



PHT newsletter

ISSUE NO. 80 / AUG TO DEC 2003

**PENANG
HERITAGE
TRUST**

*Persatuan
Warisan
Pulau
Pinang*

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PHT

EDITORIAL

Dear Members,

Once again we have to apologise for the delay in getting this newsletter out. As you go through it you will realise that a lot has actually taken place in the last four months. The Annual General Meeting saw the retirement of many 'burnt out' Council members, but it has also resulted in a number of new, young and enthusiastic members being elected to sit in this term's Council.

We welcome them and are confident that their participation will be invaluable, we thank the retiring members profusely for their commitment and their contributions and we hope they will continue to support the efforts of the Trust.

For those who were unable to join us for the site visits, we enclose reports on the July visit at the Tua Pek Kong temple in Tanjung Takong, the newly restored Kapitan Keling Mosque in August, the Chinese Traditional Trades Tour in September and the Kampong Seronok Hari Raya site visit in November. December saw the PHT being among the first groups in Penang to tour the new Spice Gardens in Telok Bahang.

We wish to also take this opportunity to wish everyone a belated Selamat Hari Raya, a Merry Xmas & A Happy New 2004 & an early Keong Hee Huat Chye for the Chinese New Year

L.L.Loh-Lim

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19 OCTOBER 2003 AT THE E & O HOTEL

The PHT AGM was uneventful save for some anxiety faced by the incumbent Council members who noted the number of stalwarts deciding to step down at the end of their present term. Understandably, the wide range of roles and activities of our organisation has taken its toll on some and we understand their need for a 'sabbatical' from the organisation. Those who left include Khoo Salma the Honorary Secretary, Teresa Capol enthusiastic fundraiser and coordinator for PHT Heritage Trails, Lim Gaik Siang, liaison for Chinese affairs and a committed activist for heritage alert, Kim Wong a good marketing strategist for our events, Teoh Poh Huat who gave us valuable advice on the workings of market forces on heritage buildings and finally Catherine Loh, our treasurer who had to leave for personal reasons. All have made very significant contributions to the organisation. They will be missed but hopefully, they will continue to support the PHT in a lesser role.

In particular, I have to single out Salma who for over twelve years has played a crucial role in promoting the vision of PHT as well as building up our international network which resulted in the creation of AWPNUC, the Asian & West Pacific Network for Urban Conservation, our regional association which has provided so much exposure for both the PHT and its individual members.

We welcome the new council members who have been elected namely Tunku Smail Jawa, Mr Yap Ching Chau, En Zakaria Bakar, Mr Jack Ong, Mr Khor Yiat Lin and Mr Clement Lim.

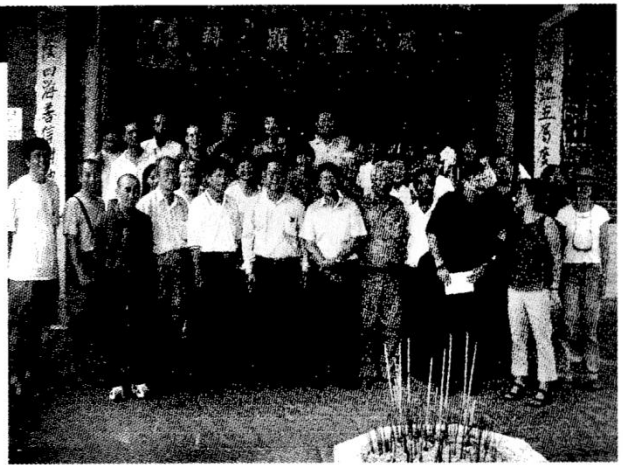
Dr Choong Sim Poey
President 2003



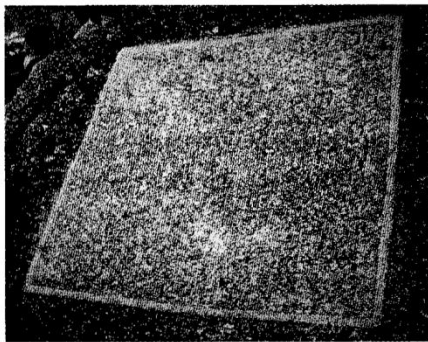
SITE VISIT REPORT 27 JULY 2003

THE TUA PEH KONG TEMPLE IN TANJUNG TOKONG

38 PHT members turned up for this site visit to purportedly the oldest Tua Peh Kong temple around. The Temple Committee and the Chairman were very kind to welcome us and to tell us a little about the site. We were first shown the carved rock at the entrance to the temple which documented the gratitude of the temple to Md. Lim Leng Cheak, who had brought



running water to the temple by connecting water pipes all the way from her land in Pepper Estate. Various large stone plaques within the temple itself provided a history to the growth of the temple. The site itself dates back to pre-Francis Light days and the existence of 4 Hakka graves to the rear of the temple contains the remains of the earliest Chinese sailors/settlers to Penang, in the early 1740's. The Chairman also explained that this seaside temple was considered as the 'holiday' site for the Gods who would normally reside in the main temple in town in King Street. So once a year, all



activities were shifted to the Tanjung Tokong temple for a little while.

Members were also shown the urns used in the annual 'chneah hoay' or 'flame watching ceremony' where the Committee Members will offer prayers for a peaceful & prosperous year on the 14th night of the 1st moon of the lunar year. A watch is held where a particular rock in the sea in front of the temple is used as an indicator of when the flames of the holy urn should be fanned. When the

tide rises high enough to hide the rock entirely, the 'flame fanning and watching' ceremony takes place. A geomancer priest will 'read' the flames and the fortunes for the coming year will be pronounced.

The group then moved to a side pavilion where inscriptions were pointed out to us of the main donor of the pavilion, Aw Boon Haw, the Tiger Balm King, a Hakka who had made good and left a trail of eclectic mansions set in enigmatic gardens throughout Asia.

The visit ended with tea and cakes consumed under the shade of a historic watch tower built by the British during World War 2 in order to keep an eye out for any possible incursions by sea by the Japanese navy. It now carries hushed tales of hauntings, suicide leaps and lovers in night rendezvous outings.

Many thanks to Tan Yeow Wooi for arranging the visit with the Committee and to all the members who chipped in with their wonderfully interesting bits of information about the temple and its surroundings. (Loh-Lim)



(All pictures courtesy of Loh-Lim)

SITE VISIT REPORT 31 AUGUST 2003

*Dear Members,
'No site visit this month due
to Chinese New Year!'*

The Legacy of Kapitan Kling by John Loh & Loh-Lim

The Call of Kapitan Kling Mosque

"To veil or not to veil?" That was the question that piqued the women who came for the Kapitan Kling Mosque site visit on Merdeka Day. Even though it was not compulsory to wear the veil, most obliged as a sign of respect and decorum. As they say, when in Rome, do as the Romans do.

As 44 PHT members and their friends gathered inside the mosque (with their shoes removed, of course), an informative briefing was given by the Mosque Committee Chairman, Meera Mydin Mastan and PHT Honorary Secretary, Khoo Salma Nasution.

Founded in 1801, the Kapitan Kling Mosque is the oldest historic mosque in Penang. Because of this, it underwent a recent Federal government funded RM5 million restoration and extension work. According to Khoo Salma, she and her husband, Abdur-Razzaq Lubis, also a PHT member, were involved in the early stages of the planned restoration.

On why there is another mosque (Acheen Street Mosque) at such close proximity when the Kapitan Kling Mosque would seemed sufficient, it was revealed that both mosques catered to different congregation using different languages. The Kapitan Kling Mosque catered to the Havildars, Jemadars and Sepoys from South India who started to trade in Penang via the East India Company. On the other hand the Acheen Street Mosque was founded for traders from Arab and Aceh.

The name Kapitan Kling is derived from its founder Cauder Mydin Merican alias Kapitan Kling, a headman appointed by the British for the South Indians (or Chulias as in Chulia Street). In the book Streets of George Town by Khoo Salma, Kapitan Kling became the first Superintendent of the mosque and the appointment of the mosque officers rested with his family. He even brought builders and stones from India for the construction of the mosque.

From the original 18 acres lot granted by the British government to the 'Mohamedan Church forever' in 1801, the mosque area shrunk to 8 acres in 1903. The 10 acres ceased to be recognised as charity or waqf land due to improper management. However the surrounding periphery grew organically through the years but it was deemed a slum area by the Municipal Commission and it was decided by the colonial government to rehabilitate the area with regular terrace houses

During the 1910s, Moghul domes in copper were added but unfortunately water leakage has been a recurrent problem. Earlier restoration efforts were ill advised and the copper was painted over. The present restoration has utilised copper and attempted waterproofing but problems are already visible with peeling on the exterior and water marks on the interior ceilings. Several layers of paint have been removed but no attempts have been made to recapture the crispness of original plaster mouldings. The ceiling was extended upwards, and recently a rather large and ornate chandelier was added. Lighting is completely modern with fluorescent tubes and external wiring and unfortunately no attempts have been made to capture the spirit of the original oil lanterns in small alcoves secreted into the walls.

To deter birds and bats from making nests in the mosque, attempts at using sonar devices have been made. But the irony is that there are shop owners nearby who played recorded bird chirpings to encourage the swallows to make their homes in their houses for the very lucrative birds' nests .

As the calls for prayer were sounded, we quickly made our move.

A Tarnished Golden Opportunity

Moving along, we reached the frontage area of the mosque along the road named after it, and despite the light shower, PHT President Dr Choong Sim Poey and Council Member Loh –Lim gave their views about the current Gold Bazaar project, the main points of which were:

- *the unacceptable and totally senseless removal and relocation (?) of fully grown, culturally valued neem trees*
- *the objection on conservation principles of constructing an obtrusive covered walkway that would obliterate current facades of heritage buildings.*

From Corpses to Chickens

Morbid but true, the Campbell Street market was once a cemetery. According to Khoo Salma, it was once referred to as Hutan Mayat or Forest of Corpses, and those who passed on were usually buried behind the houses where they were staying. However around 1900, it was decided that a municipal market was needed and the graves were exhumed to the Perak Road cemetery with compensation paid to the Kapitan Kling Mosque.

Despite the objectionable nature of relocating graves, one tomb known as Keramat Mustafa Ali remained and is dedicated to the patron saint of poulterers, and probably was the result of a concession between the ruling authorities and the mosque. The market is built around it but during our visit, we found the door to the shrine locked. What we found was live chickens, ducks & turkeys waiting for their fate to be determined by buyers who insist only on the freshest ingredients.

As for the market, its fate lies in the hands of the Penang Municipal Council who plans to convert it into a 'KL-style central market which will specialise in handicraft and traditional products' (The Star, 4th August 2003).

Restore the Mosque but not the Mausoleum?

The founder of Kapitan Kling Mosque lived in Kampung Kolam (Pool Village) which derives its name from the big, granite communal tank for farming and bathing which was similar to the ones in South India.

In 1934, Cauder Mydin Merican died and was buried and subsequently his 3 wives were buried with him in a covered tomb built by Indian masons. According to Khoo Salma, his first wife was Pattani Amah Othman nachiar, who is regarded as a saint or keramat. His second wife was Tunku Maheran alias Tunku Wanchik Thaibu, a princess from the Kedah royal house and his third wife, a Malay woman named Che Aminah.

The dilapidated state of the mausoleum is in stark contrast to the mosque he founded.

According to heritage tour guide and PHT Council Member Teresa Capol, it is mind boggling that the authorities saw fit to restore the mosque that bears the founder's name in such an extravagant fashion yet chose to neglect the man's tomb.

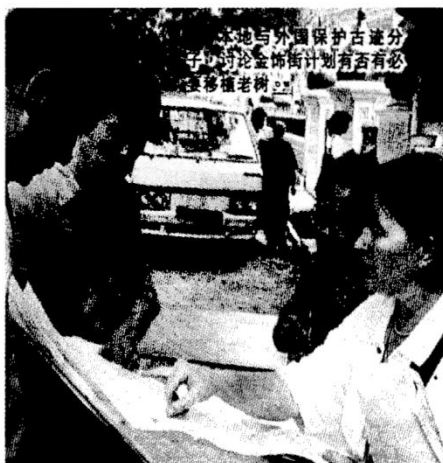
And to add salt to the wound, there are plans to construct carparks in the grounds of the mausoleum, for the Gold Bazaar project!

As time and the inclement weather did not permit us to hear the rest of the fascinating stories, we returned to the mosque for refreshment.

(anyone noticed the little old man with the umbrella who coolly walked in to join us and to partake of the sandwiches and drinks, helping himself to 2 rounds of refreshments and then returning to the main road to continue his evening walk?)



THE MPPP PROPOSAL TO CUT DOWN MATURED TREES.....PHT has its say...



PHT Members Laurence Loh, Ooi Bok Kim & Gwynn Jenkins concerned over the proposed plans.....



Ahmad Chik, Kanda Kumar of MNS & City Councillor, Mark Ooi
"we will relocate the trees....."



Retired PHT Council Member
Teresa Capol & 'The Street with No
Neem.....'

NEEM TREES-OLD PENANG

The Government project in George Town makes the city somewhat, seems artificial. lifeless.....

The Neem trees-are like part of the old buildings in the city, if not protected, one by one, the landmark is gone. They are part of the communities, part of life, the disappearance of them is like the disappearance of the soul and culture of the city.

椰脚街树 - 老 檳 城

追求美化 乔治市 是 檳州政府现今的目地,

可是却愈来愈人工休饰, 愈来愈没生气.

椰脚街老树 - 好比檳城的古老建筑, 不加保护,

一个接一个湮没, 它们是社区一份子,

生活一部份.....

它们的消失等于灵魂和文化的消失



The Neem trees in question...
[picture courtesy of Mag]

by Magdeline Ng, PHT

PHT AGM 2003 **Sunday, 19th October**

Venue: E & O Hotel (Arshak Suite), Farquhar Street, attended by 38 members

Agenda of the AGM was as follows:

1. To consider and approve:
 - a) The Minutes of the PHT Annual General Meeting
 - b) The PHT Annual Report September 2002 – August 2003
 - c) The PHT Financial Report ended 31 December 2002
2. Election of Office Bearers (2003-2005)
3. Other Matters

All Minutes, Annual report and Accounts were approved. The 2003-2005 Council Members elected are as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| > Dr Choong Sim Poey - re- elected | > Mr Ahmad Chik - re-elected |
| > Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee - re-elected | > Dr Tan Chong Guan - re-elected |
| > Tengku Ismail Jawa - elected | > Mr Yap Ching Chau - elected |
| > Mr Khaw Yiat Lin - elected | > Mr Zakaria Basheer - elected |
| > Mr Jack Ong - elected | > Mr Clement Liang - elected |

Any member who wishes to collect a copy of the Annual Report may do so at the PHT Office

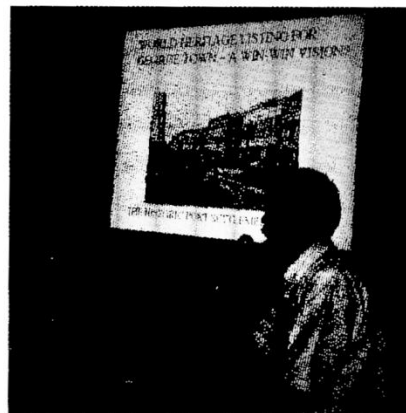


AGM EVENT 19 OCTOBER 2003

Instead of the regular monthly site visits, the October session overlapped with the Annual General Meeting. A talk was conducted by conservation architect Laurence Loh on 'World Heritage Listing for George Town - A Win-Win Vision?' after the AGM at 4.30 pm.

Laurence with his conservation experience gained from being the Deputy President Badan Warisan Malaysia, consultant for UNESCO & on its panel of international judges, member of ICOMOS & advisor to Hong Kong Urban Renewal Authority, attempted to elucidate the mysteries of the World Heritage Committee which sits yearly in Paris, to PHT members.

Examples from Valparaíso and Tel Aviv in the 2003 assessment, were provided in order to review listing criteria. The session allowed many questions to be raised that were still bothering this 'converted' audience.



SITE VISIT REPORT 27 SEPTEMBER 2003

In conjunction with the month long Penang Chinese Cultural Carnival, PHT organised a Chinese Heritage Trail for members on Saturday, 27th September 2003. In total 44 people attended and were divided into two groups, guided by Teresa Capol and Joann Khaw.

The first group led by Joann comprised mainly of Chinese members, so her emphasis was on the street names in Hokkien. Among the trades visited were the Kim Guan Coffee factory where members were delighted to view the last coffee maker to use firewood instead of gas to stoke his flames. Then the groups were taken to visit the last jossstick maker to actually fashion josssticks by hand using a clever mixer of sawdust, sandalwood, glue and water, the rattan repair man who still soaks his rattan in tubs of water and carefully tugs at the strands by hand to tighten the weave for your easy chair. The signboard maker remains a little gruff when disturbed and the beaded slipper makers never seem to be interested in selling you anything that is actually worth buying.

Some members were quite happy to 'help' the dying trades by purchasing items, like bags of coffee and hand painted josssticks at the traders. This is, after all, why the whole project of identifying and working with the traders is all about - helping them market their products and improve their sales.

For the interest of members, to revive interest in trades and to de-mystify some of our street names in Hokkien :-



(picture courtesy of Loh-Lim)

Kuan Im Teng Au (Back of Kuan Yin Temple) - Stewart Lane

Kuan In Teng Cheng (Front of Kuan Yin Temple) - Pitt Street
(the section in front of the temple)

Tua Balai (Big Police Station) - Pitt Street (there used to be a police station that stood at the T-junction of Pitt St./Chulia St.)

Tua Kay (Main Street) - China Street (main commercial street for Chinese settlers)

Char Bok Kay (Paint Wood Street) - Bishop Street (there were furniture shops here)

Ghee Hin Kay - Church Street (Ghee Hin secret society was here)

Pasat Kay (From the word Pasar) - Market Street (Pasat Kay was the old name and there was a market here)

Kelingah Kay (Indian Street) - Market Street (the original Kelingah Kay was Chulia St. Ghaut)

Ia Kah (At the foot of coconut trees) - Pitt Street (the section going towards Armenian St.)

Pak Tang Kay (Hitting Copper Street) - Armenian Street (there was a Malay coppersmith, Mohamed Tahir)

Pak Cheek Kay (Hitting Stone Street) - Acheen Street (named after the stone engravers)

We shall be delighted at a later date to organise a Traditional Foods Trail for you, complete with maps and tasting sessions.

Currently the PHT still conducts 3 Heritage Trails as well as the Trades Trail and the Foods Trail. Drop by the office or call Mag to make enquiries.

(By Joann Khaw & Loh-Lim)

SITE VISIT REPORT 30 NOVEMBER 2003

HARI RAYA SITE VISIT TO KAMPONG SERONOK

(Zakaria Basheer Ahmad Basheer - edited-Loh-Lim)

'Twas the sixth day of the Hari Raya Idil Fitri here in Penang, when I, together with 58 members of PHT trailed the countryside road of Jalan Permatang carefully looking for the entrance to the Kampung Seronok, Bayan Lepas, a renowned Malay traditional kampong on the island. Though our group was initially separated due to some confusing double entrances, the friendly faces and hospitality that welcomed us allowed us to get together again just in time for the tour to start at about 2:40 that afternoon.

We were warmly received by our knowledgeable host, Encik Asman bin Din, a young and vibrant yet humble 'anak' of Kampung Seronok. The tour started with a general briefing at the kampong community hall where we were told the famous story of how the kampong got its name. An English civil engineer right after the Japanese occupation ended in Malaya, witnessed the merrymaking and joyful people that inhabited the kampong and called it the 'Village of Joy'. This name was made official in August 30th 1946 with the Malay translation 'Kampung Seronok'.

Kampung Seronok basically comprises of three kampongs, Kampung Seronok, Kampung Padang and Desa Aman which divided into six zones with six kampong working committees.(JKKK). With an area of 80.25 acres, about 80 percent of the land is used for residential and the rest for agricultural and recreational purposes. There were about 315 houses and 1635 people. They now no longer rely solely on agriculture as their main source of income and many are involved in various modern sectors like; Government, factories, commercials companies, printing or running their own businesses.

The site visit also coincided with the Hari Raya Open House, organized by the Penang State Government. So we were fortunate in viewing various cultural activities and some gotong royong presentations prepared by the kampong folk in the Hari Raya Idil Fitri spirit.

The group progressed along a small path between modernized and renovated kampong houses also passing a newly built Community Computer Lab and ActivitiesCenter for tuitions classes. There is also a Dewan Budaya (Cultural Hall) that was built in 1992.

Encik Asman then led the group to an aquaculture area where local fresh water fish like Talapia and 'giant' Patin were reared in five separated ponds. Most of the members were exited to see hundreds of 'giant' Patin leaping to the surface of the algae infested waters when Encik Asman threw some food pellets into the pond to summon the fish from their afternoon naps.

A few members even suggested that my size made me a candidate for 'throwing in to feed the fish', but I convinced them that my obviously high cholesterol level would not be beneficial to the fishes' health.





The fun part of the afternoon got going when En. Asman led us to the main field (used to be a vast paddy field) where the children of the kampong, mostly young women and girls demonstrated some Malay endangered traditional games like 'congak' and 'batu tujuh'. Many of our members were very happy to join in and either learn or 'relive' their childhood days.

A main stage and some tents had also been erected for the official 'Hari Raya party and a lot of great food was being prepared by the kampong mak chiks.

When we could finally pull the members away from the children's games , we passed by some depressingly 'renovated' kampong houses and were led to a 'showpiece' Malay traditional kampong house . Even as we admired the craftsmanship and the restoration of the house, we could not help but mourn the passing of its use. No-one now lived in it or used it, it was purely for 'showing off' to tourists.

Some lovely Malay girls in their dazzling 'Baju Kurung' welcomed us with 'beras kunyit' (yellow colored rice grain) a sign for welcoming important guests to one's home.

This gives me more reason to come back again next year.

While most of the PHT members, took pleasure in examining the house more closely, a string quartet of elderly gentlemen played traditional Malay folk music under the house. Songs like 'Lenggang Mak Inang' (and few other numbers that I am quite ashamed to admit that as a born Malay gentleman, I never knew the names of) delighted us. We were then treated to traditional kuih raya (festival cookies) like 'Putu Kacang', 'Kuih Bangkit', and 'Kuih Batang Buruk'. Everybody seemed to love it! Well at least I did!

We ended our tour with special thanks by Dr Choong to Encik Asmad and also to the kampong ladies that had been serving us and sharing with us the joy of kuih raya. And at about 4:00pm we dispersed separately to the main tent where the launching of the Hari Raya Celebrations at Kampong Seronok was about to begin.

New Council Members 2003
Jack Ong, Zakariah Basheer & Yap Ching Chau



(All Pictures Courtesy of Loh-Lim)

SHARED HISTORIES, COMMUNITIES & CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SEA'S WESTERN LITTORAL 30th July to 3rd August 2003

Shared Histories & Fellowships by John Loh and Khoo Salma

92 speakers and participants (including staff and volunteers) thronged over to City Bayview for a hectic 5-day conference entitled 'Shared Histories, Communities and Cultural Heritage in South-east Asia's Western Littoral'.

Preparations were made much, much earlier back in April when PHT obtained sponsorship from SEASREP (South East Asian Studies Regional Exchange Programme) which is jointly funded by the Toyota Foundation and the Japan Foundation Asia Centre. The programme is aimed at promoting Southeast Asian Studies.

After a quick registration, the group boarded a bus which took them to the historic port settlement and then stopped at Yeoh Kongs, one of the Five Great Clans (Cheah, Khoo, Yeoh, Lim, Tan), whose leaders were trading with coastal Myanmar, Southern Thailand and Sumatra. Next was an afternoon tea of local delicacies of tempoyak, roti jala and curry chicken, graciously hosted by the mosque community at Acheen Street. Just a stone's throw away at 120, Armenian Street is Dr Sun Yat Sen base where the Founder of Modern China planned the Canton Uprising of 1911.

A welcome dinner was waiting for them that night which was quite a boisterous event some might say. After all these, it was on to serious academic matters the next day. PHT members who wished to have a peek at the papers presented can purchase the CD at RM10.00 and the souvenir programme at RM5.00 at our office.

On Saturday, 2nd August 2003, a public lecture entitled 'Regional Networks of Knowledge – the Penang College Generale and Beyond' by Prof Anthony Reid was delivered, and received a commendable attendance by PHT members. His paper traces the foundation and role of the College Generale of the Societe des Missions Etrangères de Paris, now located in Tanjung Bungah. The lecture did pique the curiosity of a few participants but everything was revealed when the group boarded the bus (again!) and visited the College Generale museum that houses the relics of the Southeast Asian martyrs.



Other places visited were Dhammikarama Burmese Buddhist Temple at Pulau Tikus, founded in 1803 which displayed a selection of temple artefacts and publications for the temple's 200th anniversary. Across the road is the Wat Chaiya Mangkalam Thai Temple, with one of the world's longest reclining Buddhas. The visits to these two temples was made possible with the assistance the conference committee member, Dato' Marie Ritchie.

Another boisterous event ensued at Penang Eurasian Association where carousing and revelry filled the air during 'Happy Hours'. As with all good things, the conference ended on a quiet note with resolutions and plans for another conference next year. As part of the resolution, it was proposed that the next conference be held in Myanmar! All the speakers were very appreciative about the smooth running of the conference and also the cultural elements and the tours. Dato' Anwar Fazal suggested that we should have nutmeg sweets rather than the hotel-sponsored Swiss candy to remind everyone that Penang was once famous for its spices!

According to Khoo Salma, "Through this conference, scholars who have been studying the northern states of West Malaysia, southern Thailand, Sumatra and coastal Myanmar, were able to confirm their ideas about the inter-relatedness of this region, which we calling Southeast Asia's Western Littoral or Southeast Asia's Indian Ocean Littoral. Again, as in the Penang Story, the centrality of Penang in the region was promoted. For example, at the public lecture, both Prof. Anthony Reid and Prof. Cheah Boon Kheng acknowledged that the history of Penang is under-investigated, especially the idea of Penang as an educational centre and the intellectual centre of this region's 'knowledge networks'. It is hoped that these historical investigations will further validate the transboundary significance of Penang's heritage, which serve as tangible records of the flourishing trading society that Penang was once."

To all who contributed to the success of this conference (especially the volunteers), PHT would like to convey a big thank for all the hard work and sacrifices! Syabas!

Workshop on 'Introduction to History & Cultural Heritage Conservation' 15th & 16th November 2003

12 participants from the hotel industry, tourist guide association, pht and OIC schools attended this little workshop.

The first morning involved a walking tour, led by Teresa Capol, of the cultural and historic zones and in the afternoon Khoo Salma gave a talk on 'Heritage and Local History'.

On Sunday, areas not covered on the first day were then carefully explained by Teresa and in the afternoon Loh-Lim spoke on 'Cultural Heritage and Tourism'.

Participants were very enthusiastic and satisfied with the workshop and our 'services' rendered. They were presented with certificates of attendance.

The expenses are fully covered by the fees collected and this forms part of the CIDA project.





The Education in Heritage Programme / Anak Anak Kota

Officially, the Anak2 Kota programme has come to an end

3 different workshops were run :-

- 1. The Architectural Workshop where facilitators worked with children, identifying different styles of buildings and varying details. They focussed on roofing, facades, fenestration, materials and also looked at 'appropriate' and 'inappropriate' elements and changes and why these were so. The children then produced a pamphlet for various types of houses*
- 2. The Traditional Foods Workshop. Children identified 5 traditional foods and set about to spend some time with the traders to learn and to document recipes, ingredients and styles of preparation. Brochures are being produced*
- 3. The Endangered Trades Workshop. Again, the children conducted informal apprenticeship with the traders and documented processes and materials, brochures are being produced.*

A video is in its final stages of preparation and this will collate all the work that has been done in the heritage education programme. A website has been set up.

Besides working with children, the movement to disseminate information as part of the general 'raising of consciousness' about conservation, has been brought to colleges, universities, other NGO's and professional organisations. These have included talks and slide shows and as well as heritage walkabouts in the inner city.

The programme drew to a close with an art & craft exhibition in front of the Kapitan Kling mosque (amidst the threatened Neem trees), followed the next day by an innovative tour around the town on bicycles by the children. They distributed Anak2 Kota t-shirts to the traders they had been working with and attracted curious crowds at the Carnavan Lane wet market

Although the programme is officially finished, the Education in Conservation Programme will continue with talks in schools, heritage walkabouts for children and further traditional trades trails. Please contact Sheau Fung at the office if you are interested in any of the education activities.



HONOURS TO THE PHT AND TO MS KHOO SALMA NASUTION

Dear Ms. Nasution,

It is a great pleasure to inform you that the World Monuments Fund has inaugurated, with the publication of the 2004 World Monuments Watch® list, a special citation for sites that have been listed on the previous World Monuments Watch list, and have made exceptional progress during the two-year period of the Watch listing. These sites were not re-listed because their nominators have done much to reduce the imminent threats to the site. The certificate acknowledges that the work to preserve the site is not yet complete, but that considerable momentum has been attained to ensure the site's preservation.

I am please to be able to report to you that George Town Historic Enclave has been chosen for a Certificate of Exceptional Accomplishment. Your work with the site represents a real testament to the success of the WatchProgram and the commitment of local community members who are working effectively to protect historic monuments. Of the 77 sites that were not relisted on the 2004 list, 12 will be awarded a Certificate of Exceptional Accomplishment. The recipients of these certificates have been chosen internally, through a process of review by the WMF staff.

The Certificate of Exceptional Accomplishment will read:

In recognition of the exceptional efforts of

· Khoo Salma Nasution, Sustainable Penang Initiative & Penang Heritage Trust

and the tireless and creative advocacy efforts to mobilize community organizations and local corporations to protect one of the largest ensembles of pre-war buildings in Southeast Asia, and their traditional communities, from widespread redevelopment and destruction.

The new World Monuments Watch® List of 100 Most Endangered Sites and the sites receiving the Certificate of Exceptional Accomplishment will be officially announced at a press conference in New York on September 24, 2003. The list of 12 Certificate awardees will also be featured in the 2004 Watch catalog. At the time of the September press announcement, we will mail you your certificate, as well as copies of the World Monuments Watch® catalog and press kits. We hope this award may provide you with a significant public relations opportunity for your site. Please advise us if you would like a representative of WMF to attend a local award ceremony if one is held, and we will do our best to oblige.

As with the 2002 Watch listing, we encourage you to use this award pro-actively to further your work at George Town Historic Enclave with the press, community involvement, and fundraising. WMF congratulates you and your team on the progress accomplished at George Town Historic Enclave.

Sincerely yours,

Bonnie Burnham

President

Opinions of life in Penang in 1926.....printed in

THE MALACCA OBSERVER, MONDAY OCTOBER 4 1926

Snobs in Penang

"Z" whose letter to *The Straits Times* we reproduce in today's issue of *The Pinang Gazette* complains of 'Snobbish Singapore.' He should come to Penang to see snobbery at its best - or worst.

Snobs are persons who pay an exaggerated respect to wealth or social position, who are ashamed of their socially inferior connexions, who behave with servility to men richer than, or socially superior, to themselves, and with arrogance to those who are poorer than themselves, or who in their opinion are socially inferior to them. Snobs love show and display, judge merit by externals, and pose as what they consider to be gentlemen or gentlewomen. Penang is full of them.

In some respects, everyone of us is a little bit snobbish. For instance, there are few middle-aged business men in the East who have not at one time or another been advised by their doctors that it would do them all the good in the world to walk into town to their work every day. They dare not do it in fear of being sneered at as too hard up to be able to afford to ride! Doctors denounce the pahit table as a danger to health. How many of us dare to limit our apertifs

to one or two, in the face of being thought penurious. That form of snobbishness denotes lack of moral courage.

When a snob finds himself, usually through no fault of his own, the proud possessor of a motor car, he looks down upon the man in a ricksha, while he in turn regards the pedestrian with scorn. The man who enjoys credit for a bottle of champagne, with his dinner at a hotel, regards him who pays cash for a bottle of beer, as a very inferior creature, is a snob of the first water. So was the common little wretch who, when his aged parent asked him to pass the 'taters', told him to say *per taters*, and not to, be so 'orrid vulgar!' That shows the snob blissfully unconscious of his own limitations, at his best.

Until courtesy, fine breeding and gentle manners are the only passports to a society in which all possessing those attributes are equal, there will be a snobbish rush for social precedence. Until men are judged on their merits, there will be snobbery in business. It is bad for the State as men, refuse to perform the elementary duty of a citizen to qualify himself to protect home and country in the hour of need, for no other reason than that they would to stand in the ranks on equal terms with men who in some cases are infinitely superior to them but do not draw so large a salary and are therefore, in their opinion, their inferiors.

In the hateful snobocracy of modern life fine feathers and noisy notes (currency notes) make fine birds. the world would be happier if it could but realise the truth of Old William of Wykeman's motto - 'Manners makyth man' ("P.G.")

(many thanks to H.C.Lim who found this article)



10th December 2003

The new Canadian High Commissioner to Malaysia, his Excellency Melvyn MacDonald and his wife, Diane, meets up with senior Council Members of the Penang Heritage Trust, for a briefing on the status of historic George Town. They were accompanied by the Canadian Consul in Penang, Dato Y. T. Tan and were taken on a tour of the inner city by Teresa Capol and Dr Choong, after tea at the Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion. The Canadian Government has been very supportive of the work done by the Trust and we look forward to continuing this relationship with the new High Commissioner.

SITE VISIT REPORT 21 DECEMBER 2003

A group of 67 expectant Penang Heritage Trust members and their guests visited the garden on a balmy Sunday afternoon. A normal visitor would have just been turned loose on their own but special guides had been arranged for the Trust visit. The contingent gathered at the Malay Pavilion before the start of the tour. We were divided into two groups led by PHT member David Wilkinson and Freddie.

In his brief introduction to the garden, David told us how it was an investment venture by Bertam Holdings and that in all, almost RM2 million had been put into the 8 acre site, on a long lease from the land owners. Then off we went on the Spice Trail, the Ornamental Trail, the Jungle Trail ...Along the spice trail, many of us were 're-introduced' to spices and herbs that we had not seen for a long time. Members were fascinated by the famed 'Tongkat Ali' and its counterpart the 'K.Fatimah'. Herbs and spices used by our grandmothers were recognised, we could smell the pandanus plants. In clusters on the hill slopes, there were gingers, cinnamon, birds-of-paradise and many more. We viewed the wonders of 'dry stonewalls' lining the paths. These had been carefully put together by a visiting Welsh friend of the Wilkinsons.

As members walked up to the peak they passed a man-made lake, meandering streams and a water-fall, they swung on a giant swing, they plied the guides with questions. David introduced members to the compost used, a recycled waste of palm oil.

The ornamental trail revealed sensievera, anthuriums and poinsettia and amazing clusters of blooming Black Lily. The paths were well laid out, the signage was clear and sensitively designed, materials were all ecologically sound. Members were delighted with what they were shown and looked forward to how fantastic the place would be in a year or two when the plants were much more mature. Then members were treated to something really special - spice cakes, hot cardamon spice tea and cold spice drinks prepared specially by Rebecca Wilkinson out on the timber deck of the nearby family bungalow. Members were also introduced to the young Wilkinson's pet python.

In all a very educational and enjoyable visit and as remarked by one member 'I come back to Penang and each time, I am confronted by more concrete blocks and more insensitive destruction, this is amazing, to actually see Malaysians put money into something so wonderful'.

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THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL

PERSONAL JOURNAL

Culture & Thought — Culture Clash: Malaysia is Losing its Portuguese Flavor — A Controversial Project Threatens a 500-Year-Old Community

By **Lim Li Min** 1,255 words 23 October 2003 *The Asian Wall Street Journal*

P7 English (c) 2003 Dow Jones & Company, Inc.

Blue-eyed Ronnie de Mello, his leathery skin burnt cocoa by the sun, may be among the last generation of Malaysia's Portuguese fishermen. But there's nothing he can do about it. Access to the jetty in front of Malacca's tiny Portuguese settlement has been blocked by a controversial reclamation project. According to the community's leaders, the 6.5-acre "theme" site will host a restaurant zone and a heritage-style hotel. "People who live outside say it's tacky. But people here want it. It will bring in good business, and besides, the government has been relatively sensitive about it," claims the vice chairman of the Portuguese Settlement Regedor's Panel, Michael Banerji. Mr. Banerji adds that the fisherman have the option of becoming garbage collectors instead.

Maybe Mr. de Mello isn't aware of the controversy surrounding the \$7.6 million project, a joint venture between a private company and the government. But as he sits cleaning his butterfly nets in the Portuguese Square, his gaze drifts to the tractors sitting on the red clay earth. The Malacca Straits, muddied and grey from silt, no longer provides Mr. de Mello with bounties of shrimp, used extensively in Kristang (a Portuguese word for "people of Christ") cooking. The square, once crowded with Kristang youth stomping out ersatz reproductions of Latin dances, is now empty. Strains of "Pretty Woman" drift from the stall of a bored souvenir vendor awaiting the Singaporean busloads.

The struggles of Malacca's 1000-strong, 500-year-old Kristang community are embroiled in the larger controversy surrounding the historic town today. Despite being earmarked for UNESCO World Heritage (WH) listing in 1989, Malacca has dragged its heels over submitting an application for WH status. "Malacca's in a mess," says Lim Huck Chin, a conservation architect who has been writing a book on the historic center's slow demise. "It has no future as a tourist destination."

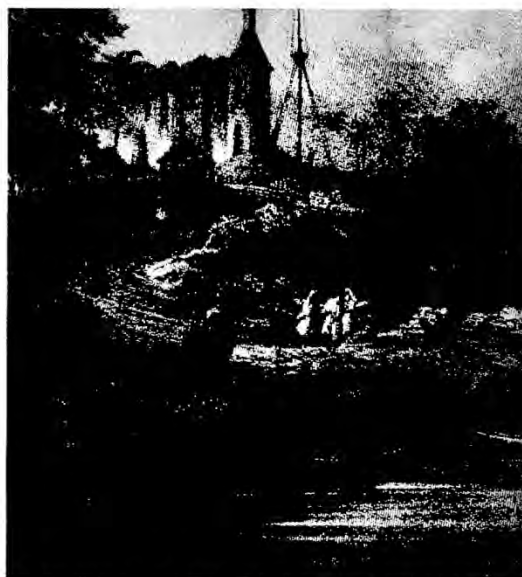
But heritage conservationists, already unhappy with the Portuguese settlement's reclamation project, are also crying foul over plans to develop Malacca's historic attractions. They fear ritzy new cafes eating into the banks of the Malacca river, once the crossroads for ships from the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea. Reclamation work has started along the river, narrowing its banks. "It's little more than a canal now," scoffs Malacca Heritage Trust President, Debbie Ong. Other contentious areas: a tacky night market on Jonker Walk — the 300-year-old heart of old Malacca which already hosts whole rows of Peranakan (Straits Chinese) shophouses painted lurid yellow or purple. In the last three years, more than 50 buildings within the conservation zone—a protected area — have been illegally demolished.

Now, a newly introduced rent-repeal act is threatening the livelihoods of traditional craftsmen. When it was introduced to Penang in 1977, local shop owners moved out in droves as rents doubled. Malacca's dwindling numbers of trades people are expected to follow suit. "By allowing market forces to step over everything, Malacca is killing itself," says Fernando Jorge, a conservation architect who has been working with Mr. Lim on the book, likening the city's tourism push to "the McDonaldization of history." The Portuguese settlement, he warns, is on a similar downward trajectory.

In the musty museum in the corner of the Portuguese Square, faded 1960s photos show the settlement's biggest festival, San Pedro. Celebrated annually on June 29, it draws crowds of 3,000 tourists to watch the priests blessing the fishermen's brightly painted boats in the sea. But cultural historians say such festivals are a travesty, pointing out that they were adopted wholesale from Portugal and the gaily colored costumes and dances have little to do with Kristang culture.

Far more in keeping with their history, say experts, is the *Kristang branyo*, parts of which are found in a Malay dance called the *joget*. The museum's older photos, circa 1930, show solemn *Kristang* brides in Malay *baju panjang* costume, sitting in front of attap-roofed houses. Today, the attap-roofed houses have been replaced by modern single-story dwellings. Mr. Banerji says: "Tourists come to see Portuguese people in Portuguese houses. People are surprised when we don't have (Mediterranean) buildings."

Although rich anthropologically, the *Kristangs* are faced with a basic marketing predicament — aside from the square which one architect calls "an insult to Portuguese architecture" — there's precious little to see. On a sleepy Sunday, schoolboys kick a football around in the tarmac car park, barely missing the neighborhood's only monument. A two-foot statue of St. Peter stands besides plastic bottles containing holy water, strung with fairy lights. Behind it hangs a bell, donated by the Golbenkien Foundation of Portugal. "Before the bell we used a hubcap," says Mr. Banerji, explaining that it was employed to call the whole community out. "If the bells is rung slowly this signals someone has died and everybody gathers together."



Tightly knit by religion, language (Papua *Kristang*) and geographical location, theirs is a unique survival story in Malaysia. "We are not from Portugal. We are Portuguese born in Malaysia," points out George Overee, a resident. Descendants of the Portuguese who came to Malacca to control the spice trade in 1511, the *Kristangs* gradually came to have other blood in their veins: Malay, Goan, Arab, Dutch and English — intermarrying over the span of 500 years. Today, although most of these swarthy descendants live in the officially recognized 28-acre Portuguese settlement, gazetted for heritage conservation, other pockets of Portuguese Eurasians — as they are otherwise known — exist in Praya Lane, Tranquerah, and Bukit Baru.

In this neighborhood of modest houses, where hip-hop blares and grandparents sit out on porches, social ills such as high teenage pregnancy rates are common. "The kids don't want to study," sighs a former staff member from the area's school, Canossa Convent. Once comprised almost entirely of fisher folk, the community remains decidedly working class — although during festivals such as San Pedro, BMWs belonging to Kuala Lumpur *Kristangs* crowd the roads.

Many within the community are fearful of the reclamation's future impact. "The fishermen haven't adequately been compensated by the developers. Taking the sea away from the fishermen is like taking away their lifeline," says the Malacca Portuguese-Eurasian Association's vice-president Joseph Sta Maria. There was little consultation at the grassroots level, he says, fretting that it might be subcontracted out to other parties. "It is important that we retain control over it."

Others worry about the projected numbers of tour buses. "It will turn the settlement into a human zoo," warns Josephine Chua, a heritage conservationist, who says that any increase in tourist numbers might drive its inhabitants away. Even if that happens, moving out isn't an option for residents like Mary, 51. The restaurant worker with only three years of schooling knows of no other life. She nods at her young nephew, who sits unraveling his nets. "Poor, poor fishermen. When they want to go fish — how?" she asks in a mixture of broken Malay and Papua *Kristang*, the only language she speaks fluently. Flicking ash on the concrete floor of the eatery, she puffs on a cigarette dejectedly. "They want to build — and we can't do anything about it."

Ms. Lim is a Hong-Kong based writer.

**Women's Participation in Urban Governance & Urban Revitalization
(Project Document CFL1-0220)**

April 2003 - Current

On March 20, 2003, the Canada Fund For Local Initiatives (CFLI) generously gave the Penang Heritage Trust (PHT) a cheque in the amount of RM 18,000 for the project entitled "Women's Participation in Urban Governance and Urban Revitalization". This constitutes 60% of the total payment for the project. Subsequently, an amount of RM12,000 was received on 9th July 2003, this constitutes the final payment for the project.

The main objectives of the project are to engage women in urban governance; to strengthen networking among women from all cultural backgrounds and to expand the network of support services relevant to them; and, to strengthen women's roles as agents of change in their heritage and historic environment of George Town, which is being nominated for World Heritage status.

The following is a progress report of **a) Talk/workshop topics and resource persons, b) upcoming/ongoing events c) the diary of events**

a) Talk/Workshop Topics and Resource Persons

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Resource</u>	<u>Participants</u>
7 May 2003	Syariah Talk	En Habib Rahman b S. Mohideen Penang Syariah Sub-Comm Chairman	25
17 May 2003	Single-Mothers Motivational Workshop	Khoo Salma Nasution Puan Roaini Ismail Dr Ong Hean Tee	60
4/5 Oct 2003	Workshop for NPOs 'Media Relations & Good Governance'	Organised by Yayasan Nanyang Press	110
9 Oct 2003	Seminar 'Processes & Procedures on Heritage Restoration	Org. by Penang Heritage Centre	2
15/16 Nov 03	Workshop on 'Introduction to History and Cultural Heritage Conservation'	Teresa Capol Loh Lim Lin Lee Khoo Salma Nasution	12
6 Dec 03	Heritage Walk for Mothers for Mothers/eHomemakers	Yean Peng Hoe	17 (+ 6 children)

b) Upcoming Events

- **Community Directory**
A draft Community Directory is in the planning and compiling stage, and we are currently receiving help from our members and other NGOs. The scope includes but not limited to civic, health, charity, community services, cultural, disable, business opportunities for women, and hotlines.
- **Working with Association of Disabled Persons**
We will be having a few more meetings with the disable group to discuss issues like accessibility, housing and heritage site accessibility. Planning for heritage visit to a few sites is underway. We will also invite relevant officials to give talks to the disable group. All these will culminate in a World Disable Event in December.

A NEW MEMBER OF STAFF

The PHT is very happy to welcome Ho Sheau Fung as the new Administrative and Programmes Officer. Sheau Fung started work on the 8th December 2003. The PHT has worked very well with her on the Education in Conservation Programme over the last 2 years, where she was the main implementor, together with Janet Pillai, of the highly successful Anak2 Kota programme.

Sheau Fung comes to us highly qualified with a Masters of Science in IT and a Bachelors in Mass Communications from USM. Welcome and we hope you'll be very happy at the PHT.

From a PHT member in Japan...

*Dear friends,
We have just spent 2 months, after back from Malaysia.
All of us are fine, enjoying our 'slow life' in small village house.
I updated my website, including our family life.
Toshimi is now freelance architect, designing mobilephone shop,
and Wataru is 6 years old on next Sunday.
I am enjoying same life style, work a little bit and enjoying family life as well as reading.
This winter is warmer, but off course, it is easier for our family.
Please visit our website below that will show you some images of 'Life of Penangines Family in Hiroshima, Japan'.
<http://utaka007.at.infoseek.co.jp/hiroshimahouse.htm>
Thank you.*

*Yushi Utaka, Toshimi & Wataru
Yushi Utaka: utaka@hiroshima-u.ac.jp
Toshimi Utaka: toshimiutaka@yellow.livedoor.com*

**The Penang Heritage Trust
wishes to extend its condolences
to the family of late member,
Denys John Speed who passed
away on Sunday, the 14th De-
cember 2003
We shall miss his enthusiastic
presence at the site visits.**



Khoo and Wade showing some interesting postcards featured in the book.

Penang Postcard Collection 1899-1930's Malcolm Wade & Khoo Salma Nasution

"these cards were treasured by the family when they arrived. In the early years of the last century, the collecting of postcards was very popular and people had albums in which they kept their postcards", said Malcolm Wade, the former Malayan-based British soldier who had over 1000 postcards of old Penang out of a total collection of about 2,500 including those of Perak and Selangor. Wade said his most important collection were the postcards of Penang because the island was the first port of call for ships travelling to the East in the early days and travellers would often send postcards home upon arrival.

The book, sponsored by the HSBC Bank Malaysia Bhd was launch in July of 2003. A second book on Perak is being planned.

The HSBC has also very kindly donated 300 copies of the book to the PHT to help it to raise funds.

Priced at RM100, copies are available at the PHT Bookshop.

The Star 6th August 2003

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**THE STRAITS CHINESE MAGAZINE Vol VII December 1903**

### **ROUND PENANG ON A BICYCLE by Rev.W.Murray M.A.**

The owner of a bicycle has not a few advantages. At a moment's notice he may join recreation, instruction and pleasure to economy, in a way denied to the proprietor of a more prestigious vehicle. . Many a place of interest or beauty, which otherwise might be inaccessible to him, is brought within easy reach of the owner of the "wheel".

During a recent visit to Penang - a place which might be described as one of the loveliest gardens of the East - the idea was conceived of cycling, if possible, round the island in order to see its beauties for oneself. Two friends of old standing, but still youthful in age, and possessing pluck and energy, which their schoolmates well might envy, were kindled with the same ambition. Thus three of us set out, determined to prove to those who warned us of insuperable difficulties on the way, that "fortune favours the brave". The distance to be covered was about forty five miles, and according to report, the way would lie through jungle sufficiently steep and thick to try the patience of a pedestrian, and would certainly prove too great of an obstacle to the cyclist. But a whole day lay before us, and we were confident that the worst of obstacles might be surmounted by time and patience.



In the cool air of the morning, we rolled along the northern coast of the island. Up to the fourteenth milestone the road was good, with pleasant undulations, as it ran beneath a forest of palm trees, or clung to the breast of over-hanging cliffs, or skirted the shining sand, and all along the way there was limitless expanse of ocean with its suggestions of infinity, and the slow, deep mellow voice of the waves, full of mystery and awe.

The first halt was at Batu Feringhi - twelve miles from town - where according to a tradition, foreigners from the West first landed in Penang. Here the Penang Ice Works are situated, and from the manager, we received a very warm reception in a very cold environment. We saw the process of ice-making; and then inspected the factory for the manufacture of coloured tiles - both of which are full of interest and instruction to the visitor. Our genial host, as we bade farewell to him, warned us that not long before, three men who had set out on the same expedition as ourselves, had deemed it advisable to turn back, and he added a warm invitation to us to follow their example and accept the hospitality of his bungalow for the day. Though the temptation was strong, it failed to turn us from the task on which our hearts were set.



Pg Swimming Club, Tg Bungah - founded 1903

It would require the pen of a Ruskin to describe the beauties of nature which everywhere meet the eyes at this point. The grandeur of form and colour in sea and sky, mountains and valleys, is in no little degree impressive to the human intelligence. Nor can one wonder that the greatest minds in the world have found in the beauty of nature, and in the sentiment of the beautiful in the human soul, and in the adaptation of the former to meet the needs of the later, evidence of a wise Creator.

At Telok Pahang, the public road, which we had followed for fourteen miles, ends, and the difficulties of the way begin. We bid farewell to the sea-coast for a while, and to Muka Head lighthouse which towers above us at no great distance, and take a bridle path to the left, leading to Balik Pulau. First, two streams had to be crossed, the bridges of which are not yet completed, and there was nothing for it but to dismount and Blondin-like shoulder our bikes across a narrow plank. Then for a good part of a mile the road, owing to recent rains, was under water, and not water only but mud which offered little of a foothold for the tyres. It needed fortune as well as skill to bring us through in safety. The road grows rougher as it proceeds, till the cyclist is reduced to walking, but it is cool and shady, and lies along the bank of a goodly stream, until it reaches the foot of a fine and picturesque cataract. As the record rainfall of the year had taken place only two days before, there was plenty of water to tear down the hill side helter skelter, hurry-scurry, "turning and twisting around and around, with endless rebound" like the water of Ladore in Southey's famous poem. here, in ordinary course, the traveller crosses the stream on stepping stones, but owing to the recent rains, these are mostly under water, and there was nothing for it but to wade through. The two younger members of our party, tempted by the sight of the cooling water, divest themselves of all their clothing, and spend well nigh an hour tumbling and rolling in the pools above.

We have come at last to the hardest trial of the way. The path now crosses a shoulder of the mountain range which forms the backbone of the island. In the next two miles, we ascend nearly 1000 feet. The iron steeds which had carried us along so well had to be dragged up with might and main. Two miles seemed like twenty. Though we determined not to turn back, we found ourselves wishing we never had come, and asking why a day of pleasure should be made a day of toil. We move on slowly in very short stages and with very long rests. It is a day of burning heat and the sun is at its zenith. It is curious to note the silence which reigns for two or three hours at midday in the jungle. The birds cease to sing, the monkeys to chatter, and the butterflies to flit about. All nature seems to fall asleep. It is a stillness which may be felt. The only sound which breaks the terrible monotony is the rush of a stream hundreds of feet below us, or the occasional barking of a squatter's dog on the distant hill-side.

It was three very weary travellers that arrived at Sungei Penang after a steep descent, only a little less difficult than the ascent had been. Here a stay of half an hour was made to tighten up some screws which the rough mountain path had loosened and to refresh ourselves with draughts of water from the coco-nut. Then, after half an hour's run along a good road flat as a table, but hot and dazzling like the sun above, with rice-fields on either hand, we reach Balik Pulau, our half-way house, so far as distance goes, rejoicing in having overcome all the serious difficulties which had threatened us on starting.

Balik Pulau is a village of considerable dimensions, a centre for the produce of plantations on the western slopes of the Penang hills - nutmegs, cloves, pepper, paddy, coconut and fruit of various kinds. The European magistrate here during intervals of business can enjoy the luxury of snipe-shooting at his very door. There is also here a European inspector of police, who has to drag out a solitary existence far from home and friends, and whose duties sometimes keep him on a march at night over the solitary hill-paths - truly an unenviable post. All honour to such a servant of the Empire.

We searched out some refreshments in Balik Pulau, and enjoyed a rest of about three hours, and if ever rest was welcome, it was then. Also there was a tailor in the village, whose services had to be requisitioned to repair the damage which the toil of the morning had done to one's garments. This fact is recorded for the benefit of others who may find themselves in similar straits.

It is nearly five o'clock when we left Balik Pulau, and the run home of twenty two miles or so in the cool of the evening was verily a cyclist's ideal. After two miles of level road, a sharp turn to the left brings one into the entrance of the Ginting Pass. There is a steady, but quite rideable ascent for three miles or so, the road winding in and out along the mountain side, affording many a fine view of hill and glen. At the summit a welcome draught of cool water may be had from a wayside stream before the descent begins. With feet on the rests, a cool head, a good brake, and a loud bell, the cyclist has an easy time of it for the next three miles, winding gradually downwards to the sea level again along the mountain side amid enchanting scenery. At the foot of the hill is the village of Teluk Kumber, and a few miles farther on, Bayan Lepas is reached. Here a stay of fifteen minutes is made, during which we obtain excellent tea and toast in a Chinese shop for the very small price of twelve cents for the three of us. This was our last halting place. The run home of eleven and a half miles more was accomplished with ease, and the pleasure of the way enhanced by the varied glories of a fine sunset. A Chinese temple is passed by the wayside in which visitors find peculiar interest because of the sacred snakes which are kept in it.

The moon was shining in all its brilliance as we reached our homes, after an absence of twelve hours, three of which had been spent in hill climbing and three in resting. we felt that had done a good day's work for the heated atmosphere of the tropics. Not only did we enjoy the excursions of the day but also felt assured that the doings of the day would afford many a happy recollection for the future years.



Both pictures on this page are from 'Penang, the city & suburbs in the early twentieth century'. They show the early dirt tracks leading into the centre of the island at the time.

(Thanks to H.C.Lim for the article)

**24 Nation**

TheStar

WEDNESDAY 22 October 2003

# Five nominees for world heritage site

BY JACK WONG

**KUCHING:** Malaysia has submitted a list to nominate five of its natural and cultural sites as world heritage, said the country's World Heritage committee chairman Datuk Dr Adi Taha.

The final stage of preparing the dossier for the nomination was now under way, he said at the opening of an Asean regional workshop on Trans-border World Heritage Site on Borneo at the Holiday Inn Hotel here yesterday.

State Assistant Minister for Planning and Resource Management Datuk Alifred Yap Chin Loi opened the workshop.

Dr Adi, who is also director-general of the Department of Museum and Antiquities, said discussion was being held to nominate the Bujang Valley of Kedah and southern Thailand Yarang sites as a trans-border cultural world heritage site.

In Sarawak, he said, the Niah and Lambir national parks and the Sibuti Islands would be a cluster in the natural heritage nomination category and the Niah Cave might be included as a cultural component of the nomination.

He said the living historical towns of Malacca and Penang, as a joint cultural site nomination, had entered the final stage of preparing the dossier.

Also in the final stage is the national park covering Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu which would come under the natural heritage nomination.

"Another trans-border nomination would be the Pulang Tau National Park in Sarawak and Kayan-Mentarang National Park in north-east Kalimantan," he added.

Dr Adi said the Mulu National Park in northern Sarawak and Kinabalu Park in Sabah had

been listed as world heritage sites three years ago.

Yap in his speech said the United Nations Education, Scientific and Culture Organisation (Unesco) had supported the nomination of the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary and Batang Ai National Park in Sarawak and Betung Kerihun National Park in West Kalimantan as the first trans-border world heritage site in Asean.

The site begun in 1994 covered some one million hectares of land and formed a crucial link in the long-term conservation of Bornean biodiversity.

According to Unesco World Heritage Centre chief of the natural heritage section Natarajan Ishwaran, official submission for the proposed trans-border world heritage site was expected to be made by next February.

The listing of the sites is likely to be made in 2005, he said.

The Nongas of Penang have put their recipes together & with help from the Star.

## NONYA FLAVOURS

### A Complete Guide to Penang

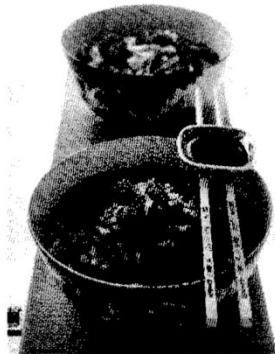
#### Straits Chinese Cuisine

has been produced for you. All the wonderful dishes that your grandmother used to make with all the correct Penang Hokkien names - there is even a section on Confinement Food

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## Nonya Flavours

A complete guide to Penang Straits Chinese Cuisine



nan

**Nation 17**

SundayStar

## FOR YOUR INFO

### A coveted listing

THE construction of the proposed columbarium at the site of the former Shih Chung School at Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah in Penang hit another snag when the Penang Heritage Trust warned that it would adversely affect the city's application for Unesco listing as a World Heritage Site.



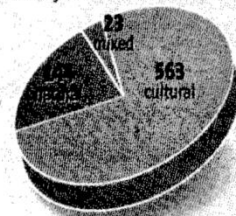
### World Heritage List

To be inscribed in the List, sites must satisfy the selection criteria set by the World Heritage Convention, which was ratified by Unesco in 1972. The convention provides for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and natural sites of "outstanding universal value". Once inscribed, the site is protected by the international community and is provided with financial and intellectual resources to preserve it.



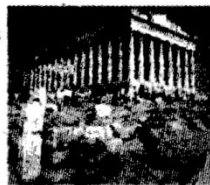
### By the numbers

As of June 2002, there are 730 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List and they are in 125 countries.



### By definition

**Cultural heritage:** monuments, groups of buildings and sites with historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological value.



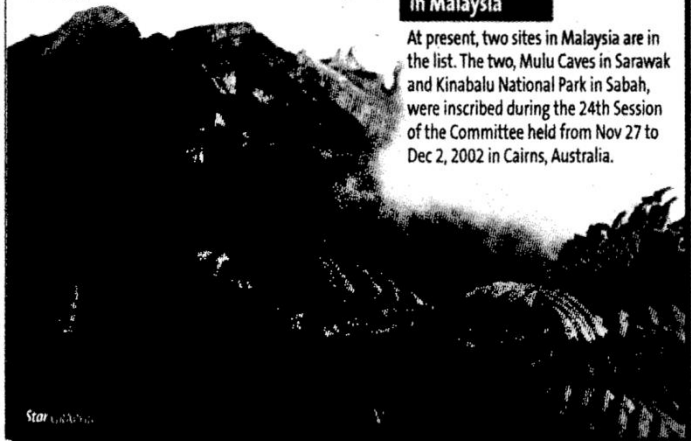
**Natural Heritage:** outstanding physical, biological and geological formations, habitats of threatened species of animals and plants and areas with scientific, conservation or aesthetic value.

### By location

The first 12 World Heritage sites, listed in 1978, covered seven countries and included the Galapagos Islands, the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela in Ethiopia and the slave-trading island of Goree in Senegal. The city of Bath in England, Vatican City (Rome), Old Havana (Cuba) and the Kasbah of Algiers are all listed as World Heritage sites.

### In Malaysia

At present, two sites in Malaysia are in the list. The two, Mulu Caves in Sarawak and Kinabalu National Park in Sabah, were inscribed during the 24th Session of the Committee held from Nov 27 to Dec 2, 2002 in Cairns, Australia.





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For further information

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