

# PHT *newsletter*

PENANG HERITAGE TRUST • PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG

c/o 11 Free School Road, 11600 Penang • Fax/Tel: 04 - 281 3187

Number 18

August 1995

## *A Reminder !!!*

### AGM

Notice is hereby given again that the  
**PENANG HERITAGE TRUST**  
(PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG)

#### **Annual General Meeting 1995**

will be held

on **Saturday 29 July**

at **2.30 pm**

at the **E&O Hotel**

(Straits Room)

Farquhar Street

### Agenda

1. To consider and approve
  - a) the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 1994
  - b) the report of the PHT Council
  - c) the accounts for the previous year
2. To elect the PHT Council for the term 1995-1997
3. Other Matters

**Members are all urged to attend this important meeting!**

(Included in this PHTnewsletter is the Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31 December 1994. The Minutes of the AGM 1994 and the Report of the Council ending July 1995 have been sent to you as part of the July PHTnewsletter. Please bring along all these reports with you to the AGM)

Light refreshments will be served

## **"Appeal to save Malaysia link"**

Suffolk House makes news in the British press. Richard Smith of the East Anglian Daily Times writes:

RESIDENTS of a tiny Suffolk village have appealed to businesses and tour operators for support in saving an historical building in Malaysia which was built by a former villager.

Francis Light was born in Dallinghoo, near Woodbridge, in 1740 and educated at Woodbridge School. He founded the Penang island colony, which was to become a thriving trade centre, in 1786 and was its first governor.

Capt Light built a magnificent "Anglo-Indian Garden House" to be the governor's home and it was used by Stamford Raffles to debate the founding of Singapore as a second British settlement.

But the building has fallen into a serious state of decay and an appeal has been launched to restore it in time for the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Malaysia.

John Richardson, of Dallinghoo, has been closely involved in the links between the village and Malaysia, and in 1990 he helped to organise a Malaysian weekend to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the baptism of Capt Light in the parish church.

Mr Richardson said: "They are anxious to restore the building and need about 1 million pounds. The Foreign Office tell me that they sent 7,500 pounds to stabilise the building in 1993.

"Possibly there is scope here for persuading the tour operators to become involved and help with the preservation of historic buildings in Penang along National Trust lines so that visitors to the games can see our heritage in these parts at the same time."

The restoration plans include the possibility of using Suffolk House as a heritage museum and research centre; as a venue for public functions or as a rest house.

*East Anglian Daily Times (18 May, 1995)*

*"A most interesting" book  
by yet another PHT member!!*

## ***Blood and the Soil***

*A Portrait of Dr Ong Chong Keng*

by Pamela Ong

*Dr Ong Chong Keng was a man of rare distinction. He was more than a leader of the Chinese Community; he was a leader of the peoples of Malaya. To the service of this country he dedicated a brilliant array of gifts. He had the courageous heart of a soldier, the cultured mind of a scholar and the noble vision of a statesman. He was a memorable Malayan patriot.*

— Malcolm MacDonald

Pamela Ong's sensitive portrait of Dr Ong Chong Keng captures both the private and public faces of the man: the boy who, armed with determination and a keen intellect, overcame the limitations of his humble beginnings to establish himself as an eminent doctor in the Penang community; the forthright politician whose witty and eloquent speeches demonstrate his mastery of public speaking and his belief in the power of reason and moderation; the man who enjoyed the company of women and the pleasures of life; the tender and affectionate father.

— Times Editions

Pamela Ong ..... has written a most interesting biography – one to be emulated by other Malaysians. She has an easy, appealing style – reader-friendly and yet mature as well as learned.

She is also to her credit, objective – as objective as it is possible to be, when one is writing about one's father. She hides little even if, at times, she is not wholly explicit. She has endeavoured to help the reader gain an insight into the man and her work is far from being a mere panegyric.

One who can write so well, rightly should write some more ..... I have repeatedly said that history writing is not the monopoly of the professional historians. Pamela Ong, I believe, has clearly demonstrated that I am right.

— Professor Dato' Khoo Khay Kim  
Department of History, University of Malaya

Available at:

6 Church Street (Phoenix Printers)

11 Free School Road (PHT office)

All leading Penang bookstores

RM59.50 (Hardcover)

RM39.90 (Softcover)

## Talk and Slide Show

### **Education in Conservation**

by Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee

Saturday 5 August • 4.30pm

Wesley Methodist Church

136 Burmah Road

This talk, specially organised for the senior members of the Methodist Church and their friends, is aimed at making the people of Penang more aware and appreciative of their city's rich architectural heritage.

Ms Loh-Lim, PHT Council member, is the inspiration behind the restoration of the famous Cheong Fatt Tse mansion, one of three and the largest of its kind outside China.

If you wish to attend the talk please contact:

Mr Teoh Eng Saik, ☎ 261 8871

## **New Members**

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

Penny Ramsay      Chan Phooi San  
Laurence Loh Kwong Yu

*An art exhibition  
by another PHT talent!!*

## **Penang in Peril**

### **A Painted Heritage**

Alan James Flux, M.A.

20 August – 10 September

11am – 6pm daily (closed on Mondays)

The Art Gallery, 7 Gottlieb Road

A collection of paintings in oil, acrylic and water-colour of heritage subjects in and around George Town.

Alan Flux studied at the University of Brighton, Kingston University, and the Royal College of Art. Trained originally in fashion design, he has always been inspired by tropical colonial architecture and now spends as much time as possible travelling and painting. He confesses that on his first visit to George Town, "it was love at first sight, and I was very happy to discover the Penang Heritage Trust and to give them what little support I can in order that they may help to save some of what remains of this fascinating city".

Official opening: Sunday 20 August, 11am.  
All PHT members are welcome.

For further information please contact:  
Dr Tan Chee Khuan, ☎ 368 219

PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG  
PENANG HERITAGE TRUST  
ANNUAL REPORT 1994/1995

**1. PHT Council for the Term 1993-1995**

Dato' Nazir Ariff, *President*  
Dr Choong Sim Poey, *Vice-president*  
Khoo Salma Nasution, *Hon Secretary*  
Mr Kenny Ong Kean Lee, *Hon Treasurer*

En Ahmad Chik  
Tengku Idaura  
Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee

Dr Amiruddin Fawzi  
Mr James Lee

**2. Projects**

**Suffolk House and Heritage Park**

The PHT has stabilised the building with money donated by The British High Commission and SOCFIN, the French Plantation Management Company based in Malaysia. SACON, the South Australian Heritage Unit, had earlier paid for the dilapidation survey done by two of their experts. The fund-raising has been encouraging. The PHT printed a brochure in full colour giving details of the project and sent it to all its members and to those Malaysian companies which might have an interest in saving the building. Two leading local corporations – Yeoh Teong Lay Corp Bhd and The Fort Canning Country Club Investment Ltd – have offered, separately, to restore and maintain the building as well as the heritage park. The PHT will study their proposals before deciding whether or not to support any one of them. Meanwhile there is news that The Ministry of Culture has approved RM2 million for the restoration.

Last year the PHT wrote to the State Government urging it to draw up without further delay the legal documents that would enable it to carry out the formal exchange of land between the MPPP and the Methodist Church. The State has now appointed Y B Mdm Kee to attend to the matter.

En Ahmad Chik is the PHT co-ordinator of this difficult project. Dato' Nazir Ariff has the unenviable task of raising the funds.

**The Syed Alatas Mansion**

The mansion built in the mid-19th century is now completely restored – with money from the Federal Government (RM600,000), the State Government (RM400,000), and the MPPP (RM200,000). The French Government provided the technical expertise.

Khoo Salma Nasution was the main PHT promoter of this pilot conservation project. The State Government appointed her as the Project Manager.

**The Heritage Centre Penang**

The Heritage Centre Penang, what used to be referred to as The Heritage Resource Centre, is now housed at the restored Syed Alatas – with permission from the MPPP who owns the building. The French Government donated RM250,000 to help get it started.

Tengku Idaura and Khoo Salma Nasution played no small part in promoting this project. The State Government appointed Tengku Idaura as Chairman of the Centre's Protom Committee.

**The Cheong Fatt Tse Mansion**

This is a private sector undertaking. Nonetheless, the PHT Council is proud to put on record here that one of its members, Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee, is the inspiration behind the rehabilitation of this truly magnificent building.

**Protestant Cemetery**

The PHT has cleaned up this historic cemetery, now regularly visited by tourists, with financial assistance from SOCFIN. The news is that The Ministry of Culture has approved RM100,000 for the project. The money, if and when it comes, will be used to further restore and maintain the place. Ms Loh-Lim gave much time and energy to this project.

**PHT Museum Shop**

The idea here is to refurbish the Penang Hill Railway coach on exhibit at the Penang Museum and use it as a gift shop. The PHT hopes that one of its more enterprising members will take up the challenge. The PHT Council has allocated RM5,000 towards the project.

Mr James Lee is in charge of the project.



### Heritage Education Programme

Ms Loh-Lim has taken her 2-hour Talk and Slide Show 'Education in Conservation' to six of our schools. Three of them have started their heritage club. We are still waiting for the target schools – Penang Free School, St Georges Girls School, Convent Green Lane, etc – to respond to our offer to visit them. ESCOY (Eastern Smelting Group of Companies) is donating RM5,000 towards the programme.

### PHT Cultural Tours Programme

Khoo Salma Nasution ran a course based on the American Express Penang Heritage Trail Familiarization Programme, which she had written, for members of the PHT over three Sundays in January this year. Eight members successfully completed the programme which involved two routes and are now officially PHT tour guides. Mr James Lee is in charge of them.

Over the past year we have taken many of the PHT's friends and well-wishers, both foreign and local, on tours of the inner city, the Syed Alatas, the Cheong Fatt Tse, Suffolk House, and Penang Hill. They include **Mr Graham Inggerson**, the South Australian Minister for Trade and Tourism; the **Comte de Ribes**, the Director of SOCFIN; **The Hon Gareth Evans**, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs; **Mrs M J F Logan**, the Secretary to the British High Commissioner; **John and Jill Richardson** from Dallighoo, Suffolk, the county of Light's birth; **Mr Yuichi Mori**, **Mr Yasuaki Sato**, and other Trade Representatives from the Japanese Local Governments; **Mr Katsuakura Kihara**, the President of the Nara Machidukuri Heritage Centre Japan; **Penny Ramsay**, the Secretary of the Asia and West Pacific Network of Urban Conservation (AWPNUC), of which the PHT is a founder member; **Mark Yeoh** of Yeoh Teong Lay Corp Bhd; **Mr Lim Chee Yong**, the Group General Manager of the Fort Canning Country Club Investment Ltd; **Bruce Pettman** and his team of experts from the South Australian Heritage Unit SACON; and **Dr David Jones** and students from the University of Adelaide.

### 4. Hotel Metropole

Dolphin Square demolished the turn-of-the-century building without the MPPP's permission in December '93. The PHT held a press conference and made several statements urging the MPPP to order Dolphin Square to rebuild Metropole. Which the MPPP did, giving Dolphin Square six months, then one and a half years, to accomplish the task. It also took Dolphin Square to court for illegal demolition. The case came before the magistrate's court recently. Dolphin Square pleaded guilty as charged under the Town and Country Planning Act 1976 and was fined RM10,000. The MPPP thinks the fine is inadequate and is appealing against the sentence.

Dolphin Square has still not rebuilt Metropole. It is instead proposing to put a 39-storey hotel where Metropole once stood. According to *The Star*, the plans have been submitted to the MPPP and they "include rebuilding the facade of Metropole Hotel as the hotel frontage with the high-rise structure behind". The Town and Country Planning Act 1976, Federal law, states and in no uncertain terms that those found guilty of tearing down any building illegally are required "to restore the land to its original condition". The PHTnewsletter says it is clear the MPPP has no choice but to insist that Dolphin Square put Metropole together again brick by brick, tile by pre-war tile, and also at exactly the same spot where it used to stand. There can be no such thing as rebuilding Metropole nearer to Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah or its facade (face towards the street) only, so as to create space for some high-rise block behind. It is left to be seen whether the MPPP's first concern here is recovering the integrity of the Metropole land.

### 5. The Building Conservation Advisory Committee

When the listed Metropole came tumbling down over the Christmas of '93 the PHT agitated for a heritage advisory committee to be set up by the MPPP. The MPPP responded by forming the Building Conservation Advisory Committee (BCAC). The BCAC is made up of the Penang Heritage Trust, Malaysian Architects Association (Northern Chapter), Housing Developers Association, Rate Payers Association, Malaysian Nature Society, the Institutes of Malaysian Planners, Engineers, and Surveyors, and other NGOs and interested groups in the State.

The first part of the BCAC's report – 'Planning Guidelines and Incentives for Heritage Development' – was submitted to the MPPP in September '94. The final part – 'Identification and Listing of Heritage Buildings' – is due to be ready soon.

Dr Choong Sim Poey is the Chairman of this committee. Khoo Salma is the PHT representative.



## 6. Heritage Trees

PHT Annual Report 1994/1995

The MPPP marked 26 roadside heritage trees for the axe, claiming that they were all diseased. En Ahmad Chik had the trees examined by experts from the University Science Malaysia who found that several of them were in fact not decaying and could go on for many more years to come. The PHT, the MNS, and others protested against the destruction of the healthy trees and as a result that glorious Rain Tree at the junction of Jalan Utama and Brook Road was spared the chain-saw.

## 7. The PHTnewsletter

The PHTnewsletter first appeared in February '94. Since then we have had 17 issues. Tan Teong Kooi edits it.

## 8. PHT T-shirt

The PHT "Treasure Your Heritage" T-shirt is becoming quite a collectors item among PHT members and visitors to George Town. So far we have made 464 shirts, sold 330, and given away as presents 47. We have 87 left.

## 9 PHT Office

The PHT office is temporarily at Tan Teong Kooi's house - 11 Free School Road, 11600 Penang. Its official address is Penang State Museum, Lebuh Farquhar, 11200 Penang.

## 10 Membership

	July '95	Dec '94	Dec '93
Life Members	37	36	34
Ordinary Members	208	154	111
Total	245	190	145

## 11 Donations - from July '93 to July '95

British High Commission (in pounds sterling)	- Stg 7,500
South Australian Government (in Australian dollars)	- A\$ 20,000
SOCFIN (French Plantation Management Company)	- RM51,000
Mrs Margaret Hack (in Deutsche marks)	- DM 5,000
American Women's Association	- RM 2,000
Anderson Consulting	- RM 1,000
Alliance Francaise	- RM 160
Karl F Ebinger	- RM 50
MDK Consultants ( <i>The Star</i> : Sparkling Ribena Treasure Hunt)	- RM10,000
The Hon Gareth Evans	- RM 100
Mr Chan Fai Keong	- RM 100
PHT Antique-Collectors Club (Antiques and Collectors Show)	- RM 970
Mr Victor Chin (Shophouses: Watercolours Exhibition)	- RM 1,014
Representatives of Japanese Local Governments	- RM 100
Mark and Barbara Lim	- RM 200
Joern and Karin Magarin (in Deutsche marks)	- DM 100

## 12 Public Events - from July '93 to July '95

### Armenian Street Heritage Tour

A walkabout of the Armenian Street-Acheen Street enclave led by Didier Repellin, UNESCO Consultant and Chief Architect of Historic Monuments Lyon.

### Conservation Skills Workshop

Carpentry, tiling, metal and stucco work. A hard skills training course which Didier Repellin and his team of French experts gave at the Syed Alatas for the benefit of local architects, engineers, contractors, government officers, and interested PHT members. Organized by Khoo Salma.

### Press Conference at City Bayview

6 January '94. Dato' Nazir Ariff and the PHT Council issued a strong press statement calling upon the MPPP to carry out its threat to make Dolphin Square restore Hotel Metropole to its original condition (see page 2)

12 February '94. Live jazz came to 120 Armenian Street. The In-Jazz Quartet, led by member Lee Chong Heen, entertained PHT jazz buffs and their friends for four hours, delighting them with standards like *'Round Midnight*, *Take The 'A' Train*, and *As Time Goes By*. The PHT legal advisor Gan Teik Chee took the opportunity to read three of his politically incorrect poems.

#### Treasures of Asia

This exhibition of Asian Arts and Antiques at the Rasa Sayang was brought to the Penang public by members P A Laine and Martine de Saint Hilaire.

#### Book Launch

The PHT Council takes pride in putting on record here that the well-received *Streets of George Town Penang* is the work of one of its members – Khoo Salma Nasution. Dr Koh Tsu Koon, the Chief Minister, launched the book on 23 January '94.

#### Tour of Cheong Fatt Tse

The first of two 'For PHT Members Only' tours of this splendid mansion. Ms Loh-Lim described at length the effort that went into the restoration of this important reminder of what happened in our history at the turn of the century.

#### The Star/Sparkling Ribena Treasure Hunt

This enjoyable event, in aid of the PHT, was organized by MDK Consultants with help from the PHT. The sporting Ms Loh-Lim took part and won a wooden spoon. The PHT won RM10,000.

#### Talk and Slide Shows – from July '93 to July '95

'Excavating Australia's Heritage' by Katrina Proust

'Enhancing Cultural Properties' by Bruce Pettman and Bob Terret

'Time to Care for Your Heritage' by Penny Ramsay

'The Architectural Heritage of Northern Australia' by Peter Forrest

'Current Trends in Environmental Design' by Dr David Jones

'Restoration of the Singapore Convent' by Didier Repellin

'Where a Life in Conservation Can Lead You' by Dr Barry Rowney

'Martinha Rozells: Light's Dark Lady' by Sue Gross

'Winning Back Our Cities' by Dr Jeff Kenworthy

'Why Buildings Decay' by Dr A Ghafar Ahmad

'Dallaghoo and Penang: The Light Connection' by John and Jill Richardson

'The Historic Centre of George Town' by Khoo Salma Nasution

'The Shophouses Now and Then' by Victor Chin

'Painting Shophouses for Five Years' by Victor Chin

'Hanoi: An Ancient City in Transition' by Penny Ramsay

'Education in Conservation' by Loh-Lim Lin Lee (Part of the PHT Heritage Education Programme this talk was also given to the St Xaviers Institution, International School Penang, the Chung Ling, Padang Polo, Sri Mutiara, and Georgetown secondary schools; and the Malaysian Nature Society).

'Architecture Today: Reconstruction or Deconstruction' by Renē C E Tan

'Tropical Townscape: Kuching, Darwin and Penang' by Dr David Jones

#### Potluck at Isobel's

A hawker food feast to tempt some old and new PHT members to come and get to know one another better. It happened in the organically grown garden of our social secretary Ms Morris.

#### Press Conference at E&O Hotel

September '94. Dr Choong Sim Poey and the Building Conservation Advisory Committee announced the incentives for heritage development they had recommended to the MPPP.

#### International Charity Bazaar

To support the *Save the Convent Light Street* project the PHT took part in the event held at the Rasa Sayang Hotel. We sold 110 T-shirts and 248 cards and contributed RM386 to the Convent.

#### Heritage in Tourism

Tengku Idaura and the Penang Heritage Technical Committee organized the event in January '95 at the E&O Hotel. The PHT put together an exhibition to publicise its *Save Suffolk House* project.

### **Shophouses: Watercolours**

PHT Annual Report 1994/1995

A Victor Chin exhibition of paintings of traditional shophouses in Malaysia and Singapore held at the State Art Gallery. This is part of the PHT's efforts to get together with the country's more influential artists to speak for the cause of conservation in Penang.

### **PHT Antiques and Collectors Show**

This event held at the E&O Hotel turned out to be more successful than we had anticipated. Thanks to members Charlie Kremminger and Martine St Hilaire for volunteering to organize it. The PHT Antique-Collectors Club has been meeting once a month at the homes of its members.

### **Building and Housing Exhibitions**

To publicize our *Save Suffolk House* project the PHT took part in two of these exhibitions – one at the University Science Malaysia, the other at the Geodesic Dome Komtar.

### **Special Tour of Cheong Fatt Tse**

A tour specially for later members of the PHT conducted by Ms Loh-Lim. About 50 people came.

### **Restoration Skills Seminar**

This event, organised jointly by the PHT and the HCP (The Heritage Centre Penang) and held at the Syed Alatas, was part of the recent Penang-Adelaide Week programme. It featured Bruce Pettman and his team of SACON experts in plaster stabilisation, painting techniques, traditional decoration, salt damp treatment, etc.

## **13 Seminars, Symposiums, Conferences**

'Penang-Adelaide Week', Adelaide, Australia, October '93 – Khoo Salma Nasution attended.

'Working Towards Quality Restoration in Built Heritage', Singapore, April '94 – Khoo Salma Nasution attended and presented a paper.

'Global Forum', Manchester, England, June '94 – Khoo Salma Nasution attended

'Hanoi Symposium', Vietnam, November '94 – Mr Ong Teng Lam attended.

'The Third Asia-Pacific NGO Environmental Conference', Kyoto, Japan, November '94 – Dr Amiruddin Fawzi attended and presented a paper.

'National Town Planning Conference: Building Better Cities', University Technology Malaysia, Skudai, Johore Bahru, January '95 – Dr Amiruddin attended and presented a paper.

'Heritage in Tourism', Penang, March '95 – Tengku Idaura, En Ahmad Chik attended

'Our Cities, Our Homes', Kuantan, Malaysia, April '95 – Dr Amiruddin Fawzi attended

'Restoration Skills Seminar', SACON Experts, Penang, July '95 – Tengku Idaura, Khoo Salma, En Ahmad Chik, and Tan Teong Kooi attended.

The PHT did not have to pay for the fare, food or accomodation of its representatives.

## **14 Newspaper and Magazine Write-ups**

An article - "Rouble Rousers" - about the PHT and its work came out in the 23 February '95 issue of the Far Eastern Economic Review. The Suffolk House story, project, and fund-raising appeal as well as the case of the missing Metropole received much publicity in the local papers, especially *New Straits Times*, *The Star*, and *The Sun*.

## **15 British Broadcasting Corporation Interview**

The BBC interviewed Dr Choong Sim Poey (by telephone) about the PHT and the Suffolk House project. John Richardson, PHT member from Dallinghoo, Suffolk, made this interview possible.

## **16 PHT Council Meetings**

The PHT Council held 12 formal meetings in all over the past two years. They have also met informally several times to entertain PHT guests to lunch and dinner.

### **Acknowledgments**

We would like to thank all those many PHT members who have, in one way or another, helped with our programmes and activities. We should also mention here the continuing interest of our past presidents, Datuk Lim Chong Keat and Ms Amy Heah, in the work and affairs of the PHT.



# PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG PENANG HERITAGE TRUST

Penang State Museum, Lebuh Farquhar, 11200 Penang, Tel/Fax: 04 - 261 3144

29 August 1994

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 1994

Date: Saturday 27 August 1994

Time: 2.30 pm - 4.00 pm

Venue: E&O Hotel (Sarkies Corner) Farquhar Street

### Present

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Dato Nazir Ariff (Chairman)  | 12. Lee Kim Poh     |
| 2. Khoo Su Nin (Hon. Secretary) | 13. Robert Raymer   |
| 3. Kenny Ong (Hon. Treasurer)   | 14. Pierre A. Laine |
| 4. Tengku Idaura                | 15. Patricia Chan   |
| 5. Amiruddin Fawzi              | 16. Loke Bee Keow   |
| 6. Michael Cheah                | 17. Ong Teng Lam    |
| 7. David Yeo                    | 18. Alan Flux       |
| 8. Eddy Choong                  | 19. Annelies Allain |
| 9. Ch'ng Cheng Ee               | 20. B. Elsener      |
| 10. Raymond Kwok                | 21. Lee Chenk Hock  |
| 11. Oh Eng Sim                  | 22. Alexandra Ong   |
|                                 | 23. Tan Teong Kooi  |

### 1.00 Chairman's Welcoming Address

The chairman welcomed the members present, thanking them for attending the meeting and giving it a quorum. He called the meeting to order.

### 2.00 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held at Pangkor Room, Shangrila Hotel on Saturday 3 July 1993 at 3.00pm.

There were no queries or amendments. The confirmation was proposed by En Amiruddin Fawzi and seconded by Mr Robert Raymer.

### 3.00 Confirmation of the Hon. Secretary's 1993/1994 Annual Report

The meeting confirmed the report (Ms Annelies Allain proposed and Mr B Elsener seconded the confirmation) after the committee explained the status of the Suffolk House and Syed Alatas projects, took note of an objection to a statement made about Metropole, and clarified an item under "Donations"

**Syed Alatas.** Mr Pierre Laine wanted to know how the Syed Alatas mansion was to be used now that it had been restored. Tengku Idaura said the Penang State Government planned to use it as the Penang Heritage Resource Centre. The PHRC would promote cultural and architectural heritage, conservation, craftsmanship, research and education, and provide advisory services.

**Suffolk House.** Ms Annelies Allain asked about the status of land-exchange agreement between the Methodist Church and the Penang Municipal Council. Dato' Nazir explained that both the Church and the Council had agreed to the details of the exchange years ago. There had been, however, a lapse in the follow-through and the actual exchange of land had not taken place. The PHT was now doubling its efforts to get the State Government and the Local Government to come together and draw up the necessary legal documents that would enable the formal exchange to be carried out.

Metropole. Mr Eddy Choong was not quite happy with the style in which the 1993/1994 annual report was written. He would like to go on record as saying he felt that here and there the report took "the liberty to speak for everybody" and it was not true, for example, that all PHT members thought Metropole was "a much-loved hotel" that deserved to be saved. He himself did not think much of the building and had said so publicly several times. According to him, an annual report is not a place where one can freely express a personal opinion. Dato' Nazir said the committee would take note of Mr Choong's objections and suggestions.

**Donation by Mrs Margarete Hack.** Ms Khoo Su Nin pointed out an error in the reporting of Mrs Margarete Hack's donation. Mrs Hack (who resides in Germany) had donated 5,000 Deutsche marks and not 5,000 Malaysian ringgit. The 5,000 Deutsche marks converted to RM7,850. RM2,000 was used as the Life Membership fees of Mr and Mrs Hack. The rest of the money, RM5,850, was a contribution from the Hacks towards the Heritage Resource Centre.

**4.00 Confirmation of the Hon. Treasurer's Report.**

There were no queries and the report was confirmed. The confirmation was proposed by Mr Pierre Laine and seconded by Tengku Idaura.

**5.00 Other Matters**

**The Executive Secretary.** Mr Eddy Choong wanted to know whether or not Mr Tan Teong Kooi was being paid for his services to the Trust, and if he was, how much. Dato' Nazir said that the PHT Council had given Mr Tan the authority to act as Executive Secretary of the Trust. The PHT was giving him an allowance of RM1,500 for food and transport, the use of his house as the PHT office, his computers and other office equipment, etc. Mr Choong agreed with Dato' Nazir that Mr Tan was doing 'a good job' for the Trust.

**Fund-raising for Suffolk House.** Dato' Nazir told the meeting that the committee was preparing to launch a campaign to raise funds for the Suffolk House restoration project. The big corporations, both local and foreign owned, based in Penang would be the main targets of the campaign. Support from the Federal, State, and Local governments would also be sought. So far all the support, both moral and financial, had come from people other than Malaysians. Ms Alexandra Ong said that George Town was named after King George V and perhaps the PHT should "go after" the British companies in particular.

There being no other matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Refreshments were served.

Tan Teong Kooi  
Executive Secretary

Khoo Salma Nasution  
Honorary Secretary

Dato' Nazir Ariff  
President

26 January 1995

## Minutes of the 10th PHT Council Meeting – Term 1993-1995

Date: Wednesday 25 January 1995

Time: 5.15 - 7.15 pm

Venue: Birch House, Dato Kramat Road

### Present

Dato Nazir Ariff – chairman

Dr Choong Sim Poey – vice-chairman

Khoo Salma Nasution – hon secretary

Tengku Idaura

Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee

En Ahmad Chik

Mr James Lee

Mr Tan Teong Kooi – exec. sec.

### Apology

Mr Kenny Ong

En Amiruddin Fawzi

### Minutes of the Meeting

#### 1 Chairman's welcoming Address

The Chairman welcomed the council members and called the meeting to order

#### 2 Confirmation of the minutes of the 9th council meeting

Proposed by Khoo Salma and seconded by Mr James Lee

#### 3 Suffolk House Restoration project

##### 3.1 En Ahmad Chik reported that:

- a) Last year the PHT wrote 2 letters to the president of the MPPP urging him to confirm in writing that he supported the restoration project and would make the land exchange with the Methodist Church. The PHT has yet to receive a reply from the MPPP.
- b) Batey Ads. had made a pro bono fund-raising campaign poster for the PHT.
- c) The PHT was also printing a *Save Suffolk House* brochure in full colour and giving greater detail about the restoration project. The brochure would be ready by end of February.
- d) The plan was to appeal to 20 to 30 corporations based in Malaysia to donate RM100,000 each over 3 years.

##### 3.2 Tengku Idaura said she had written to Y B Mdm Kee to ask her to revive the Suffolk House Ad Hoc Committee dealing with the land-exchange bargain between the MPPP and the Methodist Church.

##### 3.3 Dr Choong said that it seemed to him the government had already worked out the procedure for the exchange of land.

#### 4 Syed Alatas Mansion and Penang Heritage Resource Centre (to be called The Heritage Centre Penang or Pusat Warisan Pulau Pinang)

Tengku Idaura reported that:

- a) The Penang Heritage Resource Centre would promote cultural and architectural heritage, conservation, training in restoration skills, research, and provide advisory services.
- b) The state had appointed her to form and head the protem committee of the PHRC
- b) The PHRC would be housed in the Syed Alatas mansion
- c) She had advertised for a manager and an assistant to run the PHRC.



## 5 Heritage Education Programme

Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee reported that:

- a) She had taken her 2-hour talk and slide show to 6 schools – Saint Xaviers Institution, International School of Penang, Sekolah Menengah (JK) Chung Ling, Sekolah Menengah Padang Polo, Sekolah Menengah Perempuan Sri Mutiara, and Sekolah Menengah George Town.
- b) The International School, Chung Ling, and George Town had started their heritage club.
- c) She was still waiting for the other schools, especially the target schools – Free School, St. Georges, Convent Light Street, etc – to respond to the PHT's offer to visit them.

## 6 Building Conservation Advisory Committee

Dr Choong reported that:

- a) The term of the BCAC ended on 16 December 1994
- b) He had written to the MPPP for an extension of the BCAC's term but had yet to receive a reply
- c) The BCAC had submitted their recommendations on incentives for owners of listed buildings to the MPPP
- d) The BCAC would next deal with identification of buildings for listing by the MPPP.

## 7 JKR Building

Tengku Idaya said that:

- a) The PDC's re-development of the area to the east of the E&O Hotel would be sympathetic to the cause of conservation.
- b) The project would be a low-rise hotel.
- c) The JKR building facing Farquhar Street would not be touched though the other buildings behind it would have to make way for the development.

## 8 Hardwicke

- 8.1 Dr Choong said the plans to build a highrise behind Hardwicke only went to show that Penang could not be more in dire need of an effective conservation legislation. The MPPP guidelines could not be relied upon to prevent the character of Sultan Ahmad Shah from being destroyed.
- 8.2 Khoo Salma said that the grand old mansion was in danger of being turned into 'a fancy doorway' to a modern tower block. That would be facadism in its most ridiculous form.

## 9 The Leong Yin Kean

Dato' Nazir gave the meeting the good news that:

- a) The mansion had recently been bought by Georgetown Holdings, a subsidiary of ESCOY (Eastern Smelting Group of Companies).
- b) The plan was to restore the mansion and use it as ESCOY's head office.

## 10 PHT Cultural Tours Programme

Khoo Salma reported that she had conducted a course based on the American Express Penang Heritage Trail Familiarization Programme for members of the PHT. The course was held over three Sundays and it involved two routes. Eight members successfully completed the course and were now officially PHT volunteer tour guides.

## 11 PHT Museum Shop

Mr James Lee produced a sketch by PHT member Alan Flux and drawings by FlexiDesign showing how the Penang Hill Railway coach at the Penang Museum might be restored. He also circulated two quotations. Ah Weng was to do the restoration for which RM5,000 was approved.

## 12 Heritage Trees

En Ahmad Chik said that it might be a good idea to join The Friends of the Botanical Gardens to set up a shop at the Gardens. 'Sharing is not on' was the majority view.

### 13 Membership

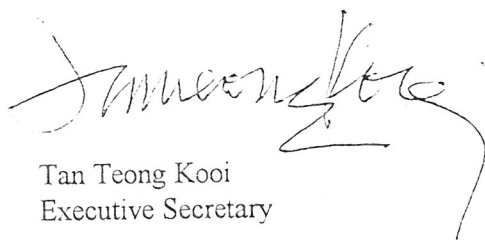
13.1 It was agreed that the membership drive be extended to 31 March '95.

13.2 All applications for membership were approved by the PHT Council.

### 14 Treasurer's Report

14.1 The Treasurer's Report showed the PHT to have a bank balance of RM110,809.97 as at 31 December 1994. (RM42,413.26 had yet to be paid to South Hill Construction for the work they did stabilising Suffolk House).

14.2 It was agreed that the Treasurer's Report should be in greater detail. The accounts were to be broken down to show income from different sources and expenditure for separate projects..



Tan Teong Kooi  
Executive Secretary

PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG  
PENANG HERITAGE TRUST  
c/o 11 Free School Road, 11600 Penang  
Fax/Tel: 04 - 281 3187

21 April 1995

## Minutes of the 11 PHT Council Meeting - Term 1993-1995

Date: 19 April '95

Time: 12.30 - 2.30 pm

Venue: Tambuah Mas Restaurant, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah

### Present

Dr Choong Sim Poey (Chairman)

Tengku Idaura

En Ahmad Chik

Mr James Lee

Khoo Salma Nasution

Mr Tan Teong Kooi

Mr Alan Flux (observer)

### Apology

Dato' Nazir Ariff

Ms Loh-Lim

Mr Kenny Ong

Dr Amiruddin Fawzi

### Minutes of the Meeting

#### 1 Chairman's Welcoming Address

The Chairman welcomed the Council members and called the meeting to order

#### 2 Confirmation of the minutes of the 10th Council Meeting

Proposed by En Ahmad Chik and seconded by Mr James Lee

#### 3 Suffolk House Restoration Fund-raising Campaign

Tengku Idaura informed the meeting that Yeoh Teong Lay Corp Bhd had offered to restore and maintain Suffolk House. The meeting recommended that:

##### a) The PHT should agree to the offer. The argument:

- i) The money is already there. The RM2 million government funding (approved by the Ministry of Culture), if and when it comes, can always be used to build and maintain the heritage park.
- ii) Looking for smaller donations from several sources takes time. The PHT has a deadline to meet: the project must be completed in time for the Commonwealth Games in 1998.
- iii) The PHT should encourage public-private sector partnerships in major conservation projects. Other corporations will read our agreeing to this offer as a signal that they are welcome to participate in other heritage development projects inspired by the PHT.
- iv) Since the offer has come about as a result of the fund-raising efforts of the PHT, the PHT Council may expect to continue playing its role as historical consultant in the project and have a say in how the building is going to be restored and used.
- v) The job of the PHT is to promote the preservation of Penang's heritage buildings. It does not really matter where the money comes from so long as these buildings are preserved and used in the proper manner. In this case the donation is from a Malaysian company and should be doubly welcome.

##### b) The State should now move quickly to put into effect the formal exchange of land between the MPPP and the Methodist Church.

##### c) YTL must ensure that:

- i) The building is restored to as close as its original grandeur (1818 form) as possible.
- ii) The restored building is made accessible to the public.

##### d) Suffolk House is to be leased to YTL. Perhaps the surrounding buildings should be leased to them as well. The building once occupied by the Eurasian Society, for example, can become the service building and no new structure need be erected in the area.

##### e) SACON is to be retained as consultant. It will work with local counterparts.

##### f) The PHT will study YTL's proposal before deciding whether or not to support it.



PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG  
PENANG HERITAGE TRUST  
c/o 11 Free School Road, 11600 Penang  
Tel/Fax: 04 - 281 3187

19 April '95

Attention:	Dato' Nazir Ariff	Tengku Idaura
	Dr Choong Sim Poey	En Ahmad Chik
	Khoo Salma Nasution	En Amiruddin Fawzi
	Mr Kenny Ong Kean Lee	Mr James Lee
	Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee	

PHT Council Meeting held at Tambuah Mas, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, 12.30pm, 12 April '95

Agenda - Suffolk House Fund-raising Campaign

Present - Dr Choong Sim Poey (Chairman)	James Lee
Tengku Idaura	Tan Teong Kooi
Ahmad Chik	Alan Flux (observer)

A quick note (revised after receiving suggestions from members of the PHT Council)

1. Major Sponsor

A major sponsor from the private sector has offered to restore Suffolk House and maintain it.

2. The Tambuah Mas Meeting Recommendations:

a) The PHT should accept the offer. The argument:

- i) The money is already there. The \$2 million government funding, if and when it comes, can always be used to build and maintain the heritage park.
- ii) Looking for smaller donations from several sources takes time. We have a deadline to meet: the project must be completed in time for the Commonwealth Games in 1998.
- iii) The PHT should encourage public-private sector partnerships in major conservation projects. Other corporations will read our accepting this offer as a signal that they are welcome to participate in other heritage development projects inspired by the PHT.
- iv) Since the offer has come about as a result of the fund-raising efforts of the PHT, we may expect to have a big say in how the building is going to be restored and used.
- v) The job of the PHT is to promote the preservation of our heritage buildings. It does not really matter where the money comes from so long as these buildings are preserved and used in the proper manner. In this case, the donation is from a Malaysian and should be doubly welcome.

b) The State should now move quickly to put into effect the formal exchange of land between the MPPP and the Church.

c) The sponsor must ensure that:

- i) The building is restored to as close to its original grandeur (1818 form) as possible.
- ii) The restored building is made accessible to the public.

d) The building is to be leased to the sponsor. Perhaps the surrounding buildings should be leased to him as well. The building once occupied by the Eurasian Society, for example, can become the service building and no new structure need be erected in the area.

e) SACON is to be retained as consultant and is to work with local counterparts.

f) The PHT Council will further study the above recommendations before meeting with the sponsor to consider his proposal.

Regards,

PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG  
PENANG HERITAGE TRUST  
c/o 11 Free School Road, 11600 Penang  
Fax/Tel: 04 - 281 3187

12 June 1995

## 12th PIIT Council Meeting – Term 1993-1995

Dato' Nazir Ariff - President	Tengku Idaura	Mr James Lee
Dr Choong Sim Pooey - Vice-president	Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee	
Khoo Salma Nasution - Hon Secretary	En Ahmad Chik	
Mr Kenny Ong - Hon Treasurer	Dr Amiruddin Fawzi	

Notice is hereby given that the 12th PHT Council Meeting – Term 1993-1995 – will be held on **Monday 19 June 1995 at 12.30pm at the Penang Club, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah**

### Agenda

#### 1. Confirmation of the minutes

To confirm the minutes of the 11th PHT Council Meeting – Term 1993-1995 – held on Wednesday 19 April '95 at the Tambuah Mas Restaurant, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah

#### 2. Annual General Meeting 1995

##### a) To approve:

- i) The minutes of the AGM 1994
- ii) The Hon Secretary's report for the year 1994/1995
- iii) The Hon Treasurer's report for the year ended 31 December 1994

##### b) To set a date for the AGM 1995

The PHT Council for the term 1995-1997 will be elected at the AGM 1995.

#### 3. Suffolk House Fund-raising Campaign

The Ministry of Culture has approved RM2 million for the restoration. Two leading local companies - Fort Canning Country Club Investment Ltd (Stephen Yeap and partners) and Yeoh Teong Lay Corp Bhd (YTL) – have shown interest in restoring and maintaining the building as well as the heritage park.

##### a) To report on meeting with:

- i) Fort Canning Country Club Investment Ltd — En Ahmad Chik
- ii) Yeoh Teong Lay Corp Bhd — Tengku Idaura

#### 4. Nara Symposium

To pick the 2 PHT Council members the Nara Machidukuri Center has invited to the Nara symposium to be held sometime in October this year. They are to give a 45 minute keynote address on:

- a) History and major projects of the PHT
- b) The Heritage Centre Penang (Pusat Warisan Pulau Pinang)
- c) The future of conservation in Penang

#### 5. Other Matters

*3-4 days*  
*end of day - presentation*

*Murong/lin*