

行政院及所屬各機關出國報告  
(出國類別：考察)

新加坡、泰國國立博物館及傳統藝術相關機構  
考察報告

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## 摘要

傳藝中心因籌劃辦理「亞太傳統藝術論壇」系列活動之業務所需，邀請新加坡、泰國等東南亞國家之傳統藝術專家學者及表演團體來台進行研討交流，對於傳統藝術保存與再生之思考及實作方面多所啟發，值得進一步深入瞭解與借鏡。經報文建會核准奉派赴新、泰二國之國立博物館及相關傳統藝術文化機構考察，以實地進行傳統藝術保存之觀察與交流，作為中心未來軟體規劃方向之參考。茲摘要考察參訪新加坡歷史博物館、亞洲文明博物館、聖淘沙之新加坡群像博物館、新加坡國家檔案館、新加坡郵政博物館、新加坡美術館、泰國手工藝博物館商店、曼谷國家博物館、泰皇拉瑪五世柚木行宮博物館、玫瑰花園文化中心、金湯普森傳統泰式建物博物館等內容，並提供在硬體空間、展示規劃、網路管理等方面值得本處借鏡之處。

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# 新加坡、泰國國立博物館及傳統藝術相關機構 考察報告

## 壹、目的

國立傳統藝術中心係文建會為統籌規劃傳統藝術之保存、傳習、推廣、研究、展演等工作所成立的第一個附屬機構，為使瀕臨失傳之民間藝術如：傳統戲劇、傳統音樂、傳統工藝、傳統舞蹈、傳統雜技等重現生機，籌備處於民國八十五年三月正式成立運作以來，展開一系列的推廣和傳習活動，並規劃各項保存傳習計畫的委辦及補助，具體落實傳統藝術之傳承與保存工作。

本處於民國八十九年十月中旬，經過長達兩年的規劃並委由國立藝術學院承辦國際性「亞太傳統藝術論壇」(Asia-Pacific Traditional Arts Forum)，活動主題為「傳統藝術的再生」(The Rebirth of Traditional Arts)，邀請亞太地區十五個國家：伊朗、土耳其、吐瓦、哈薩克、印度、印尼、新加坡、泰國、柬埔寨、越南、菲律賓、台灣、中國、日本、韓國、蒙古等的傳統藝術學者專家和表演團體來台交流展演並進行學術討論對話，具體內容包括：國際學術研討會、亞太十五國傳統戲劇及歌舞匯演、表演藝術與傳統工藝工作坊，以及亞太藝術空間裝置藝術等。在為期十天的展演期間，多元、多聲的內容呈現，著實拓展並豐富本地觀眾之視聽，並提供國內外藝術創作者和學者專家們交流觀摩、傳承研習的良好契機，對於促進區域性國際文化交流與互動亦深獲各界肯定。

本處因籌劃辦理「亞太傳統藝術論壇」系列活動之業務所需，邀請新加坡、泰國等東南亞國家之傳統藝術專家學者及表演團體來台進行研討交流，對於本土傳統藝術保存與再生之思考及實作方面多所啟發，值得進一步深入瞭解與借鏡。經報文建會核准，將年度原編列赴英、法等國考察傳統藝術之研究規劃與保存傳習計畫乙項，調整變更為前往東南亞國家相關博物館及傳統藝術文化機構參訪，以實地進行相關議題之觀察與交流，作為中心未來軟體規劃方向之參考。

## 貳、過程

### 一、考察行程

十二月十九日 由桃園中正國際機場搭乘長榮航空班機前往新加坡。依據行前所蒐集之書面資料，首先參觀新加坡國家文物局（National Heritage Board）所屬歷史最為悠久之新加坡歷史博物館（Singapore History Museum），以對於新加坡的歷史脈絡發展有一概括性之掌握與了解。

十二月二十日 乘坐遊船參觀新加坡河沿岸的歷史性建物，並參觀亞洲文明博物館（Asian Civilisations Museum）。

十二月廿一日 參觀聖淘沙之新加坡群像博物館（Images of Singapore）、亞洲文化村，以及新加坡國家檔案館（National Archives of Singapore）。

十二月廿二日 參觀阿拉伯文化保留區及印度文化保留區，午後參觀新加坡郵政博物館（Singapore Philatelic Museum）。

十二月廿三日 參觀新加坡美術館（Singapore Art Museum），午後搭乘泰國航空班機前往曼谷，參觀泰國手工藝博物館商店（Thai Craft Museum Shop）。

十二月廿四日 參觀黃金佛寺（Wat Traimit）、臥佛寺（Wat Pho）、大理石寺（Wat Benchamabopitr），午後至曼谷國家博物館（National Museum Bangkok）、玉佛寺（Wat Phra Kaeo）及大皇宮（Grand Palace）等參觀。

十二月廿五日 參觀泰皇拉瑪五世柚木行宮博物館（Vimannak Mansion Museum）、玫瑰花園文化中心（Rose Garden Cultural Centre）。

十二月廿六日 參觀金湯普森傳統泰式建物博物館（Jim Thompson's Thai House Museum），午後搭機返回台北。

### 二、考察內容摘要

### (一) 新加坡歷史博物館 (Singapore History Museum)

位於市政中心區 Stamford 路上，為一棟極富英國維多利亞建築風格並具有歷史紀念意義的白色建築物。在參觀過程中，由博物館館員陳楚君小姐熱心導覽介紹，得知該館始建於 1887 年，本身即是百年前的歷史性建築物，係由當時的英屬海峽移民局 (British Straits Settlements) 首長 Frederick Weld 爵士所建，建築體包括萊佛士圖書館及博物館等兩大部分，以其所蒐藏豐富的東南亞地區自然史、民族學及考古學藏品著稱。在二次世界大戰期間 (1942-45)，圖書館及博物館曾短期由日本軍隊掌管，並由 Hidezo Tanadate 教授負責主事。直到 1960 年博物館脫離圖書館成為單一機構，隨之新加坡於 1965 年獨立建國而正式更名為國家博物館，1993 年成為新加坡國家文物局 (National Heritage Board) 下轄博物館群之一員迄今。由館名的更迭即可反映出該博物館在新加坡建國過程中所扮演的重要角色，而跨越三個世紀的建築本體亦鮮活紀錄著新加坡由殖民地到新興國家的轉變歷程。

據館員陳小姐表示，博物館內的常設展覽以貫時限 (diachronic) 歷史為主軸，遠從十九世紀馬來半島的考古資料發玩直至近現代私人捐贈的玉器蒐藏；在主題展示方面涵蓋了國家發展過程中的重要歷史事件，以及多元族群文化等同時限 (synchronic) 要素。在博物館簡介中說明，「館方的典藏品係以足具代表新加坡歷史、文化及族群特色的文物為主體，以增進國家認同為主旨 (to enhance the nation's identity)」。目前館內二層樓層、八個展室的展覽內容包括：

1. 新加坡七百年 (Singapore: 700 Years): 以大量考古出土的瓷器、陶片及各式器物等，敘述自十三世紀繁華港口的 Singapura 至 1819 年萊佛士爵士首次登陸新加坡的歷史過程。
2. 新加坡歷史縮影 (The Dioramas: A Visual History of Singapore): 以二十座實景微縮模型展現自十九世紀末至二十世紀中葉，新加坡由一個小漁村發展成現代國家的貿易、政治、社會等重要歷史場景及變遷景象。
3. 從殖民地到國家 (From Colony to Nation): 展示自二次大戰後由英屬殖民地發展至獨立國家的歷程，顯見新加坡在戰後復建以及獨立建國的付出。
4. 土生華人家庭的日常生活 (Rumah Baba: Life in a Peranakan House): 將華人移民男子與當地土著女子通婚所生之混血華

人後代（男孩稱 *baba*、女孩稱 *nonya*）所展現獨特的「合成文化」（*hybrid*），作為新加坡及馬來半島等海峽華人（*straits chinese*）的代表文化，並經由一個家庭的實物空間呈現當時的生活樣態。

5. 進入「洪門」：中國秘密組織的歷史（*Entering the Hung Gate: The History of Chinese Secret Society*）：是一項饒富意味的展示，將過去極隱晦具神秘色彩的自願性結社團體，透過成員入會儀式之使用實物展示揭開其面紗，一窺新加坡自十九世紀初即建立之華人秘密組織之社會歷史。
6. 太平洋戰爭回顧：由館方與北京中國人民抗日戰爭紀念館借展合作，展示中日戰爭在太平洋及東南亞全面開展的實況。
7. 新加坡故事 3D 立體電影：由三十分鐘的影音播放敘述新加坡自殖民時期、歷經共產黨入侵、戰後復建至建國獨立的歷史記憶。

最後，在館員的帶領下參觀館內館員專用不對外開放的圖書資料室，了解為數近十萬冊書籍及文獻之資料庫的管理情形。在三個半小時的參觀時間內，對於歷史博物館經由展示所教育、傳遞新加坡國家歷史發展及文化傳統的用心及著力，令觀者印象深刻。

## （二）新加坡河沿岸的歷史性建物

新加坡由一個小漁村到大型海港、現代化國際城市的發展歷程，與新加坡河均有密切的關連，最早可追溯自西元七世紀，當時此地僅是蘇門答臘群島中的一個小港口；十三世紀由一位皇室王子獵獲一隻名叫 *Singa*（梵文字義為獅子）的祥獸，因而決定於此地建立城市，並得名為「獅子城」（*Singapura, Lion City*）；直到 1819 年東印度公司萊佛士爵士（*Stamford Raffles*）與當地蘇丹簽定協約將新加坡開發成為一自由貿易商港，始奠定現代新加坡發展的基礎。因此，新加坡河沿河兩岸至今仍清晰可見英屬殖民、華人移民等的遺存痕跡，有十九世紀（1824-30）海峽移民局（*Governor of the Straits Settlements*）舊址所在的 *The Fullerton Building*、多座橫跨河面以殖民官員命名的鐵橋、萊佛士登陸地點舊址、維多利亞戲劇院及音樂廳、皇后坊的移民局舊址、克拉碼頭的舊貨倉及商棧、以及鄰近華人聚集的牛車水（唐人街）等。新加坡河沿岸可說是此地歷史發展的具體縮影，沿著河岸步行參觀諸多歷史性建物及紀念舊址進行一場古蹟巡禮，更能真實體會新加坡多元、豐富、並融的獨特城市文化特質。

### （三）亞洲文明博物館 (Asian Civilisations Museum)

亞洲文明博物館亦為新加坡國家博物館成員之一，位於 Armenian 路道南中學 (1912-1989) 的舊址，型式對稱方正，自 1991 年經過新加坡古蹟保存局 (Preservation of Monuments Board) 大力整修，在不改變內外結構及建築風格的原則下，直至 1997 年才正式對外開放；除了道南館之外，另在新加坡河岸旁的皇后坊大廈舊址進行二期工程，刻正修復以作為第二展區，預定於 2002 年完成。

亞洲文明博物館係「追溯新加坡多元種族、多元文化的源流、聯繫古今文化的一道橋樑」，第一館以介紹中國文明為主，該館目前的文物蒐藏亦以此為目標；未來的第二展示區則以南亞、西亞及東南亞等其他亞洲文明為展示重心。在進入展場之前，參觀者首先在小型視聽室觀看十分鐘的影片簡介，經由館方所蒐藏文物的帶領引入亞洲文明發展的軌跡，以泛文化比較觀點，展示中國文人傳統及其象徵體系、亞洲各民族的文化觀、價值觀、宗教信仰等的差異。

該館的常態性展示包括：「中國文化及文明 (Chinese Culture and Civilisation)」、「南洋情結：土生華人文明永久陳列 (The Peranakan Legacy)」等，短期展示計有：「亞洲傳統歷法與記時 (The Dating Game: Calendars and Time in Asia)」、「印度教的 Krishna 神」、「中國青銅器文化傳統 (The Glorious Traditions of Chinese Bronzes)」等。其中，土生華人 (Peranakans) 文化展示是該館十分重要之主題，透過量多精美的紡織品、銀飾、瓷器、珠寶等物質遺留，充份展現東南亞地區在十九世紀至二十世紀中葉揉合了華人、馬來人、歐洲人士的獨特文化傳統。

### （四）新加坡群像博物館 (Images of Singapore)

該博物館係由聖淘沙發展局所規劃，部分另由文物收藏家或是歷史事件人物家屬捐贈，其展示內容分為三大部分：一為新加坡先驅人物展覽館 (Pioneers of Singapore)、其二為戰爭記實館 (Surrender Chambers 1942-1945) 及新加坡節慶館 (Festivals of Singapore)，透過實景復原、真實尺材的展示設計，展出栩栩如生的歷史重要人物以及早期華人移民形象，提供日本攻佔新加坡及投降經過的重要史料，以及各族群節慶慶典的歡愉情景等，充份呈現視覺上新加坡歷史時空及族群文化的萬象多元。



#### (五) 新加坡國家檔案館 (National Archives of Singapore)

位於 Canning Rise 路上的國家檔案館，於 1968 年為保存及統籌管理公共檔案文物而成立，所藏包括十九世紀以來新加坡的文字、照片、影像、圖畫、口語歷史資料等，直到 1993 年亦加入國家文物局，係一以蒐藏、研究為主之機構。在該館入口處的旗誌標語標示著檔案館設立宗旨為：保存國家記憶 (preserve our nation's memory)、瞭解國家歷史 (understand our history)、以及探究國家文物 (explore our heritage) 等，一樓展示室現正展出 1950—1965 年新加坡的歷史照片。參訪時據館員表示，該館所藏資料超過數百萬筆，單祇是歷史性老舊照片部分即有八十五萬張之多，難能可貴的是這些公共檔案的蒐集並不只侷限於研究機構使用，現已陸續完成數位化資料處理建構成一龐大的資料庫，於網際網路向國際社會公開共享，在世界各個角落皆可經由指尖鍵入 <http://www.A20.com.sg/>，即可連結新加坡的過去歷史。

#### (六) 新加坡郵政博物館 (Singapore Philatelic Museum)

郵政博物館原是一座民間自營的主題式博物館，日前已加入國家文物局成為國家博物館之一員。該館於 1995 年成立，旨在提振新加坡國內的集郵風氣，並進行郵政演進歷史、世界郵政發展、文化傳統之教育及研究工作，館內蒐藏來自新加坡國內及世界一百八十多個國家的各式郵票琳瑯滿目，藉由探索小小的郵票來傳達其所蘊涵豐富的歷史文化意義，的確令人大開眼界有意料之外的驚喜。而這間單一主題博物館展示的深層思考，實際上亦是將郵票視為一項文化遺產，由郵票述說歷史，忠實紀錄過去事件，在表現題材方面呈現出新加坡多元族群及文化傳統表徵，作為傳遞國家歷史及文化的媒介。

#### (七) 新加坡美術館 (Singapore Art Museum)

新加坡美術館為國家博物館群之一，是以蒐藏及展示二十世紀新加坡國內及東南亞地區藝術表現為特色之博物館，有別於國家博物館群其他以歷史性為主軸的思考。美術館建於一棟十九世紀歷史性建築物聖約瑟書院 (St. Joseph's Institution building) 的舊址，耗費新幣三千萬元重新修復使用，於 1996 年對外開放，以其現代化國際級的硬體設備，成為新生代美術館中之佼佼者。

#### (八) 泰國手工藝博物館商店 (Thai Craft Museum Shop)

古暹羅王國向以精美藝術品及手工藝品著稱於世，該工藝館係由泰國政府工業部（Ministry of Industry）的工業振興局（Department of Industrial Promotion）規劃指導，針對泰民族的歷史文化智慧結晶加以發揚：包括北方蘭那地區的手織棉織品、木雕、錫製品；東北泰的絲織品；中央泰（曼谷地區）的瓷器、金飾；以及南泰的峇迪染布、籐編工藝品等，將傳統工藝技術與現代生活功能調合，使精緻且別具民族風格的傳統工藝品重現於現代生活中。

#### （九）曼谷國家博物館（National Museum Bangkok）

曼谷國家博物館的歷史可追溯至1874年由泰皇拉瑪五世於大皇宮內建立，主要係對於大眾公開展示皇室蒐藏品，隨後移至前宮（Wang Na）展出，亦即現今博物館所在地，直至1926年更名為曼谷博物館，1934年隸屬於藝術部（Department of Fine Arts）。整座博物館為舊日皇宮處所，為一泰式傳統歷史性建築，佔地廣大，共分為四十三個展室，展覽內容包括：泰民族歷史、史前考古及藝術史、民族學展示等三大常設展示主題，展出考古出土器物、歷史事件實景縮影、珍寶、木雕、織品、佛像藝術、傳統樂器、皇家儀式禮器、戰車、各歷史時期藝術、亞洲藝術等，內容相當豐碩。惟硬體設備較為陳舊，對於歷史文物的維護不盡理想，而使得展示效果大受影響。

#### （十）泰皇拉瑪五世柚木行宮博物館（Vimanmek Mansion Museum）

Vimanmek Mansion 位於杜喜區萱律實御苑（Dusit Garden）內，係泰皇拉瑪五世於1897年自歐洲遊歷回國後斥資興建的皇室花園，由設計型式可見其深受西方建築風格之影響，建物由質堅優良的柚木所建成，號稱世界規模最大的金柚木宮院。泰皇五世曾於1901年行宮落成後，將皇室住處由世居的大皇宮（Grand Palace）遷入此地，故該地遺留為數眾多精美的皇室文物及金、銀、陶瓷、玻璃、象牙等蒐藏品，直至1982年經重新修繕後，目前已現地保存作為五世皇紀念博物館對外開放展示皇家文物，並由專業導覽人員負責參觀團體之外語解說。

此區皇室花園除了金柚木行宮之外，其餘宮院亦分別修整作為泰皇御像博物館、古代布飾博物館、古代鐘錶博物館、皇家典禮博物館、以及各國進獻泰皇禮品博物館等，存放展示泰國傳統藝術文物及國外精緻藝術品。除了傳統及現代工藝文物的展示外，在柚木行宮側面的臨水舞台區，每天定時有身著傳統服飾的皇家舞者於現場表演泰國傳統舞蹈。步行在博物館區參觀，係直

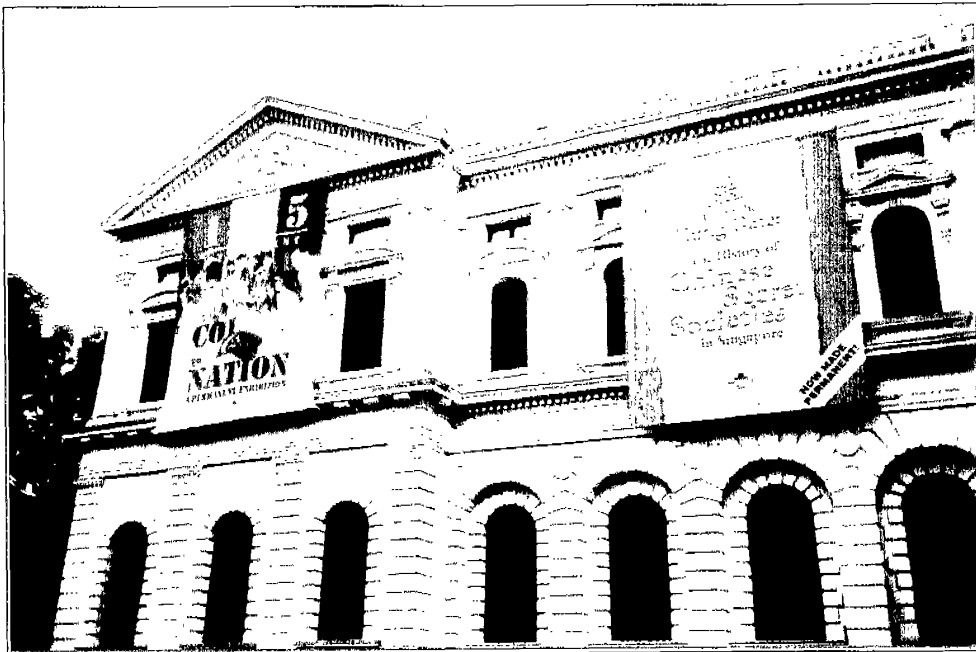
接體驗傳統泰國皇室精緻藝術文化的良機。

(十一) 玫瑰花園文化中心 (Rose Garden Cultural Centre)

玫瑰花園文化中心位於曼谷市西方三十公里遠處，始建於1965年，佔地廣大，其中的泰國文化村(Thai Cultural Village)興建於1972年，至今已有近三十年歷史，除了有傳統泰式建築及生活空間的情境復原之外，每日午後均有大型文化表演活動，吸引許多慕名前來的遊客目光，展現常民生活的各式面貌，包括：泰國傳統民俗舞蹈、泰式婚禮風俗、泰國賤佛節慶儀式、南北各族群的衣飾、泰拳及劍擊等娛樂活動的展演。在一個半小時的演出活動，豐富且迅速地提供來自世界各國觀光旅客一覽紛采並陳的泰國文化樣貌，滿足外國人士在文化觀光情境中亟欲快速獲得文化真實性的需求。

(十二) 金湯普森傳統泰式建物博物館 (Jim Thompson's Thai House Museum)

依據行前所蒐集的博物館相關資料，在曼谷國家體育場對面一條小巷的盡頭，於河岸邊尋找到一區極具傳統泰式風格的木構高架建築院落，係屬二次大戰後協助泰國絲織工業發展人稱「泰絲大王」Jim Thompson的私人宅院。Thompson是隨著軍隊進駐泰國的美國人，特別關注泰國傳統絲織生產而開創出世界聞名的泰絲工業，這六座由柚木建造保存極為傳統的泰式建築，室內存放Thompson個人多年蒐集的亞洲精緻藝術品，現已改為私人博物館，由專人導覽並開放外界參觀。



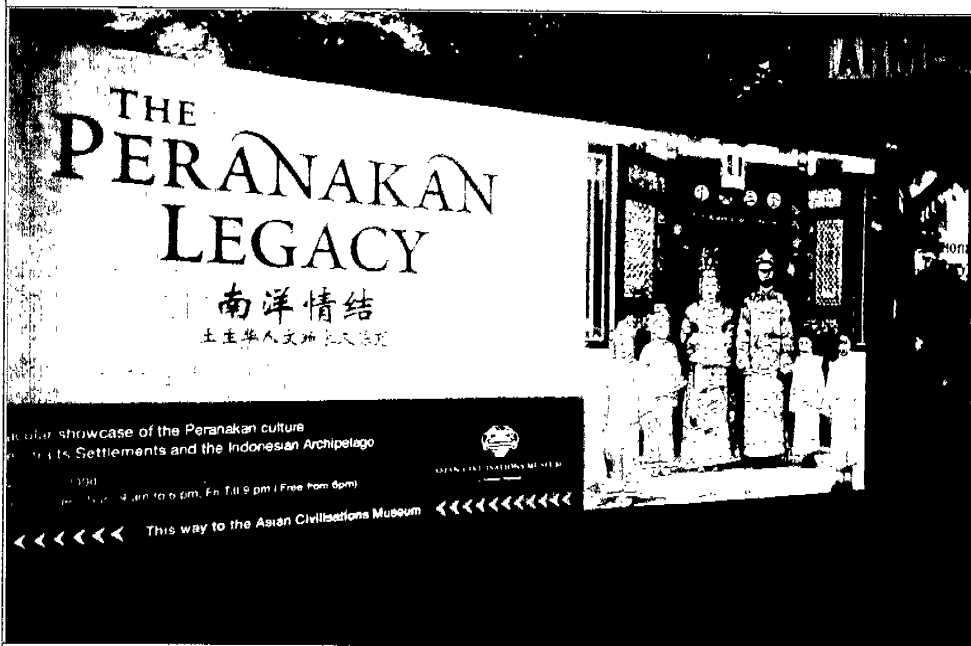
圖一 新加坡歷史博物館



圖二 新加坡河沿岸的維多利亞戲劇院



圖三 道南中學舊址的亞洲文明博物館



圖四 亞洲文明博物館土生華人文物展示



圖五 新加坡新聞及藝術部 (MITA)



圖六 聖淘沙新加坡群像博物館



圖七 新加坡國家檔案館



圖八 新加坡郵政博物館



圖九 新加坡美術館



圖十 曼谷國家博物館之紅屋展示室





圖十一 秦皇拉瑪五世栢木行宮博物館



圖十二 栢木行宮之皇家典禮博物館



圖十三 玫瑰花園化中心泰國傳統駁佛儀式展演



圖十四 金湯普森傳統泰式建物博物館

## 參、心得與建議

新加坡為一多元種族、多元文化共同建構之國家，人口結構上有百分之七十五是華人，馬來人約佔百分之十五，其他則是印度人、巴基斯坦人及西方人種，在二次世界大戰時新加坡仍是馬來西亞最南的一州，於 1965 年被迫脫離馬國而獨立，建國歷史雖短近卻發展成為亞洲四小龍之一。由於國家構成的異質性，促使新加坡在文化上格外強調各族群的相互尊重與共榮，在考察行程中可深刻感受到新國政府透過社教機構強力傳遞以傳統文化作為模塑國家認同之基礎，重視各族裔群體的歷史文化遺產，將歷史融合於日常生活之中，使新、舊文化並存不悖，以凝聚國家整體的認同機制。

在文化行政方面，新加坡設置有新聞及藝術部（Ministry of Information and The Arts，簡稱 MITA），以「增強新加坡人的認同感與鞏固多元的文化傳統」為目標，統整政府部門的傳媒管理與藝術文化事務，其下設有：國家文物局、國家圖書館管理局、古蹟保存局、廣播管理局、影片與刊物局及國家藝術理事會等機構，其中於 1990 年甫成立的新加坡國家文物局（National Heritage Board），係為保存（preserve）、展示（present）和提昇（promote）藝術、文化及歷史而設立，下轄的國家博物館係由亞洲文明博物館（Asian Civilisations Museum）、新加坡歷史博物館（Singapore History Museum，簡稱 NHB）及新加坡美術館（Singapore Art Museum）等三座博物館所共同構成，館際之間功能與角色彼此區分互補，兼具宏觀及微觀的文化視野，涵蓋歷史時限、文化及藝術等多元角度，組織化且系統化地推展藝文事務。

相對而言，古稱暹羅的泰國則是一擁有悠久歷史的國家，係以泰人為主體族群，與為數眾多的山區部落民族共組而成，各地區傳統文化豐富多采，甚具東方意象特質，長久以來由於國家旅遊事務蓬勃發達，連帶地促使異國風情的傳統文化特質，在現代社會中具備豐厚的文化觀光（cultural tourism）與文化產業潛在商機。

在泰國國家博物館等社教機構，係由藝術部（The Fine Arts Department）的考古及國家博物館室（Office of Archaeology and National Museum）管理，亦有團體組織由工業部（Ministry of Industry）的工業振興局（Department of Industrial Promotion）所規劃指導，一方面經由文化展演呈現傳統文化樣貌，另一方面將歷史文物及傳統文化透過物的展示而轉化為商品型式。此外，民間旅遊休憩業亦將泰國的傳統風俗、傳統舞蹈、傳統劇戲等要素，納入藝術表演內容，作為異國情境文化觀光的基礎。

基於個人短期考察及實地參訪東南亞新加坡、泰國的傳統藝術保

存與推廣現況經驗發現，兩國的傳統藝術文化均相當程度與旅遊觀光事務緊密連繫，同是將傳統文化的歷史遺產轉化為知性資訊，祇是二者的發展重點呈現相異的範式，新加坡係以多元的傳統文化內向性作為建構國家認同、凝聚族群情感之基礎；而泰國則傾向於將豐厚的傳統文化外向性活絡轉化為文化產業商品及文化展演表現。考察兩國對於傳統文化藝術推展的經驗，實有值得本處在規劃上借鏡之處：

- (一) 傳統藝術文化展演與環境共生融合：新加坡及泰國政府均有計劃地保存其重要歷史性建物及皇宮舊址，使得藝文展示及演出能與環境氛圍配合，回歸其原生自然樣態。
- (二) 現生展示實境復原，親身體驗傳統藝術文化：以文化村、文化中心的形式，結合靜態展示及活生生地動態展演，使觀者直接體驗親臨傳統文化場域。
- (三) 透過系統性網路規劃，使傳統藝術及文化資訊有機性鏈結：新加坡對於藝文資訊的管理相當具組織化，網站間相互的串連使得文化資源的影響力更為深入普及，並將國家蒐藏的文字及圖片檔案經過數位化處理以提供公眾共享，充分利用 e 化網路資訊對於活化藝術文化資源可發揮加乘的效應。
- (四) 保存傳統文化可與文化觀光結合：在文化觀光或歷史觀光情境中，將傳統文化（包括衣飾、工藝、歌舞、戲劇、儀式等）以生動的方式展現，具有保存傳統功能，助於文化承傳，且可提供觀光者認識該國文化特質的機會。
- (五) 文化展示館舍之角色功能彼此區分互補共構一體：透過系統性規劃，將展示館群之機能詳加區分，使相關的博物館或展示館舍各司其主，並經由連結發揮整體效益。

## 肆、行前蒐集資料及相關資訊網站

<http://www.gov.sg/mita>

<http://www.nhb.gov.sg/>

<http://www.nhb.gov.sg/SAM/>

<http://www.nhb.gov.sg/ACM/>

<http://www.nhb.gov.sg/SHM/>

<http://www.nhb.gov.sg/NAS/>

<http://www.spm.org.sg>

<http://www.heritagehub.com.sg/>

<http://www.amazingthailand.th/>

<http://www.A20.com.sg/>

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## OUR MISSION

To help inform, educate and entertain, to make Singapore a hub city of the world and to build a so is economically dynamic, socially cohesive and culturally vibrant.

You can also view our [corporate video](#).  
 (If you need a Windows Media Player upgrade, click here.)

## OUR VISION

To develop Singapore as a global city for information and the arts, while enhancing our Singaporea and multicultural heritage.

## OUR CORE VALUES

- H olistic and continuous learning
- E xcellence in our work
- A bsolute integrity in the conduct of our business
- R espect our talents
- T eamwork

## OUR LOGO



- The I flowing into A unites the two MITA functions.
- Red symbolises human activity and communication.
- Green is nature from which all life springs and must remain close to.
- The hollow and full dots are the yin and yang which form the basis of art.

## OUR HISTORY

The Information Scheme of Service was set up in 1980, in anticipation of the growing importance

developing media management and public relations skills for government ministries. The Scheme to set up the Information Division under the Ministry of Culture, and was tasked with publicising and explaining government policies to the public.

The Division's structure consisted simply of a research and monitoring section, which monitored the media. It also promoted the National Courtesy Campaign and the Speak Mandarin Campaign.

In 1985, the Information Service came under the Ministry of Communications and Information. The Ministry of Culture's arts portfolio meanwhile, was transferred to the Ministry of Community Development. In an effort to re-define and enhance the information service, three other developments took place. The Information Service took over the Psychological Defence Programme and a Public Communications Programme was set up to strengthen the public image of the Government. To promote Singapore abroad, a for-journalists' visit programme was introduced.

As the Information Service took on new roles and responsibilities, a new ministry, the Ministry of Information & The Arts (MITA), was formed in 1990. The Information portfolio under the Ministry of Communications and Information, and the Arts portfolio under the Ministry of Community Development was finally brought together under the auspices of the new ministry.

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## MITA TODAY

Acting as the public relations arm of the Government, MITA disseminates Government press release information, facilitates journalists' interviews with ministers and senior officials as well as media coverage of ministerial functions and international meetings held in Singapore, and accredits media correspondents.

One of MITA's primary roles is also to communicate Government policies and developments in Singapore to the domestic and overseas audience. This is done through a wide range of print and electronic publications. MITA also oversees the development of the broadcast, Internet and print media, as well as the arts and heritage sectors - mainly through its statutory boards. Information officers are seconded to Government ministries to add to the professionalism in the respective Ministry's public affairs and management services.

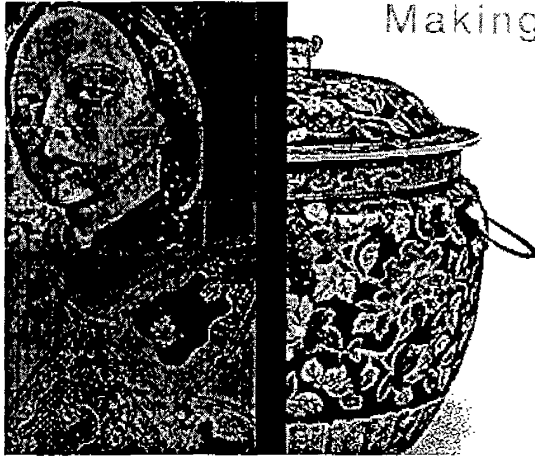
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## OUR ADDENDUM TO PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[Click here](#) to see the Addendum to the President's Address, by Minister Lee Yock Swan.

[Zakay Chiffoleboas](#) [Singaporean Art](#) [Singaporean History](#) [Richard & Richard](#) [Builds](#) [The Green](#) [Kishu](#)  
Museum Museum Museum of Singapore Collection Conservation Centre Base

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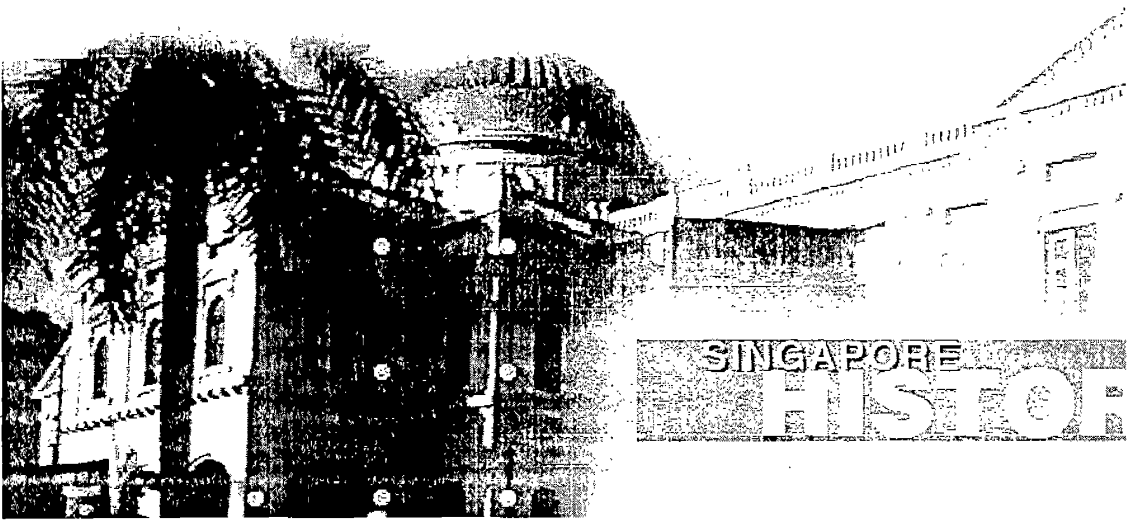
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## History

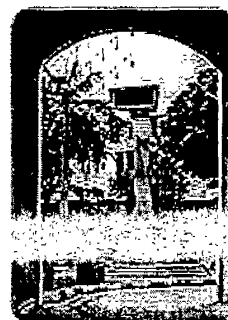
Housed in the elegant and impressive National Museum building, a national monument, the Singapore History Museum explores the rich heritage of the people of Singapore, from our ethnic and cultural diversity to our struggle for nationhood.

The Singapore History Museum was borne out of a long and often uneven path. She was initiated as a double entity, Raffles Library and Museum, in 1887 by the Governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir Frederick Weld.

Back then, Singapore was a part of the British Straits Settlements.

Within a short time, the Museum became known for its natural history collection of Southeast Asia as well as its ethnology and archaeology collections.

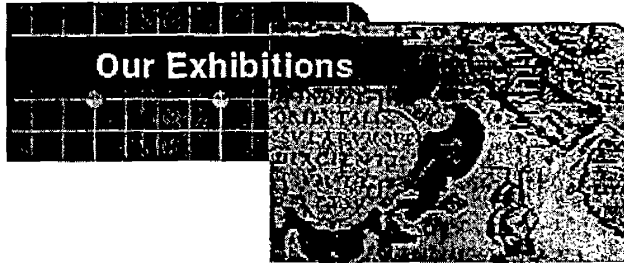
During World War II (1942-5), the Raffles Library and Museum managed to stay intact under the charge of Japanese vulcanologist Professor Hidezo Tanadate, who was on friendly terms with General Yamashita, the Commander of the conquering Japanese Army.



The Raffles Library and Museum has come a long way since. As a colonial institution, the largely British staff were primarily concerned with providing material and services for the British and Britain. The Museum separated from the library in 1960 and was renamed the Raffles Museum. Following Singapore's independence in 1965, the name National Museum was adopted to reflect the Museum's pivotal role in nation building.

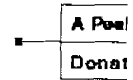
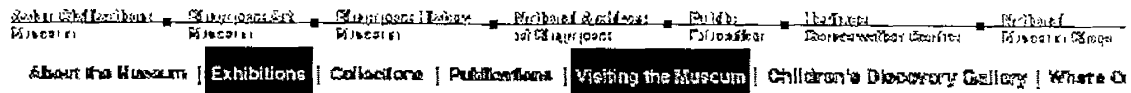
In 1993, the National Museum came to be a part of the National Heritage Board (NHB). NHB's National Museum arm comprises three component museums - the Singapore Art Museum, the Asian Civilisations Museum, the Singapore History Museum. Only the Singapore History Museum is housed in this historically-rich National Museum building. She is now a new generation museum, striving to be the people's museum, always on the go with her numerous public outreach programmes and activities. The Singapore History Museum is proud to be the repository of Singapore's memories.

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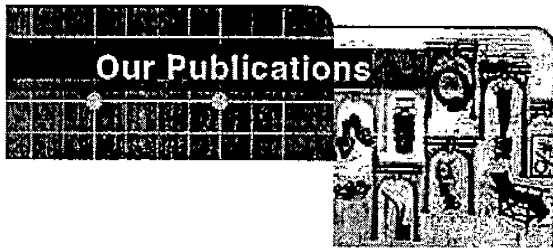
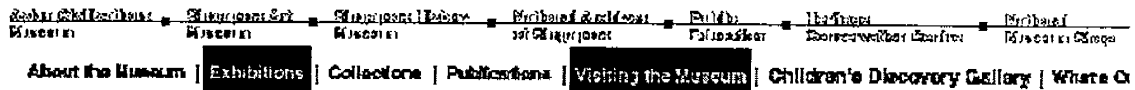
The Singapore History Museum has a wide range of exhibitions in its premises, both permanent exhibitions as well as temporary exhibitions. The permanent exhibitions cover many aspects of our nation's history, from the archaeological finds that reveal an ancient Singapore history to the precious jade collection donated by the families of the late Haw Par brothers in 1979. The temporary exhibitions highlight significant historical events in our nation's history as well as interesting communities in our multi-racial country. These temporary exhibitions usually last for about three to six months. Do look out for them!



Singapore History Museum seeks and collects artefacts that represent Singapore's history, culture and people. This is in line with our mission to enhance the nation's identity by presenting and interpreting Singapore's history and material culture.

Our collection consists of a wide variety of artefacts that reflect Singapore's history and her multi-cultural society. They include historically significant artefacts like documents by Sir Stamford Raffles, the famous John Singer Sargent painting of Sir Frank Swettenham, rare photographs of Singapore and archaeological finds from Fort Canning. Others include sewing machines, rice grinders and other devices that reflect the everyday life of people in early days.

Besides the artefacts housed in the Singapore History Museum, every sculpture around the exterior of our building has its own story.



The Singapore History Museum has published two books, namely *Secret Societies in Singapore* and *Rumah Baba - Life in a Peranakan House*. These books were launched to compliment the two permanent exhibitions in our museum, *Secret Societies in Singapore* for *Entering the Hung Gate - The History of Chinese Secret Societies* exhibition and *Rumah Baba - Life in a Peranakan House* for the Peranakan gallery.

***Secret Societies in Singapore* by Irene Lim**

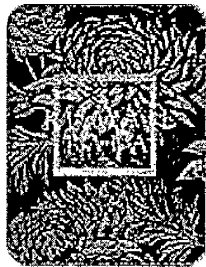
This book encompasses interesting information about the secret societies in Singapore. From their origins, the different divisions and groups to their infamous fights and the secret codes and rituals, known previously only to their members, this book provides insight about these secret societies.



The original "36 Oaths" used in the initiation ceremony for new members of one society is also reproduced in full with an English translation.

Printed on high quality paper, it contains many authentic coloured photographs of the actual documents issued by the secret societies and the ornaments they used.

***Rumah Baba - Life in a Peranakan House* by Peter Lee and Jennifer Chen**



This book highlights the interesting and unique features of the Peranakan community. Beautifully illustrated, this book was first launched in conjunction with our permanent exhibition, *Rumah Baba - Life in a Peranakan House* in the Singapore History Museum.

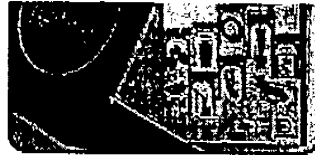
This book includes many archival photographs, capturing the essence of the unique culture of the Peranakans.

**"Singapore History Museum - An Interactive Exploration" CD-Rom**

"The Singapore History Museum - An Interactive

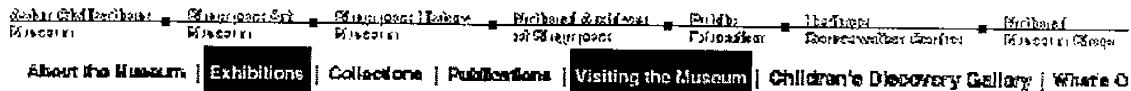


Exploration" is an innovative educational CD-Rom jointly produced by the Singapore History Museum and Daiichi Media. It is the first publication on the Singapore History Museum's permanent exhibitions and artefacts since the Singapore History Museum was formed in 1993.



Incorporating a host of multimedia features, this CD-Rom not only tells interesting stories and facts about the Museum, its permanent exhibitions and artefacts but it will help viewers gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of Singapore's history and heritage. This CD ties in with the National Education initiative and history syllabus but goes beyond them to explore other social and historical aspects of Singapore and its people.

**To order, please contact :**  
Daiichi Media Pte Ltd  
21, Kim Keat Road #04-01 Singapore 328805  
Tel: 849 8666 Fax: 256 5922



Booki  
Booki

**Getting There**

Located at 93 Stamford Road, the Singapore History Museum can be easily reached by bus or MRT. Visitors can either alight at Dhoby Ghaut or City Hall MRT station, or take any of the following buses: 7, 14, 16, 36, 64, 65, 77, 97, 103, 106, 111, 124, 131, 139, 166, 167, 171, 174, 190, 501, 543, 546, 549, 555, 556, 602, 603, 605, 607, 625, 634, 700, 865

Download [map of Singapore History Museum](#)

**Opening Hours**

Tuesdays to Sundays 9am to 6pm

Fridays 9am to 9pm  
(Special night interactive tour, Tales of the Night, at 7pm and 7.30pm, each tour lasts an hour)

Closed on Mondays

**Admission Charges**

Categories	Museum Only	3D Show* Only	Museum & 3D Show
Adults	\$3	\$2	\$4
Students & senior citizens (55 years and above)	\$1.50	\$1	\$2
Family ticket (admits 5, max 3 adults)	\$8	\$5	Nil
Group discounts for adults (more than 20 pax)	\$2	\$1	\$3

\* The Singapore Story: Overcoming the Odds - A 3D Experience at the AV Theatrette with 6 hourly shows from Tuesdays to Sundays, 10.30am to 3.30pm. There is an additional show on every Friday at 5.30pm.

**Free Guided Tours!**

Tuesdays to Fridays  
11am & 2 pm (In English)  
10.30am (In Japanese)

Saturdays & Sundays  
11am, 2pm & 3pm (In English)





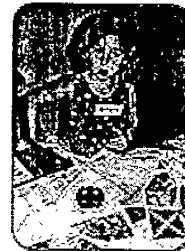
Exhibi
Works
Our Fe
CDG's

## Welcome to The Children's Discovery Gallery!

### Introduction

The Children's Discovery Gallery (CDG) is an interactive gallery where children between 7 and 12 years old are encouraged to discover their cultural heritage.

The discovery is made through "hands-on" activities and multimedia terminals where children can touch, feel and even smell the artefacts on display. Through these fun-filled activities, children are transported to a magical world where everything from the text on the walls to the activities and even the furniture is catered to their learning experience.



### Location

The Gallery is located at the Singapore History Museum, 93, Stamford Road, National Museum Building.

Home | About ACM | Contact Us | Exhibitions | Collections | Publications | Events | Press | Shop | Feedback

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# Asian Civilisations Museum

- Profile
- Current Exhibitions
- Permanent Collections
- Past Exhibitions
- Quick Tour - highlights of the ACM
- ACM Publications
- Events
- Shop



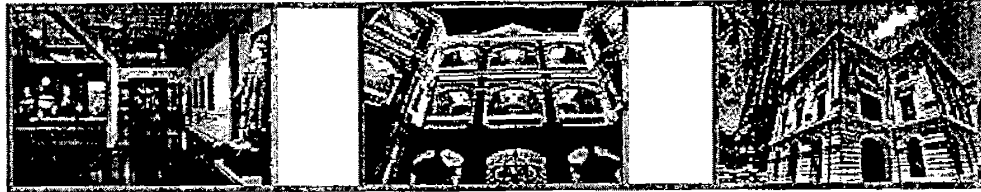
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ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM

# Profile

## Asian Civilisations Museum: Where the Story of Asia Unfolds



Left: Display on Chinese History and Culture

Centre: The facade of the Museum

Right: The former old British Consulate Place Building by the Singapore River. This second wing of our ACM is being refurbished now and will open in a year 2016.

**Asian Civilisations Museum**  
39 Armenian St  
Singapore 179941

**OPENING HOURS 9.00AM - 6.00PM**  
Fridays open till 9.00PM (free admission from 6.00PM)  
Closed on Mondays

Tracing and presenting the ancestral cultures of Singaporeans is the mission of the Asian Civilisations Museum. Given the multi-ethnic nature of Singapore's population and her geographical position, the main interest areas of the Museum encompass China, Southeast Asia, India and West Asia. The Museum's exhibition and collection policies are thus based on these regions. The Asian Civilisations Museum is being developed in two phases. Prior to its move to its current premises at old Tao Nan School on Armenian Street in 1997, the Museum organised several major exhibitions 1993 to 1996. These included

- Treasures of Asian Art: Selections from the Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Collection jointly organised with The Asia Society, New York
- Gilding the Phoenix: The Straits Chinese and Their Jewellery
- Alamkara: 5000 years of India jointly organised with the National Museum, New Delhi.

At its first wing at old Tao Nan School Building, the Museum has a permanent display on Chinese History and Culture. Several changing exhibitions were held since and these include

- Ramayana - A Living Tradition: Harmony of Letters
- Islamic Calligraphy from the Tareq Rajab Museum, Kuwait
- Paintings by Zhejiang Artists of the Ming & Qing Dynasties
- Sojourn in Nanyang - Works by Xu BeiHong
- Highlanders - Islanders 'Headhunters': an exhibition on the ethnic minorities of Northern Thailand, Indonesian Archipelago and Borneo
- Traditional Houses of China - A Photographic Exhibition
- Eternal Egypt - Treasures from the British Museum
- Jewels of Enlightenment - Gold Jewellery from Tibet and Nepal
- Prized Possessions - Jewellery from Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia
- Chinese Snuff Bottles - Treasures from the Sanctum of Enlightened Respect

[http://www.nhb.gov.sg/ACM/profile/profile\\_index.shtml](http://www.nhb.gov.sg/ACM/profile/profile_index.shtml)

**Monkey God Display**

- Peranakan Chinese Art Display
- The Dating Game: Calendars and Time in Asia
- Chinese Paintings from the Yeo Khee Lim Collection (Part I)
- Krishna - The Blue God

The Museum's second wing at the Empress Place Building is targeted for completion in 2002. This will allow the Asian Civilisations Museum to fully expand its collection of South, West and Southeast Asian material.

Apart from having a programme of exciting and educational exhibitions, the Museum has a regular programme of talks, workshops and other activities. The Asian Civilisations Museum strives to be a museum where visitors will find their experience both informative and memorable and an institution which Singaporeans value.

For more information, call our hotline at 332 3284 or email [nhb\\_acm@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:nhb_acm@nhb.gov.sg)

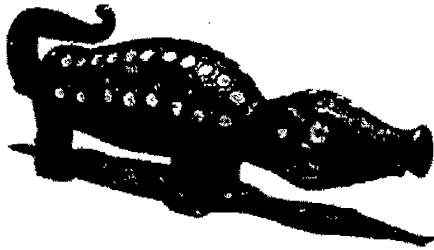
[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Singapore Civilisation Centre](#) | [Singapore History Museum](#) | [National Heritage Board](#) | [National Museum of Singapore](#) | [Heritage Conservation Centre](#) | [National Heritage Service](#) | [Public Affairs](#)

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ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM

# Past Exhibitions



Chinese Paintings from the Yeo Khee Lim Collection (Part i)	1/2/0
The Dating Game : Calenders & Time in Asia	4/12/
Chinese Snuff Bottles : Treasures from the Sanctum of Enlightened Respect	10/9/
Prized Possessions : Jewellery from Thailand, Malaysia & Indonesia	14/7/
Jewels of Enlightenment : Gold Jewellery from Tibet & Nepal	14/7/
Eternal Egypt : Treasures from the British Museum	11/2/
Traditional Houses of China A Photographic Exhibition	23/1
<u>Highlanders, Islanders, 'Headhunters' : An Exhibition on the Ethnic Minorities of Northern Thailand, &amp; Malaysia and Indonesia</u>	13/1
<u>Sojourn in Nanyang - Works by Xu BeiHong</u>	27/6/
<u>Paintings by Zhejiang Artists of the Ming &amp; Qing Dynasties</u>	22/5/
Harmony of Letters - Islamic Calligraphy from the Tareq Rajab Museum, Kuwait	29/1
Ramayana - A living Tradition	21/4/

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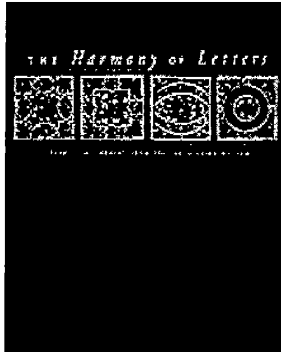
[Profile](#) | [Current Exhibitions](#) | [Permanent Collections](#) | [Part Exhibitions](#) | [ACM Publications](#) | [Facilities](#) | [Feedback](#)

ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM

# ACM Publications

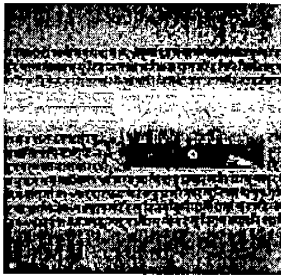
## ACM Publications

The Asian Civilisations Museum has published a series of high quality illustrated books in conjunction with its permanent and temporary exhibitions. These may be purchased directly from the [National Museum Shop](#) or from major bookstores.

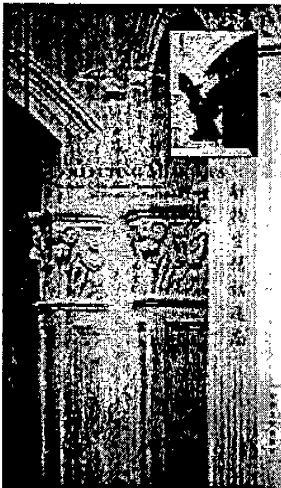


**The Harmony of Letters: Islamic Calligraphy**  
 by Dr. Nabil Safwat, Tareq Rajab Museum

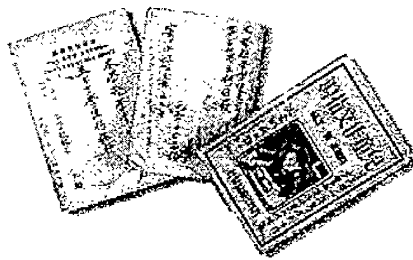
This publication accompanies the first ever Islamic exhibition to be organised by the ACM. Featuring the collection of the Tareq Rajab Museum in Kuwait, the book and exhibition focuses on calligraphy - important artistic expression in the Islamic world. Written by Dr Nabil Safwat, an Islamic art scholar, the book provides an introduction to the world of Islamic calligraphy. The reader is invited to learn and marvel at the beauty of the written word, found not only on Holy Qur'ans and religious manuscripts but also on domestic objects like ceramic bowls and mirrors.



The title aptly describes the monumental reach of an epic that many only see as an interesting fairytale. The Ramayana tradition has transcended its geographical boundaries to become a part of cultures and people across Asia. This catalogue features exquisite miniatures from the British Library's Oriental & India Office Collection and Bharat Kala Bhavan Museum of Benares Hindu University, puppets from six cultures, including Nang Yai from the only temple in Thailand where the art is still performed and the more familiar wayang figures of Kelantan, Java and Bali - Sepak Dogol and Twalen, as well as contemporary Indian and Balinese paintings.



A beautiful book in traditional Chinese-style binding presenting the rich history of the Tao Nan School from 1912-1989 before the building was conserved and turned into the present museum premises.



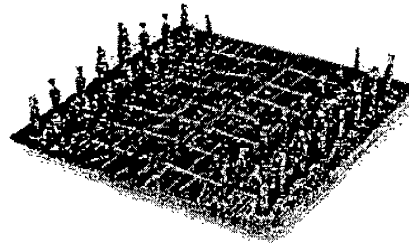
In English and Mandarin, this catalogue provides a much needed background on the Nanyang period of Xu Beihong's life and the work he painted in Southeast Asia. Xu Beihong is considered by many to



founding father of modern Chinese painting. [Find out more!](#)



Alankara: 5000 years of Indian Art



浙江美术馆藏中国书画精品展  
MUSEUM



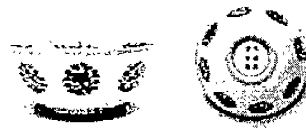
Zhejiang Provincial Museum

Published in conjunction with the exhibition of the same name at the this fully bilingual catalogue (English and Mandarin) features 43 works from the Zhejiang Provincial Museum, some of which have never been previously exhibited outside China. Highlights include works by the eccentric late Ming painter Chen Hongshou, who was a major influence on the Shanghai school of painting in the late 19th century

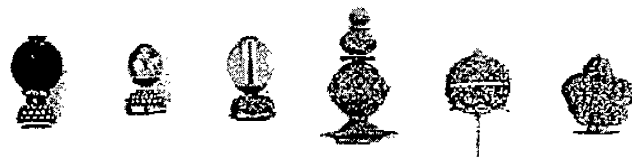


The Chinese Collections

The inaugural publication of the Asian Civilisations Museum, this book illustrates a wide range of objects spanning the bronze age to the end of the Qing dynasty



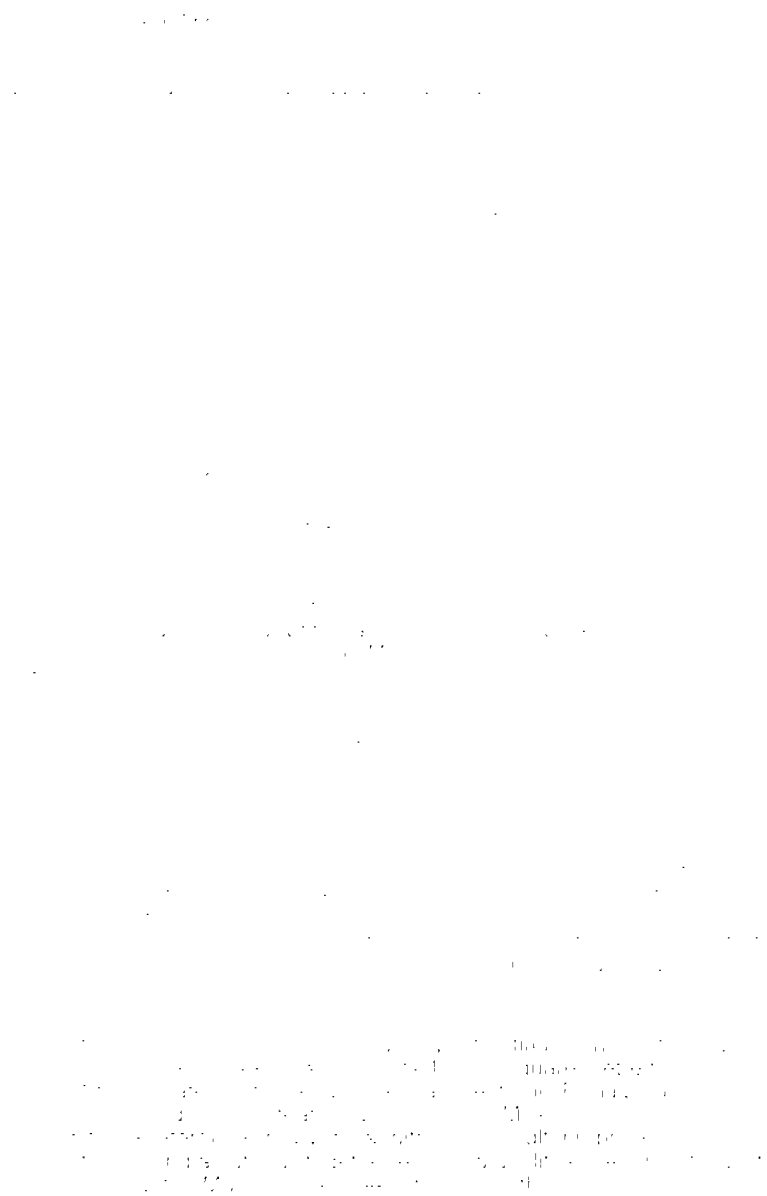
A unique publication which focuses on the magnificent jewels of the Peranakan Chinese community in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. Superb full colour illustrations throughout.



[Asian Civilisations Museum](#) | [Singapore Art Museum](#) | [Singapore History Museum](#) | [National Archives of Singapore](#)  
[Public Education](#) | [Heritage Conservation Centre](#) | [National Museum Shop](#) | [NHB Home](#)







Singapore and continues to do so with breathtaking shows and exciting programmes.

[Asian Civilisations Museum](#) | [Singapore Art Museum](#) | [Singapore History Museum](#) | [National Archives of Singapore](#)  
[Public Education](#) | [Public Conservation Centre](#) | [National Museum Shop](#) | [NHB Home](#)



# NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SINGAPORE

corporate profile



Archival Holdings

Qs and

The National Archives of Singapore (NAS) was established in 1968 for the preservation and the administration of the archives.

Inquiry Form

calendar of events

List of Products

Historic Sites Unit



Our Address: 1 Canning Rise, Singapore 179868

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- singapore art museum
- asian civilisations museum
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# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Archival Holdings



## Public Records

The National Archives of Singapore (NAS) is the custodian of public records. All records pertaining to Singapore's heritage are preserved and maintained by the National Archives.

An example of the rich sources of information we can cull from these records include information on Singapore's amenities in the 1870s:-

### Early Water Works

Mr Tan Kim Seng was a Chinese philanthropist whose concern about the supply of water to Singapore was highlighted:

"...Mr Tan Kim Seng, who offered a sum of \$13,000 to the Government for the purpose of bringing an efficient supply of wholesome water to the town for the use of the inhabitants." He goes on to say - "It will of course be understood that the whole \$13,000 will be devoted to the purpose above specified, and that the works when completed will be taken charge of by the Government or the Municipal Commissioners, and always maintained in an efficient state, and the water be available to the inhabitants free of all charge."

Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements - 27 June 1870.

[Click here to view a series of photographs of the Tan Kim Seng Fountain.](#)

### Fire Hazards

An effort was made by The Honourable Mr W.H.Read to upgrade the facilities of the Fire Brigade. Below is an extract of his concerns:

"A few months ago we had the Fire Engines out and tried the hose, and out of, I think 10 lengths, 6 burst. These were of Indian rubber which I consider the best. However, I have written up to Hong Kong to inquire what they employ there. Generally we use salt water, and it has no doubt a very deleterious effect upon the canvas hose. There is another thing here, --that at fires it is so difficult to get the hose to the fire. You have to lead it over roofs, some high and some low, and between roofs, and if you are not very careful of kinks the force of water breaks the hose: it requires constant attention, and there is often a great danger: at the last fire there was very nearly a serious accident."

- Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements - 8 June 1870.

Click [here](#) to view a series of photographs of the Fire Brigade.



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# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

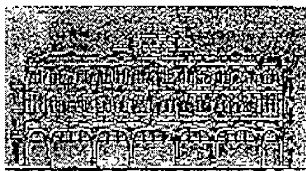
Archival Holdings



## Building Plans

The National Archives of Singapore (NAS) is the custodian of building plans which come from the Chief Building Surveyor's Department, the Building Control Division, the Public Works Department and the Swan & MacClaren private collection. There are measured drawings of private estates and public buildings. The public is welcome to view the collection.

### John Little, Raffles Place, 1908.



New Premises, Raffles Place, for Messers John Little & Co. Swan MacClaren Architects 1908.

This classical building was once a prominent landmark at Raffles place. It housed John Little Department Store where Europeans and wealthy locals shopped for imported goods.

Reproduced from the original building plan in the National Archives of Singapore.

### The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 1892.



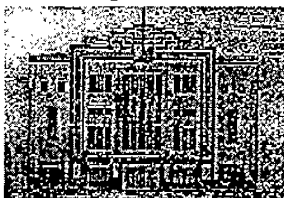
Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, New Bank, Singapore. Swan & MacClaren Architects 1892.

Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was a British exchange bank founded in Hong Kong in 1866. Its Singapore branch was opened in 1877. This Victorian-style building was built at the junction of Battery

Road and Collyer Quay in the 1890s.

Reproduced from the original building plan in the National Archives of Singapore.

### Chinese Opera Theatre for Mr Eu Tong Sen OBE, 1920

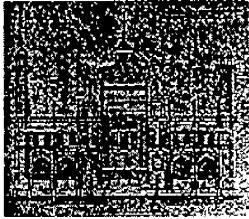


Proposed theatre for Mr Eu Tong Sen OBE. Swan & MacClaren Architects, 1920.

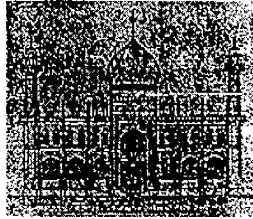
This theatre named *Tien Yien Moh Toi* or Heavenly Drama Stage was originally built for Cantonese opera performances. Its architecture is a blend of Chinese and Art Deco elements. It was later converted into a cinema now known as the Majestic Theatre.

Reproduced from the original building plan in the National Archives of Singapore.

Sultan's Mosque, 1920.



Back elevation of mosque



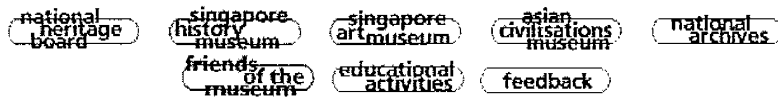
North Bridge Road elevation of mosque

Sultan's Mosque. Swan & MacClaren Architects 1920.

This mosque erected in 1924, replaced an earlier one built by Sultan Hussain a century before. It still stands in the heart of Kampong Glam as a fine example of Islamic architecture in Singapore.

Reproduced from the original building plan in the National Archives of Singapore.

If you are interested in purchasing this series of postcards, click [here](#) for more information.



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# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Oral History Recordings



The Oral History Centre records, documents, preserves and disseminates information on the history of Singapore through the collective memory of the people.






The information collected by the Oral History Centre is available in audio tapes and can be consulted for research purposes. Transcripts are also available on microfiche.

A sample of the oral history work on Rickshaw Pullers is highlighted here.

## In the beginning . . .

Poverty was rife in China, many peasants suffered and villages were often plundered by bandits. Dreaming of better life, many peasants made their way to Singapore. While some became rich businessmen, still many others led a life of hardship and became rickshaw pullers.

## Nature of the rickshaw pullers' work . . .

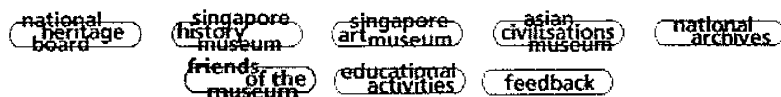
-  nature of work as a rickshaw - puller
-  arrangements on coming to Singapore
-  living with other rickshaw - pullers
-  chaos caused by village bandits
-  hardships of a rickshaw - puller

Click on any of the audio icon to download an audio clip in Hokkien.

Click [here](#) to view a wider photographic collection of rickshaw pullers.

For a sample of Oral History Centre's holdings on Vanishing Trades, [click here](#).

Find out more about these rickshaw pullers in the National Archives.  
Chinese oral history transcripts are available. Interviews are conducted in Hokkien



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# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Photographs



Public Records

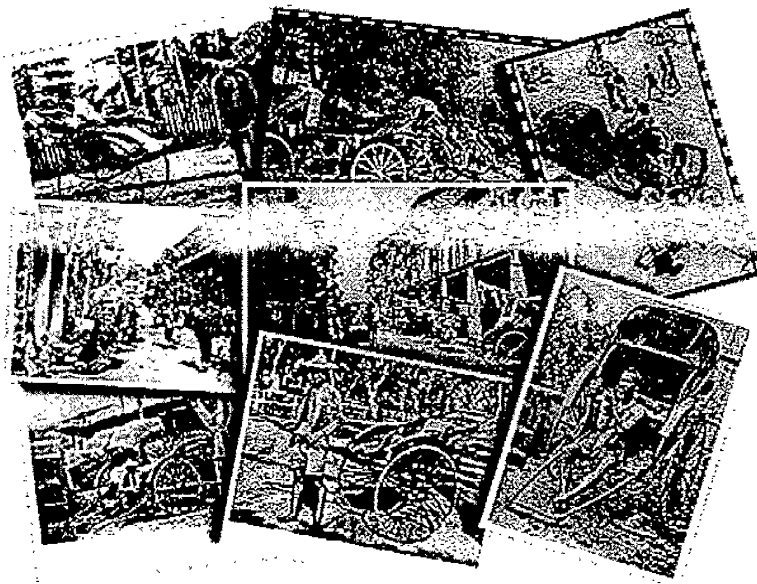
Building Plans

Oral History Recordings

Audio Visual Collection

## Photographs

The National Archives of Singapore (NAS) collects public records including photographs from public and statutory boards in Singapore. NAS also actively acquires old photographs of Singapore from private collectors. Today, NAS has a collection of over 850,000 still images of Singapore from the late 1800s to the present which documents the social and economic landscape of Singapore. Some samples of photographs on rickshaw pullers are highlighted below.



Click on the photographs or the texts below to download a bigger photograph of your choice.

[rickshaw](#) [rickshaws on a busy street](#) [Jinriksha station](#) [rickshaw coolie quay](#) [rickshaw pullers in Singapore](#) [Jinriksha stand](#) [a rickshaw puller waiting for a customer](#)

Find out more about these rickshaw pullers in the National Archives.  
Chinese oral history transcripts are available. Interviews are conducted in Hokkien.

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# NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Audio Visual Collection



The National Archives of Singapore's Audio Visual Archives Unit is dedicated to the collection, dissemination and preservation of historically significant film and sound materials from public and

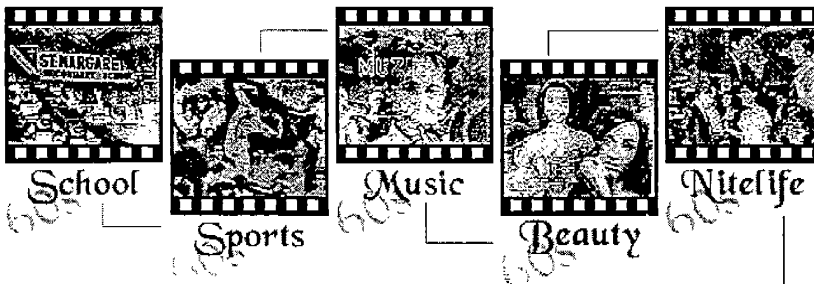


private offices.

"Singapore's Youth of Yesteryear"

The AV Archives Unit has among its existing holdings, a collection of news magazines produced by the former Ministry of Culture in the 1960s. This series of black and white film is known as the Berita Singapura series.

The films provide a good record of Singapore's political, economic, social and cultural developments in the 1960s. Snippets of these films have been cut and compiled into a video 'Singapore's Youth of Yesteryears'. A sample of the snippets are provided below.



Click on any category to download a quick-time movie



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## Made in Bangkok City of Dreams

Celebrate a new day with a new journey and visit Bangkok - one of the most ancient city's in southeast Asia. Discover its cultural heritage and modern shopping centers.

With the first light of the day, begin your journey at Sanam Luang - the royal park where many national and important religious events are held. Looking beyond its open and green expanse, and the white city wall bordering it, you will see the top of the Phra Sriratana Chedi of the Grand Palace as well as the multi tiered, mosaic roof tops of the nearby throne halls as they glitter against the morning sunlight. Enter this holy temple, and despite a number of tourists you will feel a deep sense of peace and tranquility. The Grand Palace is clear evidence of how magnificent and grandiose classical Thai architecture is.

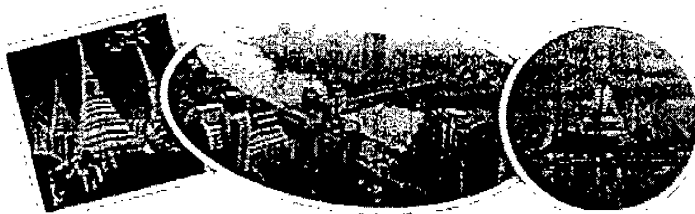


Inside the Temple of the Emerald Buddha is enshrined the holy Emerald Buddha. On the wall outside the temple you can see the beautiful mural paintings depicting scenes from the great Indian inspired epic 'Ramayana'. Not very far from the Temple of the Emerald Buddha is situated the spectacular Chakri Maha Prasat Thronehall, it is a harmonious mixture of Thai and Western architectural styles.

Within 5 minutes walking time from the Grand Palace stands Wat Po or the Temple of the Reclining Buddha. Here you can not only visit the largest reclining Buddha in Thailand, but also learn and enjoy the art of traditional Thai massage.

In the afternoon visit the beautiful Wimanmek Mansion. Situated on Rajavithai Road, Phra Tri Trang. Wimanmek is a classic example of mid-Ratanakosin architecture. Made entirely of golden teak, Wimanmek Mansion was built during the reign of King Rama V. Formally used as an exclusive royal residence but later converted into a museum displaying previously unseen private royal belongings and collections. Beside Wimanmek Mansion, there are a few other majestic mansions situated amidst the beautiful floral garden where classical dances are often performed.

In the evening, watch the beautiful sunset behind the Temple of Dawn in Thonburi district beside the Chao Phraya River. By simply taking a ferry from Tha-Tian pier, next to Wat Po, you will reach the stunning Temple of Dawn, on the opposite side of the river, in under five minutes.



After visiting the many ancient temples and interesting cultural attractions, it is time to shop. If you are a shopping lover, don't miss the famous Chatuchak Weekend Market. Here you can find almost anything from pets to pearls to antique furniture; prices are reasonable and always negotiable.

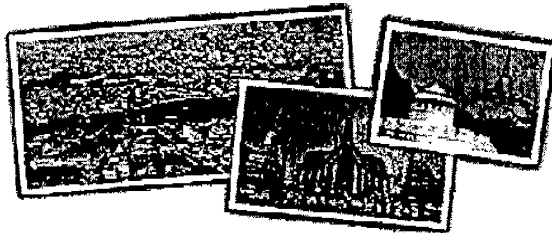
If you cannot wait until the weekend, you might want to check out the famous Khao San Road. Primarily an accommodation centre for international back-packers, it is also an interesting shopping street and full of lively bars and restaurants.

If you are a fashion lover, then don't miss out on the Indian market. It is one of the biggest fabric and clothing markets in Asia. Only about 10 minutes walk from the Indian market is located bangkok's famous China-Town district where you can buy, eat, barter and buy all manner of Chinese products.

Don't forget to check out the glamorous Bangkok night life on Silom road. Relax and enjoy the wild evening with good wine, disco-dancing and many other famous types of night life entertainment; you'll be guaranteed to find something here to suit your taste and preference. Also it is a good place to look for brand named clothes and small gadgets at very negotiable prices  
Enjoy your visit to our City of Angels!!

**A TREASURE HOUSE OF THAI HERITAGE**

Thonburi had originally been selected as the site of Siam's new capital after the Burmese had destroyed Ayutthaya in 1767, but when King Rama I ascended the throne a few years later he decided to move the fledgling capital across the river to the trading post of Bangkok. There were two main problems with Thonburi: one was that the river bank on that side was prone to land erosion, but a more important factor was that the curve of the river formed a peninsula on the eastern side, which could more easily be defended. The merchants of the existing settlement, mainly Chinese, were given land a short distance away in what is now Chinatown, and construction of Bangkok as the capital began. The year was 1782, the same year in which Rama I was crowned, and this marks the beginning of what is known as the Rattanakosin period.



King Rama I was determined that Bangkok should equal the splendour of Ayutthaya, a city of almost legendary beauty. He began a great revival of the culture that the Burmese invaders had nearly wiped out, founding the Grand Palace and numerous temples in classic Ayutthaya style, and promoting the arts and education. He also took great care that the new city and its inhabitants were protected from further incursions by building fortifications and moats. The latter were actually canals, and in addition to their defence function they formed the backbone of a sophisticated water transportation system. The building work was continued by the king's son, Rama II. When Rama III came to the throne he developed extensive trading with China and brought new wealth into the country, resulting in the creation of more spectacular architecture. By the time of Rama IV, Bangkok was spreading well beyond its moats, but by this time the Burmese threat had receded.

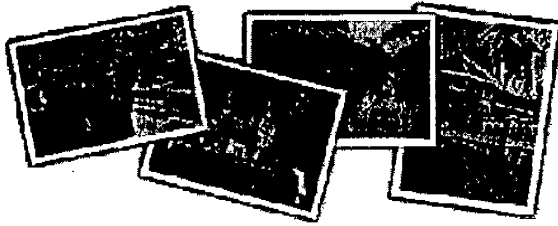
The old city area inside the moats however remained almost unchanged, as it does to this day. A wonderful, living treasure trove of early Rattanakosin arts and architecture, and consequently one of Thailand's most significant destinations for visitors: tourists and scholars alike.

**THE TERRITORY OF RATTANAKOSIN ISLAND**

Rattanakosin Island is an island by virtue of the fact that the rulers of old dug a series of canals, or klongs, around the city. On one side there is the huge loop of the Chao Phraya river, and running behind the city to link up with the river are three concentric canals. These have the effect of separating Old Bangkok into three parts. The innermost moat is called Khlong Khu Muang Derm, and it was dug in the Thonburi period. It runs from the market known as Pak Khlong Talad, canal mouth market, round behind the Grand Palace to the Phra Pin Klao Bridge, which crosses the river. The canal originally intended as the city's moat was dug a few years later, in 1783. It is called Khlong Rob Krung, and runs from Phra Sumeru Fort round to the temple of Wat Liep. On the opposite bank at this latter end is Chinatown. At the beginning of the Rattanakosin period there were 14 forts and a strong wall along the city limits. Today, only two forts remain: Phra Sumeru, which is in the Bang-lampoo district, and Mahakarn Fort at Pan Fah Bridge. Fragments of the city wall can be seen at Banglampoo, opposite Wat Bowoniviet, and near Mahakarn



Fort.



When King Rama IV ascended the throne in 1851 he decided to build a further canal to encircle the greatly enlarged city. This had as much to do with commerce as it did with military use. There were still no real roads in Bangkok (the first was New Road, or Charoen Krung, which was completed in 1864), and transport was still almost entirely by water. Khlong Padung Krung Kasem was therefore dug as the outermost canal, starting from Thevet upriver and running round to encircle Chinatown, exiting into the Chao Phraya river near to where the River City arts and antiques shopping complex now stands. The concentration of Rattanakosin treasures will therefore be found inside the area surrounded by the two earlier moats, although there is also much of great interest between the second and third moats. Outstanding points of interest in the older areas include important historical sites such as the Grand Palace, the royal temples, government agencies housed in former palaces, and old shophouses whose design was heavily influenced by western styles and which are still well maintained today. In Rattanakosin Island too can be found a certain timeless quality to the way of Thai life.



### IMPORTANT PLACES IN AND AROUND RATTANAKOSIN ISLAND

**The Grand Palace:** King Rama I ordered the construction of the Grand Palace when he decided to establish Bangkok as the capital city. The palace draws its original design from the classic Ayutthaya period. It served as the royal residence until about a century ago. Today it is used for certain ceremonial occasions.

**Wat Phra Si Rattanasatsadaram**, often known as Wat Phra Kaew from the Emerald Buddha, or Phra Kaew, which it houses. This is the royal monastery which was built in the reign of King Rama I. It is located adjacent to the Grand Palace and is used for significant religious ceremonies. The huge ubosot within the temple's compound was built expressly for the purpose of housing the Emerald Buddha, regarded as the talisman of the Thai kingdom.



**Sanam Luang:** Previously called the Royal Field, or Thung Phrameru, this large open area is situated to the north of the Grand Palace. Sanam Luang is frequently used for royal ceremonies and other traditional events.

**Lak Muang Shrine** or the City Pillar: Erected at the founding of Bangkok as the new capital to embody the city spirit. This is one of the city's most important shrines. It is also the point from which all inter-city distances are measured.

**National Museum:** Housed in the palace of Wang Na, which was built during the reign of King Rama I. The museum itself was founded in the reign of King Rama V.

**National Theatre:** Originally this was three European-style buildings constructed during the reign of King Rama V as government offices. Today, the National Theatre shows cultural performances and Thai classical dance and music, and is open to the general public.

**Thammasat University:** The first modern university in Thailand, originally named "Thammasat Lae Karn Muang (Moral and Political Science) University. It has subsequently played a significant role in times of political turbulence during Thailand's progress to full democracy.

**Silpakom University:** The cradle of modern Thai art, housed in the former Tha Phra Palace, residence of Prince Naritsaranuwattiwong, a great patron of the arts.

**Wat Phra Chetupon Wimonmangklaram**, or Wat Pho: Officially considered the first university in Thailand. This is the temple where the general public can learn about ancient medical and herbal treatments, traditional massage, and where they can study Buddhism. The temple also houses the famed Reclining Buddha image.

**Hor Klong Shrine**, or the Shrine of the Drum Tower: Located behind the Territorial Department, the shrine is a place of worship and a memorial to a brave officer who died during a war in the first reign.

**Ministry of Defence:** A gracious European-style building whose frontage has many ancient cannons.

**Ruin of the palace's gate at Praeng Sappasart Supakit :** The palace was the residence of Prince Sappasart Supakit. Today only the gate is left standing, the palace having been razed by fire in 1967.

**Praeng Phutorn Road:** Links Asdang and Tanao roads, and contains

more than 100 classical shophouses in excellent condition.



**Khlong Khu Muang Derm:** This canal is sometimes called Klong Lot, a much earlier name. Its official name was given in 1982, and carries significant historical value. The canal was dug in the Thonburi period as the inner city moat.

**Banglampoo:** This district became increasingly important in the early Rattanakosin era when the Khaek Tanee community at Wat Tong Pu came to settle in the reign of Rama III. The community has continued to expand and currently this is one of the most important trading areas in Bangkok.

**Phra Sumeru Fort:** Located on Phra Athit road, at the mouth of Khlong Banglamphu. Built in the reign of King Rama I, it was one of the key defence posts for the city.

**Giant Swing:** One of the landmarks of Bangkok. Previously, it was used in the ancient Brahmin Swing ceremony, an event discontinued in 1933.

**Democracy Monument:** Located on Ratchadamnoen Klang Avenue, and built to commemorate the peaceful revolution from absolute monarchy to democracy in 1932.



# Links to our past

## Web Resources Page

The following is a selected list of websites on various aspects of Singapore history. Please note that this list is not exhaustive, and changes to website may not be reflected on this page.

### School history websites

Anglo-Chinese School

<http://www.acs.ac.sg/general/history/index.html>

Chinese High School

<http://www.chs.edu.sg/general/index.htm>

St Andrew's School

<http://www.moe.edu.sg/schools/saint/info.htm>

St Patrick's School

<http://www.moe.edu.sg/schools/stpat/histor2.htm>

St Joseph's Institution

<http://www.sji.sch.edu.sg/abtsji.htm>

Victoria School

<http://www.moe.edu.sg/schools/vs/nn/history.html>

MOE collaborative projects initiative

<http://www.moe.edu.sg/iteducation/initiatives/projects/index.htm>

Nan Hwa Primary School

<http://www.moe.edu.sg/schools/sch5622/front%20page/history.htm>

Nanyang Technological University

<http://www.ntu.edu.sg/aboutus/ntuhistory.html>

NUS milestones from NUS site. Contains timeline histories of all faculties

<http://www.nus.edu.sg/Milestones/content.html>

### Links to Singapore History/Information on Singapore

A multimedia, content-rich website on Singapore History

<http://www.knowledgenet.com.sg/>

Battlefield Singapore recreates the historical events which took place during Japanese Occupation

<http://www.s1942.org.sg/>

Chinese language site: Extracts from the book 'Price of Peace'

<http://www.sol.com.sg/classroom/pppeace/>

Diary of a nation

<http://www.mediacity.com.sg/heritage/index.htm>

Diary of a Nation video clips (requires VDO Live)

<http://www.mediacity.com.sg/ndp96/ndp96/diary.htm#index>

Evolution of Singapore An excellent site on Singapore history by Chinese H students. This site won an award in Think Quest 1997

<http://library.advanced.org/12405/18post.htm>

Extracts from The Singapore Story: Memoirs of Lee Kuan Yew

<http://singapore-story.com.sg/html/extracts.html>

Germans in Singapore - A History

<http://germancentre.com/pages/history.htm>

History City presents an environment for children to make history by collecting trading historic items from Singapore's heritage

<http://www.historycity.org.sg/>

Istana - its History

<http://www.gov.sg/istana/history.html>

Life in a Peranakan House

<http://www.info-lab.com/baba/>

Maju-lah Singapura: Singapore's National Anthem, from Singapore infoma audio and score.

<http://www.sg/flavour/sym-anthem.html>

Ministry of education site

<http://www.moe.edu.sg/neu/>

MOE IT Resource

<http://www.moe.edu.sg/iteducation/resources/welcome.htm>

Nanyang Technological University list of media titles related to National Ed

<http://www.ntu.edu.sg/library/media/mnat.htm>

National Library Board site

<http://www.lib.gov.sg/leisure/useful/index.html>

<http://www.heritagehub.com.sg/links/links.htm>

NIE History website

<http://www.nie.ac.sg:8000/~hackk/history.htm>

Official site of the Peranakan Association of Singapore

<http://www.peranakan.org.sg/>

Outline history of Singapore by the Singapore 1 team

<http://www..sg1.com/singapore/sgabout.html>

Peranakan culture in perspective

<http://www.peranakan.com.sg/main.html>

Raffles Reviewed 175 years later Includes rich material on the English East Company, the British in Java and other related topics and biographies

<http://www.sol.som.sg/raffles/overview.html>

Resources on Singapore - East & Southeast Asia: An Annotated Directory Resources

<http://newton.uor.edu/Departments%20&%20Programs/AsianStudiesDept/singapore.html>

Rich site containing details of the development of Singapore

<http://www..moe.edu.sg/neu/factfiles/pub-frame-noncore.html>

Shell Company - A History

<http://snell.com.sg/shabthty.htm>

Singapore ethnic breakdown from Ethnologue published by the Summer In Linguistics

<http://www.sil.org/ethnologue/countries/Sing.html>

Singapore's first antiquarian digital diary, featuring rare works on history, literature together with wide assortment of artworks

<http://www.portal.com.sg/>

Singapore history in brief from the Singapore infomap web page

<http://www.sg/flavour/history.html>

Singapore info-map : the national website

<http://www.sg/>

Synopsis of Singapore History Museum's exhibition on Singapore Malays

<http://www..museum.org.sg/shm/malay.html>

Synopsis of Singapore History Museum's exhibition on Historical Paintings of Colonial Singapore

<http://www..museum.org.sg/shm/hpp.html>

Teacher Education in Singapore from National Institute of Education site -

<http://www.heritagehub.com.sg/links/links.htm>

history

<http://www.nie.ac.sg:8000/>

The Battlebox: the Malaya Command Headquarters 1939-1942 Site of the underground complex managed by Fort Canning Country Club

<http://www.battlebox.com.sg/index2.html>

The Dioramas: A Visual History of Singapore

<http://www.museum.org.sg/shm/diorama.html>

The Singapore Section of the Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library

<http://library.berkeley.edu/SSEAL/SouthAsia/WWWVL/Singapore.html>

We wish to thank [KnowledgeNet Singapore](#) for sharing some of their info with us.