

PENANG HERITAGE TRUST 1993/1994 ANNUAL REPORT.

General Review

The period under review will be seen as a watershed year for the heritage movement in Penang. It is the year when heritage issues finally appeared prominently on the public agenda for the first time.

It has also been a very active year for PHT. In that period it undertook many more projects, became embroiled in the Metropole controversy, witnessed the formation of the Heritage Advisory Committee (which it proposed), employed a new Executive Secretary, published a monthly newsletter, launched a membership drive, and started a Heritage Education Programme for schools. In addition, it hosted several overseas visitors and sent representatives to the Penang Week in Adelaide and other conferences abroad, and actively participated in the Heritage Technical Committee.

1 Projects

1.1 Syed Alatas Mansion.

This project, of which Khoo Su Nin is the Project Coordinator, is slightly behind schedule; otherwise it is progressing well. It is now expected to be completed by mid-August. The final use of the property is still undecided but the PHT is hopeful that it will be used as a heritage resource centre, which was the original intention. Tengku Iaura is steering this matter.

1.2 Heritage Resource Centre.

This is to be the centre for the training of conservation skills for the country. It is not a PHT project but we are one of the main promoters.

Nazir, Tengku Iaura and Su Nin are on this committee and are working very hard to have it established in the very near future.

1.3 Protestant Cemetery.

Loh-Lim Lin Lee almost single-handedly cleaned up the old cemetery and restored it with the financial assistance from Socfin. It is now looking very attractive, and often frequented by visitors.

1.4 Suffolk House

The South Australian Government very kindly sent a team of two experts (Bruce Pettman and Bob Terret) to conduct a dilapidation survey of this building, and their report is now available. The British High Commission and Socfin gave very generous grants which enabled us to stabilise the building, and it is now completely covered with a strong water-proof canvas cover to protect it against the elements.

The PHT had earlier met the YDP of the MPPP who agreed to proceed with the land transfer with the Methodist Church. Regretably, so far, no positive action has been taken in this direction. The PHT is following up on this.

2 Metropole Hotel.

This, unfortunately, was the main heritage event of the year. The much loved hotel, listed as a heritage building, was destroyed. The only good thing that came out of it was that it raised the public's awareness of heritage issues, more than anything else that happened during the year. PHT was not inactive; we held a press conference and issued several press statements.

Eddy

Su Nin represented the PHT at the Global Forum in Manchester on 23 - 28 June. The British Council paid for her travel expenses.

11 Talks and Other Public Events

Several PHT members (mainly Su Nin and Lin Lee) gave talks to schools, clubs and other public organisations. Lin Lee conducted several tours of her magnificent Cheong Fatt Tze to several groups.

In February we held a very successful jazz evening in Su Nin's restored house at 120 Leboh Armenian.

Several of our visitors also gave public talks, such as : Didier Repellin who gave two talks about the restoration of the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus in Singapore., Bruce Pettman who talked about Suffolk House to a capacity crowd, Penny Ramsay who discussed the ways to strengthen the PHT, David Jones who talked about current trends in environmental designs, and Peter Forrest who talked about the cultural heritage of Northern Australia.

Last year Authur Percival gave a series of public talks which were well attended by government officers and the public.

Didier also conducted several work-shops on conservation techniques at the Syed Alatas Mansion. While these were not strictly PHT events, our members were very much evident either as supporters or as vendors of our T-shirts and post-cards.

12 Visitors.

The PHT entertained several visitors during the year. Some came just to look around and give us moral support, while others helped either by giving public talks or by sharing their expertise with us.

Didier came several times, Bruce Pettman and Bob Terret stayed for over two weeks during the dilapidation survey, (and Bruce come back again subsequently), Penny Ramsay spent over two weeks to help us organise the PHT office, Graham Ingerson (the Tourism Minister for South Australia) and his wife paid us a short visit. David Jones, Peter Forrest and his family, and a team of town planners from Japan also visited us for short periods. Barry Rowney and Alison, from Adelaide, came to Penang as visitors and allowed themselves to be persuaded to give a public talk.

13 Donations.

During the year (1993) the PHT received donations from the following:

Socfin	RM 20,000 (for Suffolk House)
Socfin	RM 11,000 (for cemetery)
South Australian Government	AS 20,000 (for Suffolk House)
British High Commission	Stg 7,500 (for Suffolk House)
Mrs Magret Hack	RM 5,000 (for Heritage Resources Centre)
American Women's Assn.	RM 2,000
Anderson Consulting	RM 1,000
Alliance Francaise	RM 160
Karl F. Ebinger	RM 50

RM 7850
2600 (wife)
5250

In the current financial year (1994) we have received the following donations:

ESCOY	RM 5,000
Socfin	RM 20,000 (for Suffolk House)
SmithKline Beecham	RM 10,000

These will be reflected in the 1994 accounts.

14 Council Meetings.

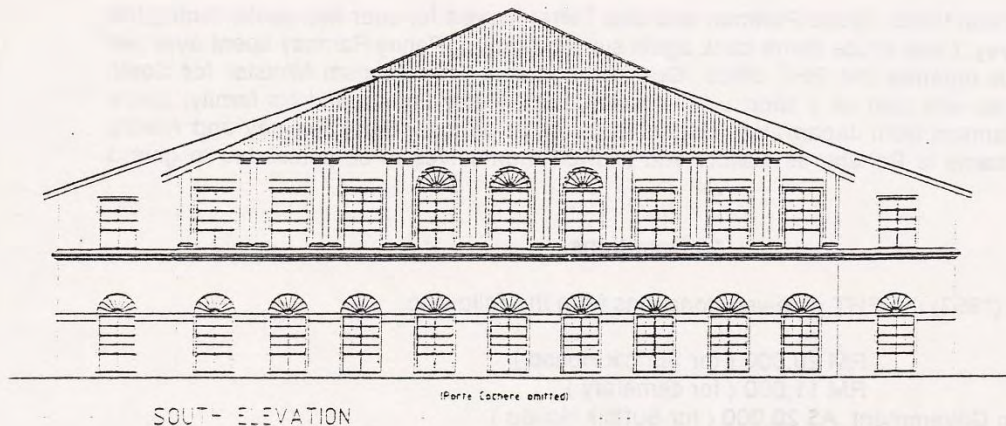
During the year the PHT council held six formal meetings. In addition five informal lunchtime meetings were held. These meetings proved very fruitful and enabled the council to explore and discuss a wide range of topics.

15 Heritage Treasure Hunt.

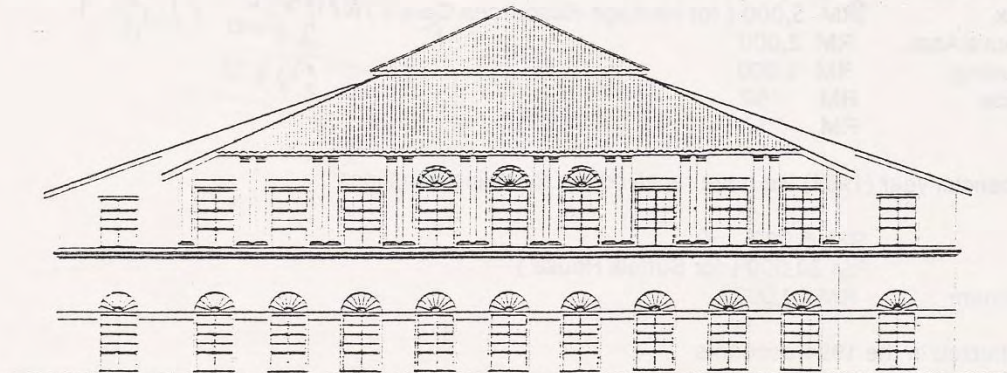
SmithKlien Beecham held their treasure hunt in Penang in June. The PHT provided advice and as a result will be the beneficiary of all the profits of the event.

16 Museum Shop.

The Museum Board has very kindly given the PHT permission to open a small shop selling refreshments and souvenirs in the museum car park, using the old Penang Hill Railway carriage as the premises. All profits will go to the PHT. It is planned to open the shop early next year.



SOUTH- ELEVATION



NORTH- ELEVATION

Metres
0 1 2 3 4 5 10

SACON

SUFFOLK HOUSE
HERITAGE SURVEY

GEORGE TOWN
PENANG ISLAND
MALAYSIA

CIRCA 1850/1900

N & S ELEVATIONS

SMK 17

We are still monitoring the issue closely and will, from time to time, issue statements as appropriate.

3 The Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC).

Eddy

A proposal made by the PHT was adopted by the MPPP and as a result the HAC was formed. The PHT is represented by Choong Sim Poey (who was elected Chairman) and Khoo Su Nin. At the time of writing the Council has not concluded it's work. It has been very difficult going, given the diverse membership of the Council, but we are hopeful that in the end our shared pride in Penang's unique character will prevail and some common ground will be found for the final recommendation to the MPPP. ✓

4 Heritage Education Programme for Schools

Lin Lee and Amir started a Heritage Education Programme for schools. The initial reception has been enthusiastic and it is planned to extend the programme to more schools. Nazir has donated \$5000 from his company (ESCOY) for this purpose.

5 Heritage Tour Programme

Tengku Idaura and James Lee are working out a programme to start a heritage tour for Penang residents and visitors. They are waiting to have the guides trained before launching it.

6 New Executive Secretary.

Tan Teong Kooi was engaged as the new Executive Secretary and he has proved to be invaluable.

7 PHT Office.

For most of the period under review, the PHT office was housed in Khoo Su Nin's office for free (and the PHT gratefully acknowledges this). Unfortunately she has given up this office and the PHT is now temporarily housed in Teong Kooi's house.

8 PHT Newsletter

The PHT newsletter was launched early in 1994. Isobel Morris edited the first issue and subsequent issues were edited by Teong Kooi. All indications are that it is well received.

9 Membership Drive.

A membership drive was launched and from May to the end of this year, new members will not have to pay the first year's subscription. As of 31 July, the membership stands at:

	1994	1993
Life members	36	34
Ordinary members	154	111
Total	190	145

10 Conferences

Tengku Idaura and Su Nin represented the PHT at the Urban Redevelopment Authority Conference on heritage in Singapore on 5 and 6 April. The same council members also were in Adelaide for the Penang Week.