Rumi yang terawal di terbitkan di Tanah Melayu dan Singapura selepas 1945.⁵



Karya-karya Harun dipamerkan di Galeri Perintis Sastera, Lembaga Perpustakaan Negara

terperinci dalam bukunya "Melihat Matahari di Tengah Malam", "Terbang ke Barat", "Melawat ke Semenanjung Iberia" dan "Buku Lawatan ke Eropah". Menurut beliau"

segala apa yang dilihat, didengar dan dirasai, kalau dicatatkan dengan jujur dan betul, itu adalah menjadi catatan sejarah yang amat penting untuk pengetahuan orang-orang yang akan datang".⁶

Susulan dari lawatannya ke Pantai Timur, Malaysia pada tahun 1966, Harun telah menulis buku "Mengesan Jejak Pelayaran Munsyi Abdullah". Beliau kemudiannya terus bergiat dalam penulisan sastera untuk bacaan semua peringkat umur masyarakat di samping bergerak dalam bidang pelajaran, kebudayaan dan politik serta badan sukarela.



Novel ini pernah diterbitkan dalam tulisan Jawi pada April 1930

Karya-karya Harun

Novel pertamanya "Melor Kuala Lumpur" ditulis dalam tulisan Jawi setebal 110 muka surat. Ia mengisahkan suka duka percintaan sepasang remaja yang masih terkongkong dengan adat tradisi masyarakat Timur. Novel ini malangnya tidak mendapat sambutan hangat di kalangan peminat sastera waktu itu. Jalan cerita novel ini seiras dengan novel Hamka, "Di Bawah Lindungan Kaabah". Menurut setengah ahli sastera, novel Harun adalah hasil karya beliau yang asli dan bukan hasil cedukan kerana "Melor Kuala Lumpur" lahir pada tahun 1930 sementara novel Hamka diterbitkan pada 1938.⁷

Selepas kegagalan buku pertamanya ini, Harun telah memberhentikan kegiatan penulisannya sementara waktu kerana beliau telah dipindahkan ke Brunei untuk menyandang jawatan baru yang lebih mencabar sebagai Pengusaha Pelajaran di sana.

Sekembalinya ke Singapura selepas Perang Dunia II, beliau lebih serius semula dalam bidang penulisan kerana penulisan merupakan satu sumber pencarian untuk menampung kehidupan keluarga beliau.

Karya Harun Sebagai Karya Sejarah

Sejarawan Malaysia, Cheah Boon Keng pernah mengatakan dalam rencana akhbar nya bahawa "What Walter Scott is

to English Literature, Harun is to Malay Literature" ⁸, kerana Harun seringkali menyentuh isu nasionalisma Melayu dalam hasil karyanya seperti Wak Cantok, Panglima Awang, Wan Darus, Tun Mandak dan Sultan Mahmud.

Harun dianggap berjaya menerapkan sejarah kedalam karyanya dengan menjelaskan watak-watak yang terdapat dalam peristiwa itu sendiri seperti dalam cerita "Panglima Awang". Tujuan Harun mengemukakan karyanya kerana "... tertarik hati kepada dua buah karangan pendek yang isinya hampir sama dengan sebuah akhbar yang disiarkan dalam Bahasa Inggeris dan sebuah lagi didalam Bahasa Indonesia beberapa tahun yang lalu. Kedua-dua karangan ini menceritakan sudut sejarah dunia yang berlaku di atas tanahair kita pada abad ke 16. Mengikut pengakuan kedua-dua buah karangan itu, adalah orang yang pertama mengelilingi dunia ialah 'orang Melayu' Melaka iaitu dalam abad ke 16 ketika selepas orang Portugis datang menyerang dan penaklukan negeri Melaka dari tangan kerajaan Melayu Melaka."⁹

Mengikut karangan Barat itu, Alfonso de'Albuquerque yang menjadi ketua orang Portugis telah menjual seorang Melayu yang menjadi tawanan kepada Kapitan bernama Fernando de Magalhes atau pun Magellan, orang yang pertama cuba mengelilingi dunia dengan kapal layar dengan penuh kepercayaan bahawa dunia itu bulat.

Orang yang dijual itu memasuki agama Kristian dan diberi nama Enrique. Beliaulah orang Melayu yang pertama mengelilingi dunia

mengikuti pelayaran Magellan. Setakat ini, tidak diketahui siapa sebenarnya Enrique. Kemungkinan, oleh kerana tipu helah penjajah Portugis dan Sepanyol, nama asal Enrique tidak dicatatkan dengan niat untuk menghapuskan nama orang Melayu. Di antara lain, karya itu juga mengatakan bahawa: "Magellan ketika sampai di Pulau Cebu (Filipina) telah mati terbunuh di Pulau Mactan ketika hendak menundukkan raja Pulau Mactan yang memberontak melawan Raja Pulau Cebu iaitu sahabat Magellan. Ketika Magellan mati, Enrique yang cedera parah dapat meneruskan pelayarannya ke Melaka. Jadi jelaslah Enrique ialah orang yang pertama dapat mengelilingi dunia bukan Magellan."¹⁰



Karya terjemahan
Darah Kedayan dalam
Bahasa Mandarin

Dalam buku ini, Harun telah menjelmakan watak Enrique sebagai seorang pahlawan Melayu yang gagah perkasa dan diberi nama Panglima Awang sesuai dengan kelahirannya di alam Melayu dan hidup dalam keadaan yang serba keMelayuan dan ketimuran. Kisah sejarah itu juga diselitkan dengan peristiwa percintaan antara Panglima Awang dengan Tun Gayah.

Kejayaan Harun sebagai penulis roman sejarah terletak kepada kemangannya mencari bahan-bahan penting melalui majalah, buku sejarah serta tradisi lisan. Beliau kemudian menyusun kembali fakta sejarah, memilih kata-kata yang sesuai dan melukiskan suasana supaya sealiran dengan tuntutan era yang ditulis itu.

Karya roman sejarah Harun kurang mendapat sambutan masyarakat ketika itu kerana mereka lebih berminat terhadap karya yang menyentuh isu-isu semasa yang 'ringan' dan belum dapat memberi penilaian kepada karya roman sejarah. Sejarawan Cheah Boon Keng merasakan kesan-kesan terhadap perkembangan nasionalisma terselit dalam karya Harun, kerana itulah beliau dianggap "Walter Scott" sastera Melayu. Menurut Shamsudin Dahlan dalam kajian ilmiahnya "Novel sejarah ini dikarang untuk mengembalikan keperibadian bangsa supaya orang-orang Melayu tahu dan sedar bahawa mereka bukanlah berasal dari bangsa yang dijajah".¹¹

Karyanya yang lain seperti "Cinta Gadis Rimba" yang terbit di tahun 1948 merupakan novel kenangan Harun semasa menetap di Borneo Utara. Ia memaparkan kehidupan serta adat istiadat dan pantang larang serta kepercayaan orang Dayak disamping kisah percintaan antara pemuda Melayu dengan gadis Dayak. Ini disusuli pula dengan novel "Siapakah yang Bersalah?" yang merupakan autobiografi beliau sendiri sewaktu penjajahan Jepun dan kemasukan British.

Novel "Darah Kedayan" juga berlatar belakangkan masyarakat pribumi di Brunei yang ditulis khas untuk orang Kedayan di Brunei sebagai penghargaan atas layanan dan perlindungan orang-orang Brunei terhadapnya semasa Perang Dunia II.



Antara karya awal Harun "Jong Batu" dalam tulisan Jawi di Koleksi Lembaga Perpustakaan Negara

Novel beliau, Simpang Perinang pernah diberi penghargaan oleh UNESCO dan telah diterjemah ke Bahasa Inggeris dan Urdu pada tahun 1967.

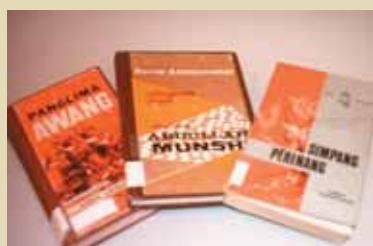
Pak Har Sebagai Penulis Cerita Kanak-kanak

Beliau menulis cerita kanak-kanak yang bercorak didaktik sesuai dengan jiwnya yang mahukan anak-anak Melayu berpendidikan sempurna dan menjadi pemimpin bangsa. Buku "Dua Beradek" adalah rakaman perbualan anak-anaknya sendiri dan ditulis untuk bacaan dan panduan ibu bapa mendidik anak-anak mereka. Buku Awang dan Dara ditulis dengan harapan supaya anak-anak Melayu dididik mengenal bangsa dan negara serta menanam sifat keperibadian Melayu di jiwa mereka.

Sumbangan Harun menulis buku bacaan sekolah tidak boleh diabaikan kerana beliau telah menulis "Sinar Baharu" (7 penggal) dan "Cahaya Baharu" (6 penggal dalam tulisan Jawi) yang pernah digunakan oleh pelajar-pelajar sekolah Melayu di awal tahun 60an. Beliau lebih senang menggunakan nama Pak Har dalam berbicara dengan kanak-kanak atau pelajar-pelajar dalam tulisannya.

Harun Sebagai Wartawan

Beliau memang sejak mula lagi telah menulis rencana terbitan "Warta Ahad" dan "Warta Jenaka" dan telah memimpin beberapa akhbar harian dan majalah Melayu selepas Perang Dunia II. Rencana yang menyentuh soal politik dan nasionalisma merupakan isu yang paling diminati kerana angin nasionalisma kemerdekaan sedang bertiup kencang dari negara jiran, Indonesia.



Antara karya-karya Harun yang terdapat di koleksi Lembaga Perpustakaan Negara

Tidak ramai yang mengetahui kebolehan Harun dalam bidang persajakan dan beliau pernah tergolong dalam angkatan pujangga baru di Tanah Melayu. Sajaknya yang sulung bertajuk "Oh Sariku" pernah diterbitkan di Majalah Pujangga Baru, no. 6 Disember 1933.

Nama Samaran

Harun sering menukar nama samaran beliau menurut corak penulisannya. Nama yang mula-mula digunakan ialah "Penulis Khas Tanjung Malim" dalam artikel bercorak pengetahuan. Kemudian digunakan "HBMA" (singkatan bagi Harun Bin Mohd Amin). Untuk penulisan sajak, pantun dan syair sebelum perang, beliau menggunakan nama samaran "Atma Jiwa".

Dalam tulisan rencana serius bercorak pengetahuan dan bimbingan serta nasihat kepada masyarakat atau mengkritik penjajah, beliau lebih cenderung menggunakan nama "Gustam Negara". Nama Pak Har pula digunakan untuk tulisan yang ditujukan kepada kanak-kanak atau buku teks sekolah. Untuk majalah yang mengusik pembaca dan bercorak humor, beliau serasi dengan "Si Ketuit".

Penukaran nama samaran ini dilakukan kerana jawatannya sebagai pegawai pemerintah tidak mengizinkan penggunaan namanya yang sebenar. Namun beliau lebih terkenal dengan nama "Harun Aminurrashid" yang dipilih kerana ia melambangkan kata-kata yang boleh dipercayai.

Harun Sebagai Pendidik, Pejuang Bahasa dan Bangsa Melayu

Peranan Harun sebagai seorang guru dalam pengertian ikhtisas tidaklah begitu besar kerana beliau memegang jawatan guru hanya beberapa tahun sahaja di Tanah Melayu, tetapi beliau berjaya memainkan peranan sebagai penyedar bangsa melalui ceramah-ceramah yang menyentuh isu-isu nasionalisma. Selepas Perang Dunia II, perjuangannya dalam bidang bahasa dan pelajaran sangatlah memberangsangkan.

Sumbangan Harun dan rakan-rakan seperjuangannya dalam memimpin Majlis Pelajaran amat besar ertinya dalam perkembangan pelajaran Melayu khususnya di Singapura. Majlis Pelajaran Melayu terdiri dari 48 badan kebudayaan Melayu di Singapura dan Malaysia. Pada tahun 1950an, pemimpin-pemimpin dari badan ini termasuk Harun telah berjuang untuk menaikkan taraf pelajaran di Sekolah Melayu. Mereka berusaha dan mendesak supaya pelajaran Melayu diperkenalkan di peringkat menengah semasa Singapura dapat mencapai kedudukan pemerintah sendiri pada pertengahan 1950 dibawah pimpinan Encik Lim Yew Hock. Kemuncak kejayaan perjuangan Majlis Pelajaran Melayu ialah penubuhan dua sekolah Melayu di Singapura untuk pertama kalinya iaitu Sekolah Melayu Sang Nila Utama dan Sekolah Melayu Tun Sri Lanang, pada 1959.

Badan Majlis Pelajaran ini meneruskan tuntutan mereka untuk meninggikan taraf penggunaan Bahasa Melayu ke peringkat Universiti sehingga pemerintahan Parti Tindakan Rakyat (PAP). Pemimpin-pemimpin Melayu yang sama-sama berjuang dalam badan ini ialah Allahyarham Ali Haji Ahmad dan Lokman Musa yang pada masa itu menjadi wakil Persatuan Mahasiswa Universiti Malaya (Singapura).

Usaha badan ini yang mahukan taraf bahasa Melayu digunakan di peringkat universiti tidak mendapat perhatian dari pemerintah British tetapi desakan ini telah melahirkan Jabatan Melayu di Universiti Malaya (Singapura). Menurut Harun, walaupun perjuangan beliau tidak berjaya serta merta di Singapura, namun beliau amat berbangga dengan penubuhan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) yang merupakan hasil perjuangan mereka. UKM yang ditubuhkan pada 1970 merupakan satu-satunya universiti di Malaysia yang menggunakan bahasa Melayu sebagai bahasa penghantar. Ini menunjukkan bahawa bahasa Melayu itu setaraf dengan bahasa lain kerana ia berjaya digunakan di peringkat universiti terutama dalam pelajaran sains dan perubatan walaupun ada beberapa kesulitan yang dihadapi.

Dalam bidang politik, Harun pernah melibatkan diri dalam Partai Kebangsaan Melayu Malaya (PKMM) yang ditubuhkan dalam tahun 1945. Beliau lebih cenderung menjadi ahli PKMM kerana parti ini lebih progresif dari UMNO yang lebih ortodok. Dalam PKMM, beliau pernah berjuang bersama-sama Dr. Burhanuddin Al-Helmi.

Selepas PKMM diharamkan kerana kegiatannya yang bersayap kiri dan anti-British, melalui organ parti ini, iaitu Warta Malaya, Harun bersama-sama Dr. Burhanuddin dan Ishak Hj. Mohammad serta Ahmad Boestamam telah mempelopori Parti Rakyat Malaya pada 11 November 1955. Parti ini berfaham sosialis serta berideologi lebih luas dan terang.

Di Singapura, Harun menubuhkan cawangan Parti Rakyat ini. Kemuncak penglibatan Harun dalam aktiviti politik ialah apabila beliau dicalonkan dalam Pilihan Raya di Singapura atas nama Parti Rakyat pada tahun 1958 kerana pada masa itu beliau sendiri merupakan Presiden parti itu. Harun telah bertanding di kawasan undi Geylang Serai bersama-sama Ahmad Jumat, calon pihak Parti Tindakan Rakyat Singapura (PAP) di bawah pimpinan Encik Lee Kuan Yew. Harun telah kalah dalam pilihan raya itu kerana kekurangan sokongan bangsa asing. Sejak kekalahan ini, Parti Rakyat telah merosot kerana kemasukan unsur-unsur yang tidak sejiwa dengan keyakinan orang Melayu yang beragama Islam dan akhirnya Harun sendiri telah meninggalkan parti ini kerana ketidak sefahaman ideologi.

Sumbangan Harun Dalam Badan Pelajaran dan Kebudayaan

Beliau berperanan penting dalam mempertinggikan taraf bahasa Melayu agar setanding dengan bahasa asing yang lain. Harun juga pernah mengetua Badan Sastera Melayu untuk menghadiri Kongres Bahasa Indonesia di Medan pada tahun 1954. Antara jawatan penting yang pernah dipegang oleh Harun ialah sebagai:

- Ahli Jawatankuasa Lembaga Tetap Kongres Bahasa dan Kebudayaan Melayu yang berperanan untuk menaikkan taraf perkembangan bahasa Melayu sebagai Bahasa Kebangsaan.
- Timbalan Pengurus, Dewan Kebangsaan Persekutuan Tanah Melayu yang berjuang untuk penubuhan Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka yang mengendalikan hasil sastera dan kebudayaan Melayu pada masa ini.
- Setiausaha, Lembaga Penuntut Melayu Semenanjung yang memberi bantuan kepada penuntut Melayu yang belajar di luar negeri. Pemenang biasiswa yang kurang mampu diberi bantuan kewangan hasil kutipan derma dari orang ramai. Peranan badan ini sangatlah besar di samping memberi kesedaran kepada orang ramai supaya menghulurkan bantuan kepada pelajar yang berkebolehan yang bakal menjadi pemimpin negara di masa hadapan.

Kurniaan "Anumerta Tun Seri Lanang"

Tidak keterlaluan jika dikatakan bahawa kegigihan Harun dalam bidang mengarang, sesungguhnya belum ada dilakukan begitu hebat oleh bekas-bekas atau guru-guru lepasan Maktab Perguruan Tanjung Malim (SITC) kecuali Buyong Adil seorang tokoh sejarah khusus mengarang buku-buku sejarah semata-mata. Atas kegigihan beliau dalam bidang penulisan, hampir 60 judul buku dan ratusan rencana telah berjaya dihasilkannya.

Harun menghembuskan nafasnya yang terakhir pada 9 November 1986 setelah mengidap penyakit sejak 12 November 1971 yang mengakibatkan kelumpuhan seluruh kaki dan tangannya dan beliau tidak dapat bercakap serta bergerak selama satu tahun. Pada tahun 1995, Allahyarham telah dikenangi dengan dikurniakan "Anumerta Tun Seri Lanang" oleh Majlis Bahasa Melayu Singapura.

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HARUN AMINURRASHID

Harun Aminurrashid's real name is Harun Bin Mohd Amin. He was born on 8 August 1907 in Kampung Teluk Kurau, Singapura. His other pen names include Har, Gustam Negara, Atma Jiwa and Si Ketuit.

Harun loved reading as a child and this naturally led him to writing. He received his early education in Telok Kurau Malay School and later in Sultan Idris Training College in Tanjung Malim, Perak. He joined the College as a teacher after his graduation. Harun's first novel "*Melur Kuala Lumpur*" was published in Tanjung Malim in April 1930. In Sultan Idris Training College, he honed his writing skills by submitting his works to magazines. As a teacher, he was determined to sow the seeds of nationalistic spirit among his students. He was sent to Brunei in 1939 and stayed there until 1946. After the Second World War, Harun was imprisoned for 86 days by the British Forces as he was alleged to have collaborated with the Japanese Government. In 1946, he returned to Singapore without the title of "Teacher".

In Singapore, Harun continued to work in the literary media and found success working in the newspapers and magazines industry in Singapore. He was the editor of newspapers and magazines that included "*Hiburan*", "*Kencana*", "*Mutiara*", "*Fashion*", "*Melayu Raya*", "*Filem Raya*", "*Tunas*", "*Belia*", "*Seni*", "*Mingguan Melayu*" and "*Medan Sastera*".

Harun took up important posts in many literary, education and cultural organisations. Together with a group of journalists, he was invited to visit England and Europe by the British Colonial Office. Harun was awarded the Certificate of Merit from Dictionary of International Biography, London in 1968 to commemorate his excellent contributions to Malay literature.

Harun passed away on 9 November 1986. He was posthumously awarded the "Anumerta Tun Seri Lanang" by the Singapore Council of Malay Language in 1995.

Source:

Harun Aminurrashid: Biography

<http://exhibitions.nlb.gov.sg/literarypioneers/writers/malay/harunaminurrashid/index.php>

By Timothy Pwee, Senior Reference Librarian,
Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, National Library

Tapping History

I've been through Taban Valley at Bukit Timah Nature Reserve many times and never realised until recently how historically important these unprepossessing trees are. To the uninitiated, they look like skinny durian trees with their dark green leaves. A century and a half ago, the Taban Merah (*Palaquium gutta*), better known to the world as Gutta Percha, was at the centre of an earth-shaking infocomm revolution as great as the introduction of the Internet.

'DISCOVERY'

Gutta Percha was traditionally used in this region to fashion handles for tools. However, it was unknown to the West except for a single specimen called 'mazer wood' in the collection of naturalist John Tradescant (1608-1662). The Tradescant collection grew to become Oxford's present Ashmolean Museum.

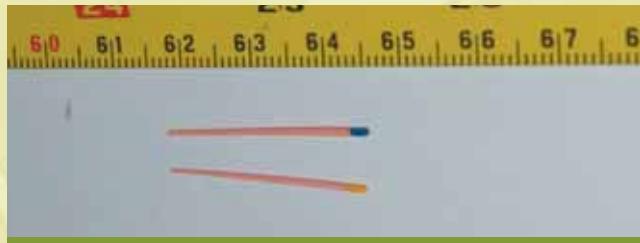
In 1842, an enterprising Malay man started selling Gutta Percha whips in Singapore. Unfortunately, I have not been able to discover this man's name anywhere. By 1843, his whips were available in London. However, Gutta Percha whips never became more than a novelty.

At this time, Jose d'Almeida who ran a dispensary at Commercial Square (today's Raffles Place), went back to Europe for a visit in 1842. He brought along samples of Gutta Percha with him. The samples were presented to the

Royal Asiatic Society in London but no real notice was taken of it. This bad fortune in things agricultural extended to his attempts at starting a plantation in Singapore: he tried planting without commercial success many different crops like cotton, coffee and vanilla. However, he was quite successful in the world of trade: after helping two ships sell their cargos, he went on to found a successful trading company, Jose d'Almeida & Co. Almeida was also knighted by his ruler, the Queen of Portugal, and made Consul General to the Straits Settlements during his trip back home.

It was left to a fellow resident of Singapore, Dr William Montgomerie, to successfully introduce Gutta Percha to the world.

Dr William Montgomerie is generally credited to be the first person to notice Gutta Percha in 1822 during his first tour of duty in Singapore (1819 to 1826). However, it was only when he became Senior Surgeon to the Straits Settlements



Gutta Percha used in dentistry as root fillers.

(1829 to 1844) that he investigated the substance more closely. He sent a letter to the Bengal Medical Board in 1843, recommending that Gutta Percha be developed for use in medical instruments. This was followed by samples to the Society of Arts in 1845 for which the Society awarded him a gold medal (the Society of Arts became the Royal Society of Arts only in 1847 when it was given a Royal Charter). More importantly, the Society exhibited the samples, which sparked off much experimentation with the substance.

Among other things, Gutta Percha was found to be good for making golf balls, adhesives, and as root canal fillings in dentistry. Even today, if you are unfortunate enough to need root canal treatment, the dentist will probably use Gutta Percha for your root canal filling. Gutta Percha is one of the best substances for ensuring that the cavity is completely filled without leaving any microscopic space where bacteria can resume its attack. The secret behind its varied uses is its changeability - in hot water (around 60 to 65°C, depending on the purity), it becomes plastic and moldable while at room temperature it is firm enough to be made into furniture. Of course you might want to avoid serving a hot meal on a Gutta Percha dining table!

“... WAS FOUND TO BE GOOD FOR MAKING GOLF BALLS, ADHESIVES, AND AS ROOT CANAL FILLINGS IN DENTISTRY. EVEN TODAY, IF YOU ARE UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO NEED ROOT CANAL TREATMENT, THE DENTIST WILL PROBABLY USE GUTTA PERCHA FOR YOUR ROOT CANAL FILLING.”

TELEGRAPHY

In 1837, Cooke and Wheatstone filed their patent for a telegraph system in England while Morse filed his patent in

the United States the year after. Very quickly, the first long-distance telegraph lines were set up: the first being the famous Washington-Baltimore line. This line was opened on 24 May 1844 when Samuel Morse sent his famous 'What hath God wrought?' message across it. The telegraph allowed messages to be sent and received immediately across long distances - it was a communications breakthrough in an era when couriers were the fastest way to send messages. For instance, the front page news of the Singapore Chronicle and Commercial Register on 16 September 1837 announced the death of King William IV and that Victoria would be the next ruler - news three months old! (King William IV died on 20 June 1837).

However, there was one problem preventing a worldwide telegraph net: how do you insulate telegraph cable underwater? On land, air does not conduct electricity, which makes the job easy. However, in water, a reliable airtight casing for the copper wire was needed as water, especially salt water, conducts electricity well. In addition, the material had to be flexible and be able to withstand high pressures and cold temperatures without deteriorating. Materials like lead, wax, tar and caoutchooc (rubber) were tried without success. Bridges had to be built for cables to be strung across rivers - never mind oceans.

By coincidence, samples of Gutta Percha from Singapore had started arriving in London in 1843. The very next year, various people had seized on it as a possible telegraph cable insulator and experimentation started on how to manufacture such insulated cables. Four years later in Germany, Werner Siemens was the first to develop a working machine press for making a seamless Gutta Percha cable coating. This development enabled telegraph cables to be laid along the floor of the ocean and by the 1870s, telegraph cables circled the globe. Telegrafen-Bauanstalt von Siemens & Halske, the company founded



The earliest *Palaquium gutta* specimen found in the Botanic Gardens Herbarium was collected in 1894 by Henry Nicholas Ridley from Chua Chu Kang. At the time, an important function of the Botanic Gardens was research into economic crops.

by Mr Siemens and his brother, also prospered - this was the start of today's multinational electronics company, Siemens AG.

“THE TREE WAS NOT COMMON IN THE RAINFOREST BUT GREW IN SCATTERED CLUMPS. THE RESULT OF THE HUGE DEMAND FOR GUTTA PERCHA WAS THE QUICK DEMISE OF TABAN IN SINGAPORE.”

In 1850, the first undersea cable was laid between England and France, and 1858 saw the first attempt to lay a transatlantic cable - a feat finally achieved in 1866. While Cyrus Field has gone down in history as the man who connected the United States to Europe, it was Gutta Percha from Singapore that made it possible.

The telegraph story would not be complete without mentioning when Singapore became connected to the world. Singapore's first telegraphic cable connection was to Batavia but the first line broke after the first message. It was only on 31 December 1870 that the British Australian Telegraph Company finished laying a telegraph line from Madras to Singapore. A few days later, on 6 January 1871, an advertisement appeared in the newspapers announcing the opening of the telegraph lines between Singapore, Penang, Java and Madras. This allowed telegraph messages to be sent to Europe and even to the Americas! The cost was not cheap though: a twenty-word message to London cost 24 Straits dollars and to New York, the princely sum of 53.60 Straits dollars!

COMMERCIAL HARVESTING

Unlike rubber, Taban tree sap does not flow freely through the length of the trunk. It also hardens quickly on exposure to air. This means that making cuts in the trunk only collects a limited amount of sap. The initial method of collection was therefore to cut down the tree and make cuts along the trunk in order to milk out as much sap as possible. Early attempts at tapping only resulted in poor harvests and a reportedly high rate of diseased trees. The only 19th century advance in harvesting techniques was the invention of a process to extract sap from the leaves in order to maximise

the sap harvested from each tree harvested. A leaf collecting system with leaf processing factories was established in several locations in Malaysia and Indonesia. However, it was soon found that collectors would cut down the young saplings in order to collect the

leaves and leaf harvesting was discontinued.



The *Palaquium gutta* tree can be found growing at the Botanic Gardens Visitor's Centre.

It was only in the early 20th century that a successful system of tapping the Taban was devised: diagonal cuts were made at regular intervals up the length of the trunk using a ladder. The sap would then seep out and coagulate along the length of the cuts. The tapper would then roll the coagulated sap up. Being re-exposed, the cuts would bleed afresh and the process would be repeated until the available sap was exhausted. Besides being labour intensive, the tree also had to be given time to recover from the massive injuries suffered. This recovery period was said to be at least two years.



Diagonal tap marks on the trunk of a *Palaquium gutta* (Taban Merah) tree in Taban Valley, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve.

The tree was not common in the rainforest but grew in scattered clumps. The result of the huge demand for Gutta Percha was the quick demise of Taban in Singapore. Just two years after Montgomerie introduced Gutta Percha to Europe, all of Singapore's big Taban trees had been felled and Thomas Oxley (1847) estimated that the 412 tons of Gutta Percha exported to Europe between 1845 and 1846 had resulted in 69,000 Taban trees being cut down.

There is even a short article on "Rediscovery of the Gutta Percha Tree at Singapore" published in the Kew Gardens' *Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information* (1891). Because Taban Merah grows quickly when there is plenty of light, it is a suitable plantation crop. The only difficulty is that the young plants initially need to be shaded - only more mature plants benefit from direct sunlight. The Dutch were quick to export saplings from Singapore for starting plantations in Java and by the turn of the century had sizable plantations there.

PERSONALITIES

In Singapore, the first person to plant Taban Merah was Thomas Oxley at his home on Oxley Rise. Then in the 1880s, specimens were planted at the Botanic Gardens and subsequently at Bukit Timah.

Another person intimately involved with Gutta Percha was Temenggong Ibrahim. He had inherited the title of Temenggong but not any source of income: the British East India Company and the Dutch government had usurped taxation of trade in the region. Local rulers trying to levy charges on passing ships quickly found themselves being hunted down as pirates. In addition, the Temenggong had to assist Orang Laut coming in from the Riaus to seek his protection: British anti-piracy patrols there were attacking all perahu (Malay boats). The Temenggong moved to get involved in British anti-piracy efforts and also started opening Johor to agriculture.



Mounted set of *Palaquium gutta* leaves in the Botanic Gardens Herbarium collection that was probably collected sometime in the 1890s.

The original label says that it was collected from the 'Pasir Panjang Factory' - probably the factory owned by the Netherland Gutta Percha Company.

He met with success on both fronts: he became seen as an invaluable ally to Governor Bonham's anti-piracy campaign, leased out Johor land to Chinese pepper and gambier farmers, and became a major Gutta Percha exporter. William Read's 1901 book, *Play and Politics*, records that a local merchant informed the Temenggong of Gutta Percha's potential. Perhaps this local merchant was Ker, a neighbour of his. Indeed, Ker, Rawson & Company sent the Temenggong's first shipment of Gutta Percha to Europe. The Temenggong quickly declared a monopoly on Gutta Percha collection in Johor and set about organising a collection system in Johor, employing labourers to harvest the trees. By reinventing himself as a major agricultural player, the Temenggong quickly prospered in both wealth and status.

“**NOT SURPRISINGLY, ONE MALAY NAME FOR THE TREE IS EKUR DAUN DURIAN (THE EKUR TREE WITH LEAVES LIKE A DURIAN). FLOWERS GROW IN GROUPS OF FOUR WITH SIX PETALS ON EACH FLOWER.**”

DESCRIPTION

In 1847, Logan published the first issue of his journal: *The Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia*. To most people, it is known simply as 'Logan's Journal'. In it, Thomas Oxley, Montgomerie's successor as Senior Surgeon to the Straits Settlements, described Gutta Percha, the history of its discovery by Europeans, and the uses he had found for it.

Oxley said that *Palaquium gutta* quite resembled the *Durio* (durian) genus. I found that to be quite true - at a distance, the reddish-brown underside of the Taban leaves and solid green upper surface make it resemble a durian tree. Not surprisingly, one Malay name for the tree is Ekur Daun Durian (the Ekur tree with leaves like a durian). Flowers grow in groups of four with six petals on each flower. You can see a beautiful illustration of the leaves and flowers from volume three of Köhler's *Medizinal-Pflanzen*. This book is available online at the Missouri Botanical Garden Library's rare book server: <http://www.illustratedgarden.org/mobot/rarebooks>. The tree could reportedly reach 36 metres in height and three metres in girth but with harvesting, trees became much

smaller. I believe the girth of the ones in Taban Valley are only a metre. You can spot these old trees with their tap wounds if you take a stroll around the Taban Loop trail in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. While it is characteristic of the Gutta Percha and its relatives in the Sapotaceae family to bleed a milky white sap when cut, only certain trees in the genera *Palaquium* and *Payena* produce enough good quality Gutta sap to be usable. The quality is directly related to the isoprene and caoutchune content in the sap. Among the trees in these two genera, *Palaquium gutta*, known locally as Taban Merah, produces the best Gutta (getah is the Malay

word for rubber). Other Gutta-producing species commercially harvested include *Palaquium obovatum* (Taban Puteh), *Palaquium maingayi* (Getah Ketapang or Getah Percha Burong), *Palaquium oxleyanum*, and *Payena leerii* (Getah Sundik). Ironically, the tree that is locally called Getah Perca (*Payena maingayi*), produces a sap that is worthless because it does not harden.

I would like to thank Serena Lee of the Botanic Gardens Herbarium for allowing me access to photograph Ridley's specimens; and Eunice Low and Shawn Lum for reading my draft and suggesting improvements to the article.

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The Access to Learning Award:

Improving Lives through Greater Access to Information through Technology

*By Martha Choe, Director, Global Libraries Initiative,
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Whether you are young or old, a student or a teacher, a farmer or a small business owner, access to online information is becoming increasingly important to people throughout the world.

The Internet is now a portal that provides unprecedented opportunities to pursue education and employment, access government services, seek health information, conduct business, or exchange ideas and information. Unfortunately, while access to computers is common in many parts of the world, just one person in 10 has access to the Internet. The result is a dramatic digital divide: nearly five billion people do not have the opportunity to benefit from online information and learning.

To help narrow this divide, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries initiative, part of the foundation's Global Development programme, works to provide people with the opportunity to access a world of information, knowledge, and communication by helping public libraries

provide free computers connected to the Internet and training in the communities they serve. Each year, a highlight of the Global Libraries initiative's work is the announcement of its Access to Learning Award (ATLA). Now in its eighth year, the US\$1 million award recognises the innovative efforts of public libraries or similar organisations outside the United States to connect people to information through free access to computers and the Internet. Organisations in countries from China to South Africa have received the award for their creative work to provide free access to online information in libraries, many in remote, developing, or poverty-stricken areas. The award is given to encourage more countries and communities to harness the power of the Internet and partner with libraries to provide greater access to information and learning for people most in need.

ATLA recipients are models of how organisations and governments can work together to open a world of knowledge through access to information technology in even the most isolated and impoverished environments. The award recipients' own stories provide rich examples of how free access to computers and the Internet can change the lives of people who might otherwise never be able to benefit from online information and learning.

READ Nepal: A Centre of Community Development

Rural Education and Development (READ) Nepal, a non-profit organisation based in Kathmandu, received the Access to Learning Award in 2006 for its innovative work in building self-sustaining libraries to increase local community development.

In Nepal, among the poorest and least developed countries in the world, nine out of 10 people live in rural areas, and one person in three lives in extreme poverty. Just half of adult Nepalis can read or write. To address the country's educational, economic, and social inequities, READ works with local communities to create rural libraries throughout the country that serve as centres for information and learning. Since 1991, READ has established 39 self-supporting community libraries throughout Nepal - touching the lives of half a million people.

The organisation provides seed funding to design, build, furnish, and stock libraries, train librarians, and launch an income-generating enterprise in each community to help pay for the library over the long-term. To guarantee strong local commitment, the community must contribute land and cover 20 percent of the library's start-up costs. In one village, a man donated his former home. In another, an illiterate woman gave land so her grandchildren could learn to read. Some villagers participate by selling a handful of rice, which is often the most they can afford.

Before a library is built, villagers develop a plan for a revenue-generating enterprise that can cover ongoing library costs. Communities have forged a variety of businesses, including a furniture factory, printing press, stationery store, grain mill,



Nepali women gather for a discussion at a community library

fishpond, as well as ambulance, rickshaw, storefront rental, telephone, and x-ray services. These community-run projects are paramount to READ's success. Often, the projects raise considerably more money than library operations require and have funded additional community development projects such as childcare centres, health clinics, literacy centres, and a bridge so that children aren't forced to walk two hours each direction along a river to get to school.

The Access to Learning Award is helping to support READ's library development projects, including efforts to increase the number of computers available in libraries, develop a community Internet network that can reach remote areas not yet served by the existing communications infrastructure, and bring new interactive educational and medical resources to the libraries. With additional funding, READ has been able to continue providing rural Nepali communities with a safe place to access and share information despite a climate of political and economic instability.

Far Reaching Impacts

Foundation-sponsored evaluations of the ATLA programme have shown that the award is making a real difference in the countries where it has been awarded. Most recipients have used the award funds to not only expand their current operations, but also to emphasise technology training, literacy, and local content development in their work. Some are working to help users identify ways to use online information to build economic opportunities.

Past ATLA recipients are becoming increasingly prominent and influential in their local communities and beyond. The award helps increase public awareness of the programmes and helps build opportunities for new partnerships and funding. For example, the Smart Cape Access Project, which received the award in 2003 for giving residents in Cape Town, South Africa free access to computers and the Internet for the first time, was recently asked by the mayor to create a visioning statement for a city-wide social and economic development strategy in which computers and the Internet play a fundamental role.

Bangladesh's Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha: A River of Opportunity

A computer connected to the Internet can be a powerful driver of social and economic progress - especially in developing



A group of girls walk aboard one of Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha's mobile Internet education boats

countries. Another past ATLA recipient shows how a creative approach to bridging the digital divide can have a startling impact. Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha, a Bangladeshi organisation, was honoured in 2005 for

its groundbreaking work in using indigenous boats to bring computers, the Internet, and training to remote areas of the country. Founded in 1982, Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha is devoted to improving the lives of people in remote areas of Bangladesh by empowering them through information sharing and education. Through work such as its innovative mobile boat programme, the organisation works in the areas of distance and technology-mediated learning, environmental awareness and conservation, micro enterprise development, food security, and health.

In Bangladesh's isolated river basin farming communities, people rely heavily on some of the country's 7,000 rivers for their day-to-day needs. To serve these areas, Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha supplies custom-built, indigenous boats converted into mobile libraries and schools to provide educational services, access to technology, and computer trainings. Relying on solar energy and generators to power computers, projectors, and other technical equipment, the boats anchor at remote villages educating farmers about environmentally friendly agricultural methods, small business development, microfinance, health care, and more. In a country where the majority of the population is illiterate, Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha has made significant strides in educating young people who had never before even seen a computer.

Through ATLA funds, the organisation was able to build six additional library boats and three school boats, upgrade computers, and help underwrite a new training facility. But an influx in extra funds was not the only advantage that came with receiving the award. The programme has experienced an increase in donations and is now able to negotiate with technology companies to receive reduced prices for upgraded equipment. In addition, the organisation has initiated partnerships with a number of outside organisations in an effort to replicate the programme's success in other struggling regions.

Using their ATLA funds, Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha recently helped introduce bicycle-powered water pumps to rural farmers in Bangladesh. The pumps are now manufactured locally, and have been so profitable that others are using them in different parts of the country. As a result of educating farmers about the pumps, the average annual income in areas the project serves is now at 19,800 Bangladeshi Taka (BDT) - an incredible increase of BDT 12,000. Residents in these areas now have a better diet, new and improved houses, and better healthcare.

Sustaining Free Access to Technology

ATLA is helping to highlight innovation and success, and also points to the ongoing challenges libraries and similar organisations still face in providing free access to computers and the Internet. Securing affordable and sufficient bandwidth is an enormous challenge for which no simple solutions exist. Improving staff training on advancing technologies and supporting a greater number of people using a library or organisation's services are both significant hurdles especially when they struggle to secure and keep funding to operate such pioneering operations.

Promoting the groundbreaking work of libraries to provide computers and the Internet is an important step in building greater access to these tools throughout the world. Ensuring that ATLA recipients and other similar organisations can sustain their work is a critical part of opening the information



Three young boys work on a library computer together provided by Proyecto Bibliotecas Guatemala

age to developing countries. Strong, visionary leadership at the local project level is vitally important to building and maintaining healthy technology programmes. As well, creative partnerships between private sector funders and experts, and local governments can provide effective support for information technology initiatives in the developing world. Ultimately, the success of free public technology programmes requires the long-term commitment of governments, businesses, community groups, and libraries around the globe - a goal, which is paramount to the efforts of the Gates Foundation's Global Libraries initiative.

Bringing Information Resources to Rural China

The China Evergreen Rural Library Service Centre (CERLS), a 2004 ATLA recipient, is showing how local government collaboration can help ensure sustainability and strengthen free technology programmes.

Two-thirds of China's 1.3 billion people live in rural areas with extremely limited access to information technology. These resources are even scarcer in western China, an area characterised by poverty and illiteracy that has not yet benefited from the growth and prosperity of the coastal region.

To help address this need, the China Evergreen Rural Library Service Centre forms partnerships with school libraries to develop and computerise library collections, create computer labs for the entire community, and offer training workshops to students, teachers, librarians, and the public. Since its founding in 2001, CERLS has added 10 public school libraries to its network, serving a community of more than 1 million people.

CERLS schools go out of their way to reach those least likely to seek out their services. One teacher travels to remote villages with a laptop computer to teach farmers about new agricultural techniques and environmental issues. Another school created a mobile library to reach herdsmen with information in both Tibetan and Chinese. CERLS also sets up service stations in places that locals gather, including cultural activity centres and fine art shops.

Having the support of everyone involved, from teachers to principals to county governors, has been key to the programme's success. While CERLS supplies the computer equipment, software, training, and books, schools provide the Internet access, librarians, staff, space, and furniture. Local and provincial governments and ministries also help out by providing extra computers and equipment.

To further encourage local commitment to libraries, the organisation has used some of its ATLA funds to sponsor competitions and increase participation among students,



Community members gather around a computer at a China Evergreen Rural Library Service Centre

provide scholarships for technology educational programmes, and organise skills workshops for librarians, teachers, and users. CERLS has also increased their outreach programmes to farmers and educated more rural workers about higher-yield crops. Thanks to the expansion of their programme, there is stronger community support and more visibility of the organisation's work both locally and abroad.

Continuing to Support Innovation Around the World

ATLA recipients show the world how access to knowledge and information can help build better lives and stronger communities. They are also expanding the value of traditional libraries by connecting them to larger individual and community development goals. In the end, ATLA recipients are leading development that starts in libraries, but spreads to entire villages, towns, and cities.

To enhance the impact of the award, the Global Libraries initiative plans this year to strengthen the network of former and current ATLA recipients, so they can more effectively share their knowledge and experience not only with one another, but with others who are developing new ways to improve the lives of people most in need. Through better collaboration, ATLA recipients and others can exchange ideas for delivering free information technology programmes and address challenges like providing Internet connections in remote areas, or sustaining the services over the long term.



A group of students gather at the computer with an instructor at a BiblioRed library in Bogota, Columbia

In choosing future ATLA recipients, the foundation will continue to seek applicants that serve people in high-poverty environments, and will honour those that employ truly extraordinary approaches to providing free access to computers and the Internet. Fortunately, each year the foundation has seen a marked increase in applicants. It seems there is a growing tide of creativity within the field. Indeed, it appears ATLA recipients will continue to bring their legacy and value to the world, combining social ingenuity with a desire to improve people's lives.

About Global Libraries

Information technology is a powerful driver of economic and social progress. Unfortunately, while access to computers is common in many parts of the world, just one person in 10 has access to the Internet. The result is a dramatic digital divide: nearly five billion people do not have the opportunity to use computers connected to the Internet. Without access, people miss out on opportunities to strengthen their education, look for work, conduct business online, and exchange ideas with others around the world. In countries where reliable health information is hard to find, the Internet can also be a vital resource for health workers and others.

To help narrow this divide, the foundation's Global Libraries initiative helps public libraries provide free access to computers, the Internet, and training in the communities they serve. As a programme partner, Microsoft donates software. Public libraries are ideal partners in this initiative because of their tradition as publicly-funded learning centres that are open to everyone. Libraries also have staff members who receive training to help others learn to use these tools, resulting in communities that benefit from all the opportunities greater access to the Internet provides. Global Libraries has already forged successful partnerships in Chile and Mexico where the impact has been demonstrated clearly and measurably within a few years of implementing a programme. New partnerships with Botswana, Latvia, and Lithuania were announced in November 2006.

For more information about the Access to Learning Award, please visit: www.gatesfoundation.org/ATLA

To Apply for the Access to Learning Award:

Any public library or similar organisation outside the United States may apply for the Access to Learning Award if they allow all members of the public, from children to senior citizens, to use computers, the Internet, and their facilities free of charge. The foundation particularly encourages institutions in developing countries or those working with disadvantaged communities to apply, as preference is given to organisations that reach out to socially excluded groups, such as poor or disabled patrons, or those from minority communities.

The award is a one-time recognition or prize for organisations that have created programmes that are currently committed to providing free access to computers and the Internet. An international advisory committee made up of librarians, information technology experts, and foundation staff evaluates applications based on candidates' innovative efforts to make computers and Internet access free to the public, train the public in using technology and accessing information, educate staff on technology use, and reach out to underserved communities. The committee selects a list of final candidates for consideration by the Gates Foundation and, following an independent financial and organisational review of the finalists, the foundation selects the final award recipient.

Access to Learning Award Recipients

- 2006: **Rural Education and Development (READ) Nepal**
<http://www.readnepal.org>
- 2005: **Bangladesh's Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha**
<http://www.shidhulai.org/>
- 2004: **Denmark's Aarhus Public Libraries**
<http://www.aakb.dk/>
- China Evergreen Rural Library Service Centre
<http://www.evergreeneducation.org/>
- 2003: **Smart Cape Access Project**
<http://www.capetown.gov.za/smartercape/>
- 2002: **BibloRed**
<http://www.biblored.org.co/>
- 2001: **Proyecto Bibliotecas Guatemala (Probigua)**
<http://www.probigua.org/>
- Biblioteca del Congreso, Argentina
<http://www.bcnbib.gov.ar/>
- 2000: **Helsinki City Library**
<http://www.lib.hel.fi/>

Photos courtesy of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

族群、文化认同： 从华文报纸历史 看其与新马华人的关系

新加坡国家图书管理局李光前学术基金会
彭伟步

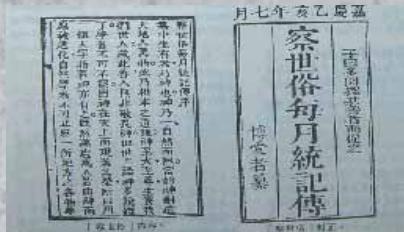
新马，作为海外华人华侨其中一个主要移居之地，由于人数众多，经济发达，一直以来都是华文传媒最繁荣的地区。长期以来，华文报纸在华人与政府之间，华人与华人之间，华人与其他种族之间架起了一座桥梁，传播政府和华社消息，扩散华族文化，不仅是新马华人重要的精神食粮，也是反映新马华人精神走向和社会发展重要的窗口，华人族群和文化认同的重要精神纽带，华族文化存在的象征。

一 新马华文报纸历史简述

新马是海外华文报刊最早的诞生地。从1815年到1837年的22年间，马六甲、巴达维亚及新加坡三地，先后出现了四份宗教性的华文杂志，即马六甲的《察世俗每月统记传》及《天下新闻》，巴达维亚的《特选撮要每月统传》以及新加坡的《东西洋考每月统记传》。

《东西洋考每月统记传》停刊后，直到1881年12月10日，以《叻报》创刊标志，从此开始了近现代华文报刊的历史。与之相随的是保皇和革命、拥孙中山与拥北洋政府、拥蒋与拥共的观点和思想论战。

1942年，日军攻占新加坡后，几乎所有的新马华文报纸停刊，报人纷纷逃难。为宣传所需，日军利用《南洋商报》的印刷设备，出版了《昭南日报》，充当日军的舆论喉舌，鼓吹大东亚共荣圈，号召华人拥戴日本为领袖，为日军侵略中国、南洋辩护，攻击英国对新马的殖民统治。日军投降后，大批报纸复刊。拥共和拥蒋的报纸展开论战。如《中兴日报》与《南侨日报》，《民声报》与《中国报》之间的论战。



资料来源：卓南生：
《中国近代报业发展史》，中国社会科学出版社2002年第一版第25页

马来西亚（马来亚）主要华文报纸创刊、停刊时间表

报纸	创刊、停刊时间
华洋新报	1890年—不详
屿报	1894年—不详
槟城新报	1896年—1936年
广时务报	1897年—1898年
南洋时报	1897年—不详
光华日报	1901年—至今
吉隆坡日报	1909年—1910年
四州周报	1911年—1911年
益群报	1919年—1936年
华侨日报	1936年—至今
星槟日报	1939年—至今，1986年改名 《光明日报》，1992年被 《星洲日报》收购
建国日报	1940年—1986年
中国报	1946年—至今
马来西亚通报	1957年—1994年
诗华日报	1952年—至今
美里日报	1957年—至今
国际时报	1968年—至今
自由日报	1868年—至今
亚洲时报	1976年—至今
东方日报	2003年—至今

新加坡主要华文报纸创刊、停刊时间一览表

报纸	创刊、停刊时间
叻报	1881年12月10日—1932年
星报	1890年2月14日—1898年
天南新报	1898年5月26日—1905年
日新报	1899年10月5日—1901年
图南日报	1904年1月—1905年
总汇日报	1906年—1929年（改名《总汇新报》）、1940年卖给胡文虎，1945年停刊
星洲晨报	1907年—1910年
中兴日报	1907年7月12日—1910年停刊
国民日报	1914年5月26日—1918年8月6日停刊，1919年10月11日—1941年以《新国民日报》刊发，1937年6月1日被《南洋商报》收购，1941年移至吉隆坡出版，1941年12月日军侵入吉隆坡后停刊。
南洋商报	1923年—至今，1961年出版吉隆坡版，1971年五月风暴雨后，股权逐渐转让给马来西亚人，最终在马来西亚独立发行
星洲日报	1929年—至今，1962年出版吉隆坡版，1982年后，独立发行
昭南日报	1942年—1945年，新马沦陷时日军所创报纸
中南日报	1946年—1957年，1947年5月16日傅无闻卖给国民党，改名《中兴日报》
南侨日报	1946年—1950年
新明日日报	1967年—至今，1967年出版吉隆坡版，1996年吉隆坡版停刊
联合早报	1983年—至今
联合晚报	1983年—至今

战后，新马华人社会发生了巨变。经过对公民权的争取，众多华人入籍新马。国籍和公民身份的改变，促使华人思考报纸以及个人的未来。华文报业开始本地化，新马色彩日浓。

新加坡独立后，作为总部设在新加坡的华文报纸《南洋商报》和《星洲日报》，自然要以新加坡利益为依归。而马来西亚也加强对境内报纸的管制。1982年，随着吉隆坡版的《星洲日报》被马来西亚人林庆金买断，新马两地的华文报纸从此没有任何关联。

在政府的主导下，1983年3月15日，《南洋商报》、《星洲日报》合并成《联合早报》，而马来西亚的《南洋商报》与《星洲日报》则继续发行。

二 国家意识转变与舆论影响力

在不同的时期内，新马华文报纸与华人呈现出不同的



昭南日报

新加坡国立图书馆李光前参考图书馆昭南日报缩微胶卷，索引号为 Chinese 079.5957 ZNRB No 268-3

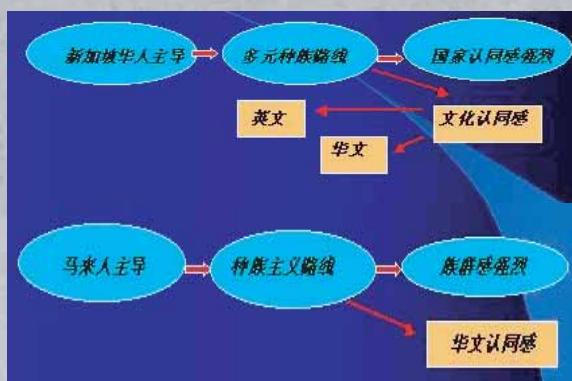
联合早报

新加坡国立图书馆李光前参考图书馆联合早报缩微胶卷，索引号为 Chinese 079.5957 NYXZLH 16-31 Mar 1983

关系。这主要是因为早期中国移民背井离乡来新马，目的只是为了谋生，发财之后能够衣锦还乡，光宗耀祖。他们只是把南洋当作羁旅之地，而没有真正把南洋当作长期的生活地方。新马华人获得公民权后，拥有在当地长期居留和发展的合法权利，同时中国又取消双重国籍，种种因素作用下，众多新马华人选择了归化道路。

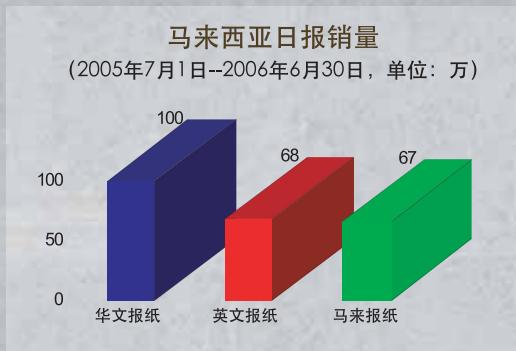
新马分离后，新马华人各自走上了不同的道路，境况也大不一样。新加坡成为华人主导的国家，华为拥有自己的美丽国家而自豪，而马来西亚华人却生存于马来人为主导的社会，经常挣扎在种族关系的梦魇中，甚至产生“我爱马来西亚，马来西亚爱我吗”的感受，造成不同的族群和文化认同情感。

马来西亚政府出台以马来人为主导的政策，经常逼使华人不得不凝聚族群力量，起来维护自己的利益。因此，政府冀图通过强化对华人的同化政策，来消解华人的族群和文化认同，却反而激起华人的团结，族群感更加强烈。华人利用华文报纸通过各种形式和场合不断强化族群意识，如在新闻、评论、副刊大量刊登有关维护华人权益，推动华文教育，传播华族文化的文章。

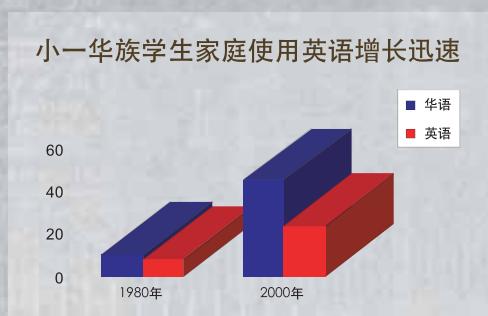


三 话语权与华文报纸

新马两地华文报纸的话语权因为各自的种族关系和政治环境不同，而呈现迥异的现象。在马来西亚，华文报纸是非主流媒体但话语权却逐渐增强。这主要体现在华文报纸销量高过其他语文报纸、华文教育蓬勃发展、影响力并不亚于其他语文报纸以及中国的迅速发展。



新加坡是由华人占主导的国家，华文报纸应该属于主流报纸，但是由于建国之后，政府推行英语，因此当老一代的华人逝去之后，从小接受英语教育的年青一代，对华语已经感到相当陌生，甚至不认识华语。由于华文教育逐渐被边缘化，华文报纸的基础被蚕食，生存的危机与日俱增，由此带来媒介地位和话语权逐渐被弱化的危险，这主要反映在华文报纸销量下滑、华文教育萎缩等。不过，作为反映华人重要文化和思想的阵地，华文报纸仍然拥有强大的话语权和影响舆论的力量。



四 当前多元种族、文化背景下的华文报纸与华人关系

实现种族间的和解，促进多元文化的融合，是新马政府一直不得不面对的问题。作为维系华人族群认同的重要文化象征，华文报纸为此作出了很大的贡献。一方面，它们以维护华人利益为己任，另一方面又通过翻译、报道异族文化，让华人对异族有更多的了解，避免文化和思想对抗。

在新加坡，华文报纸不仅履行了传播政府政策信息的重要职责，同时承担起推动双语运动、传播华族文化的使命，在传承华族传统价值观取得了相当大的成就。而在马来西亚，华文报纸则更多发挥族群和文化认同的重要承载物的作用，成为华族文化的核心以及文化思想的指明灯。

五 中国迅速发展背景下的新马华文报纸与华人关系

近几年来，中国经济和社会高速发展，在这样的背景下，新马两国在对待中华文化和华文教育方面也发生了改变。新加坡政府倡导华语运动，鼓励人们成为双文化精英。华文报纸销量止住连年下滑的趋势，再加上人们对华语以及华族文化有新的认识，以及大量来自马来西亚和中国的华人移民，相信今后华文报纸仍然有广阔的发展空间，至少在二十年里无生存之虞。

相比较新加坡，马来西亚的华文报业则呈现更美好的未来。政府逐渐增加对华文学校的拨款，在国小开设越来越多的华语课程，而且受到马、印学生的青睐。作为报道华人动态的重要媒介，华文报纸不仅大量报道国家和华社新闻，在报道中国经济发展方面也拥有其他语文报纸无法取代的优势，成为华人社会了解中国的重要窗口。华文教育持续发展，华人养成阅读华文报纸的习惯，使得每年华文报纸的销量都有所上升，展现了华文报业在马来西亚的繁荣景象。

六 海峡华人报刊对传播中华文化的贡献

作为一个特殊的族群，海峡华人也在传播中华文化方面作出杰出贡献。

1. 特殊的族群

早期海峡华人的身上带有华人和马来人的血统，他们当中一些人很小的时候接受马来族母亲或祖母的耳濡目染，因此能够感受马来文化，接受马来人的生活。从他们身上所具有的特质以及文化教育来看，他们是一个特殊的族群，通晓马、英、华文化。在殖民时代，许多海峡华人接受英文教育，同时对英国政府效忠。接受英文教育的海峡华人，按照英国人生活方式，信奉天主教、基督教，居住在大洋房，驾驭马车和收藏艺术品等。他们既不太愿意与马来人交往，又疏离华人社区，因此成为华人和马来人之间的过渡族群。

2. 传播中华文化的媒介

许多海峡华人因为能够接受比较好的华文或英文教育，思想比较开明，这也使得他们有意识利用各种工具开启明智，传播文化与思想。他们实现这种目的主要是通过报刊来完成的。一是创办华文报刊《叻报》、《天南新报》、《振南日报》等，如薛有礼、邱菽园、林文庆等；二是创办英文报刊《海峡华人杂志》等；如林文庆、宋旺相等，三是创办马来文报刊《消息报》、《新闻报》、《商业报》、《土生华星周刊》等，如宋旺相、曾锦文、袁文成等。通过创办不同语文报纸，他们向英国人、马来人传播了华族文化。

3. 传播中华文化的作品

他们翻译大量中国古典通俗小说如：《憨仔婿》、《五美缘》、《凤娇与李旦》、《三国演义》、《水浒传》、《西游记》等。在学术领域，海峡华人也做出杰出贡献。宋旺相撰写的《新加坡华人百年史》被英国历史学家Edwin Lee 高度评价，认为其是一部早期反映华人历史的学术巨著。林文庆翻译的《英译离骚》被剑桥大学汉学权威翟理思教授（Prof H.A. Giles）列为二十世纪初叶两部英译巨作之一。

我们在此挖掘海峡华人传播中华文化的历史，不仅客观评价海峡华人的历史贡献，而且讴歌他们为东西方文化交流所发挥的作用，有助于读者更加深入了解海峡华人历史，也希望有更多人从事东西方，不同种族间的文化交流，促进东西方和种族间的互动和理解。



邱菽园

资料来源：郑文辉：
《新加坡华文报业史》，
新马出版印刷公司出版
1973年第一版第31页



林文庆

资料来源：《厦大记忆建校85周年特别报道》，《厦门日报》
2006年3月23日



薛有礼

资料来源：《联合早报创刊70周年特刊》，联合早报出版
1993年版55页



宋旺相

资料来源：宋旺相：《新加坡华人百年史》，新加坡中华总商会出版1993年版封面

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(华社的回顾与前瞻研讨会: 21世纪马来西亚华人--2002年马来西亚多元种族与多元文化社会的挑战。)
<http://www.xiaoen.org/cultural/academic.asp?cat=65&loc=zh-cn&id=1125>

Mr Peng Weibu is a PhD candidate with the School of Communication and Journalism, Jinan University, People's Republic of China. This is an extract of his paper, "Ethnic and Culture Self-Identity: Overseas Chinese Language Newspapers and its Relationship with Ethnic Chinese of Singapore and Malaysia", presented in April 2007.

LEE KONG CHIAN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP SERIES: RESEARCH FELLOWS 2007

The Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship welcomed three new Research Fellows, Mr Tay Thiam Chye, Mr Kuik Cheng-Chwee and Mr Leander Seah. Mr Tay and Mr Kuik were awarded the Fellowship, in an official signing ceremony, by Ms Ngian Lek Choh, Director of the National Library on 5 April 2007. Mr Seah received his award on 8 June 2007.



Mr Kuik Cheng-Chwee (left) and Mr Tay Thiam Chye (right) were awarded the Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship on 5 April 2007.

Mr Leander Seah was awarded the Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship on 8 June 2007.

Mr Tay Thiam Chye has a M Soc Sc, majoring in Political Science from the National University of Singapore. He has a specialist interest in party defection on which he has presented at various conferences such as the American Political Science Association (APSA) meeting. Mr Tay's research will focus on "Rethinking Regime Change - Factional Defection from Dominant Parties in Asia (1945-2006)".

Mr Kuik Cheng-Chwee is a PhD candidate in the Asian Studies Programme at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, DC. He is the recipient of the Fulbright Graduate Study Scholarship (2003-2005), the ASIA Fellows Award (2002-2003), as well as the British High Commissioner's Chevening Scholarship (1997-1998). Mr

Kuik's research topic is on "Essence of Hedging Strategy: Explaining Southeast Asian Responses to the Rising China".

Mr Leander Seah is a PhD candidate in History at the University of Pennsylvania. His research is on "Conceptualising the Chinese World: Jinan University, Lee Kong Chian and the Nanyang Connection, 1900 - 1942".

The National Library, Singapore welcomes talented scholars and researchers to use our resources and services, and to collaborate with us on joint research projects to create new knowledge. The Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship is open to both local and foreign applicants, who should preferably have an established record of achievement in their chosen field of research and the potential to excel further.



Creating the Right Environment:

Poster Collection at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library

By Gracie Lee, Reference Librarian, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, National Library

The poster collection is one of the special collections of the Singapore and Southeast Asian Collections at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library. Consisting of over 4,000 items issued or sponsored by government departments and related agencies, the collection spans from 1969 to the present and covers a broad spectrum of topics related to Singapore. These include the areas of language, etiquette, health, environment, reading and literacy, and the performing arts. Collectively, these posters provide a visual record of the development of public policies in Singapore, and of the entertainment as well as the cultural events of yesteryears.

The Library's poster collection comprises largely of national campaign posters. There are also many event and programme-related posters. These posters are in one or more of the four official languages.

National Campaign Posters

Between 1958 and 1995, there were reportedly over 200 national campaigns organised. Campaigns are defined by Bastion as a "unique tool used by the government, a sort of public education programme, to enlighten the public about some government procedure, policy or practice, to

raise awareness and consciousness about the need for a change of values, or to implement a particular behaviour." (Bastion, A., 2007, p. 69). Thus, as socialisation tools, campaigns and their related paraphernalia lend themselves to interesting studies on the socio-cultural and political landscape of Singapore. A critical analysis of posters also provides insights to changes in public attitudes towards campaigns over the years. Public awareness programmes have evolved, through time, from directness to subtlety, didacticism to persuasion, campaigns to movements. This is perhaps indicative of the growing sophistication of its audience and measures to counter campaign fatigue.

The 1960s: Creating the Right Environment for Survival

One of the most successful campaigns implemented during the 1960s-70s was the "Stop at Two" population policy. After World War II, Singapore faced severe shortages in food, housing and education. Hence voluntary family planning was introduced by the Family Planning Association of Singapore to ensure sustainable population growth. Anti-natalist policies

continued right up to the 1960s when Singapore separated from Malaysia. Lacking in natural resources and cut off from its economic hinterland, the government advocated family planning to check against overpopulation and overstraining of resources. To this end, the Singapore Family Planning and Population Board was established in June 1966. The Board employed the use of publicity awareness programmes, and a combination of incentives and disincentives to discourage the formation of large families. The incentives and disincentives affected the areas of housing allocation, priority in primary school admission exercises, tax reliefs, staggered fees for government maternity hospitals, and unrecorded paid leave for voluntary sterilisation.

The Board conducted successive public awareness programmes, which stressed the importance of family planning. Early campaign messages highlighted the need for family planning. This later shifted to the merits of having small families. In around 1972, campaign messages became more specific, focusing first on the two-child family, followed by the two-child family regardless of the sex of the children. These changes are



Girl or Boy, Two is Enough
Courtesy of Family Planning and Population Board

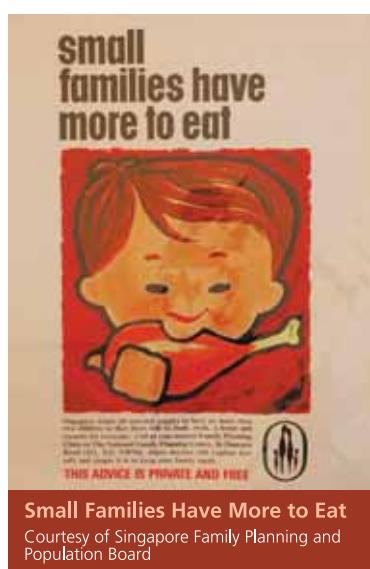
documented in posters such as: *Small Families Have More to Eat; Small Families Have More to spend; Small Families Own More; Small Families Can Live Better; Small Families Enjoy Better Health; Happiness is a 2-child Family; Plan a Two-child Family; Enjoy Your Children, Help Them Grow: Girl or Boy, Two is Enough.*

So effective was the campaign in curbing population growth, subsequent campaigns had to be organised to address the problem of negative growth.

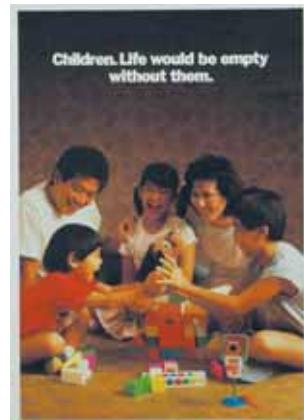
By the 1980s, decline in population growth necessitated a change in policy. In 1987, inclusive pronatalist policies were implemented to encourage Singaporeans to have more children. The slogan "Have Three or More, If You Can Afford It" became a common catchphrase. Posters like *Children: Life Would Be Empty Without Them* promoted the benefits of having children. Recent public awareness programmes have attempted to be less patent in its procreation drive. The appeal for more children is broached through subtler media messages that promote romance, love for children and family life.

The 1970s: Creating a Pleasant Physical Environment

With the campaign aiming to achieve sustainable population growth in place, the government turned its attention to improving the living conditions of its citizens during the 1970s. Launched on 1 October 1968 by former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, the Keep Singapore Clean campaign was one of the nation's longest running public awareness programmes. At that time, littering was rampant and



Small Families Have More to Eat
Courtesy of Singapore Family Planning and Population Board

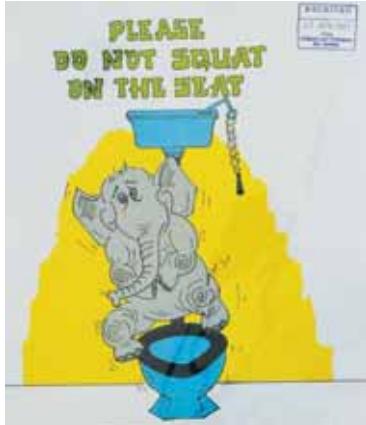


Children. Life Would Be Empty Without Them.

Courtesy of Family Life Education Programme, Ministry of Community Development



Keep the Environment Clean
Courtesy of Ministry of The Environment



Please Do Not Squat On The Seat
Courtesy of Ministry of The Environment

sense of responsibility for the cleanliness of shared spaces. The aim of the campaign was to make Singapore the cleanest and greenest city in Asia - a place where Singaporeans would be proud to call home, and where foreign investors would be attracted to come. The campaign was held annually until it merged with the Garden City Campaign to form the Clean and Green Week in 1990. Clean and Green Week took environment care and protection to the next level by encouraging Singaporeans to reuse, recycle, and reduce waste.

The Library's poster collection provides a record to some of the publicity materials in environmental campaigns and other public health issues managed by the Ministries of Environment and Health. The variety is wide, ranging from noise pollution (*Please Don't Shatter Our Peace and Quiet: Let's All Share the Joys of a Little Less Noise*), bagging of refuse (*Dispose Your Refuse the Correct Way*), spitting (*Stop that Spitting Habit*), mosquito breeding (*This Mosquito Breeding in Your Home Can Infect You with Deadly Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever*), water conservation (*Let's Not Waste Precious Water*), reusing resources (*Go Green with Used Textbooks*), to dirty and smelly toilets (*Please Do Not Squat on the Seat*). The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003 brought renewed attention to the importance of personal hygiene (*Let's Fight SARS Together*).

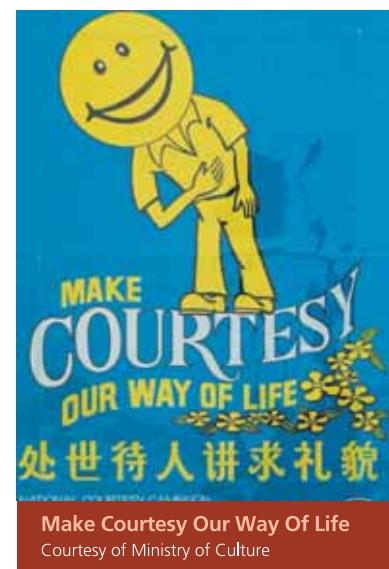
In trying to get Singaporeans to change their behavior, media messages have appealed to Singaporean's sense of ownership (*Singapore is Our Home: Let's Keep it Clean*), common sense (*Bag Your Refuse, Please: It's So Simple and it Makes Sense, Doesn't It?*), and face (*When You Litter, People Look at You Differently*).

clogged drains as well as flies were common sights. Also, the island was still relying largely on the open refuse and night soil collection system. Even as the government set about to improve the sewage and waste disposal infrastructure, the month-long campaign sought to address the littering habits of Singaporeans by inculcating in them a

1980s: Creating a Pleasant and Cohesive Social Environment: Social Etiquette and Language Policies

After improving the external physical environment in the 1970s, campaigns in the 1980s looked inwards - towards the cultivation of refined and cohesive society. The Courtesy and Speak Mandarin campaigns were two such initiatives.

With its catchy jingles and cute mascot, the Courtesy Campaign is probably one of the campaigns most etched in the minds of those growing up in the 1980s-90s. Unbeknown to many, the campaign had its origins from an earlier courtesy campaign started by the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board. The public awareness programme, which urged Singaporeans to be polite to tourists, caught the attention and amusement of then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. In his speech at the launch of the National Courtesy Campaign on 1 June 1979, he said, "Last year the Tourist Promotion Board launched a courtesy campaign to make Singaporeans more polite to tourists. I followed the campaign with interest and amusement: interest because most people were responsive to the campaign; amusement because no one protested that it was absurd to teach Singaporeans to be polite only to tourists....Courtesy is part of all cultivated societies. It is a desirable attribute in itself. To be courteous to free spending tourists and to be rude to fellow Singaporeans is to demean ourselves. Then we become a despicable people, moved only by the thought of profit."



Make Courtesy Our Way Of Life
Courtesy of Ministry of Culture

Courtesy was not only the mark of a cultivated society, it also serves as the social lubricant that eases the friction that arises from dense urban living.

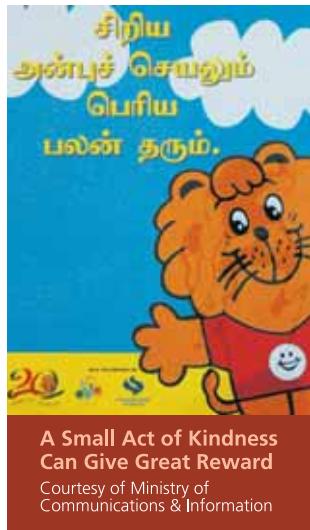
In promoting any campaign, logos, slogans and mascots are important visual symbols that cue the public on accepted behaviour. The Courtesy Campaign logos and mascots are no exceptions. In the early posters, the courtesy logo adopted was a yellow smiley smile that appears with the slogan "Make

Courtesy Our Way of Life". The smiley face was replaced by Singa, the Courtesy Lion in 1982. The Courtesy Campaign generally aimed to imbibe neighbourliness amongst Singaporeans, and members of the public were encouraged to smile (*Smile, Have a Pleasant Day*), and to perform acts of kindness for each other (*A Little Thought Means So Much*). Sometimes a specific theme is chosen for the year, such as punctuality (*Let's Be More Considerate, Be Punctual*) or handphone etiquette (*Let's Use Handphones With Courtesy*). In 2001, the National Courtesy Campaign



**Let's Be More Considerate.
Be Punctual.**

Courtesy of Singapore Courtesy Council



came under the auspices of the Singapore Kindness Movement.

Speak Mandarin Campaign articulated Singapore's language policy in the 1980s. Launched in 1979, the Speak Mandarin Campaign was established to promote Mandarin as the lingua franca amongst Singaporean Chinese. It aimed firstly to improve communication and social cohesion among the various dialect groups, and secondly to create a Mandarin-speaking environment to support the country's bilingual education policy. Hence, early publicity blitzes emphasised the use of Mandarin over dialect. This policy is illustrated in posters like *More Mandarin, Less Dialect: Make it a Way of Life*,



Let's Speak Mandarin

Courtesy of Promote Mandarin Council

Start with Mandarin Not Dialect and Speak More Mandarin and Less Dialect. The economic reasons for using Mandarin only grew in significance during the mid-1980s with the rise of China as an economic powerhouse. In 1991, the campaign entered a new phase when it began promoting Mandarin to the English-educated Singaporean Chinese. Research showed that Mandarin was fast losing ground amongst the English-educated Chinese. To counter this trend, Mandarin was marketed as a "cool" or hip language to the English-educated. Far from being an unfashionable or "cheena" language, Mandarin opens the door for the Singaporean Chinese to understand his culture and heritage, and equips him to do business with China. This approach is exemplified in posters like *Cool Conversation: Mandarin: Use It or Lose It, Nothing Helps You Understand Chinese Culture the Way Mandarin Does*, *Speak Mandarin: It Helps; Mandarin for Chinese Singaporeans, More than a Language; Mandarin Helps Chinese Singaporeans in All Facets of Life: Family, Business and Social*.



Start with Mandarin not Dialect

Courtesy of Promote Mandarin Council

Other Types of Posters

Besides the well-known campaign posters described above, the Library also carries posters on crime prevention, drugs prevention, anti-smoking, road safety, fire safety, work safety, AIDS prevention, dental care, mental health, healthy lifestyles, blood donation, breastfeeding, the disabled, the elderly, productivity, population census, total defence, tourism, cashless transactions, savings and personal finance, and even frozen pork! In 1985, the Primary Production Department began phasing out pig farms in Punggol. Posters were produced to promote the consumption of frozen pork as an alternative.

The cultural and performing arts posters in the Library's collection also shed interesting light on the literary and artistic life of Singapore. Quite a number of these posters pertain to reading and literacy. The oldest, dating back to 1969, features the first "Festival of Books" organised by the National

Book Development Council. Other literacy posters relate to the National Reading Month, book launches and library promotions and programmes. The collection also contains a selection of posters by local theatre groups like TheatreWorks, The Necessary Stage, and the Third Stage, a now defunct theatre group charged with Marxist conspiracy in 1987. The posters advertised plays like Robert Yeo's *The Eye of History* and Haresh Sharma's *Off Centre*. Closely related to the theatre posters are posters on playwriting and short-story writing competitions. The collection includes a poster on the first National Short Story Competition organised by the Ministry of Culture in 1982. Also documented through posters are the various festivals held in Singapore such as art festivals, film festivals, food festivals, and cultural festivals like the annual Chingay Parade and the River Hongbao events. Posters were also used to publicise commemorative events like the launch of new stamps, currency notes or the opening of MRT stations. Aside from campaign and event posters, the Library also carries a very small selection of election posters by the People's Action Party, United



Off Centre
Courtesy of The Necessary Stage

People's Front, and the Pertubuhan Kebangsaan Melayu Singapura (Singapore Malay National Organisation). Together, these printed heritage enhance our appreciation of Singapore's social, cultural and pictorial history.

Accessing the Collection

The poster collection is a closed access collection and is



The Freshness is Frozen for You
Courtesy of Primary Production Department, Ministry of National Development

available for consultation upon request at the Information Counter located at Level 11. Library patrons may search the poster collection through the Library's online catalogue at <http://vistaweb.nlb.gov.sg> using keywords such as title, author or subject.



Make History: Be One Of The First To Ride The MRT
Courtesy of Mass Rapid Transit Corporation

Care of Collection

The Library attaches importance to the careful handling and proper maintenance of our poster collection. Besides managing access to the collection through the application process, each poster is digitised and then sealed in mylar to minimise damage from handling.

Other Sources of Posters

In 1999, the National Library Board and then Ministry of Information and the Arts jointly produced a CD-ROM titled MITA Campaigns: 1979-1999. This CD-ROM, which is available in the Library's collection, features documents, songs, video clips and poster images from the Speak Mandarin, Courtesy and Nation-Building campaigns. Besides the National Library Board, sources of posters may also be found in other government departments. The National Archives of Singapore (<http://www.a2o.com.sg>) allows users to view and order prints from its web catalogue. Agencies like the Health Promotion Board, National Environment Agency and the National Council Against Drug Abuse avail soft copies of their posters for download from their websites.

How You Can Contribute

The poster collection at the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library is built largely through the act of legal deposit, gifts and donations. Though the collection currently stands at a modest 4,000 items, we continually seek to acquire and preserve historical and cultural documents of value to future generations of Singaporeans. As such, we welcome donations

and gifts of Singapore posters of all kinds. These include campaign posters, event posters, movie posters, concert posters, play posters, dance posters, political posters and others. If you or your organisation would like to deposit your

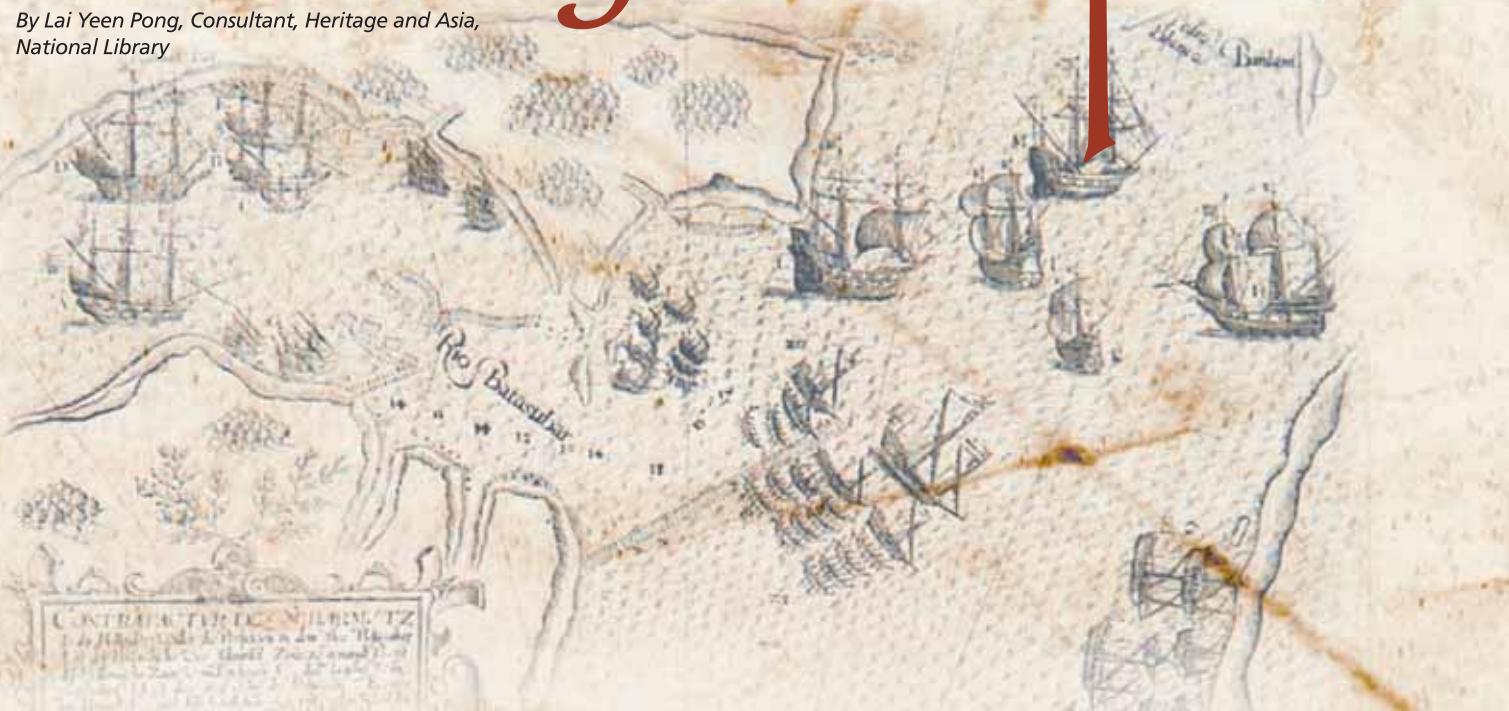
posters with us, please contact Ms Nazeerah Gopaul, Senior Librarian, Professional Services at nazeerah@nlb.gov.sg. For enquiries on our poster collection or other topics, you may contact our reference librarians at ref@nlb.gov.sg.

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Early Maps of Singapore

By Lai Yeen Pong, Consultant, Heritage and Asia,
National Library



Singapore was founded in 1819 by Sir Stamford Raffles. Was the name 'Singapore' in existence prior to 1819? Many ancient maps revealed that Singapore did exist as far back as the 16th century. It was then mentioned directly or indirectly in several non-English European ancient maps under different variations of the name, such as:

- a) **Cinca pula**, in Giacomo Gastaldi's map "India Tercera Nova Tabula" on Southeast Asia of 1548, which shows 'C. Cinca pula' (Cape of Singapore);
- b) **Cim capula**, in G. B. Ramusio's map "Terza Ostro Tavola" on Southeast Asia of 1563, which indicates the location of 'C. de cim capula';
- c) **Cincapura**, in Gerard Mercator's world map of 1569, and in Abraham Ortelius's map of Southeast Asia "Indiae orientalis insularumque adiacientium typus" of 1570;
- d) **Sincapura**, in Jan Huygen van Linschoten's 1595 map of Southeast Asia, China and Japan, "Exacta et accurata delineatio cum orarum maritinarum..", and in E.G. de Eredia's map, "Discripsao chorographica dos estreitos de Sincapura e Sabbam Ano. 1604";

- e) **Sincapour**, in S.R. Bellin's map, "Carte reduite des Detroits de Malaca, Sincapour, et du Gouverneur Dressée au Depôt des Cartes et Plans de la Marine" of 1755.

The Portuguese, the Dutch and the Spaniards were the early explorers, colonisers and traders in Southeast Asia. They were also the early mapmakers of Southeast Asian maps from the West. As these maps were of small scale, Singapore was often marked as a dot at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula.

These early maps not only showed the geographical positions of the various countries, islands and oceans, but they also depicted the fauna and flora, mythical sea monsters, buildings, ships, sea-routes, events and battles fought in these places. However, not all places engraved on the ancient maps were accurately represented.

Early larger scale maps of Singapore depicting it beyond a mere dot are extremely rare. The National Library recently acquired an early 17th century map of Theodore de Bry, published in 1607, which shows a close-up view of Singapore and its surrounding region. The map has no title, except for a long description in old German inserted into a large rectangular text box: "Contrafactur des Scharmutz els der Hollender wider die Portigesen in dem Flus Balusabar...". (*Chart of a skirmish between the Dutch and the Portuguese in the Balusabar River*).

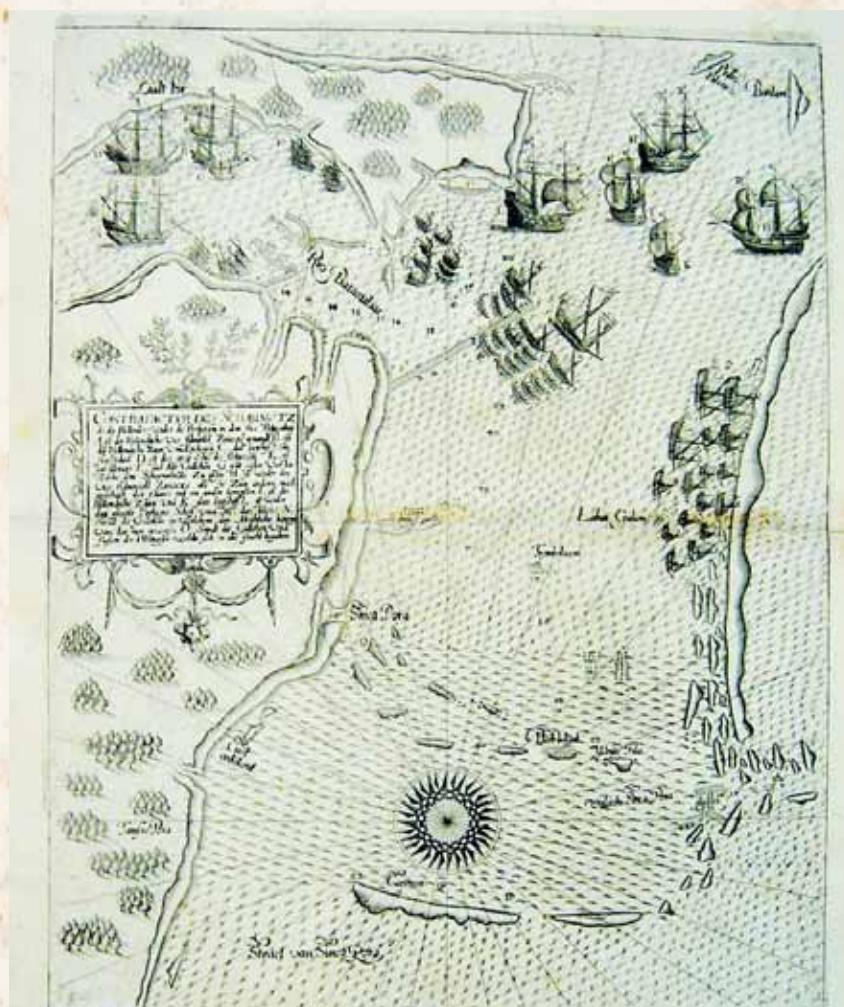
Possibly only E.G. de Eredia's maps and charts of Singapore and its surrounding region, such as the map "*Discripsao chorographica dos estreitos de Sincapura e Sabbam Aho. 1604*" (*Chorographic description of the Straits of Sincapura and Sabbam, 1604 A.D.*) can equal the de Bry's 1607 map in terms of date of engraving/publishing and in map scale on Singapore.

The 1607 map of de Bry is a double-page chart, measuring 324 x 255mm in size, uncoloured, block-printed on watermarked paper (paper size: 392 x 300mm). It shows the southern coast of "Sinca Pora" (i.e. Singapore), "Straet van Sinca Pora" (Straits of Singapore) and Valsch Sinca Pora (False Straits of Singapore). Other places shown in the map are Pedro Blanca (Pedra Branca), Carimon (Pulau Karimun), Bintam (Pulau Bintang), Oudt Ior (Old Johore or Johore Lama), Rio Batasubar (Kota Tinggi River, i.e. Johore River), etc.

The map depicts the Dutch-Portuguese naval confrontation in October 1603, on the eastern side of Singapore around the estuary of the Johore River. The Portuguese blockaded Old Johore at the mouth of the Johore River. The Dutch vessels, which gave support to the Sultan of Johore, were engaged in a battle with the Portuguese fleet. The Dutch eventually defeated the Portuguese and crushed its blockade of Johore Lama. The naval vessels are marked from A to O.

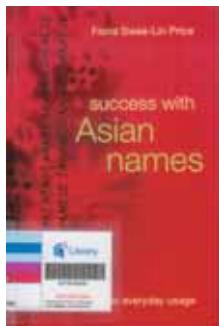
The Roman numerals at several places in the sea marked the depth of the water. A compass rose is located above the Carimon Island.

Theodore de Bry (1528-1598) was born in the Flemish town of Liége, near Brussels. He was a cartographer, engraver and publisher based in Frankfort am Main. He illustrated the multi-volume set of work, *Grands et Petits Voyages*, with some of the volumes published by his family after his death. The 1607 map depicting the Dutch-Portuguese naval battle near Singapore was one of the maps included in the set.



Theodore de Bry's map, "Contrafactur des Scharmutz els der Hollender wider die Portigesen in dem Flus Balusabar...", published in '1607'. The north is 'oriented' towards the left of the map. 'Sinca Pora' and 'Straet van Sinca Pora' (Straits of Singapore) are clearly marked on the map.

BOOK REVIEWS



SUCCESS WITH ASIAN NAMES: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO EVERYDAY USAGE

By Fiona Swee-Lin Price

Publisher: Crows Nest, N.S.W.: Allen & Unwin, 2007.

Call no.: RSEA 929.4095 PRI

Caught in a situation where you have difficulty pronouncing an Asian name? Get help with this publication, which addresses the correct way to pronounce Tamil, Malay, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Pakistani, and Thai names.

It offers interesting insights on how Asians living or studying in Western countries choose to be addressed and its social impact. The technicalities and issues of using fitting Asian names for databases designed for Western-style names are also discussed.

The book is a useful tool for those who regularly work with people of Asian background. The author runs regular courses on the usage of Asian names and is a specialist in managing cultural diversity.



THE STRAITS CHINESE HOUSE: DOMESTIC LIFE AND TRADITIONS

By Peter Lee & Jennifer Chen

Publisher: Singapore: Editions Didier Millet: National Museum of Singapore, 2006.

Call no.: RSING 305.895105957 LEE

The book covers the elaborate and unique lifestyle of the Peranakan community, which is a fusion of mainly Chinese and Malay cultures, and to a lesser degree, the Dutch, British and Portuguese. It provides a detailed description of the different chambers of the Peranakan household: the reception hall, ancestral hall, bridal chamber, kitchen, living and dining rooms. These domains are at the heart of the Peranakans' daily lives as the ceremonial and religious rituals take place within these walls.

The vocabulary of the Straits Chinese is unique for its blend of Malay and Hokkien words. Readers will find useful the glossary of Baba Malay words on page 116, which includes the origin and meanings of the words.

Included in the books are photographs capturing the intricate and elaborate costumes, jewellery and furniture of the Peranakans.



VINTAGE SINGAPORE: SOUVENIRS FROM THE RECENT PAST

By Chung May Khuon and Ong May Anne

Publisher: Singapore: Editions Didier Millet and National Museum of Singapore, 2006

Call no.: RSING 959.57 VIN -[HIS]

How was Singapore like back in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s? Vintage Singapore captivates with many photographs and illustrations of buildings, people, common everyday items and bustling public spaces of the yesteryears.

Some trivia accompanying these images include the 1966 Guinness Book of Records feat by the Kandang Kerbau Hospital, which delivered 39,835 babies and the common behaviour of Singaporeans to pour their hot beverage into a saucer to cool before drinking it.

Capitol Theatre, Roxy Theatre, tiffin carriers, porcelain cups, vinyl LPs, soft drink bottles, cinema tickets, and school textbooks are just some of the everyday objects that will evoke nostalgia for those who lived during that era. This is a great guide for those who are curious about the way life was in Singapore back in the old days.



SEJARAH KESUSASTERAAN MELAYU

Publisher: Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, 2006

Call no.: R 899.2809 SEJ

Buku ini boleh digolongkan salah sebuah bahan rujukan penting bagi sesiapa yang ingin memulakan kajian dalam bidang sastera Melayu. Sejarah Kesusasteraan Melayu ini merupakan gabungan dua jilid buku yang pernah diterbitkan oleh Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, iaitu Jilid 1 pada tahun 1981, dan Jilid 2 pada tahun 1990. Jilid 1 lebih memberikan tumpuan kepada sejarah kesusasteraan Melayu moden terutama pada peringkat awal pertumbuhannya. Ia membincangkan dan menghuraikan konsep genre sastera seperti genre puisi, cerpen, novel dan drama. Manakala, jilid 2 pula lebih membicarakan tentang perkembangan kesusasteraan Melayu moden antara tahun 1940an hingga ke tahun-tahun 1970an.

Setiap genre kesusasteraan telah dibincangkan dengan terperinci umpsamanya dari sudut sejarah, serta melihat faktor-faktor lain yang mempengaruhi perkembangannya seperti peranan para penulis yang bergiat pada waktu itu. Di antara contohnya ialah para penulis yang bergabung di dalam ASAS '50 telah menggunakan kesusasteraan untuk menimbulkan suasana yang "dinamik bagi membangunkan masyarakat, memperjuangkan keadilan, kesejahteraan, membela manusia yang tertindas di samping menyemarakkan rasa kemanusiaan yang tidak mengenal batas-batas bangsa, warna kulit dan agama". Unsur-unsur ini dapat dilihat di dalam karya-karya penyajak ASAS '50 seperti Masuri S N dan Usman Awang (Tongkat Warrant).



முடிவிலும் ஒன்று தொடரலாம்: குறுநாவல் தொகுப்பு

ஜெயந்தி சங்கர்

Publisher: சென்னை: சந்தியா பதிப்பகம், 2005

Call no.: RSING 894.811371 JAY

தாய்நாட்டைவிட்டு அயல்நாடுகளில் வாழும் மக்களின் வாழ்க்கையைப் பற்றி அறிய ஆர்வம் கொண்டவரான நூலாசிரியர் ஜெயந்தி சங்கர், அவர்களைப் பற்றி பல நூல்களும் எழுதி வெளியிட்டுள்ளார். நூலாசிரியரின் முதல் குறுநாவல் தொகுப்பான "முடிவிலும் ஒன்று தொடரலாம்" என்னும் இந்நாலில் வேண்டியது வேறில்லை", "முடிவிலும் ஒன்று தொடரலாம்", "குயவன்" ஆகிய மூன்று குறுநாவல்கள் உள்ளன. எல்லவற்றிலும் புதிய சூழலில் இவர்கள் சந்திக்கும் பிரச்சனைகள், அனுபவங்கள், அதிர்ச்சிகள் போன்றவையே நாவலின் பின்னணியாகக் கொள்ளப்பட்டுள்ளது.

சிங்கப்பூரில் உள்ள ஒரு வீட்டுக்குப் பணிப்பெண்ணாக பணிபுரியும் ஒரு பெண், தன் வாழ்க்கையை நிலைப்படுத்திக் கொள்ளும் முயற்சியைப் பற்றியதுதான் "வேண்டியது வேறில்லை". சிங்கப்பூருக்கு வாழ வந்து, பிறகு கணவனால் நம்பிக்கை இழந்து தமிழகம் திரும்பும் ஒரு பெண்ணின் கதையைப் பற்றி நூலாசிரியர் "முடிவிலும் ஒன்று தொடரலாம்" என்ற தலைப்பில் மிக அருமையாக எழுதியுள்ளார். கடைசியாக இடம்பெறும் "குயவன்" என்ற நாவல், சிங்கப்பூரிலேயே வளர்ந்து வாழ்வை அமைத்துக்கொள்ளும் ஒரு குடும்பத்தின் கதையைப் பற்றியது.

ஒவ்வொரு கதையும் மிகவும் எதார்த்தமாகவும், விறுவிறுப்பாகவும், எளிய நடையில் அனைவராலும் படித்து ரசிக்கும் வகையில் எழுதியுள்ளார் ஆசிரியர்.



民生, 民声: 民意处理组走过21年

焦点出版有限公司编

Publisher: 新加坡: 民意处理组, 联合早报, 2006

Call no.: RSING 303.380605957 MSM

设立民意处理组的建议在1985年由现任国务资政吴作栋提出,目的在于缩小政府与人民之间的距离,并建立一道有效的双向沟通桥梁。民意处理组每年收集到的反馈从设立初期的1500个,增加至现在的6000个。民意收集渠道也渐渐扩大,除了通过电话、信件、传真、电邮收集民众的反馈外,民意处理组也积极通过对话会、茶会、人民论坛、公共论坛、民意调查等途径收集民意。成立21年,民意处理组致力于确保人民提供的意见获得正视,从而促进改革。本特刊从民意处理组的起源说起,叙述收集民意的过程与发展,记录了一些成就,使读者对民意处理组的作用与重要性有更深一层的了解与认识。

NEWS

PUBLICATIONS BY THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

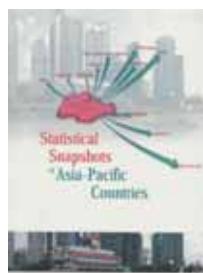
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STATISTICAL SNAPSHOTS OF ASIA-PACIFIC COUNTRIES

Publisher: Singapore: National Library Board, c2007
 ISBN: 978-981-05-8014-8
 Price: S\$50.95 (including 7% GST)

Providing a detailed comparative analysis of key socio-economic indicators of 14 countries in Asia-Pacific, Statistical Snapshots of Asia-Pacific Countries benchmarks Asian countries in education, health and employment sectors; and in key investment areas such as



media, info-communication, finance, healthcare, education, tourism and transport.

The 14 countries are Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

The publication provides descriptive as well as comparative data illustrated in tables and graphs for easy reference. It offers a compilation of indicators that were previously not available in a single publication. The information will be useful for entrepreneurs, companies and government to stay ahead of the competition.

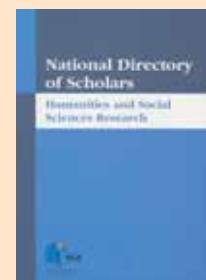
NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF SCHOLARS: HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH

Publisher: Singapore: National Library Board, 2007
 ISBN: 981-05-7273-5
 Price: S\$45.85 (including 7% GST)

This collaboration of NLB and the Arts, Humanities and Social Science faculties of universities and academic and research institutions in Singapore lists over 2,350 titles of research publications and papers by about 320 researchers. By aggregating a list of researchers in the humanities and social

science disciplines in Singapore, the directory will help create awareness of the local research landscape.

It features the profiles of researchers with information on their positions in their respective affiliated institutions, educational profiles, contact information, fields of interest, areas of expertise, current research, proficiency in specific written and spoken languages and selected significant research papers and publications.



AN INGENIOUS REVERIE: THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF YIP CHEONG FUN

Editor: Bridget Tracy Tan
 Publisher: Singapore: National Library Board, 2006
 ISBN: 981-05-5737-X
 Price: S\$32.10 (including 7% GST)

The Photography of Yip Cheong Fun was an exhibition jointly organised by the Singapore Heritage Society and the National Library Board, Singapore, held at the National Library from 15 March to 15 May 2006. This publication was produced as a companion catalogue to the exhibition. It captures Singapore's



changing landscape and people through the eyes of award-winning photographer Mr Yip Cheong Fun.

Yip's historically vivid images of Chinatown and early coastal villages document a past landscape that is no longer visible or imaginable. Much of his work revolves around religious practices, events, celebrations and activities of a bygone era, and gives a spirited overview of Yip's aesthetic and watchfulness. From being there at the right time, engaging the subject, choosing the right technique to the final shutter snap, each image contains within itself a striking yet subtly balanced composition. Together, they form a veritable record of the unique art of a master photographer, and also provide a nostalgic look at Singapore's disappearing past.

NEW PERSPECTIVES AND SOURCES ON THE HISTORY OF SINGAPORE: A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH



Editor: Derek Heng Thiam Soon
Publisher: Singapore: National Library Board, 2006
ISBN: 981-05-5980-1
Price: S\$33.60 (including 7% GST)

This publication is the culmination of a workshop held on the 16 August 2005, entitled New Insights into Singapore History: Perspectives of Emerging Scholars, which was organised by the Department of History, NUS and hosted by the National Library Board, Singapore. The workshop brought together 10 scholars from

a variety of academic disciplines, including sociology, history, political science, education studies and archaeology, to address two issues - new approaches to understanding Singapore's past; and the untapped sources of information for the writing of Singapore's history.

Going beyond the established storylines and heroes, several papers delve into the culture and contributions of groups that played a key role in parts of Singapore's growth, from churches and Malay organisations to films.

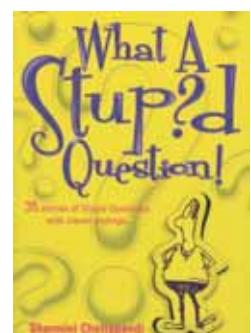
These papers are by no means authoritative works. Instead, they represent perspectives of an emerging generation of scholars who would inevitably view Singapore's past through very different lenses from those adopted by their predecessors. This publication provides a glimpse into the future possibilities of the historiography of Singapore.

WHAT A STUPID QUESTION? 35 STORIES OF STUPID QUESTIONS WITH CLEVER ENDINGS

Author: Sharmini Chellapandi
Publisher: Singapore: National Library Board, 2006
ISBN: 981-05-4879-6
Price: S\$15.25 (including 7% GST)

History is full of startling discoveries and exciting innovations. In our rush and impatience to embrace new technologies and discoveries, how often have we stopped to think about:

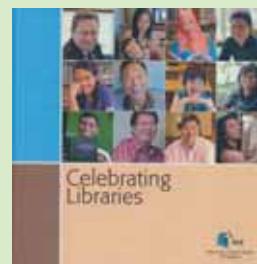
- What is the real story behind these products or ideas?
- Do we really know or even care how these ideas and things came about?
- What was that question that sparked a series of ideas and events that led to a revolutionary product?
- What was that question that transformed an innocuous idea into a multi-million dollar industry?
- What was that question that prompted the inventor to try a different track and create something that we now take for granted?



Quite often, that question would have been a stupid question, a question ahead of its time, a question that was not part of conventional thinking, a question that was borrowed from another discipline to provide the creative spark that came with the clash of ideas.

This book is a compilation of questions from diverse industries and disciplines, which aims to look for inventions, discoveries, services and ideas that have some impact on the way we live or do things. More importantly, these had to be the result of seemingly stupid questions when the idea was first mooted. It is not meant to be an exhaustive listing of questions and ideas but offers a sampling of a variety of questions that most would never have considered giving another thought.

CELEBRATING LIBRARIES



Publisher: Singapore: National Library Board, 2006
ISBN: 981-248-133-8
Price: S\$37.45 (including 7% GST)

Just how has the library transformed your life? In January 2006, the National Library Board

posed this simple question to Singaporeans round the island. It received a flood of responses, as thousands of Singaporeans from all walks of life testified to how this singular institution had helped them learn, dream, explore and grow. Celebrating Libraries is a collection of these inspiring testimonials. From touching stories by well-known personalities to humourous tales by the man on the street, the short stories form a testament to the nation's love of reading and the transformative power of libraries in Singapore.

SINGAPORE'S TRANSFORMATIVE LIBRARY



Author: K K Seet

Publisher: Singapore: National Library Board, 2005

ISBN: 981-248-107-9

Price: S\$42.80 (including 7% GST)

Written by academic Dr KK Seet, *Singapore's Transformative Library* traces the history of Singapore's public library, from its early history in the 1800s to the opening of the new National Library at Victoria Street.

Covering the library's transformation, its rich and long history and its use of technology, the coffee-table book also highlights the National Library's new home at Victoria Street and features anecdotes from prominent individuals including Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Dr Lee Seng Gee, son of the late Dr Lee Kong Chian and Chairman of the Lee Foundation.

ZHENG HE AND MARITIME ASIA

Publisher: Singapore: National Library Board, 2005

ISBN: 978-981-05-3904-7

ISBN: 981-05-3904-5

Price: S\$33.60 (including 7% GST)

Published as a companion to the Zheng He and Maritime Asia Exhibition, *Zheng He and Maritime Asia* chronicles the development of China's maritime history before the Ming dynasty, with its beginning in the Tang dynasty, through the Song and Yuan dynasties. Filled with colourful photographs and illustrations, the thread-bound book takes readers through the establishment of the Ming dynasty and Emperor Yongle's ascendancy to the throne, as well as the birth of famed Chinese explorer Zheng He and his rise to Grand Eunuch.

Accompanied by interesting details and little-known facts about the maritime trade, *Zheng He and Maritime Asia* offers a captivating insight into the building of the treasure fleet and ancient Chinese shipbuilding and navigation techniques, including the use of navigation chart and water compass. It describes how the ports of call visited by Zheng He - including Southeast Asia, South Asia, Middle East and East Africa - why the voyages eventually ended and why China decided to withdraw from international trade and diplomatic relations.

Zheng He's voyages have left a lasting legacy as well as made a significant impact on Singapore's history and development. This book also contains a segment on the early history of Singapore, as well as descriptions of the now-defunct rock outcrops at Labrador Park - the Longyamen (Dragon Teeth Gate), which served as a navigation marker for Zheng He's fleet.



MANAGING REGIONAL CHANGE: SINGAPORE IN A LARGER ASIA

By Rokiah Mentol, Reference Specialist, Publishing and Research Services, National Library

On 17 May 2007, the National Library Board organised its first in a series of colloquia on "Managing Change: Singapore in a Larger Asia" with the Asia Competitiveness Institute, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. The event was graced by keynote speakers, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, former Foreign Minister of Thailand, and Professor Philippe Lasserre, Emeritus Professor of Strategy and Asian Business, INSEAD.

Dr Surin Pitsuwan shared insights on managing change in Asia within the framework of ASEAN as well as from

Singapore's perspective. He noted 'all roads in ASEAN lead to Singapore' and to the rest of the region'. This can be seen both as a blessing and a responsibility for Singapore, posing a very challenging prospect. ASEAN and its 500 million people are at different stages of development, with different political systems, cultures, religions, and values. Meanwhile, Singapore has always played by the rule of law and planned for its consistent growth. The challenge for Singapore therefore is to drive positive changes without making the rest of ASEAN feel left behind. He emphasised the importance of Singapore-based NGO's contributing to the region to better the lives of ASEAN citizens.

In meeting new challenges, Professor Philippe Lasserre suggested that Singapore adopt a more bottom-up approach, particularly in a business environment where creativity and innovation are crucial in order to sustain business

success and a competitive edge. Professor Lasserre presented Singapore's success strategy from his point of view. The four components making up the framework are ambition (achievement of mission statement), organisations (agencies driving the process), capabilities (developing the enablers), and positioning (achieving the targets).



Dr Surin Pitsuwan, former Foreign Minister of Thailand, delivering the first keynote address

This was followed by an economic panel and a social panel discussion. The economic panelists raised several challenges and recommended that Singapore's contribution to the region could come in the form of value-adding towards the region's growth and development. Singapore can be a facilitator between the Arabs and international businessmen on the one hand, and ASEAN on the other, especially because of expanding business interest in Asia. The Economic Panel was chaired by Associate

Professor Euston Quah, Head of Economics, Nanyang Technological University, with panelists Mr Jim Baker, author of *The Eagle in the Lion City: America, Americans and Singapore*, Professor Lasserre and Mr Bouchaib Silm, Research Analyst, Middle East Expert.



Prof Philippe Lasserre, Emeritus Professor of Strategy and Asian Business, INSEAD, delivering the second keynote address

The social panel raised issues pertaining to environmental, energy and human security. They reflected on opportunities for Singapore to ride on the current sizzling classical music wave in China. On culture,

the panelists felt that it ought to be promoted subtly and whilst stereotyping is common, it can lead to polarisation. Professor Amitav Acharya of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies chaired the social panel. The panelists comprised Dr Geh Min, President of the Nature Society of Singapore, Ms Min Lee, a renowned Singaporean violinist and Mr Dilip Mukerjea, Managing Director, Braindancing International.

The colloquia also saw the launch of two of National Library's publications, *Statistical Snapshots of Asia-Pacific Countries* and *National Directory of Scholars: Humanities and Social Sciences*. Professor Neo

Boon Siong, Director, Asia Competitiveness Institute, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, co-launched *Statistical Snapshots* with the colloquia's Guest of Honour, Mr Yatiman Yusof, and National Library Distinguished Reader and Ms Ngian Lek Choh, Director, National Library. Associate

Professor Tan Tai Yong, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore co-launched the *National Directory of Scholars* with the Director, National Library.



(From left) Ms Ngian Lek Choh, Director, National Library, Mrs Hedwig Anuar, Distinguished Reader and former Director, National Library and Mr R Ramachandran, Distinguished Reader and former Director, National Library

The event was graced by the presence of Mrs Hedwig Anuar and Mr R Ramachandran, both National Library Distinguished Readers and former Directors of the National Library. The event, a rare occasion, brought together three Directors of the National Library, including the current Director, Ms Ngian Lek Choh.

Others include *Singapore Honours*, an exhibition in collaboration with Eng Leong Medallie Industries Pte Ltd (ELM), which showcased the complete awards of the Prime Minister's Office and the various uniformed services of Singapore.

Imprints of the Past: Remembering the 1966 Woodcut Show displayed the original 1966 woodblock prints, which were exhibited at the old Stamford Road National Library 40 years ago.

The Lim Boon Keng: A Life to Remember exhibition was jointly organised with the Settlement of Dr Lim Boon Keng (1921) and Singapore Heritage Society. It featured the multi-faceted life of Dr Lim Boon Keng and presented issues on identity, ideals and social problems of Singapore and Chinese Society during his lifetime.

Exhibitions add a different dimension to enrich visitor experience

EXHIBITIONS AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

By Low Kwee Fah, Deputy Director, Publicity and Exhibitions, National Library

Exhibitions have formed part of the regular landscape of the National Library since it was re-opened in July 2005. A total of 70 exhibitions were showcased from July 2005 to March 2007 attracting over 931,000 visitors. Of these, two are permanent exhibitions focusing on the story of the National Library and the literary heritage of Singapore. *The Zheng He and Maritime Asia* exhibition was presented from August 05 to February 2006 to commemorate the 600th anniversary of the Zheng He voyages to Southeast Asia.

Aksara: The Passage of Malay Scripts, which traced the different writing systems used in the Malay world, from the ancient Indic scripts of Pallava and Kawi to the more modern Jawi and Roman scripts, was staged from January to June 2007.

and also to stimulate research. More importantly it creates opportunities for partnerships with organisations of mutual interests and objectives, to enhance knowledge and to strengthen the network of experts and institutions.

This is an opportune moment to record our acknowledgement and appreciation to all our partners for their assistance, support and sponsorship for all the exhibitions held at the National Library.

We are also very encouraged by the feedback from our visitors. Thank you and keep the comments coming for our future exhibitions!

Aksara: The Passage of Malay Scripts

- 'Exhibition helps visitors to know about Malay history' by Mr Luqman Al Hakim (Berita Harian, 4 April 2007)

"I had the opportunity to visit the Aksara exhibition at the National Library. As a Malay, I am proud of NLB's decision to exhibit the collection of old books and the Quran. To me, this would help visitors, including students like me, to understand the Malay history and the coming of Islam in this region. All exhibited items, which included the different writings



Guest-of-Honour, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs, officiating at the launch of Aksara: The Passage of Malay Scripts on 18 January 2007

in Jawi and Sanskrit and the different language manuscripts available are incredible. I would like to congratulate NLB for bringing this exhibition. I hope more would visit the exhibition."

- "Love the 'Syair' and the lighting. It gives us greater insight into Malay culture ('Syair'). Keep up the good work!" - Elvina Chieng Tze Ming, Malaysia
- "This exhibition helped me to better understand and appreciate my mother tongue, my culture and made me realise the beauty of it all." - Khairul, Singapore

Imprints of the Past: Remembering the 1966 Woodcut Show

- "Congratulations! This is a wonderful reunion of a group of friends and our second-generation artists." - Prof Tommy Koh, Chairman, National Heritage Board

From Books to Bytes: The Story of the National Library

- "Balances nostalgia with the present and future of the board well." - Tan Xinmin, Singapore



Woodcut prints of the six artists from the Woodcut Exhibition back in 1966, which was held at the old National Library, Stamford Road

Lim Boon Keng: A Life to Remember

- "Magnificent exhibition - well researched, methodically presented, easy on the eyes, pleasant ambience, beautiful layout, exciting exhibits and breath-taking photos. If not for this exhibition, I would never realise the significant influence and contributions by Dr Lim Boon Keng, compatriots and friends." - Emily



Entrance to Aksara: The Passage of Malay Scripts



Singapore's war heroine, Elizabeth Choy (deceased) at the launch of the Singapore Honours Exhibition on 5 July 2006



From Books to Bytes: The Story of National Library - a permanent exhibition at Level 5 of the National Library

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD AND RAFFLES INSTITUTION SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

By Eunice Low, Manager, Heritage and Asia, National Library

The National Library Board and Raffles Institution (RI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 26 April 2007 to formulate a strategic partnership in the provision of RI's collection of rare documents to the public, and to the research and literary communities in particular. The collection comprises over 100 documents, which include original letters written by Sir Stamford Raffles. They include personal letters, music scores and photographs, pertaining to the Singapore Institution



Ms Ngian Lek Choh, Director, National Library and Mr Koh Chin Nguang, Headmaster, Raffles Institution signing the MOU

(now known as Raffles Institution). They cover topics from the establishment of the Singapore Institution to annual reports, funding appeals and employment applications. The letters date back as early as 1823 and Sir Stamford Raffles' letters in particular, are a welcome addition to the National Library's existing collection of Raffles' other letters.

The National Library will provide the rare materials preservation and storage facilities for the collection and at the same time, make these materials available to the public through digitisation. "With access to such rare materials, we hope that it contributes to creating a greater awareness of our nation's shared history and heritage, and in the process, build our sense of rootedness in the modern fast-paced world we live in today", said Ms Ngian Lek Choh, Director, National Library.

The MOU provides an avenue to preserve the rich history of RI. Said Mr Koh Chin Nguang, Headmaster, Raffles Institution, "As we leverage on the strengths of the National Library in preserving and yet making heritage materials available to the public, RI is pleased to do its part in contributing to our society and hopes that other organisations and individuals with heritage materials will do the same in building up our sense of national history and pride."

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL STORY TELLING FESTIVAL 2007 24 AUGUST - 9 SEPTEMBER 2007



Come August, top acts from these shores and beyond will charge audiences up with electrifying performances by the world's finest storytellers. Be entertained and inspired by marvellous tales of mythical lands and magical beasts at the **International Storytellers Showcase**. Re-live the stirring tales that once held you spellbound as virtuoso storytellers breathe new life into our ancient aspirations and most cherished dreams at the **Sayang Singapore** - uniquely performed to celebrate Singapore's National Day.

Organised by the National Book Development Council of Singapore and The Arts House, these spectacular performances are part of the Singapore International Story Telling Festival 2007 (SISF 2007) offerings. Following the successful run of the previous programme, held in August 2006, SISF 2007 returns this year with an even more impressive line-up comprising international and local talents - a stellar cast of more than 20 renowned storytellers.

This traditional art form is also imbued with novel significance as acclaimed storytellers take to the workplace, with a growing awareness of the role of stories in professional advancement.

Share insights on developing marketing and brand messages with Evelyn Clark, American author of *Around the Corporate Campfire: How great Leaders Use Stories to Inspire Success* and workshop leader for multinational companies such as Microsoft, Western Wireless and World Vision. Evelyn promises a truly enriching experience as she reveals the processes behind the crafting of coherent organisational rhetoric that chart direction and purpose.



Renowned international storytellers tell a rich repertoire of folktales, myths and legends in intriguing styles that are representative of their home countries at International Storytellers Showcase

Storytelling is also given a green twist as Fran Stalling incorporates her concern and respect for the environment into a rich repertoire of stories. A storyteller, author, and recording artist with a PhD in Biology, Fran has delighted audiences



Original letters from the Raffles Institution collection on display

around the world with her unique blend of timeless classics and original creations, most of which impart scientific concepts and environmental conservation concerns.

Not forgetting our staple favourites on the menu: Antonio Rocha, acclaimed mime artist and literary arts performer; Rosemarie Somaiah, one of Singapore's best-selling children's author and much-loved storyteller; Emily Cooper, versatile dancer and one of the leading artistes in Australia. Catch all these at the **Asian Congress of Storytellers**.

With such an eclectic mix of talents and composite of different styles, SISF 2007 seems poised to be the cultural event of the year!

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Log on to www.bookcouncil.sg/sisf
Email: sisf@bookcouncil.sg / Tel: 6848 8290

Organisers:



Panel of experts at Asian Congress of Storytellers sharing their experiences and insights on the diverse usage of story telling during the Story Clinic session

CONFERENCES BY THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

The National Library Board is hosting the following two international conferences and we would like to invite you to join us at these exciting events.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DUBLIN CORE AND METADATA APPLICATIONS

27- 31 August 2007, Hotel Intercontinental

DC-2007 in Singapore will be the seventh in a series of conferences previously held. The 5-day conference will bring together world-renowned specialists from the private and public sectors, the networking and digital library research communities, knowledge management, e-government and public sector information and of course, the library world. The theme for this year's event is "**Application Profiles: Theory and Practice**".

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- * Keynotes from Johannes Keizer, a dynamic presenter who covers everything from Large Knowledge and Information Management Systems to Web2.0 and Zhang Xiaoxing with the inside story on the China Digital Library.
- * Seminars dealing with the Semantic Web featuring Ivan Herman, the Semantic Web Activity Lead at W3C, a world authority on his subject; practical metadata decision-making with Diane Hillman, an "accidental librarian" who specialises in Resource Description and Access and the Semantic Web, an early shaper of DCMI with a passion for standards, and Sarah Pulis whose interests cover Resource Description

Framework (RDF), metamodels and the Unified Modeling Language (UML) as well as Dublin Core.

* Paper Sessions

- Conceptual Modelling - looks at East Asian language data and configuring forms to edit RDF
- Project Reports - on Singapore's SCROL, DCMI Tools Application profile, the DRIADE Project, education.au and its metadata for events, enhanced reusability of learning objects and the development of audience-centric taxonomies
- Application Profiles - including their development, exposing and enforcing metadata quality and the work by JISC on Service registries
- Identification, Registries and Reuse - covers usability and reusability of metadata schemas, identifying the identifiers and developing web-based virtual exhibitions
- Metadata Generation and Integration - considers Dublin Core metadata for cultural heritage collections, and automatic metadata generation systems
- Special Sessions - give an insight into ontology modelling and resource description and access.
- Tutorials - provide those new to DC a chance to find out what all the fuss is about, feature sessions on basic semantics, syntaxes, vocabularies and application profiles.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- * Anyone who works with or is interested in metadata in general and Dublin Core in particular.
- * Service providers who are interested in new projects/initiatives and approaches to metadata solutions.

ONLINE REGISTRATION & EARLY BIRD SPECIALS

Enjoy a discount on the conference fees if you register by 9 July 2007.

10TH IFLA INTERLENDING AND DOCUMENT SUPPLY (ILDS) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

29 - 31 October 2007, National Library Singapore

The 3-day conference is expected to bring together over 200 information and knowledge professionals and business leaders from all over the world to engage in insightful exchanges on the theme **"Resource Sharing for the Future, Building Blocks for Success"**.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- * Future directions in resource sharing - learn about a new revolutionary global initiative that is user-focused, and how it opens up the possibility of sharing resources from the libraries directly with individuals.
- * Be inspired by case studies on how libraries deal with copyright issues and their creativity in employing the latest tools and building blocks for eg. Google Scholar to expand and enhance library services.
- * Conference speakers include:
 - Mr Mike McGrath, Editor of the Interlending and Document Supply Journal
 - Mr Mat Pfleger, Head of Sales and Marketing, The British Library
 - Dr Harald Muller, Director of the Library at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law
 - Ms Ngian Lek Choh, Director of the National Library, Singapore
 - Ms Anne Beaubien, Director, Cooperative Access Services and Grants Officer of the University of Michigan Library (Hatcher Graduate Library)
 - Other speakers from around the world (America, Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Library administrators, librarians, information specialists/managers in the public, national or academic libraries who

There is a range of options available to delegates including:
 Full conference + Full tutorials + Full seminars (5 days) - S\$1,100
 Full Tutorial package (4 tutorials) - S\$400

Please register online via this link <http://www.dc2007.sg>.

For more information, please visit our conference website at <http://www.dc2007.sg> or email us your queries at dc2007@nlb.gov.sg.



are working with or interested in the aspects of interlending and document supply services.

- Service providers who are interested in new projects/initiatives and approaches in the interlending and document supply developments.

ONLINE REGISTRATION & EARLY BIRD SPECIALS

Enjoy a discount of S\$100 off the conference fees if you register by 31 July 2007.

** IFLA MEMBER:

- a) S\$540 (early bird registration by 31 July 07)
- b) S\$640 (registration on/after 1 August 07)

* NON-IFLA MEMBER:

- a) S\$620 (early bird registration by 31 July 07)
- b) S\$720 (registration on/after 1 August 07)

Please register online via this link
<http://www.nlbconference.com/ilds/registration.htm>.

BLOG YOUR THOUGHTS

The ILDS Conference Blog is up and running! So feel free to give us your comments, suggestions or just drop us short notes on what you think could help us make the event a success. We will also be periodically updating information via the blog page so do check in regularly at <http://www.nlbconference.com/ilds> for more conference knick-knacks.

For more information, please visit our conference website at <http://www.nlbconference.com/ilds> or email us your queries at jenny@singex.com.sg.

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