



Illustration

A sea battle in the Straits of Melaka in 1602. Three Dutch ships in the foreground and three English ships at the background, combined to attack the Portuguese carrack. All three Western powers at different periods sought Perak's tin.

BY BARBARA WATSON ANDAYA

PERAK IN ANCIENT TIMES

Reconstructing the history of human settlement in Perak is an ongoing process. In recent times exciting excavations in the Lenggong Valley and the discovery of a complete male skeleton said to be about 11,000 years old have made the state a focus for archaeological inquiry. While the implications of these new finds have yet to be fully evaluated, earlier discoveries of statues of Hindu and Buddhist divinities, together with other artifacts – pottery, shell bracelets, beads – provide irrefutable evidence of ancient trading links, especially with India.

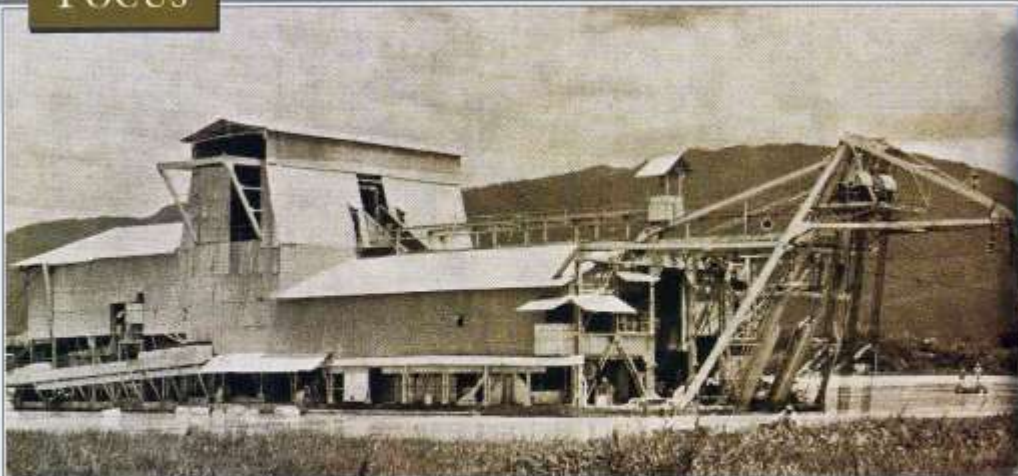
We cannot know precisely when the area became renowned for its immense tin deposits, since the name 'Perak' (literally 'silver') does not appear in historical sources until 1500. However, it is clear that trade began to expand from the fifteenth century, following the establishment of the Malay port of Melaka. As Melaka became more powerful, it also extended its authority over the small settlements in lower Perak. We only have an impression of local populations at this time, but legends suggest that trade linked the coast to the interior, with forest dwelling Semai and Temiar groups bringing jungle products and alluvial tin downstream to trade with the Malays. The economic relationships between downstream (ilir) and upstream (ulu) form a recurring theme in Perak history.

PERAK'S FOUNDING AND THE TIN TRADE

Trading connections with Melaka were disrupted by the Portuguese conquest of 1511, but Perak was the beneficiary of rivalries within the royal family, which had fled to the island of Bintan. According to the Sejarah Melayu, the elder son of the last Melaka ruler had been named as Raja Muda, but subse-

A Brief Overview of

Perak's History



quently fell from favor. Taken to Perak by a trader, he was installed as Sultan Muzaffar Syah somewhere around 1528.

This event was immensely significant because the new Perak dynasty could claim direct descent from the prestigious Melaka line; even in the early nineteenth century the Perak ruler refused to send tribute to Siam on the grounds that he was 'the oldest of all the kings in these parts.' It also marked a time of renewed commercial activity. The expanding tin trade with India and China attracted the attention of outsiders, and in the early seventeenth century the Portuguese established a small post in Perak. The expansionist state of Aceh, however, had greater ambitions. Its rulers mounted attacks in 1575 and again in 1620, on the latter occasion carrying off hundreds of prisoners. Perak now fell under Aceh's control, but the relationship was never easy. It is not difficult to understand why the Dutch East India Company (VOC; established 1602) was seen as a potential ally. Perak's hopes for independence from outside interference were unfulfilled, for after the VOC captured Portuguese Melaka in 1641 the Dutch repeatedly blockaded Perak in order to monopolize the tin trade. Perak-Dutch relations worsened, and in 1651 nearly thirty VOC employees were killed. Yet the tin profits were potentially so great that the Dutch were willing to re-negotiate a

treaty; for its part, Perak hoped for protection against a possible Siamese campaign. In 1670 another VOC post was established on Pulau Pangkor, only to be withdrawn twenty years later following attacks led by nobles resentful at Dutch trading practices.

EARLY CONFLICTS

The eighteenth century began on a troubled note, with threats of a Siamese invasion and recurring conflict between factions of the elite. Perak's tin continued to attract migrants from elsewhere in the archipelago, notably the Minangkabau and Bugis, and conflicts with the existing population were not uncommon. Because the Bugis had obtained a controlling position in Johor, and were well entrenched in Selangor and Linggi, it once again seemed that a Dutch post might provide some guarantee of protection. In 1746 the Perak ruler therefore concluded another treaty with the VOC which endured, albeit with some disagreements, until 1793. Anxious to obtain tin supplies to support the growing tea trade with China, the Dutch were often willing to make concessions, while Perak rulers were also inclined to compromise because of the continuing Bugis threat. To a considerable extent the Dutch presence did forestall outside attacks; allowing Sultan Iskandar (1752-65) to oversee a time of unprecedented peace. His reign is described at length in

the most important Perak text, the *Misa Melayu*, which not only emphasizes the state's prosperity but celebrates its ancient connections to Melaka. This prestige was evident in 1766, during the reign of Sultan Iskandar's brother, when the Bugis head of Selangor asked if the Perak ruler would install him in the traditional Malay style so that he would be independent of his Bugis relatives in Johor.

The later eighteenth century was less happy. It was difficult to control tin-mining areas on the Patani and Kedah borders, and royal authority over the rich tin districts of Larut and Kerian was also declining. The strength of the Bugis in Selangor and Johor was so great that opposition seemed futile, and Perak rulers sought to conciliate their neighbors through careful marriage alliances while maintaining their alliance with the VOC. However, the Dutch finally abandoned their Perak post in 1795 when Melaka was taken by the British. In 1804 Selangor attacked the tin-rich but now unprotected Perak, and for some years occupied the downstream area. Selangor's withdrawal did not end Perak's troubles, for in 1814 Siam ordered its vassal, Kedah, to invade and force recognition of Bangkok's overlordship. In 1825, still fearing further attacks, the Perak ruler appealed to the British in Penang for help. The Penang authorities encouraged him to publicly

Opposite page Dredges introduced by European mining companies in the early 20th century. This page Top left The Perak Museum, in Taiping, the first in the country, was started in 1885 in the former government offices. The building was developed in stages from 1886 to 1903. Top right Chung Keng Kwee 1829-1901. Tin miner and leader of the Hai San secret society. Middle Mr. J.W.W. Birch, the first British resident at Perak in 1874 who was later assassinated in 1875. Bottom Hugh Low, resident of Perak 1877-1889.

renounce any subservience to Siam, promising British protection.

CONFLICT AND COLONIALISM

As several references in the *Misa Melayu* show, there had long been a Chinese community in Perak. However, their involvement in the tin industry began around 1776, when Sultan Alauddin (1773-92) allowed Chinese to mine tin in Klata and agreed that the Kapitan Cina could recruit workers in Melaka. After the establishment of Singapore in 1819 more Chinese moved to Perak to open up tin mines and gambier plantations, usually working in clan and dialect groups, which were integrally linked to various 'secret' societies. Disputes over water rights and other claims were not uncommon, but they became more serious when rival contenders for the Perak throne and ambitious Malay chiefs began to recruit support from different Chinese societies. Fighting was especially bad in Larut, where there was a large Chinese mining community. Merchants in Penang and Singapore, who had invested in the tin trade, were increasingly nervous and pressed the British government to take action and restore order. In

January 1874 the new governor of Penang negotiated a settlement (the Pangkor Treaty) which recognised Raja Abdullah as Sultan of Perak in return for his agreement to accept a British Resident. In November, the first appointee, J.W.W. Birch, arrived in Perak, but Malay resentment at his insensitivity and his demands for change led several nobles to plot his death.

The assassination of Birch marks a watershed in Perak history. The British, now in complete control, exiled Sultan Abdullah and installed a new ruler. An improvement in British-Malay relations owes much to the residency of Hugh Low (1877-89), who understood the importance of communication between Perak's different ethnic communities. During this period we also see the development of an infrastructure that strengthened ulu-lir links while servicing the export sector. Roads were built to mining towns and the rapidly developing plantation areas. In 1885 the first railway line was opened in Larut between Port Weld and Taiping, and in 1893 Ipoh and Teluk Anson (now Teluk Intan) were connected. As the premier state in the newly-formed Federated Malay States (1896), Perak became a show-





Top A passenger train travelling through Malaya's west coast in the early 1930s. The first train service was started in 1885 and connected Port Weld and Taiping in Perak.
Right Sultan Abdullah who was exiled to the Seychelles for his role in the plot of J. W. W. Birch's murder.

case for the British colonial enterprise, with an annual revenue of around twelve million dollars.

In addition, the nineteenth century witnessed significant demographic shifts. By 1900 the Chinese formed Perak's largest ethnic community, but the Indian community (mostly employed in the developing rubber estates) was also sizeable. Except as food producers, the largely rural Malays hardly figured in colonial plans for the export economy. However, pressure from Sultan Idris (1887-1916) for an expansion of Malay opportunities eventually led to the establishment of the Kuala Kangsar College, and subsequently the Sultan Idris Training College in Tanjong Malim in 1922. Both these institutions were highly influential in the growth of Malay nationalism. Another important centre for English-medium education was Taiping Central School (from 1905 the King Edward VII School).

Heavily oriented towards exports,

Perak's economy suffered badly during the global Depression of the early 1930s. Meanwhile, the Malayan Communist Party was attracting a growing number of recruits among the Chinese community. Economic recovery was only just beginning when the Pacific War broke out in late 1941, followed shortly after by the Japanese invasion of Malaya. The Japanese Occupation was particularly onerous for Perak's Chinese population, and it is not surprising that so many fled to the jungle to join the Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army, the military wing of the Communist Party. Their actions were so effective that the Japanese regarded Perak as a particular security problem.

Left wing agitation did not end with the Japanese surrender in 1945, especially since Indian workers and labourers on railroads and on plantations were also pressing for labour rights. Constant strikes and incidents of violence culminated in the murder of three European planters in Sungai



Top St. Michael's institution, Ipoh, one of the leading schools in Perak.
Right Garden party at the Residency, Kuala Kangsar, Perak, July 1897.

Sipit in June 1948; a state of Emergency was declared in Perak which was soon extended to the entire Peninsula. Perak's Chinese squatter population (largely a result of the War) became a major focus of a government program that aimed to separate the jungle-based guerrillas from sources of food supply, and around 230,000 Perak people were resettled. This was a time of great uncertainty for other ethnic groups as well; the Orang Asli, for example, often found themselves caught between communist guerrillas and security forces. It was not until two years after independence, in late

1959, that Perak was declared secure.

Meanwhile, plans had continued for independence. The Malayan Union proposal aroused considerable Malay opposition in Perak as elsewhere, and the benefits of an UMNO-MCA-MIA coalition were hotly debated by all ethnic communities. Ultimately, however, effective campaigning by Alliance leaders – some of whom had long-standing ties to Perak – was effective in retaining local support for this political experiment.

On 31 August 1957, when independence was declared, most Perak resi-

dents were unaware of the extraordinary social and economic changes of the previous six hundred years. From a collection of small Malay settlements at the beginning of the fifteenth century, Perak had developed into a geographically defined state which had effectively linked upstream and downstream and where an ethnically varied population had negotiated a working relationship. Despite a sometimes troubled past, the pragmatism of Perak's people and their ability to adjust to changing circumstances have provided modern Malaysia with an impressive example of human achievement. ●

A Natural Heritage

That Inspires

By G. SIVAPRAGASAM

The Kinta Valley is primeval limestone country. Nestled in the heart of this valley is the city of Ipoh. This is a city where gigantic cliffs of limestone dominate the skyline. They command and dwarf the entire urban setting. These staggering cliffs stir an emotion that is almost spiritual. They humble and inspire. Out of this setting has emerged a rich cultural heritage.

The Kinta Valley, sandwiched between two granite mountain ranges, is one mammoth limestone slab, stretching from Padang Rengas in the north to Tapah in the south.

Authorities date the Kinta limestones from Devonian to Permian or 410-245 million years ago. At the time of their formation warm seas, abundant with marine life filled this valley. In these conditions limestone of great thickness were laid down and it is these rocks that form most of the present day Kinta Valley floor.

According to Professor Komoo, the hills rising from the ground level of the Valley are only the reduced exposures of a limestone plateau that stood 1,000 feet above the present valley floor. Continual erosion over millions of years has gradually worn away most of the limestone mass leaving remnants as precipitous hills.

Unlike other types of rocks which when subjected to weathering turn to soil, limestone dissolves in even lightly acidic water and instead of being water-borne as

Opposite page The Kok Lok Tong Cave Temple at Gunung Rapat.

Right Sam Poh Tong temple in Jalan Gopeng.
Bottom The Perak Tong, located in Kuala Kangsar Road.

sediments, it is transformed into rock sculpture or karst. The spectacular karst landscape of the Kinta Valley is the result of this process.

There are 15 steep-sided hills scattered in the vicinity of Ipoh. Within these hills are caves, notches, wangs, underground rivers and a host of other karst features.

The best known of these features are the caves.

Caves played a significant role in the cultural history of man. They were the earliest homes of man, providing shelter and security. They were also burial sites for their leaders. Communal living in these caves probably led to organised lifestyle and primitive forms of division of labour. Home making and housekeeping culture would have originated in these locations.

The caves also served as locations for the observance of religious practices. Paintings and drawings discovered on cave walls are believed to have more to do with religious practices than aesthetics. These caves, found in massive limestone cliffs, must have spiritually inspired early men and led them to conduct sacred rituals there.

This practice has transcended the ages and the several cave temples that exist in and around Ipoh bear testimony to the continuance of this culture.

Today several of the caves have been turned into places of worship by Buddhist and Hindu devotees.

Among the Chinese cave temples,



Sam Poh Tong in Jalan Gopeng, is the most famous with a wang that is truly impressive. However the natural charm has been compromised by recent over-development. Adjoining are the Ling Sen Tong and Nam Thean Tong cave temples. All these temples claim to be more than 130 years.

The Perak Tong, is another Chinese cave temple that is located in Kuala Kangsar Road. It has a cave system that goes right up to the top of the hill.

South of Ipoh in Kampong





Kepayang is the Sri Siva Subramaniam cave temple. Next to this Hindu temple is a Chinese cave temple by the name Kong Fook Lam. This temple claims to have been started in 1884. Both these temples are spread over a honeycomb of caves.

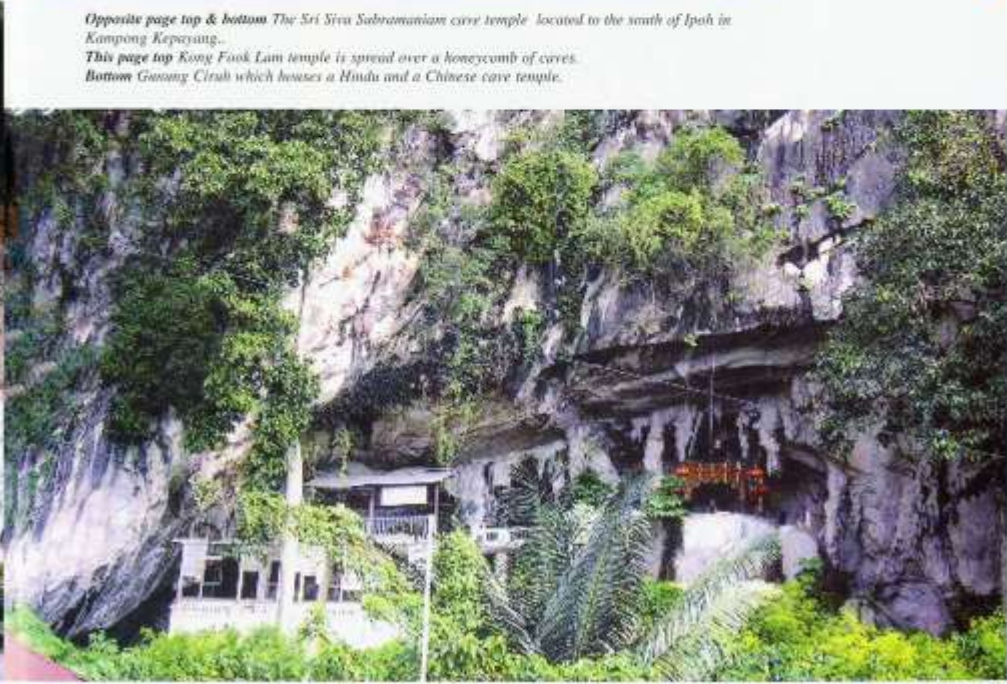
Located in the very centre of Ipoh is Gunung Cirih which houses a Hindu and a Chinese cave temple.

The Kek Lok Tong Cave Temple at Gunung Rapat appears to be a serious attempt at balancing development with conservation.

In these temples natural karst features are selected and identified with various deities. The grounds of most of these cave temples have been landscaped with shrubs, pools and other features with a monastic garden slant.

There are several other caves, some occupied and many not. In all of the caves interesting cave deposits such as stalactites, stalagmites and whirlpools can be observed. The Snow Cave in the Paradise Valley in Gunung Rapat is probably the only one of its type in the world.

Some of the caves also contain records of archaeological importance. The ancient hematite rock drawing in Gua Tambun is an example of primitive art and it appears to be identical to other ancient aboriginal drawings found elsewhere. The cave walls of many of the temples have also been adorned with paintings.



Opposite page top & bottom The Sri Siva Subramaniam cave temple located to the south of Ipoh in Kampong Kepayang.

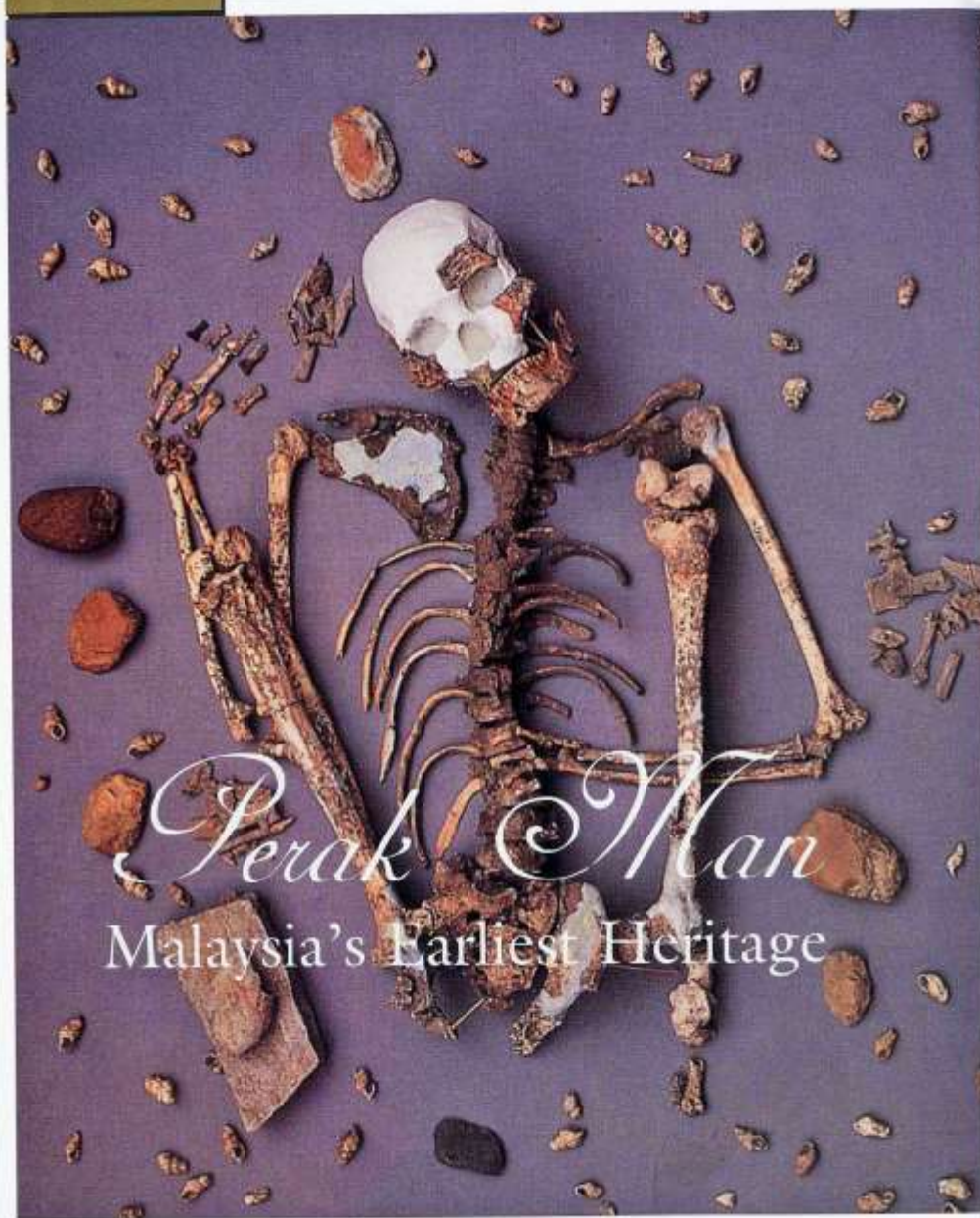
This page top Kong Fook Lam temple is spread over a honeycomb of caves.

Bottom Gunung Cirih which houses a Hindu and a Chinese cave temple.

some of them cleverly using the cave wall features to provide dimension.

Few of the cliffs have been designated as cultural heritage reserves. However the authorities plan to develop a few of them into research, historical, archaeological and recreational sites. Currently the Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh is developing Gunung Lang located at the north end of Ipoh into a city park.

Of these caves, Gua Tempurong stands out. This is one gigantic cave which no photograph or description can possibly convey its awe-inspiring grandeur. It has to be seen and experienced to truly sense this wonder of nature. This cave must have served as a dwelling of ancient man. More recently it was used as a hideout for resistance fighters during the Second World War and by communist members during the 1948-1960 Malayan Communist Party insurrection. ☉



Perak Man

Malaysia's Earliest Heritage



Opposite page The Perak Man was buried with his legs folded to his chest in a foetal position. He lived 10-11,000 years ago and was buried with stone tools and food such as shells, and meat from several types of animals
This page Excavation at Gua Gunung Runtuh, a cave that was occupied from about 13,000 years ago till 2,000 years ago. The Perak man was buried in this cave, located about 400m above sealevel, just a few kilometres north of Lenggong town

BY PROFESSOR DATO' ZURAINA ABDUL MAJID

Perak's significance goes beyond its contribution to Malaysia's ancient past. Its impact is felt in regional and world archaeology.

The scenic Lenggong Valley in Perak is a short 20 minute drive from the royal town of Kuala Kangsar, passing through granite hills, lakes, forested limestone massifs hiding secrets of the past, and quaint one street towns that have changed little since their black area days of the communist insurgency. Excavations in the Lenggong Valley have shown that the earliest "Malaysians" roamed the area from about 200,000 years ago, developing their technology from stone to pottery to metal. In short, they went through all the stages of prehistory from Palaeolithic, Neolithic to Metal Ages. No other area in Malaysia experienced such a long and complete prehistoric chronology—as such, we could regard Lenggong as the

first "capital" of Malaysia. Sustained archaeological research since 1987 has shown that Perak holds the key to our deep past. Perak is the jewel in our (archaeological) crown.

Back then, the environment was obviously very different from today, based on our palaeoenvironmental reconstruction using a complement of various methods including deep core sampling. Lenggong Valley was very much like Lake District in England — where the water levels of the lake would vary from time to time, covering different levels of the lakeshores. Nevertheless, the present area around Kota Tampan Air and Raban may be similar to what it looked like in prehistoric times.

The earliest site in this valley is Bukit Jawa, dated to about 200,000 years ago. This site is about 4 km north of Lenggong town and is today located on a hillock. It was once one of several little

islands in a lake. Today that lake has "shrunk" into a river feeding into Chenderoh Lake, which was a huge lake then, three times its present size.

The Bukit Jawa people left behind stone tools and the waste from making these tools throughout this vast hillock. Being an open site, no other evidence except stone artifacts could survive in our tropical climate. The artifacts excavated in the valley seem to point to a rather immature lithic (stone) technology of trial and error as they discarded huge amounts of raw material that they found would not produce the required forms for tools that a hunter-gatherer would need in a tropical environment. The only archaeological evidence of bronze making in Malaysia is from Gua Hariman, Lenggong.

A major development took place around 74,000 years ago in Kota Tampan, south of Lenggong town. For the first time we



Opposite page Usually used for ceremonial rather than functional use, this bronze cell is the only bronze artifact so far found in an excavation context in Malaysia. It was discovered together with its clay mould as part of the burial goods accompanying a burial in Gua Harimau, Lenggong, Perak.

This page

Three shallow pottery or earthenware bowls and a small pot excavated from a burial in Gua Harimau, Lenggong, Perak. These were found containing food bones and shells, offerings made to the dead.



see the mind of a *Homo sapiens* at work. Excavations in Kota Tampan, (south of Lenggong town) identified for the first time Southeast Asian tool technology that was able to disprove old propositions that Southeast Asia was the backwaters of civilization – concluded from a morphological examination of the tools (their forms appeared “backward”). However, a more comprehensive study based on our excavations, using non morphological criteria, that is, not form, proved that the people of Kota Tampan understood the properties of stones around them as they selected the most suitable raw material for making sharp tools, made them efficiently and they were suitable for use in a tropical environment. Their method of tool production showed an industry that was systematic, efficient, rational and organized.

This discovery solved several outstanding problems in prehistory, including the movement of Man from Asia to Australia. It is generally agreed that Man as *Homo sapiens* spread out of Africa around 100,000 years ago and reached Australia around 60,000 years ago. Which route did he take out of Asia? Several routes were suggested,

one of them was through the Malay Peninsula, but there was no archaeological evidence for any of the routes. Kota Tampan, with its firm dating of 74,000, and a lithic technology that was relatively advanced with characteristics of a *Homo sapiens* mind, and a palaeo-environment of shallow seas around Southeast Asia – is the route that we have been looking for. This was the missing piece of the jigsaw in the story of the spread of early *Homo sapiens* out of Africa. Thus, early *Homo sapiens* migrated from mainland Asia via Perak around 74,000 years ago to Australia arriving there about 60,000 years ago, a date derived for the earliest *Homo sapiens* discovered in Australian excavation sites.

Only in the Holocene, a geological era beginning about 10,000 years ago till now, do we find people living in other parts of the peninsula, for example in the Nenggiri valley in Kelantan, Jenderam Hilir in Selangor, Kodiang and Bukit Chuping and other sites in Kedah and Perlis. Thus, among all the archaeological sites in Malaysia, the Lenggong Valley in Perak, has extended the boundaries of historical knowledge further – as far back as 200,000 years ago. ●

WHO WAS THE ‘PERAK MAN’?

In Gua Gunung Runtuh, a cave about 400m above sea level, located near kampung Ulu Jepai in Lenggong, an important skeleton was discovered in 1990. He was named the Perak Man. His current fame rests on the fact that his skeleton is unusually complete for his antiquity range; that he suffered a type of congenital deformity never before seen in prehistoric skeletons, and that his burial ritual gave us a rare peep into Palaeolithic beliefs.

The Perak Man is thus far the most complete Palaeolithic skeleton in Southeast Asia. He was born with a physical handicap, a congenital deformity known as Brachymesopthalangia Type A2, thus far never encountered in any prehistoric skeleton in the world. He lived around 10,000-11,000 years ago.

He was buried ceremonially in a foetal position, with his legs flexed on his chest. He was put to rest on a layer of shells and placed around him were some stone tools, meats (wild boar, deer, monkey, monitor lizard, tortoise, leopard, and gibbon), and shellfish. Interestingly, his hands, placed at his shoulder and on his abdomen, were found grasping some of these meats. He was then covered with earth and more shells.

He died a natural death at a ripe old age of 40-45 years, at a time when life expectancy was 20-30 years. Thus, despite his handicap he could have enjoyed many years of being in the position of an elder, and perhaps also the shaman, and the person with the most knowledge and experience on survival, hunting, gathering food and medicine and other aspects of Palaeolithic living.

The Perak Man is now kept in the Lenggong Archaeological Museum – a museum that takes the visitor through the various prehistoric periods in the Lenggong Valley, Malaysia’s oldest ‘settlement’ from 200,000 years ago to a few hundred years ago.



This page Ipoh. A view from the New Town looking west towards the Kinta River and the Old Town, with the Keledang range in the background. The Kinta River divides the historic centre of Ipoh into two parts; Old Town and New Town. On the left is the High Low Bridge. On the right are the handsome civic buildings on the raised section of Old Town.

Panoramas of Old Ipoh

BY KHOO SALMA NASUTION AND CHONG FONG LOON

Kinta Valley in the early 20th century was the biggest tin-producing area in the world. Much of the tin wealth were accumulated in Ipoh, where migrant miners and agricultural workers flocked during the weekends to spend their money on entertainment and vice. Occasionally these migrant workers had their portraits taken at a photo studio, to be sent home to their families

abroad.

Japanese photographers pioneered the business in Ipoh, setting up studios like 'L. Itoh' 'Nara's Elite Art Studio' and 'Mikasa Photo Shop' along Belfield Street. They were soon followed by Chinese photographers who mostly specialised in portraiture but also took pictures of mines, mining machinery, agricultural products and so forth.

'Ngai Chan Photo Studio' was established in 1938 at No. 17 Yau Tet Shin Street. For many years, a number of panoramic photographs were displayed outside the shop to attract customers. Altogether 30 such panoramas of Ipoh were taken with a borrowed camera by a 25-year old assistant photographer, all in one day in 1948. Now 81 years old, this photographer still lives in Ipoh but spends half his time in Kuala Lumpur.

During the Japanese Occupation,



Top Majestic Theatre, which the locals called 'Tai' Wuh Hei Yuen', at Jalan C.M. Yusuff, now converted into an amusement hall. Ipoh has a number of art deco cinemas which have survived from the 1930s.

Middle By 1928, Ipoh was a town of 36,860 inhabitants, "well laid out, clean and healthy for a tropical town, but unfortunately exposed to flooding in the part nearer the river". Shown here is the large market complex along Laxamana Road in New Town, built in 1931 when Ipoh was coming out of the slump of 1928-33. It replaced the old Central Market in Old Town which was susceptible to flooding.

Bottom The Grand Theatre, also called 'Tai Kwong' at Coivan Street (now Jalan Ekram). Some cinemas started out as Chinese opera theatres and were subsequently converted for screening movies. The main entrance to Jubilee Park can be seen to the right, while Odeon Cinema can be seen on the left of the photo, along Brewster Road (now Jalan Sultan Idris Shah). Jubilee Park is an amusement park with a cabaret and a night club with 'luxe dancers'.

the population of Ipoh suffered from arbitrary arrests, food shortages and other restrictions. However, business was not at all bad at the photography studio. The Japanese officers were frequent customers. They once even contracted the photographer from 'Ngai Chan' to Cameron Highlands to take pictures of them at leisure. After the war, business came from the British troops, and during the Emergency the studios were busy making identity cards.

The 'Ngai Chan Photo Studio' closed in the 1980s, and the panoramas were

sold to various collectors. Two of them are hanging in the upstairs F.M.S. Bar & Restaurant at 2 Brewster Road (Jalan Sultan Idris Shah).

While ordinary photographs seem to restrict our vision, panoramas satisfy our wish to take in a wider view. These panoramas provide us with expansive glimpses of Ipoh 55 years ago – a clean, orderly city with wide streets and large open spaces along the Kinta River. Many of the prewar buildings have survived and now form part of the collection of Ipoh's heritage buildings.

More of such photographs will be featured in an upcoming coffee table book entitled 'Kinta Valley: Pioneering Malaysia's Modern Development', to be published by the Perak Academy. Meanwhile, the newly registered Perak Heritage Society offers a heritage trail through Ipoh's Old Town and New Town. For further information, please contact the Perak Heritage Society, No.1 Jalan Lasam, GreenTown, Ipoh, tel no. 05-3425933, fax no. 05-3425931, email address - perakheritage@hotmail.com



Top A view down Brewster Road (now Jalan Sultan Idris Shah) in 1948. The Information Centre and Reading Room of the Ipoh Branch of the Department of Public Relations, was then newly opened at No. 75 Brewster Road on the right. On the left was the Food Control Department, established by the British just after the war, to distribute essential foodstuff to the outlying districts. Due to the shortage of civilian lorries, army trucks were used for distribution. The Food Control Dept. worked in tandem with the Price Control Dept. to control food prices and to ensure the availability of essential foodstuff. Both these buildings still stand today in Ipoh and the scene in 2003 is essentially the same.

Bottom In the far distance in the left is the Anglo-Chinese School at Jalan Labat, the first English-medium school in Kinta, founded in 1895, by the American Methodist Episcopal Mission; the present building erected in 1912. The corner building was Majestic Hotel, with a grand ballroom, formerly the Grand Hotel, run by Armenian hoteliers during the 1910s. The mansion was originally the residence of the Dato' Panglima Kinta Wuhab and his wife Tok Puan Sharifah.



On The Heritage Trail of Ipoh Old Town

PREPARED BY LAW SIAK HONG

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURENCE POH

ADAPTED FROM KHOO SALMA NASUTION AND ABDUR-RAZZAQ LURIS, IPOH HERITAGE MAP, 2001

Ipoh developed as a service and supply centre for the tin mines in the Kinta Valley in the late 19th century. After the fire in 1892, the local government re-built the town. Streets were re-aligned and the land in the domain of the Dato' Panglima Kinta sub-divided into shop-lots. By 1920, Ipoh had become the transportation hub and the

largest and most prosperous town in Perak.

The Kinta River meanders through Ipoh. On the west bank is the Old Town, its commercial section comprising neat rows of well-built brick shop houses with tiled-roof. Located on a low-rise tableland with the backdrop of the Kledang Range was the city's civic centre. Here, the

Heritage Trail begins.

On Club Road (Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang Wahab) can be found the old civic centre. The hospital and the Rest House have long gone but shade trees and open areas remain, together with the dominant colonial style of the railway station, the town hall and the court house.



IPOH RAILWAY STATION - Club Road

The building was designed by the government architect, A.B. Hubback. Built during World War I (1914-17) in the British "Raj" style, it features Moorish domes and turrets. The station has three platforms, offices for railway staff, and a restaurant and bar. Originally, the hotel had 17 bedrooms. It was upgraded to 21 rooms in 1936. In the 1920s, the Station Hotel was reputed to be the best accommodation to be found in Perak. The Station is being upgraded to accommodate the double-tracking railway lines, with additional platforms and a new super-structure over them. In the garden in front of the Station is an Epu tree, which gave Ipoh its name. Nearby, a cenotaph stands as memorial to the dead of the two World Wars.

TOWN HALL - Club Road

This stately colonial building is another AB Hubback design. The Post Office occupied the eastern part of the building. The Town Hall has been the venue of many significant events. Indian poet and Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore addressed a meeting of Perak's English and vernacular school teachers during his visit here in the late 1930s. It is now a multi-purpose hall for public and state functions.

BIRCH MEMORIAL CLOCK TOWER

Post Office Road

Unveiled in 1909, the Birch Memorial is a dedication to JWW Birch, the first British Resident of Perak. The clock tower is decorated with a portrait bust and four panels depicting the development of civilisation and 44 famous figures in world history. The bells here used to strike the chimes of Big Ben, unique in Malaysia. At the corner of the belfry are terracotta figures representing the four "Virtues of British Administration": Loyalty, with sword and shield, Justice, blind and carrying a sword and a pair of scales, Patience, unarmed, and Fortitude, with a calm face and bearing a spear. The bronze bust of Birch disappeared mysteriously 5 years ago.

STRAITS TRADING BUILDING - 2 Station Road

In 1889, Herman Muhlinghaus, a tin-smelter from Singapore, set up the Straits Trading Company in Ipoh and other Kinta centres. This landmark three-story building of Italian Renaissance style with a corner tower was built in 1907 as the head office for the Straits Trading Company's Perak operations. Restored for a bank in 1998, the charming foot-path on the western side (in the shadow of the Birch Memorial Clock Tower) was used as a film set of Indo-Chine.

MERCANTILE BANK BUILDING - 15 Station Road

This four-story Art Deco building dated 1931, embellished with flag-poles, swags and cartouch-



HERITAGE TRAIL

as, was built for the Mercantile Bank of India Ltd. Guthrie & Co. had its office in the bank chambers.

PERAK HYDRO BUILDING - Cooper Road

The Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Company was formed in London in 1926 to supply power to the mines and dredges in the Kinta Valley as well as for domestic use. It built a dam at Chenderoh on the Perak River north of Kuala Kangsar and a hydro-electric station which was commissioned in 1930. For many years Perak Hydro was the largest power supplier in Malaya. The HQ of this public utility was in this 3-story building from the 1930s.

HALE STREET LAWYERS' ROW - Hale Street

In this row of early 20th century town houses facing the Ipoh Padang was No.7, the residence & law offices of the Seenivasagam Brothers. S P Seenivasagam was Ipoh Municipal Council's first President in 1962, and his brother D R Seenivasagam was a Member of Parliament. A brilliant orator and criminal lawyer, D R's name was synonymous with the People's Progressive Party of Malaya, which was based at the Seenivasagam brothers' law office. **PICTURE 2**

IPOH PADANG (Town Padang) **PICTURE 5**

The Padang was a contribution by the Chinese community to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1898. The recreation ground and sports fields witnessed major celebrations and sporting events. A sweeping view of the buildings surrounding the Padang can be observed from upper Hale Street.

- THE ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH (1897) - an Anglican Church built by the F.P.Party
- ST. MICHAEL'S INSTITUTION (1927) - built by Li Salluan brothers.
- THE TOWN PADANG MOSQUE (1908) - a Hanafi mosque in Moghul style by Ahmad Adnan, Tamil Muslim and
- THE FMS Bldg & Restaurant (1923) **PICTURE 7**

HSBC BUILDING - 138 Belfield Street

This outstanding corner building of Victorian neo-Renaissance architecture dates from 1931. In the 30s, the head office of the Malay Mining Syndicate Ltd. was based here, as were its company solicitors and auditors. Its general manager, Raja Abdullah bin Seyed Salim, was a wealthy tin-miner, the patron of Warta Kinta (WK) and the father-in-law of WK's first editor, Raja Manshoor bin Raja Abdul Kadir. **PICTURE 5**

YAT LOO CLUB AND PERAK CHINESE MINGDI ASSOCIATION - 71-73 Hale Street

In 1935, a group of 54 Chinese miners formed the association. Two buildings were bought with donations. No.71 was the association's premises and No.73 was an exclusive club for miners only. This lower end of Hale Street was referred to as "Hotel Street" but today, only one Chinese hotel remains.

HAN CHIN PUI SOO - 3 Treacher Street

A Hakka tin-miner's clubhouse, founded by a Kar Yin Hakka, China-born tin-miner Leong Fee @ Liang Pi Joo (1857-1911). The elegant three-story building and its tasteful furnishings date from 1929. Leong Fee was Vice-Consul of the Chinese Government in Penang (1901-07), a Federal Councillor and a member of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. **PICTURE 6**

PANGREMA LANE

One of the most picturesque of the narrow streets in Old Town, the Lane had brothels, gaming houses, and opium dens. Residents related how, whenever an opium addict dropped dead, his corpse would be thrown out of the window and into the street for municipal cleaners to cart it away the next morning. The neighbourhood was cleaned up when opium was banned and stricter anti-vice laws introduced. Probably as a result of the 1892 fire, many house-owners took up fire insurance. Prominent embossed metal plates - fire-marks - bearing the names of insurance companies which run the different



fire brigades informed the residents whom they should call in case of fire.

DRAMATIC HOSTEL/KONG HENG COFFEE SHOP - 75 Leech Street

Built in the 1920s this three-story building was a hostel for Chinese opera troupes who performed in the Chinese theatre next door (demolished - the first Chinese theatre in Ipoh, built in 1891 and rebuilt 1906). Today, the Kong Heng Coffee Shop on the ground floor is a popular eating place for Ipoh specialties like Ipoh Hor Fun, Lor Bak, Spring Roll, Satay and so on.

PALOH KU MEAO - People's Park

Believed to have been founded in 1872, Paloh Old Temple is Ipoh's oldest Chinese Temple. Dedicated to the Tua Pek Kong or the founding spirit of the Chinese settlement, originally stood closer to the river bank. Most of its decorative features date from 1894.

EU TONG SEN 1907 BUILDING - 36-38 Leech Street

Eu Yan Sang (the last two words meaning "caring" was founded as a concern for prescribing herbal cures for opium addicts. Its founder was the tin-miner Eu Kong, a Nan Hai Cantonese. Eu Tong Sen, OBE (1877-1941) took over his father's business at the age of 21. With the support of his step-mother Tan Kuan, he turned it into a Chinese pharmaceuticals empire with branches all over Asia. He was the first person to own a motorcar in Perak. He had seven wives and as many palatial villas in Ipoh, Gopeng, Kampar, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Hong Kong.

SEAR PRINTING WORKS - 75 Belfield Road

This South Indian printing press was founded in 1933. It published several post-war Tamil journals. Today, it has an old hand-worked press branded "Alexandria Press, Austin Wood & Co."

AMBIRA ESTATES OFFICE - 4 Hugh Low Street

M. Meyyappan, a Tamil Chettiar, was a member of the Ipoh Rotary Club in the 1950s. He owned the Ambika Estates which had large interests in the rubber industry, plantations and landed property holdings. The original traditional business interior has been preserved.

CHUNG THYE PIN BUILDING - 14 Station Road

This elegant three-story corner building from 1907 originally housed the Medical Hall established by Dr. R M Conolly, an Irishman recruited to Malaya on government service. He then went into private practice, became an editor of Times of Malaya and founded the Perak Anti-Opium Society. Chung Thye Pin, J.P.(1879-1935), a Tseng Lung Hakka and the son of Kapitan Chung Keng Kooi, the Hai San chief during the Larut tin wars. Chung was prominent as the last Kapitan China of Perak who printed his own currency for use in his mines. **PICTURE 8**

Perak Heritage at the Centre

by Norman Sim

The Kinta Valley of central Perak has a wealth of history and heritage sites. While the killing of J.W.W. Birch by Datuk Maharaja Lela in 1875 is one of the better-known events, there are less publicized though no less important episodes. These range from the seemingly 'mundane' but important developments such as the growth of tin mining to the World War II resistance efforts. This segment takes you on a short journey through historical areas of Kinta and Perak.

The Kinta Valley

The landscape of central Perak has a lovely mixture of old mining ponds and quaint towns and villages set against the Peninsula's mountain range known as Titiwangsa (literally "bridge to the heavens").



GREAT TIN MONSTER

While tin had been mined since olden times, tin dredges were introduced in the early 1900s by European miners. Together with the older, simpler methods, these dredges made the Kinta Valley one of the largest producers of tin worldwide for 100 years beginning from the mid-19th century. Today only one tin dredge remains, silently unused, and gracefully preserved near Kampar.



THE MENDAILING FACTOR

The Mendailings of Sumatra came to Perak in the mid-19th century and were mobilized by the British against rebellious local Malay nobles after the killing of Birch. In time, they flourished and assimilated with local Malays. A beautiful mixed Malay-timber and stone house called Rumah Besar with unique arched windows, built in 1890s by Raja Bilah the Mendailing Penghulu, is restored in Papan.

SHOPS AND HOUSES OF CHARACTER

Perak, as in many parts of Malaysia, has a large number of pre-war and colonial shop-houses. Distinctive in their decorative sturdy look with sculpted openings and large columns guarding the shaded five-foot ways, they were the mainstay of retail business then. Somehow, new shop houses lack that character. Quiet towns like Papan still have these old edifices.



OLD CLINIC, HEROIC HISTORY

The bravery of Sybil Kathigesu and her doctor husband who defied threats and torture to help resistance fighters in World War II deserves to be more widely known to the people. The clinic they operated at 74 Main Road, Papan still stands, maintained by Law Siak Hong of the Perak Heritage Society. Sybil and Dr. Kathigesu were awarded medals by King George VI for their bravery.

A LABOUR OF LOVE UNCOMPLETED

Much has been said about the mysterious but charming European style mansion amidst lush plantations known as Kellie's Castle. It was begun by Scottish planter William Smith Kellie around 1915 and never finished. Open to the public, it is best viewed yourself and have the story told to you by a local guide.



OF HILLS, CAVES AND TEMPLES

Numerous Chinese temples nestle in the many limestone-hill caves dotting the Kinta Valley. While Sam Poh Kong is one of the more famous, others such as the out-of-the-way Sou Sin Cave Kuan Yin Temple offer a quieter, more introspective ambience enjoyed by worshippers over the last 127 years.



TOK JABAR'S MUHIBBAH VILLAGE

Mohamed Jabar, an active Penghulu who established himself in the Kampar area is remembered not just for developing the surrounding Kampung Abdullah, named after his eldest son, but also for having promoted good ethnic relations. He donated land to a Chinese temple, as well as the Sri Rama Indian temple, both standing to this day.

BATU GAJAH AND ITS OLD BUILDINGS

The hybrid Malay-European style mansion known as Charles Baker House is one of several colonial period buildings which all at one point in time made Batu Gajah more significant than Ipoh. They still lend nostalgic charm to this town and should be well preserved for their beauty and history.



A BATTLEFIELD NOT FORGOTTEN

Thanks to retired teacher and historian Chye Kooi Loong, who researched the British and Jat-Punjab soldiers' dogged fight against the Japanese over the 1941-42 New Year period, the site of still visible British trenches at Kampar popularly referred to as Green Ridge, is now a marker of the heroism and horrors of war. 🇲🇾

College That Made Leaders

MALAY COLLEGE KUALA KANGSAR, PERAK



An illustration of the Malay College Kuala Kangsar

BY A. NAJIB ARIFFIN

Located in one of the most beautiful and heritage-filled settings of Perak is a unique fully residential secondary school. Kuala Kangsar was already a royal town of Perak state when at the start of the 20th Century, the 28th Sultan of Perak, Sultan Idris Murshidul Azam Shah (1849-1916), called for an exclusive school to educate children of the local elite. At the 2nd Conference of Rulers in Kuala Lumpur in July 1903, the Sultan criticized the dis-

crimination in British education policy for, in his words, it was intended only to produce "...better Malay farmers and fishermen only...".

R.J Wilkinson, the Federated Malay States Inspector of Schools in 1904, together with J.P Rodger, the Resident of Pahang, fully supported the concept of "...establishing at a suitable locality in the Federated Malay States, a special residential school for education, of Malays of good family and for the training of Malay boys for the branches of the government serv-

ice..."

That 'suitable locality' would be assured by Sultan Idris himself, who generously donated 30 acres of his land in his royal town for the college grounds.

On 2nd January 1905, what was initially called the Malay Residential School opened with the registration of 8 students and 3 teachers. As word spread, the number of students increased to 59 students before the year ended, comprising sons of royals and nobles. The growth was so fast that in the early days some classes



The First XI Cricket team, 1939. As part of their grooming for a career in the public service of a colonial regime, the students were taught to speak English, adopt British etiquette and acquire the skills required of an administrator

had to be conducted in a chicken shed while facilities were being quickly added.

The first headmaster, William Hargreaves, modeled the school along the lines of the great old British residential school system, especially Eton College. In this tradition of proper and disciplined all-round education, both the psychological and physical strengths of the boys as well as the infrastructure of the school were built up.

On the structure side a magnificent central edifice of Greco-Roman style stands to this day, known as the Overfloor. It was during the officiating of this building by Sultan Idris on 11th December 1909, in the presence of the High Commissioner of the FMS, that the school was renamed the Malay College of Kuala Kangsar. Many notable structures have been added since. Today the expanded 60-acre college is a pleasant cam-

pus of colonial and new buildings amidst fields and big trees. The grounds even hold the first swimming pool in Perak, built in 1924.

The students were exposed to western culture and knowledge. These were however, complemented by Islamic religious instruction and Malay studies. Education was not limited to just the academic. Teachers also oversee the students' daily lives, from proper dress code and behavior to rigorous sports activities, including rugby and 'fives'. The Malay College produced many outstanding sports players and teams.

A long succession of British headmasters came and went until the college's first Malay principal, Abdul Aziz Ismail, replaced N.J Ryan during Malay College's 60th anniversary.

One would have thought that with

such strong British and Western influence in its buildings, curriculum and daily life, the college would have churned out highly westernized men. As it turned out, while superficially the boys may have adopted western clothing or lifestyle, their core remained Malay-Muslim.

The college became a breeding ground of Malay nationalism. Prominent nationalists associated with MCKK included Zainal Abidin bin Ahmad, known popularly as Za'aba, a Malay intellectual who was also a teacher there in the 1920s, and Dato' Onn Jaafar a student at the college and later founder of UMNO. It was Dato' Onn who persuaded the British to fully expand the school to all Malay commoners by scholastic merit in the late 1940s. Perhaps because of this nationalist atmosphere, the British delayed reopening the school after the

Second World War and college alumni took the initiative to get it open.

Before that, in 1929 a group of alumni, or Old Boys, had formed the Malay College Old Boys Association (MCOBA), which continues to be the core of the close inter-generational relationships among MCKK Old Boys.

Anthony Burgess, the famous author of the *Malayan Trilogy* and the acclaimed *A Clockwork Orange* taught at the college in the 1950s. Many of the characters in the trilogy were based on real life MCKK boys.

Throughout its long history, MCKK produced a list of distinguished men: kings, scholars and intellectuals, politicians and statesmen, professionals and corporate

leaders.

These include 8 of Malaysia's 12 kings or Agongs to date, including the first Agong. There were also the country's first and second Prime Ministers, although Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra was a student for less than a year, and a good number of Federal Ministers and state Menteries. Its graduates also include the longest serving Inspector General of Police Tan Sri Haniff Omar, Datuk Ishak Mohamad (or better known as Pak Sako), Tan Sri Yahya Ahmad, Tan Sri Halim Saad and many more in industry, the professions, academia and the arts.

At one point, Malaysia's Special Envoy to the United Nations, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad, and Tan Sri Razali Ismail the first and sole Malaysian so far to be elected

President of the United Nations General Assembly in 1996, were both Old Boys of this same school.

There were others around the region too, such as the late Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Sir Omar Ali Saifuddin, father of the present Sultan, and even a number of Indonesians as well who also went to the Malay College.

Indeed, the roll call of MCKK alumni entitles it to a claim of not only a school of kings but also a king of schools.

The avenue for boys to get a special education by merit in 'the College tradition of excellence', coupled with a long-woven Old Boy network of helping each other is perhaps the greatest legacy of MCKK. The College is preparing to celebrate its centenary in 2005.



Top left MCKK prefects with headmaster C. Bazell (centre) in 1938. While students were given an education modelled on English upper class schools, Malay customs and Islamic instruction were integrated. Top right Teachers from Britain were always found in the Malay College. Seen here is the early college football XI team 'The Moderates' c. 1909, with a British staff (centre, team with hat). Bottom Extracurricular activities were always an essential part of Malay College student life. Photo shows the cast and crew of a student theatre production in 1920.



From Sketches to Paintings

By HENRY S. BARLOW



Lotus Lake
Bukit Gantang

In the course of an official career of over 30 years (1871-1903) in the Malay Peninsula, Frank Swettenham was intimately involved in the opening up of the state of Perak.

Swettenham was also an amateur painter of greater than average ability, leaving a portfolio of paintings, many from Perak. These enable us to appreciate the Perak landscape of the 1880s – now irrevocably changed beyond all recognition.

Swettenham's first major involvement with Perak occurred in 1874, when he acted as translator at the Pangkor Engagement. This involved the Governor, Sir Andrew Clarke, meeting with most, but not all of the several claimants to the Perak Sultanate, on board the *Plato*, off the island of Pangkor.

The agreement reached there led ultimately to the establishment of British control in Perak, and other states of the west coast. The early days in the implementation of the agreement were tumultuous involving the murder of the first Resident, J.W.W. Birch, and the short-lived Perak War. Much of the acrimony was focused on the Perak River, then the only possible line of communication with the interior of the state. Swettenham was upstream of the site of Birch's murder, and narrowly escaped down stream, past armed Malay guards set to capture and murder him on the way.

In the course of his subsequent travels in Perak, Swettenham frequently found himself in Kuala Kangsar, the capital of the state. Here he established a close rapport with the powerful and influential Cik Mela. She lived in a grand Malay house, overlooking the Perak River, where Swettenham was

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always warmly received and hospitably entertained.

After the conclusion of hostilities and settlement of the state under the able Hugh Low, Sweetenham's visits to Perak were sporadic, until he took over as Acting Resident, 1884-1886, while Hugh Low was on leave. Low had by this time acquired from Cik Mida the site of her house, on which he had built himself a fine Residency, with views out to the Main Range. At about this time, a decision was taken to move the administrative capital from Kuala Kangsar, to Taiping, for two reasons. First, Kuala Kangsar was considered to be too malarial, but second, and possibly more important in the view of the administration, it was close to the centre of massive tin-mining undertakings which were being developed in the neighbourhood as a result of the peaceful conditions imposed by Low's able administration.

It fell to Sweetenham to plan and construct the administrative headquarters in Taiping during two frenetically busy years. For relaxation during this period, he turned to painting; hence the sketches of the Perak countryside which accompany this article.

That Sweetenham was an enormously able and energetic man there can be no doubt. What was it that drove him to this surge of creative activity in these years? There can be little doubt that he was being driven by the collapse of his marriage. We know little of his wife, Sydney, except that she was the neurotic daughter of an overbearing Harrow schoolmaster. The marriage was a disaster, and at the time of his posting to Perak, Sydney was safely staying with relatives in U.K. She was, we know from other sources, physically attractive and petite.

Top left Seascape near Pangkor, 1884

Top right A sketch by George Giles of 'Sweetenham on raft leaving Permatang Linggi' 20th April 1885

Middle left A possible sketch of Sydney, Sweetenham's wife, 1880/1890

Bottom One of his most attractive paintings of a view from the Residency at Kuala Kangsar, 1884

Opposite page Across the Valley of the Perak Pahang River from the Hermitage - Main Range in middle distance - Main Range in background, 1884



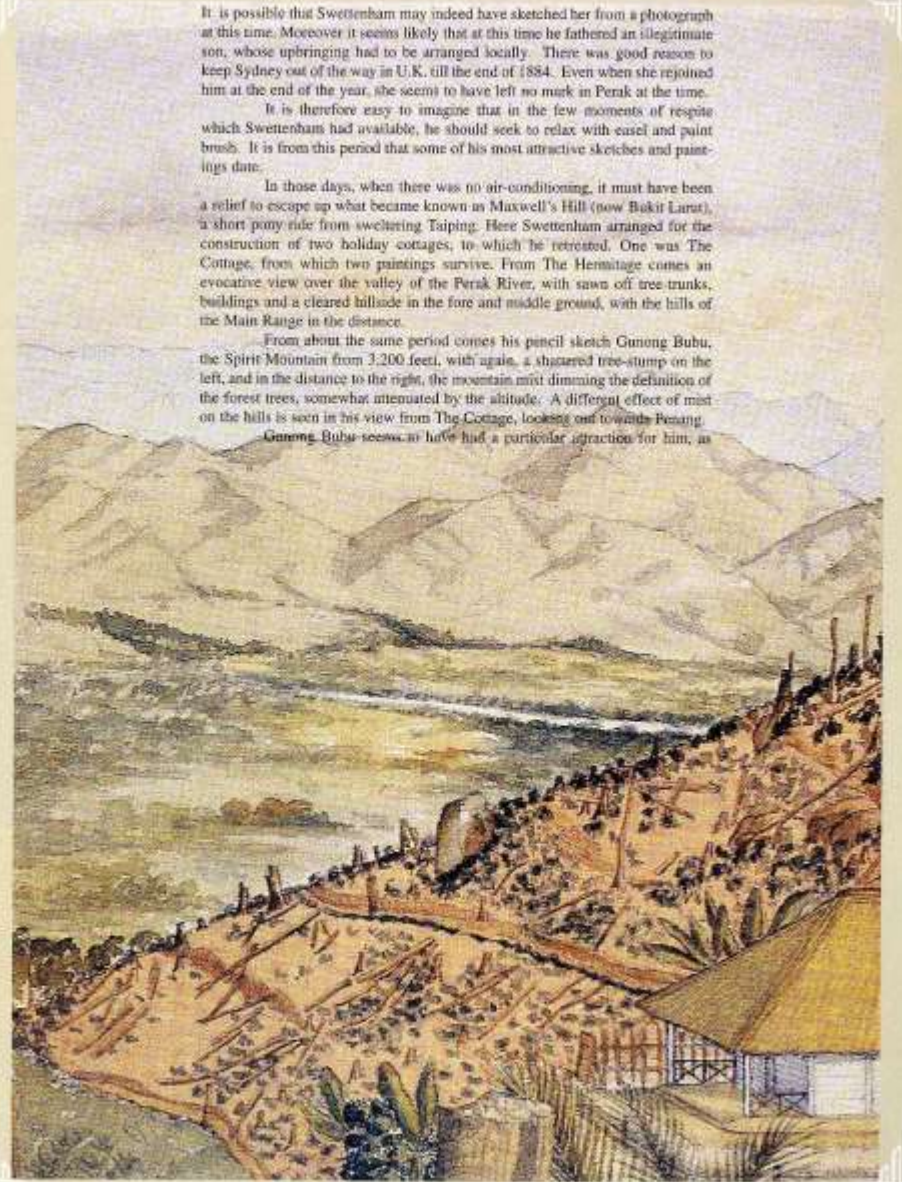
It is possible that Sweetenham may indeed have sketched her from a photograph at this time. Moreover it seems likely that at this time he fathered an illegitimate son, whose upbringing had to be arranged locally. There was good reason to keep Sydney out of the way in U.K. till the end of 1884. Even when she rejoined him at the end of the year, she seems to have left no mark in Perak at the time.

It is therefore easy to imagine that in the few moments of respite which Sweetenham had available, he should seek to relax with easel and paint brush. It is from this period that some of his most attractive sketches and paintings date.

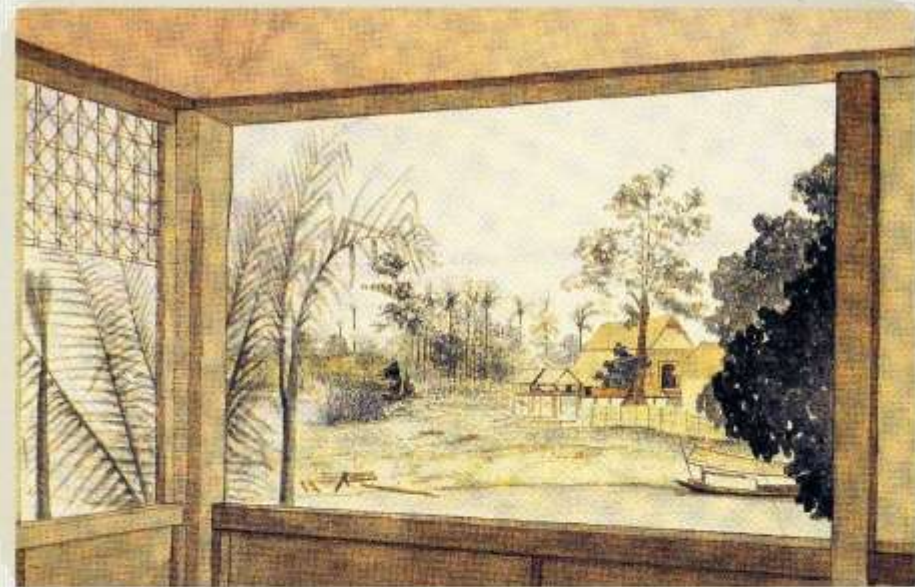
In those days, when there was no air-conditioning, it must have been a relief to escape up what became known as Maxwell's Hill (now Bukit Larut), a short pony ride from sweltering Taiping. Here Sweetenham arranged for the construction of two holiday cottages, to which he retreated. One was The Cottage, from which two paintings survive. From *The Hermitage* comes an evocative view over the valley of the Perak River, with sawn off tree trunks, buildings and a cleared hillside in the fore and middle ground, with the hills of the Main Range in the distance.

From about the same period comes his pencil sketch *Gunong Bubu*, the Spirit Mountain from 3,200 feet, with again, a shattered tree-stump on the left, and in the distance to the right, the mountain mist dimming the definition of the forest trees, somewhat attenuated by the altitude. A different effect of mist on the hills is seen in his view from *The Cottage*, looking out towards Penang.

Gunong Bubu seems to have had a particular attraction for him, as



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Top left View from 'The Cottage', 1884
Top middle In the Taiping Hills, 1884
Top right Pencil sketch 'Gunong Babu, the Spirit Mountain from 3200 feet', 1884
Middle left Untitled ('The Cottage' with Penang Island in the distance.) 1884
Middle right Untitled ('Gunong Babu - From The Hermitage' & 'G. Babu 5450 Ft., Hermitage - 3200 Ft.') 1884
Bottom left Cartoon sketch 'The Start', 'Mid-day', 'Climax-Evening', 17th April 1885
Bottom right 'Gunong Sayong' from a window', 11th June 1884



Top 'A Malay Mosque from a Malay Window, Ulu Bernam', 17th Sept 1884
Left View of Gunong Pondok through alcove window of Residency at Kuala Kangsar.

seen in his watercolour of the same scene, as the pencil sketch above, except that in this picture two sides are framed by the trunk and flying buttress of a massive forest tree.

In April 1885 Swettenham undertook the first crossing of the Peninsula from west to east by a European. It was a massive expedition, and he took with him initially, as companion and artist one George Giles. Most of the sketches of this trip were by Giles, but Swettenham's cartoon 'The Start, Mid-day, Climax-Evening' of 17 April 1885 shows a more humorous side to his character.

The all too infrequent, but briefly serene moments in the life of a busy administrator traveling round are seen in his 'A Malay Mosque from a Malay Window, Ulu Bernam' of 17 September 1884, 'Gunong Sayong from a window' and an untitled view almost certainly of the Perak River, both of the same year.

Although Swettenham returned to Perak as substantive Resident 1889-1895, no paintings mark that period, and we conclude with a final painting, possibly the most attractive of his works, a view from the Residency alcove window, Kuala Kangsar, framing the peak of Gunong Pondok. 🍷