

# PHT *newsletter*

PENANG HERITAGE TRUST • PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG

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## Suffolk House

"We may do well these days to look to the future but no person of any imagination can live in Penang without also dreaming sometime of the past.

Suffolk House is emphatically worth saving.

**To neglect it any longer would be a blunder.**

**To destroy it now would be a crime"**

Professor C. Northcote Parkinson,  
University of Malaya

We urge you to make a special effort to participate in the PHT's campaign to save Penang's first great house.

Display your

**SAVE**

*Suffolk  
House*

brochure

in your office, club, association, school, shop, studio, house, anywhere.

Get a few more (RM5 each) and give them to those of your friends who might have an interest in conservation

and want to play their part in making an old dream

— *Saving Suffolk House* —  
come true.

## Letters

### Suffolk House Restoration Project PHT Fund-raising Campaign

Dear Fellow PHT Members,

You may be pleased to know that we have made some further progress in our efforts to restore Suffolk House, thanks largely to your support.

We have decided to launch a general appeal for funds and for that purpose we have prepared a brochure, copies of which are enclosed with this newsletter. We hope to raise RM2.5 million over the next three years to restore the building completely by 1998 when the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur will be held. This will not include furniture and service buildings which will be a separate exercise altogether.

Basically we are going to appeal to the leading companies in Malaysia to donate RM35,000 a year for the next three years. We reckon that if we could get 25 companies to agree to this plan we would be able to raise a sufficient amount to complete the restoration.

We have cause to be pleased with the modest progress we have achieved in the last few years, and we look forward to your continued support and encouragement.

*Ahmad Chik*

*Suffolk House Project Co-ordinator*

## "Heritage in Tourism"

Dear Teong Kooi, I think the "Heritage in Tourism" seminar has had some positive reactions. I received from Ken Chamberlain, the Executive Director of PATA Foundation, the following letter:

*Many thanks for the arrangements that you made for Robbie Collins and me and for all the hospitality that was extended to us. Both of us enjoyed our stay in Penang very much. The atmosphere throughout our stay was both friendly and positive. Georgetown does have a great store of heritage. I hope that the workshop will help to encourage more people to join with you and the Penang Heritage Trust in trying to save it. You stressed to me, before the workshop started, the dollars and cents side of heritage. I fully agree with you on this. It may be unfortunate in development oriented areas like Penang, it is the economic value or the perception thereof that carries a great deal of weight.*

*In such situations, it is important that the value of this heritage can be optimised by providing opportunities for both locals and visitors to spend money in the heritage area. I say optimised rather than maximised since over commercialisation needs to be avoided if success is to be sustainable. Visitor expenditure in the surrounding commercial areas should also be developed. Surveys of the economic impact of the area can then be useful in providing the statistics that we all live by these days."*

I have also received a letter from a Mrs M. P. Johnson, an English lady, who has been a frequent visitor to Penang for the last 16 years. She is concerned about the future of Lone Pine Hotel which I am aware is one of the first beach hotels at Batu Ferringhi and as such has the status of a heritage hotel. It is heartwarming that people from so far away are concerned about how we protect our heritage and I hope that closer to home more people will come forward to take on projects and to participate in attempts to keep our original built environment intact. I am forwarding to you her self-explanatory letter:

*Following the newspaper report of your seminar held at the E&O Hotel concerning Penang's heritage, may I draw the attention of your organisation to the Lone Pine Hotel at Batu Ferringhi.*

*Before World War II, it was a planter's house; during the war, it was used as a Japanese sergeants' mess. After the war, it was converted to a hotel by the Lim family, and has remained so ever since 1948. I believe the old hotel is subject to a preservation order. I hope also that the fine rows of casuarina trees along the east of the original buildings; this should not be allowed to affect the air of tranquility that Lim and his family sought to achieve. The old Lone Pine is a fine example of early tourist development, and should be protected and conserved.*

*Another point of historical interest is the tomb of Francis Light in the cemetery near the E&O Hotel in Georgetown. Might I suggest that it be included in the places of interest in your*

*Penang Heritage Trail leaflets when they are reprinted? Thank you for your attention and your concern for heritage protection in Penang.*

I am happy that as a result of the seminar one travel agent has come forward and is planning to promote the heritage area for their incentive programmes scheduled in June and October 1995. I am looking forward to making these excursions to the heritage area a success. All these will depend not only on the efforts of the organisers but also on those of the traders, the residents who live there, the owners of the buildings, the authorities and the general public. Any efforts, no matter how small, will help towards making Penang a more memorable place.

**Tengku Idaura**

*Chairman Penang Heritage Technical Committee*

## A deplorable episode in the story of our successful industrialisation programme

Dear Mr TKTan, I notice that several NGOs have come out to comment in the newspapers on the dumping of chemical substances, potent enough to kill several million of us, at Pulau Pangkor by a company I am ashamed to say is based in Penang.

Does the PHT have an opinion to express about this deplorable episode in the story of our successful industrialisation programme?

**Outraged PHT member**

Dear Outraged PHT member, I am sure all of us do have something to say about those of our fellow Penangites who wish to contribute to our progress and prosperity by poisoning us.

I think seminars and dialogues like the one recently held in Kuala Lumpur about Islamic and Confucian ethics should be organised not so much for our intellectuals but our great entrepreneurial community. It must now be plain to everyone that there are those among our entrepreneurs who think nothing of endangering our environment, our heritage, even our lives. The wretched perpetrators of the cyanide dumping seem unable to understand the enormity of their offense. They show no remorse, only a readiness to accuse the authorities, the public, the media of becoming hysterical over "only a small matter". They should be dumped behind bars for a very long time to think about where their ruthless pursuit of the root of all envy has finally led them.

## New Members

We welcome the following as ordinary members of the PHT. They can nominate, vote, stand for elections, and take part in any of the PHT's activities.

Viveca Wolf	Phang Siew Bee
Jack Ong Chong Teik	Aria Kovatzis
Ganesh Kolandaveloo	Ong Teng Sun
Lim Hooi Siang	Ian James Kerr