



PHT newsletter

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SUPPORT CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

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**PENANG
HERITAGE
TRUST**

**Persatuan
Warisan
Pulau
Pinang**

PHT

EDITORIAL

Dear PHT members in Penang, the rest of Malaysia & abroad,

First of all, the PHT would like to send all its members SEASON'S GREETINGS and a VERY HAPPY 2003.

To our Muslim friends, Selamat Hari Raya, our Christian friends, a joyful Christmas, our Chinese friends, Kong Hee Fatt Choy and to all, Peace on Earth and Good will to All Men (& Women)



The school holidays are over (finally), holiday trips are over, the merry-making and partying are over and we are all back to the serious business of looking out for the welfare of our beloved George Town and its inhabitants.



We would like to also apologise for not organising a site visit for the month of December 2002. Too many people were away and we were very short of time and hands. We do however have an exciting list of places planned for this year and we hope you will approve and that you will join us in full support as you always have. Suggestions are always welcome.

We look forward to a new year of exciting moves in the field of heritage conservation in Penang. Many buildings in town are undergoing voluntary private restoration, we urge the authorities to ensure that these are conducted according to conservation guidelines. Federal funds have been allocated for public projects of conservation and upgrading in the inner city and if all goes well, the dossiers for George Town and Malacca for World Heritage Listing, should be submitted to UNESCO by February 2003.

L.L.Loh-Lim



THE PENANG HERITAGE TRUST OFFICE

Members,

We are running out of time, we need to locate a building to restore and to use as our offices. The award from World Monuments Fund is pending, we have to identify a suitable building before the money is released to us.

The building is required to :

- be relatively prominent
- have either architectural or historical value
- be in the inner city
- be unencumbered with existing tenants (PHT cannot be linked with eviction of tenants)
- have a landlord who wishes to restore and have a building he can be proud of
- have a landlord who would like a tenant who is willing to come up-front with rental worth about RM300,000
- have a landlord who is interested in long tenancy at NGO rental rates

We are looking at properties belonging to trusts, kongsis, large corporations who have lots of buildings in the inner city and would like help in restoring one while securing a good tenant for many long years (us - the PHT)

STOP PRESS

- PHT SITE VISITS -

SUNDAY JANUARY 26TH 03

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23RD

DETAILS ON PAGES 10 & 11



SITE VISIT REPORT 27 OCTOBER 2002



KEK LOK SI TEMPLE (Crag Mountain Supreme Paradise)

Promptly at 3.30pm. 71 PHT members were led by Rev. Zheng Ming through small passageways & dark staircases into a small room into which we all managed to squeeze. On a raised table, we were given the rare privilege of viewing a collection of very life-like miniature statues of prominent early donors and previous chief monks of the temple. The 'who's who' of early Penang sat resplendent, all male except for one Honorable Madam Tan Say Siang, (co-incidentally, great-grand mother to Loh-Lim & member Lim Mee Lin who apparently played a critical philanthropic role of 'piped water supplier' to many early temples of Penang)

We were then again honoured, this time with the rare privilege of viewing the very precious and historic collection of original sutras from China, located in another hall and locked behind grills. In the same hall, we were also shown a photo of the founder, Chief Abbot Beow Lean and a statue much larger than the others of Cheong Fatt Tze, befitting his status as major donor.



Tan Say Siang



Hall of original donors



Cheong Fatt Tze

Together with Rev. Zheng, PHT member Goh Mai Loon briefed us on the history of the temple which goes back to the time when Chief Abbot Beow Lean, of Kuan Yin Temple, the idea of having a centre for meditation and Buddhist teachings. With the help of 5 prominent leaders; Chang Yu Nan, Cheah Choon Seng, Cheong Fatt Tze, Chung Keng Kooi and Tye Kee Yoon, they bought 9 acres of land and construction began in 1886, with the first building completed in 1891. Co-incidentally, all 5 were Hakka, acted as vice-consuls for China in Penang and built their homes along Leith Street or 'Lean Hwa Ho'



In 1904, Chief Abbot Beow Lean came back with the imperial sanction from China, consisting of plaques with handwritings of Empress Dowager Tzu Hsi and Emperor Kuang Hsu, the credence for Buddha and Bodhisattva, initiatory copper bell and 70,000 volumes of sutras.

In the Great Hall or "Da Xiong Pao Dian", built in 1895 and the oldest part of the temple, chanting is carried out every morning and evening at 5.30am and 4.30pm. Statues of the 18 Lohans and 3 Buddhas are located here. Even with newer and bigger halls, this particular hall is still treated as the Great Hall, with the chanting instruments arranged in a specific format. The Heavenly Kings Hall or "Tian Wang Dian" was built in 1896. Here, one can see Maitreya Buddha also known as the laughing Buddha or the future Buddha for the next world. Flanking the corners are the 4 Heavenly Kings each with their own weapon, serpent, umbrella, guitar and sword. Behind laughing Buddha is Wei To Pu Sha, the guardian of the temple. The Hall of the Five Directions' Buddhas or "Wu Fang Fo Dian" was built in 1995 with materials from China. There are 5 main statues; Pi Lu Zhen Na Buddha (centre) with the other 4 Buddhas representing the 4 cardinal points. This hall combines a mixture of Beijing decorative ceiling works, Fukkien carved granite pillars, wall paintings and calligraphy by local artisans. The Pagoda of Ten Thousand Buddhas was built between 1915-1927, with donations from 3 major countries; China, Thailand and Burma. The 7 tiers pagoda combines 3 distinct styles of architecture; 1st to 3rd tier - Chinese, 4th to 5th - Thai and 6th to 7th - Burmese. The Pagoda of Longevity or "Wu Liang Shou Ta" was built in 1974 with materials brought in from Taiwan. King Rama IX, Thailand donated a black statue of Buddha, located on the ground floor.

The Bodhisattvas' Hall or "Da Shi Dian" was rebuilt in 1992, on the site where the first building the temple was built (1891). There are 3 main statues; Pu Xian Pu Sha (left), Kuan Yin Pu Sha (middle) and Wen Shu Shi Li Pu Sha (right).

Although this site visit took slightly longer time, as a guide myself, I must say that we've all benefited from the tour. Thanks go to Rev. Zheng Ming for taking so much time with us, to the temple for their drinks and blessings, to Goh Mai Loon for giving such in depth information on the temple, to Mrs Chan Foek Seng for arranging such hospitality for us from the monks and to Magdelene for purchasing the delicious curry puffs.

Text by Joanne Khaw/Loh-Lim

All pictures - courtesy of Laurence Loh



SITE VISIT REPORT 24 NOVEMBER 2002

THE PENANG WAR MUSEUM, BUKIT BATU MAUNG

Once again it was time for another PHT site visit and 52 members with kids in tow negotiated the path up to the Penang War Museum located at Batu Maung. The weather was pleasant, cool and breezy with a magnificent view of the bay and the marine repair centre, the site was well-shaded and most members were in shorts and sneakers and had some kind of torchlight in anticipation of the exploration of the reputed tunnels.

The members were broken up into two groups and were taken on a tour of the area by members of the Museum. The fort was surprisingly well maintained with its fortifications still intact. The reason was that the Japanese never actually bombed it. Built in the early 1930's with the use of Chinese labourers and completed in 1938, it was later called Bukit Punjab as the British brought Punjabi soldiers to man it. It could house 60 soldiers and troops from the nearby Minden Barracks came to train daily. As the gunnery was sea-ward facing and the Japanese came by land, no battle actually ever took place at the fort. The British abandoned it with the Japanese occupation and it was then used by the Japanese as an interrogation centre and to broadcast propaganda messages to taunt the British who had re-grouped in Singapore. An eerie sense of the past ferocity of interrogation methods and the inhumanity of man pervaded many of the rooms which had evidence of bullet holes on walls.

The underground bunkers and tunnels are intact. The bunkers are being used as exhibition halls with relics from the war, blown-up photographs of torture methods, war trials, George Town under attack and collections of battle paraphernalia. The air in the bunkers and tunnels was surprising not stuffy, a testament to the ingenuity of the 70 year old ventilation systems. The exploration of the pitch-black tunnels by the adventurous few revealed some local residents such as bats, frogs and the ever-resilient cockroach.

Those with imaginative minds could, with ease, visualize the soldiers manning the fort during the war days, soldiers at the lookout points, the sound of heavy boots in the bunkers and tunnels. An interesting comment on the social structure of the day could be found in the division of quarters, the British, the Indians and the Malays, each with their own kitchens for differing food preparations.

The rain held off till the end of the tour. Those who stayed behind a little longer were rewarded by delicious Mee Udang prepared by the chefs at the cafeteria, all washed down with fresh Umra juice.

Text by Andre Ng



at the gunnery



in the tunnels

mee udang



Pics courtesy of Loh-Lim

THE STAR WEDNESDAY November

NATION

Dateline:

Lion City



Improvements drive away the retirees

A PROJECT by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) to improve Kreta Ayer Square appears to have driven away the very people who were synonymous with the area – the retirees.

The elderly, who could be found at all times of the day and evening chatting or playing chess under the square's shady old trees, are no longer around since the area reopened in September.

Their disappearance follows the installation of new tables, seats, a bird-singing corner and an open-air stage at the open space outside Chinatown Complex, all of which should have made the place a bigger draw for them.

The bird lovers the STB wanted to attract shun the place, saying that it is "user-unfriendly and too tourist-oriented."

□ PRISCILLA DIELENBERG and DERRICK VINESH
at the Penang Tourism Forum 2002 yesterday

City heritage 'key to uniqueness'



TOURISM TALK ... PenEvents CEO Ong Ban Seang presenting his views at the forum yesterday. The other panelists are (from left) Anthony Wong, Eric Lim and Doreen Wong.

GEORGE TOWN'S architectural and cultural heritage has to be conserved to maintain Penang's uniqueness, and government financing is needed to conserve the heritage buildings and other structures.

This was one of the resolutions presented to the state government during the Penang Tourism Forum 2002, by state Forestry Department director Dr Mohd Yunus Zakaria who chaired a panel on tourism products.

Dr Mohd Yunus went on to say that George Town's community population had to be maintained to conserve its cultural heritage.

"The revised rental rates are too high. That results in the community moving out of the city. When they move out, their culture goes with them," he said, adding that the government had to revise the rental rates to prevent the depletion of the population.

Dr Mohd Yunus said all tourism products had to be well managed and presented, adding that tourism product promotion and infrastructure facilities in Seberang Prai were far behind compared to those on the island.

He called for more support from the government and tour operators to promote and market Seberang Prai's tourism products. "Market Penang as a whole, not the island alone," he said.

Penang Tourist Centre (PTC) director Lawrence Koay, who chaired a panel on tourism services, spoke of the importance of information technology (IT) and the need to be more IT-savvy in businesses.

Koay said that although Penang food was tasty, there was a problem with hygiene.



Koay ... chaired a panel discussion on 'Tourism Services'

He said the Penang Hawkers Association pledged to co-operate in promoting good hygiene, but he felt that there was lack of enforcement against untrained or unlicensed hawkers.

On transportation, he said the trishaw riders in Penang required the state's help to maintain their unique service by providing them with promotional items and training on tourism products.

He also said the time had come for the tourism sector in Penang to be more disabled-friendly.

Cititel Penang chief operating officer Eric Lim, who chaired a panel on marketing and promotions, said there was a need for Penang to focus on the domestic tourism front.

He said the general consensus was that culture and heritage was one of the key elements to promote in Penang.

He said there was a need for the state to be more actively engaged in promoting tourism, and there was



Yap ... helmed session on 'Accommodation and Convention facilities'

continuous need for more investment in tourism.

Penang International Hotels Association chairman Edwin Yap, who chaired a panel on accommodation and convention facilities, called on the state to provide additional funding to repair, maintain and upkeep tourism infrastructure.

He said the state should not approve the development of new hotels and mega convention facilities as the existing capacity was more than sufficient to meet current declining demands.

PTC chairman Datoh Syed Mohd Aided, who chaired a panel on bumsiputra participation, said there was a need for more networking and training, and the training should be focused on the niche market.

He said IT was important to remain competitive and it was agreed that smart partnerships and strategic alliances among bumsiputras and non-bumsiputras should be maintained.

Straits Times 11th October 02

*Penang Heritage Trust's second **HERITAGE TOUR GUIDES COURSE**
held on 9th and 10th November 2002 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.*

Organised by Teresa Capol

Attended by 10 tour guides who paid RM\$250 each to familiarize themselves with historic George Town and to be accredited by PHT as heritage-trained guides

Tours conducted by Teresa & Loh-Lim

Talks on cultural heritage and architecture conducted by Khoo Salma & Loh-Lim



Members are reminded of our specialised PHT tours 'INNER CITY TRAILS OF GEORGE TOWN' Call Magdalene at the office to make enquiries

PHT Tours

Our Heritage Tours continue to enjoy popularity from the discerning traveller and heritage enthusiast

On the 14th October 2002 thirty Officers from Tourism Malaysia went on a trishaw heritage tour conducted by Teresa Capol. The tour stopped at the museum where the Curator Mr. Khoo Boo Chia conducted a Museum tour. The group then visited Little India, the Khoo Kongsi, Acheen Street and the Syed Alatas

Mansion and the Sun Yat Sen base. The same group had earlier visited the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion together with the Minister of Arts, Culture and Tourism

On 17th October a group of 75 Consul-Generals for Malaysia from around the world, were taken on heritage tours of the inner city.

On 2nd November 2002 eighteen pupils and two teachers from Uplands School did a walking tour of Little India and were especially thrilled by the Ramadhan Market in Queen Street.

On the 27th November 2002 a tour was conducted by Mr. Yeap Peng Hoe of PHT again for Uplands International School. The tour lasted 2 hours and the focus was on endangered trades in the inner city. 30 students and 3 teachers were involved

and on 30th November 2002, a specialised tour was conducted for Mrs. Berg Mice and Susanna. This was one of our 3 PHT heritage trails offered. To be noted, the visitors in question have been on our heritage trails FOUR times and do not appear to be bored!

On the 17th November 2002 a full day tour for 6 pax was conducted for Deithlem Travel. This tour included Little India Spice Trail and The Historical Enclave. The tour ended at 3.30 pm. after the guests had enjoyed a sumptuous Banana Leaf lunch.

And on 20th November 2002 The Historical Enclave Tour was conducted for Mike and Dean. Mike is an antique restorer and Dean a builder/chef. Both were fascinated at the variety that Georgetown had to offer and called it a paradise

UNESCO NEWS

The UNESCO ASIA-PACIFIC HERITAGE AWARDS for Culture Heritage Conservation AWARDS

UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation recognize the efforts and contributions of individuals and organizations within the private sector, including private-public partnerships, who have successfully restored and conserved structures and buildings of heritage value in the Asia-Pacific region.

The annual Heritage Awards programme is one strategy the Office of the UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific is using to promote conservation of the region's built heritage, which is often threatened by unchecked development, neglect, or inappropriate reuse.

UNESCO believes that recognising successful preservation efforts helps spur additional projects within the same community advocating the culture of preservation and conservation through the use of appropriate conservation techniques and approaches.

PANEL OF JUDGES FOR 2002: Dr Richard Engelhardt, Professor William Chapman, Professor Detlef Kammeier, Ms Spencer Leineweber, Mr Budi Lim, Professor David Lung, Mr Nimish Patel, Dt Johannes Widodo

2002 Winners

Award of Excellence

Ahhichatragarh: The Fort of Nagaur, Rajasthan, India

Award of Distinction

The Australian Hall, Sydney, Australia

Yarikutz, Rupikutz, Kuyokutz, Mamorukutz Mosques, Ganish historic settlement, Pakistan

Award of Merit

Cheng Hoon Teng Main Temple, Melaka, Malaysia

Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus (CHIJ MES), Singapore

Polsheer House, Isfahan, Iran

Sydney Conservatorium of Music, NSW, Australia

Wat Sratong Temple, Ban Bua, Khon Kaen, Thailand

Honourable Mention

Broken Hill Heritage and Cultural Tourism Program, Broken Hill, NSW, Australia

Centre for Khmer Studies, Siem Riep, Cambodia

Jaisalmer in Jeopardy Streetscape Revitalization Project (Phase I),

Rajasthan, India

Kow Plains Homestead, Cowangie, Victoria, Australia

No. 125 Huajue Alley, Xi'an City, Shaanxi, China

WEBSITE : www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritageawards/2002winners.htm



CHENG HOON TENG TEMPLE , MELAKA, MALAYSIA

The restoration of the 17th-century temple, the oldest edifice of formal worship for the Chinese immigrant community of Malay peninsula, demonstrates high standards of technical execution and sets a worthy precedent for other conservation work in Malaysia and the region. The detailed documentation of the historic building and the restoration process is commendable, resulting in a clear understanding of the project's sound methodology and best conservation practices. The project successfully illustrates faithful use of original materials and integrity of artisan techniques, and has revived the historic building for the community as a centre of worship.

AWARD OF MERIT

CONSULTANT : LAURENCE LOH AKITEK

PHT ADVISOR

BADAN WARISAN MALAYSIA VICE-PRESIDENT

2003 UNESCO Heritage Conservation Award Announced

Bangkok, 13 November 2002 – Entries are now being accepted for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage 2003 Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The awards programme, in its fourth year, recognizes the achievement of individuals and organizations within the private sector, and public-private initiatives, in successfully restoring structures of heritage value in the Asia-Pacific region.

Projects involving buildings more than fifty years old and which were completed within the last ten years are eligible for consideration. Houses, commercial, cultural, religious, industrial or institutional buildings, gardens and bridges, for example, are all eligible for consideration. Public-private partnership projects such as historic towns, urban quarter and rural settlements where the essential elements are more than 50 years old are all eligible.

Entries for the Heritage 2002 Awards drew 46 projects from 15 countries and administrative areas in the Asia-Pacific Region. The selection process was conducted by a panel of international conservation experts in architecture, urban planning, landscape design and heritage conservation. The top winner of the year 2002 was Ahhichatragarh Fort, Nagaur, Rajasthan in India. All winning entries demonstrated excellence in their understanding of the issues of conservation in relation to the cultural, social, historical and architectural significance of the building, employment of appropriate building and artisan techniques as well as use of appropriate materials. All winning entries made a significant impact in the surrounding environment contributing to the cultural and historical continuum of the community.

Entries for the year 2003 awards programme must be submitted with an official entry form, drawings, photographs and project description to the UNESCO Office of the Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok by 31 March 2003. Complete programme information, including an entry form, is available on the web at <http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/heritageawards>.

Winners will be announced in September 2003. One entry will receive the "Award of Excellence", two selected entries will receive an "Award of Distinction", five selected entries will receive an "Award of Merit" and a number of

entries will receive an "Honourable Mention".

Urban Blight - An Update by Ahmad Chik / Loh-Lim

"How often have you stumbled over a broken pavement, and silently cursed the local authority, or with averted eyes and bated breathe hastened past a pile of uncollected rubbish? Welcome to our Urban Blight programme."

On October 12th a *Beach Street Ideas Competition* was launched. The closing date is 11th January 2003. It is an attempt to solicit ideas from the public with regards to the revitalisation of Beach Street

In November a meeting was called to check on whether identified problems on Beach Street (the sample street chosen) - cracked pavements, broken drains, inaccessible sidewalks, dangerous or unsightly signage, blocked pavements, un-coordinated installation of amenities and services etc - had been rectified.

*before**after*

Some improvements had been recorded while much remained to be carried out.

In December, Chairman of the Beach Street Committee, Councillor Mark Ooi called another meeting, this time with representatives from TNB, Postals and Talikoms in order to work through the problems of co-ordination, designs, installation locations etc. The Committee was also informed that RM\$2 million had been allocated from the Federal Government for the upgrading of Beach Street along historic guidelines and with a view to impelmenting disabled access and pedestrian friendly walkways.

PHT 's busy diary of events and visitors

17th November 2002 - Journalist & photographer, Anthony Anderton, joined the Anak2 Kota kids on the Endangered Trades Trail

12th December 2002 - Michael Blackmore and Ben Suffian from the Canadian High Commission stayed at the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion and visited PHT to check up on the CIDA project as well as to look at new project proposals

24 the December 2002 - Courtesy Call by Associate Professor Yagi Masao from the Department of Architecture, Akashi National College of Technology Japan, accompanied by Prof Yushi Utaka from USM. Professor Masao had conducted a talk on 'Heritage Conservation in Japan: Community Involvement in the Early Days' at Pusat Warisan a day earlier



Anthony Anderton being briefed by Janet Pillai



Prof. Masao at PHT

UNESCO - Nordic World Heritage Foundation Workshop on Culture Heritage Management and Tourism - Self-Evaluation and Mainstreaming
15th - 18th January 2003 Penang, Malaysia

The 4 Lijiang Models for Co-operation among stakeholders

A closed-door workshop is being held in Penang as evaluation and mainstreaming of a recently completed 4- year project backed by the Norwegian Government and sponsored by the World Heritage Committee. The objectives involve the modeling of new ways of mutually beneficial co-operation between the tourism and heritage sectors, particularly at the local community level, in historic towns across the region.

Representatives of 8 pilot sites as well as international experts are involved. The workshop is also being viewed as an opportunity to expose local policy makers and strategists to policies, problems and management strategies for culture heritage management and tourism of other historic towns.

The 8 pilot sites are namely:

Lijiang, China

Hoi An, Vietnam

Bhaktapur, Nepal

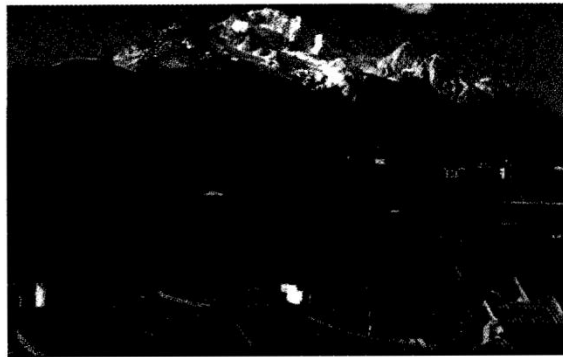
Vigan, Philippines

Kandy, Sri Lanka

Levuka, Fiji

Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

Melaka, Malaysia



Although not one of the original 8 site, Penang has been chosen as the venue for the current workshop as it is felt that Penang has taken on board many aspects of the Lijiang models. The stature of Penang will hopefully also be enhanced as a prospective World Heritage Site.

For those interested in the Lijiang models please refer to

http://www.unescobkk.org/culture/norad-tourism/model_lijiang3.htm

You may also drop by at the PHT office after the workshop to obtain papers

.....

And on the 30th October 2002, the PHT had a very distinguished visitor - the well-known multi-award winning author, PETER CLEARY.

An Australian by birth, Peter now resides in New York. He was in Penang to gather material and to check on settings for part of his new novel which is partially based on the Japanese Occupation in Penang. He sought assistance from the Penang Heritage Trust and conducted interviews with Salma, Laurence, Loh-Lim among others. He was also introduced to several 'old timers' who could recall Japanese Occupation times.

For those of you unfamiliar with Peter Cleary, a little blurb..... among the books he wrote, *Illywhacker* was shortlisted for the The Booker Prize in 1985.

Oscar and Lucinda won the award in 1988.

Bliss, *Oscar and Lucinda* and *Jack Maggs* won the Miles Franklin Award while his novel *True History of the Kelly Gang* was shortlisted for the same award in 2001.

Illywhacker, *The Unusual Life of Tristan Smith* and *Jack Maggs* all won The Age Book of the Year Award. *Illywhacker* won the Ditmar Award for Best Australian Science Fiction Novel in 1986 and was nominated for the World Fantasy Award for Best Novel in the same year.

In May 1998, it was announced that *Jack Maggs* had won the 1998 Commonwealth Writers Prize.

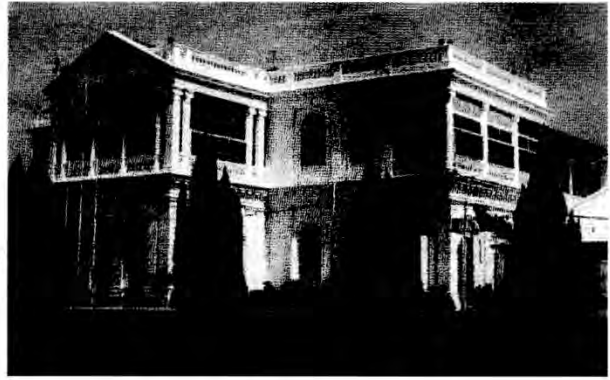
True History of the Kelly Gang won the 2001 Commonwealth Writers Prize, and the 2001 Booker Prize.

THE 1ST 2003 PHT MONTHLY SITE VISIT

SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY 2003

-3.30 P.M.

SRI MUTIARA, THE RESIDENCY *1890*



Seri Mutiara stands as an icon landmark in the architectural landscape of Penang. First commissioned in 1888 as the 'seat of the Resident Councillor', it is located on 12 hectares of sprawling and delightful parkland, complete with streams, bridges and matured trees.

Both the architect, Major Sir Maurice Alexander Cameron R.E. Kama and the engineer, Major H.E. McCallum, came from a military tradition in India. Thus while the Residency is built in the style of a stately English manor, it is distinct in its form as reminiscent of Anglo-Indian architecture, found in the Straits Settlements at the time. Originally budgeted at \$48,000 Straits dollars, it eventually cost a princely sum of \$81, 173 upon completion.

Seri Mutiara has had the honour of housing every Penang Head of State for the past 110 years. Each British Resident and subsequently after independence in 1957, each Governor, instituted various alterations, additions and removals that have changed the original house form as well as the surrounding grounds. With George Town on UNESCO's Tentative List as a World Heritage site, the Governors Residence is viewed as an integral part of the city's remarkably rich and diverse heritage. The State Government has therefore seen it fit to restore its original authenticity while upgrading the premises, a move which dovetails with the State's vision and plans of heritage development on an international arena.

The current restoration works in progress are being conducted on an international 'best practice' basis. Seri Mutiara stands as one of the most important buildings in Penang and this meticulous restoration signifies commitment to the city and its history and is a landmark project not just for the Government but for all Penangites.

This is a Restoration Tour which will be conducted by the Consultant Architect

Please be punctual - come by the York Road entrance - you will be checked by the security at the gate - identify yourself as PHT members. See you at this rare and privileged event.

Members are informed that there will be a site visit charge of RM5/head for members and RM12 for non-members

This charge was approved at the 2000 AGM. Due to rising costs and empty coffers we are forced to levy this charge

No. 82 *Capt. Charles Henry Cazale*

BEL RETIRO - THE RESIDENCY ON THE HILL

23 RD FEBRUARY SITE VISIT- [TO BE CONFIRMED BY E-MAIL OR CALL THE OFFICE]

Immortalized in all the great paintings of Penang in the 19th Century, Bel Retiro is certainly Penang Hill's most impressive building. Built at 2,541 feet above sea level, it provided much needed relief from the heat of the lowlands and was the favourite resort of high government officials and visiting dignitaries. It is said that the Colonial Governor would live up in the cool of the hills in Bel Retiro and only descend once a month to the lowlands when the mail boat arrived. Commanding a magnificent view of the port, ships could be seen arriving and the lighthouse at Fort Cornwallis was used as a signal point with returning signals from the hill top. In fact, Bel Retiro was often referred to as Flagstaff Hill.

Back by popular request - Penang Hill re-visited - for those of you who were not with us in year 2000 - the first Penang Hill site visit although dampened by continuous rain, turned out to be one of the most enthusiastic and certainly one of the most physically challenging trips we've made.

We're going to try again so please arrange to be at the gate house entrance to Bel Retiro at 3 p.m. whether you hike or drive or take the train. Be warned, the train is very crowded on Sundays.

Again, our Vice-President Ahmad Chik (non-official mayor of Penang Hill) has kindly consented to be our host. If members wish we may visit Crag Hotel aka Uplands School aka Catherine Deneuve's home in 'IndoChine'.

MASJID MELAYU, LEBUH ACHEH

Many PHT members have been enquiring about the current situation with the proposed development plans for the mosque and area, which is one of the few in Penang actually gazetted by the Federal Government under the Museum and Antiquities Act of 1976.

Local descendant Zakaria Basheer reports that the fate of the area and mosque houses now hinges on whether the area is degazetted or the boundaries modified.

On 15th November 2002, 15 delegates from the community presented a memorandum to the Chief Minister during the sitting of the State Assembly. Many reports have appeared in the press, many voices, from university academics to local community groups, descendants and family to conservation ngo's, are involved in the efforts to preserve both the area and the community. There is little concrete to report. Negotiations are on-going, efforts continue.

If you wish to read up on all the press cuttings collected, they may be viewed at the PHT office.

Diary of end-of-year events of the
HERITAGE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH
 funded by CIDA of Canada

18th September 2002 - 69 Lebuah Acheh

14 women from Lebuah Acheh & Lebuah Pantai met to decide on the kinds of activities and skills training they wished to engage in. Decided on Arabic & English classes, computer courses, curtain sewing, quilt making and baking lessons

21st September - PHT office premises

First of the computer classes - conducted by PHT intern, Yeyen, for 7 women

25th September - 120 Armenian Street

Talk on 'Waqf' by En.Yussof Azmi Marican. 25 people attended

1st October - Masjid Melayu

1st English class conducted by volunteer Nicola assisted by Norkhaila. 5 participants initially, growing to 15

2nd October

1st Arabic class conducted for 14 participants by Ustazah Maemah

5th October

Talk given to the community by well known lawyer and expert on waqf issues, En.Abdul Muif. The talk was viewed as very useful for the Lebuah Acheh community

19th October - 120 Armenian Street

'The Haj Pilgrimage in Acheen Street' by En. Jaafar Rahim, secretary of Badan Warisan Lebuah Acheh. 18 people attended the talk

26th October - 120 Armenian Street

'The Golden Era of Acheen Street' by En. Mohamad bin Yahaya. 13 people attended

2nd November - 34 Rope Walk

First batik printing class conducted by En. Naza of D'Art Advertising. 5 participants

3rd November - 4th Flr Bkt Jambul Complex

Curtain sewing course under Pn.Shanifah Zabaidah - 8 women attended

16th November - Marine Police headquarters barracks

Cookies baking session under Puan Enaz with 10 women getting ready for Hari Raya baking

21 December

Cake baking for 10 women under the guidance of Magdalene Ng

23 December

Hari Raya Open House organised by PHT and Kumpulan Wakaf Wanita

Saving The Urban Malay Legacy through Hari Raya Greeting Card.

It's started with a lone mission to save Penang's last intact Urban Malay settlement through personalized Hari Raya Greeting card, & ended up as a nation wide campaign by the families of the effected houses in Kampung Masjid Melayu. 1800 cards were printed and distributed among supporters, nation wide. The strategy was a three pronged approach; getting as many people nation wide to be aware of the existing issues; to gain support from the highest political decision makers locally and at federal levels and; lastly to raise funds to be use later for legal costs in saving this legacy. The card was designed by Zakaria Basheer Ahmad Basheer the fifth generation of Sheikh Omar Basheer Al Kahledee using a collage of old photographs of most of the prominent figures such as; religious and community leaders, teachers, writers & printers with one thing in common, that their lives contributed to the wealth of the Kampung Masjid Melayu community and even to our nation making us what we are today. -END-

(Zakaria Basheer Ahmad Basheer)



ANAK2 KOTA - The Education in Heritage Programme - the collaborative programme between PHT and Arts Ed

The November-December holidays saw the implementation of

- three workshops for schoolchildren aged 13 to 16
- A. the Architectural conservation workshop (9th - 20th November)
- B. the Traditional Foods workshop (12th - 24th November)
- C. the Endangered Trades workshop (16th to 27th November)

A. This workshop had the kind assistance of Lim Gaik Siang and Ooi Bok Kim of PHT. Children were exposed to the differing forms and styles of architecture in the inner city. They were then asked to assess appropriate and inappropriate renovation works in relation to doors, windows, awnings, colour, roofing materials, gutters etc. The children then selected willing house owners or tenants in the neighbourhood of Armenian Street and worked with them on producing brochures of their particular buildings and recommended processes and styles of renovation works

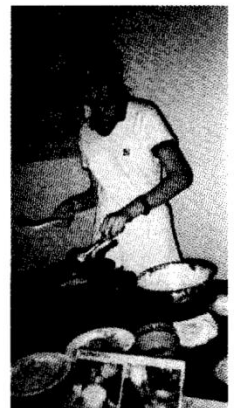
2. This workshop focused on exposing the children to different traditional foods of George Town and the traders involved. They then spent time with the traders and gently 'persuaded' them to reveal their recipes and processes. The foods chosen were: popia skin; rempah geleng; kuih ketayap; you char kuih; benggali roti; ais tingkap; traditional chinese biscuits

3. The aim of this workshop was twofold - to expose the children to informal apprenticeship and to help the endangered trades gain publicity and wider marketing. The trades chosen were: rattan chair maker; songkok maker; signboard carver; maker of paper funeral items; fortune teller; lantern maker; garland maker

The fortnight culminated in an exhibition by the children where they displayed both what they had learned as well as what they could produce.



popia skin maker



making kuih tayap



Songkok maker



rattan chair maker



producing brochures



Paper funeral items

[pictures - anak2 kota & loh-lim]

THURSDAY October 3 2002

StarNorth



GOING SOON ...
Sia Boey,
a century-old
wholesale
market
(foreground)
that would
have to make
way for a
transportation
hub.

PHT: Seek expert views

By NG SU-ANN

PENANG should set up a special panel comprising historians and conservation experts to advise the Penang Municipal Council on the approval of building plans involving heritage sites.

Penang Heritage Trust (PHT) secretary Rhoe Salma Nauden said the panel could provide both opinion and justification with regards the island's heritage sites which were worth saving.

"By the time we read in the newspapers about the demoli-

tion of pre-war houses, it is too late to object.

"We understand that council officers may not be aware of every building's historical significance but there are several historians in Penang who can identify those with a story to tell," she said.

She said such a panel involving the relevant non-governmental organisations had proven to be a success in Malacca.

Rhoe was responding to yesterday's report by *The Star* on the demolition of five pre-war houses at the Jalan C.Y. Choy-Magazine Road junction to make

way for Komtar Phase Five to redevelop the old Sia Boey wholesale market into a public transportation hub.

"It is ironic that the Chief Minister (Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon) had publicly stated that he could do little on heritage conservation as most pre-war buildings were privately owned when the PDC (a government body) is demolishing its own buildings," she said.

"The century-old Sia Boey market which holds much historical importance can be spruced up with urban greenery and

turned into a tourist attraction like London's Covent Garden which was once a wet market too," she said.

"I'm not saying that we should do away with the transportation hub plan but why not study the feasibility of implementing both," she said.

She also said the Penang Story International Conference (a joint project of Penang Heritage Trust and Star Publications (M) Bhd) had brought so much attention to Penang's history which should be internalised into the council's plans.

10

Nation

SUNDAY STAR
November 10 2002

Don: Project will destroy links to the past

By ONG JU LYNN

PENANG: The proposed redevelopment of Kampung Masjid Melayu in Lebuh Aceh would wipe out the only remaining evidence of early urban Malay settlement in the country.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) conservation expert Associate Prof Dr A. Ghafar Ahmad said the houses surrounding the 200-year-old Masjid Melayu were the oldest urban Malay settlement in Penang and their architecture was unique in the world.

"To destroy these houses is to destroy any historical evidence linking the present urban Muslims in Penang to their past," he told a press conference at Lebuh Aceh yesterday.

He said the architecture of the houses in Lebuh Aceh was different from kampung houses, which was synonymous with the Malay identity and hence, they were unique even within the context of

Malay architecture.

"This area has been designated as a heritage enclave in the Penang's nomination for the Unesco World Heritage Site. To bulldoze the houses here for low-cost housing redevelopment would definitely detract from the effort," he said.

Dr Ghafar, whose restoration of the Masjid Melayu won the Historic Mosque Preservation Award from Saudi Arabia, said the site was an early Islamic printing and publishing centre, and was also once known as the "second Jeddah" as it was a centre for haj pilgrims going to Mecca.

USM literature professor Dr Mohd Haji Salleh said the contribution of urban Malays to the development of George Town would be forever lost if the redevelopment plans were to go ahead.

"Our children and visitors from all over the world would wonder where the evidence of Malay contribution is, when

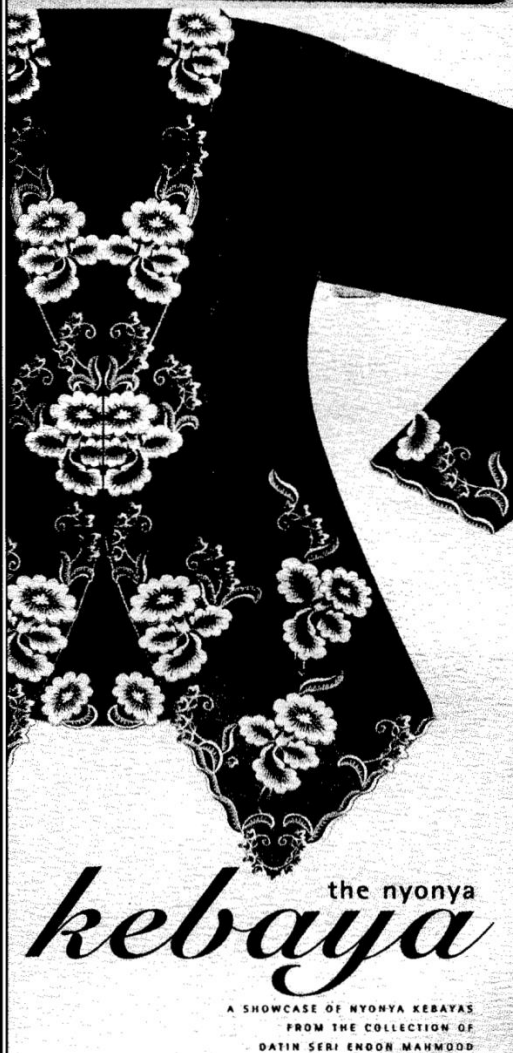
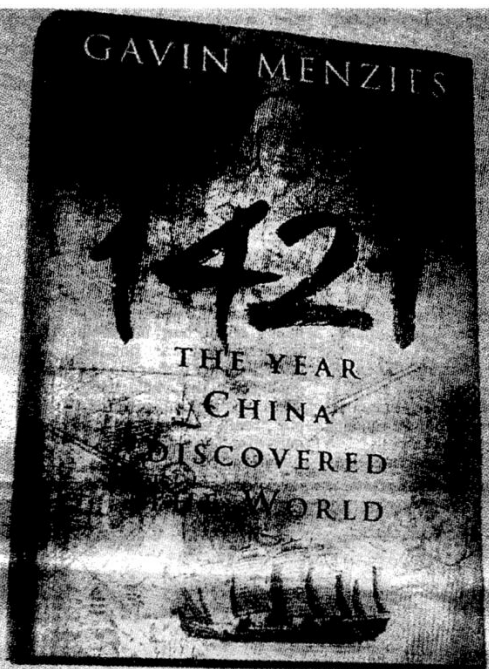
the heritage contributions of the Chinese and the Indians were clearly seen in George Town."

The press conference was also attended by writer, painter and art historian Prof Dr Zakaria Ali and the descendants of the original Lebuh Aceh pioneer inhabitants.

Zakaria Basheer, 35, fifth generation descendant of Sufi leader and first kadi of Penang, Sheikh Omar Basheer, said the community was intensifying their its signature campaign and would be sending a petition against the demolition of its ancestral homes to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Badawi.

The state Islamic Council's proposal to demolish the houses surrounding the mosque and construct four blocks of low cost housing has come under intense opposition from residents, heritage conservationists and university academia.

NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST



A SHOWCASE OF NYONYA KEBAYAS
FROM THE COLLECTION OF
DATIN SERI ENOCH MAHMUD

FRIDAY November 15 2002

StarNorth

Centre to showcase plans for museum

By NG SU-ANN
Photo by NG AH BAK

THE Dr Sun Yat-Sen Research Centre in Lorong Susu, Penang, will showcase the plans, including an isometric map, of the RM7mil museum project.

Centre chairman Yeap Tan Lim said based on the map, the museum would house a theatre, cafe, souvenir boutique and a memorial garden where a sculpture of Dr Sun and his two most loyal supporters, Goh Say Eng and Ooi Kim Kheng, would stand.

"Among the other plans for the museum is a theme time tunnel where visitors can view multimedia pre-

sentations and catch animated wax figures in action.

"The tunnel will showcase Dr Sun's 10 revolutionary campaigns against the Manchu regime," he said.

Other features at the museum would touch-screen audio-visuales, travelling exhibits and other wax figures created to capture the spirit of a period when many locals had sacrificed their wealth for Dr Sun's cause, he said.

The centre would serve to plan and collect artifacts as well as assemble most of the props for the museum, he added.

Yeap said Dr Sun's last speech took place at the historic Penang Conference at 120, Armenian Street,



HISTORIC ...
the Dr Sun Yat-Sen Museum is to be sited at this house in Macalister Road where Dr Sun delivered his first revolutionary speech in Penang in 1905.

where he pleaded with his supporters to help finance his revolutionary cause for the last time.

"In desperation, he had promised that if this last uprising fails, he would retire into oblivion forever."

"A total of 8,000 Malayan dollars was raised on the spot," Yeap added.

Yeap said the museum's main objective was to com-

memorate Dr Sun as a historical figure and glorify Penangites for their contribution towards his cause.

He said there were about 10 Dr Sun Yat-Sen museums in several countries including Canada, China, Taiwan and Singapore, adding that it was vital for the proposed museum in Penang to be distinct from

its foreign counterparts.

The museum would be located at the union's premises at 65, Jalan Macalister which once housed the Xiao Lan Ting Club where Dr Sun had delivered his first revolutionary speech in Penang in 1905.

The building is now rented to a Taiwanese private school which will vacate the

site in early 2004.

Apart from the museum's plans, the centre also featured over 1,000 books on Chinese literature and history which were donated by the Taiwanese and Chinese governments.

To visit the research centre after its opening, the public can call 04-2296118 or email sysmuseum@po.jaring.my.

AND AROUND TOWN

- ~ The Khoo Kongsi Complex and Museum is now open to visitors. The charge is RM5 /entry - free if you can prove you are a Khoo
- ~ Heritage signboards around town - you may have noticed very solid structures (dark polished granite with pink kitchen tiles) being built in front of many of our public buildings -e.g. the Museum, City Hall and Town Hall - upon which signboards will eventually be placed. Apparently this is a Federal project funded by the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Tourism and prepared by the Jabatan Muzium & Antikuiti. The signboards are to be uniform throughout the country, much like the square-block computer labs and suraus with blue roofs that have been squeezed into the corners of the grounds of every school in the country. In many cases these new heritage signboards will be placed right next to existing Amex Heritage Trail boards.

- ~ On 12th October and 26th October 2002, the Press was given a tour of Chulia Street and Church Street, focusing on different styles of shop-house architecture. Lim Gaik Siang and Salma together with Magdalene led the pressmen. At the same time, different volunteers with digital cameras were asked to record each house facade on the street.



The PHT has one of the lowest NGO subscriptions - RM3 a month - but we DO depend on them to keep going.

So, if you enjoy the site visits & the newsletter, if you appreciate the projects - that have been conducted, if you share in the vision for George Town and if you believe that PHT is doing a good job, but that a lot more needs to be done...

DON'T FORGET

to pay up your subscriptions

Admission : RM\$50

Annual subs: RM36

Overseas postal surcharge [Please NOTE]

RM14 annually for Asia, Australia, N.Z.

[RM36 + RM14]

RM 24 annually for rest of the world

[RM24 + RM36]

You can also pay by CREDIT CARD. Please e-mail the office for the credit card form phtrust@pc.jaring.my

PENANG HERITAGE TRUST COUNCIL

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Inner City Trails of George Town

PHT regularly conducts 3 different heritage tours:

Tuesday

Little India, Spice Trail

Wednesday

Heritage Trail 2 & Cheong Fatt Tze

Thursday

Street of Harmony & Historical Enclave.

Those interested can contact Magdeline at Tel 04-264-2631, at least a day before the tour. The fees are RM50 per person (3-10) and RM40 per person for larger groups (11 & above). Customized tours are available upon request.



Penang
Heritage
Trust
Persatuan
Warisan
Pulau
Pinang
PHT



KEN AIR
THE RELIABLE TOUR

THE PHT COUNCIL IS LOOKING FOR A NEW HONORARY TREASURER - IF YOU ARE GOOD WITH NUMBERS AND BOOK- KEEPING OR IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP A VERY WORTHY NGO, PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW

These last about 3 hours . Special customized trails may also be arranged ~ Traditional Foods Trail / Sun -Yet Sun Trail / Traditional Trades Trail / Muslim Heritage Trail etc.

Special rates may also be arranged for Government officials , V.I.P. visitors, students and those on official business



items for sale at PHT office

