

PHT *newsletter*

PENANG HERITAGE TRUST • PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG

c/o 19 Kelawei Road, 10250 Penang, Malaysia • Tel/Fax: 04 - 226 1358

Number 42/43

August/September 1997

AGM

1997

**PENANG HERITAGE TRUST
(PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG)**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 27 September

3.30 pm

**Syed Alatas Mansion
(128 Armenian Street)**

Agenda

1. To consider and approve:

- a) The Minutes of the PHT Annual General Meeting 1996**
- b) The PHT Annual Report August 1996 - August 1997**
- c) The Hon Treasurer's Report ended 31 December 1996**

2. To elect the PHT Council for Term 1997 - 1999

3. Other Matters

*Members are all urged to attend this important meeting.
Light refreshments will be served.*

PHT ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Bringing your subscription up to date

Dear Fellow Members,

We would like to bring your subscription up to date. Those of you who joined the Trust before 1997 can help us by taking a minute to complete the form below and then sending it, together with your cheque made out to Penang Heritage Trust and crossed, to:

*The Honorary Treasurer
Penang Heritage Trust
c/o 8-H Jalan Bungah Puduk
11200 Tanjung Bungah
Penang, Malaysia*

If you wish to pay in cash, you can do so at the coming Annual General Meeting 1997. The AGM will be held on 27 September at 3.30pm at the Syed Alatas Mansion, 128 Armenian Street.

Sincerely,


Tan Teong Kooi
Executive Secretary



**Ordinary Membership
Annual Subscription**

Date:

Dear Hon Treasurer,

Enclosed please find my cheque amounting to RM36/- only (Cheque No)
being payment for my PHT membership annual subscription for the year 1997.

Please send receipt to:

.....
.....
.....
.....

Sincerely,



PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG • PENANG HERITAGE TRUST
Registered Address: Penang State Museum, Lebuh Farquhar, 11200 Penang, Malaysia
Tel/Fax: 04 - 261 3144
Temporary Address: c/o 19 Kelawei Road, 10250 Penang, Malaysia
Tel/Fax: 04 - 226 1358

Minutes of the PHT Annual General Meeting 1996

Date: Saturday 3 August 1996

Time: 2.30 - 4.30 pm

Venue: INTEC College, Leith Street

Present:

Members

1	Dr Choong Sim Poey (Vice-chairman)	17	Dato' Eddy Choong
2	Elise Cumo Ikeda	18	Gan Teik Chee (Legal Advisor)
3	Gwyn Jenkins	19	Ng Bok Tye
4	Peter Foo	20	Loh Leong Hai
5	Marie-Louise Oh	21	Tengku Dato' Idaura (Committee Member)
6	Khoo Boo Chia	22	Michael Cheah
7	Ch'ng Cheng Ee	23	Pierre Laine
8	Oh Eng Sim	24	Ren Fennamore
9	Loh-Lim Lin Lee (Committee Member)	25	Anna Saunbury
10	Chong Lee Lin	26	David Khor (Committee Member)
11	David Yeo Khee Chin	27	Khoo Salma Nasution (Hon Secretary)
12	Clara Chan	28	Alexandra Ong
13	Ahmad Chik (Committee Member)	29	Annelies Allain
14	Alan Flux	30	James Lee (Committee Member)
15	Lee Laine (Hon Treasurer)	31	Ong Teng Lam (Committee Member)
16	Laurence Loh		

Guests and Friends of the PHT

- 1 Joseph Renang
- 2 Lee Liang Hye

Absent with Apology

- 1 Dato' Nazir Ariff (Chairman)

Minutes

1 Chairman's Welcoming Address

Dr Choong Sim Poey chaired the meeting in the absence of Dato' Nazir Ariff. He welcomed the members and friends of the PHT present.

Congratulations

Dr Choong congratulated Tengku Dato' Idaura and Dato' Eddy Choong on their being honoured with the title of Dato' by TYT Tun Dato' Seri (Dr) Haji Hamdan Bin Sheik Tahir, the Yang Di Pertua Negeri Pulau Pinang, on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Thanks

He thanked Alexandra Ong for the wonderful apple cake and tuna pizza she specially made for the occasion, Alan Flux for donating postcards of his paintings to the PHT, and Marie-Louise Oh, Clara Chan, and Peter Foo for putting up a little exhibition at the back of the meeting room to give those present a preview of the PHT Antiques & Collectibles Show '96 to be held in December.

2 Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM 1995

The AGM confirmed the minutes (Ms Alexandra Ong proposed and Mdm Ch'ng Cheng Ee seconded).

3 PHT Council Annual Report July 1995 - July 1996

Khoo Salma Nasution, the PHT Hon Secretary, presented the report. The AGM passed the report (Mr Pierre Laine proposed and Mr Laurence Loh seconded) after the committee answered questions about Suffolk House, Soonstead, Metropole, Hardwicke, Runnymede, Loo Pun Hong, Relau House, E&O Hotel, and PHT Museum Shop

Suffolk House

Alexandra Ong wanted to know what happened to the RM2 million the Ministry of Culture had approved for the restoration of the great house. En Ahmad Chik explained that the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), a higher authority, had not given its blessings to the Culture Ministry's approval. But the issue was not funding: there was enough third party money for the project. It was officialdom and he felt like 'camping in the corridors of power' until the bureaucrats got tired of his presence and got on with the paper work they were supposed to have done.

Metropole, Hardwicke, Soonstead

Loh-Lim Lin Lee feared that Soonstead, the listed and still intact neighbour of the illegally demolished Metropole, might go the way of Hardwicke, now damaged beyond repair. There were signs the developer of Dolphin Square, a 39-storey tower to be built on the grave of Metropole, was planning to use the same destructive hammer-driven method of piling. Dr S P Choong said he would speak to the MPPP about getting Dolphin Square to use a safer method of construction.

Runnymede

Mr Ong Teng Lam asked about Runnymede. He had heard that it was to be turned into a 5-star hotel. Dr Choong said that the PHT had not only given the MPPP a list of the city's endangered buildings but also proposed that the PHT be consulted before any of these buildings was given planning permission for redevelopment.

Relau House

Tan Teong Kooi reported that the PHT newsletter had carried an article by Khoo Salma about the house and he had spoken to Mr Pierre Laine about the possibility of the Alliance Francaise leasing it from the MPPP. Mr Laine said that the French Ambassador seemed very interested in establishing the Alliance Francaise there. Dr S P Choong said that the PHT would support such a project provided that the house when restored was made accessible to the Penang public.

Loo Pun Hong (Penang Carpenters Guild)

Ms Lee Laine told the meeting that the Chai Gang Art Exhibiton had raised RM10,000 for the restoration project. En Ahmad Chik reported that Ms Gwyn Jenkins had completed an inventory of the guild's artefacts; the PHT had asked the architects for help and Mr Laurence Loh had volunteered his services as consultant; students from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology had done a dilapidation survey of the building and would soon present their report. In the meantime the PHT would look into the possibility of restoring the guild's screens and costumes. It had published a brochure to make the public more aware of the guild's history and present state of disrepair.

PHT Museum Shop

Mr Peter Foo wanted to know about the progress being made to establish the shop. Mr James Lee reported that the PHT and Mr Beh Thye Boo, PHT member and former employee of the Museum, had come to a verbal agreement, under which Mr Beh was to pay the PHT a monthly rental of RM800 for the right to run the shop and the carpark. The PHT would in turn pay the Museum RM400 a month.

E&O Hotel

Khoo Salma told the meeting that the 111-year old hotel was being turned into "a 5-star boutique hotel", and Ms Loh-Lim added that its furniture, staircases and other fixtures had been sold to collectors, and that the PHT had written to the MPPP president requesting him to arrange an urgent meeting with the developers so that the PHT could view and comment on the project.


4 PHT Accounts Ended 31 December 1995

Ms Lee Laine, the PHT Hon Treasurer, presented the accounts. For auditing it, Price Waterhouse charged RM600. The Loo Pun Hong restoration fund was under fixed deposits. The marginal increase in expenditure was because of the increase, as one could see from the annual report, in the number of PHT projects and activities. The AGM passed the accounts (Ms Annelies Allain proposed and Ms Gwyn Jenkins seconded).

5 Other Matters

There were no other matters brought up for discussion and the members adjourned for some light refreshments.


Tan Teong Kooi, Exec Secretary


Khoo Salma Nasution, Hon Secretary



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**PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG
PENANG HERITAGE TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT
August 1996 – August 1997**

1 PHT COUNCIL MEMBERS (Term 1995 - 1997)

Dato' Nazir Ariff, Chairman: *PHT Council Meetings, Donations, Press Conferences and Statements*
Dr Choong Sim Poey, Vice Chairman: *Conservation Legislation, Liaison with Government Bodies*
Khoo Salma Nasution, Hon Secretary: *Research and Publication, AWPNUC Newsletter, Interviews, Networking,*

Ms Lee Laine, Hon Treasurer: *Fundraising, Special Events*

Tengku Dato' Idaura Ashkandar (until August '95): *The Heritage Centre Penang, Restoration Skills Seminars and Workshops, PDC Projects*

Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee: *Cheong Fatt Tze mansion, Protestant Cemetery, Street Names, Education in Conservation for Schools, Heritage Awareness Talks for the Public*

En Ahmad Chik: *Suffolk House, Loo Pun Hong, Penang Hill, Heritage Trees and Urban Parks*

Mr James Lee: *PHT Museum Shop, Cultural Tours*

Mr David Khor: *Liaison with the Private Sector*

Mr Ong Teng Lam: *Talks and Slide Shows*

Tan Teong Kooi: *Exec Secretary, PHT Newsletter, Membership, Publicity*

Mr Gan Teik Chee: *Legal Advisor*

2 PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES, AND ACTIVITIES

State Heritage Policy

This year the PHT concentrated its efforts on working with the authorities to devise conservation strategies that might be acceptable to both the building industry and heritage groups. Dr Choong Sim Poey (Committee Member, State Heritage Committee), Tengku Dato' Idaura (Managing Director, PDC ART&T Total Management Sdn Bhd), Mr Lim Hooi Siang (Director AR&T Heritage Consultancy Sdn Bhd), Mr Laurence Loh (Committee Member, Badan Warisan Malaysia), and Khoo Salma Nasution (Committee Member, The Heritage Centre Penang) have been especially active here, attending numerous state and local government meetings, giving advice and making proposals regarding:

The structure of the State Heritage Committee; the setting up of the AR&T Heritage Consultancy; the listing of heritage buildings and sites; the formulation of guidelines and incentives for heritage development (building restoration, partial site development, in-fill development, sign display, etc) in the 6 Inner City Heritage Zones; the running of The Heritage Centre Penang; Repeal of the Rent Control Act; Penang Hill Local Plan; Cultural Heritage Area Action Plan, Penang Tourism Action Plan; and Suffolk House Restoration.

Interviews, Statements, Articles

Dato' Nazir Ariff (Chairman, Penang Museum Board), Dr S P Choong, Khoo Salma, En Ahmad Chik, Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee, Tan Teong Kooi, and Dato' Lim Chong Keat (Founder Chairman, Penang Heritage Trust and Chairman, Standing Committee on Heritage and Conservation PAM Northern Chapter), gave talks and interviews and wrote on the following issues:

The Prangin Mall/Inner City Shophouses Fiasco; Hotel Continental/Cheong Fatt Tze Affair; Dolphin Square/Hotel Metropole Saga; Penang Museum & Art Gallery; E&O Hotel; Hardwicke; Soonstead; No 1 Penang Road; No 45 Anson Road (Engtile Enterprise); the old Straits Echo building (Computer Land); the Khoo Soo Hong mausoleum; Chulia Street; Armenian Street/Acheen Street Enclave; Loke Thye Kee/Magestic Cinema Precinct, the 6 Inner City Heritage Zones and 5-storey Limit; Acheen Street Mosque; Relau House, Loo Pun Hong; King Edward Memorial Hospital; Jelutong Expressway; Prangin Market (Sia Boey); 20 Leith Street; Heritage Trees; Urban Parks; Botanical Gardens; Penang Hill Local Plan; Repeal of Rent Control Act; Weld Quay Stilt Houses; and Suffolk House Restoration.

The Far Eastern Economic Review, Aliran Monthly, the local newspapers, and the PHT/AWPNUC Newsletter have featured articles and letters by PHT members. Asiaweek, Aus Heritage Commercial, and ABN Television interviewed Khoo Salma Nasution for their report about heritage conservation in Penang.

AWPNUC (Asia & West Pacific Network for Urban Conservation)

The PHT was elected the AWPNUC secretariat in October '96 at the Yogyakarta Symposium which Ms Loh-Lim attended as the PHT representative. The secretariat has so far produced 3 issues of the AWPNUC newsletter. It is also publishing a source book on urban conservation, with Khoo Salma as editor as well. The project is funded by Asia-Pacific 2000.

The next AWPNUC International Symposium (21 – 25 November '97) is in Taipei. Dr S P Choong and En Ahmad Chik will represent the PHT. They will pay for their own trip and accomodation if no funding from the organizing country is available.

Five top officials of the Majlis Perbandaran Pulau Pinang (MPPP), its Yang Dipertua, Setiausaha Perbandaran, Pengarah Bangunan, Pengarah Perancangan Bandar dan Pembangunan, and Pengarah Kejuruteraan, have subscribed to the PHT/AWPNUC Newsletter. .

Suffolk House Restoration

In June 1995, the State government announced its serious intention to bring about the exchange of land between the MPPP and the Methodist Church and move the 36-year old project forward. To date half a dozen meetings have been held, attended by a most impressive array of officials from both the state and local government departments. The formal exchange of land, however, has yet to take place..

En Ahmad Chik reported: "I fear for Suffolk House. I was there the other day and the building is in a dreadful condition. The canvass roof which we put over it has been torn into shreds, thanks to the work of vandals and the weather. There is no sign of the shed which the JKR promised to provide. If nothing is done soon the building will fall into a heap of bricks within a year."

Dr S P Choong has written to Dato' Kee Phaik Cheen, the Chairman of the Suffolk House Committee, Dr Teng Hock Nan, the President of the MPPP, and Dr Koh Tsu Koon, the Chief Minister, to impress upon them the seriousness of the situation.

Loo Pun Hong (Penang Carpenters Guild) Restoration

A Loo Pun Hong Restoration sub-committee, made up of both the members of the PHT (Ahmad Chik, Lee Laine, Loh-Lim, Gwyn Jenkins, Laurence Loh, Ms Sandra Stoddart, Mr Tan Yeow Wooi) and the LPH (Lau Yin Hoy, Woo Seng Chai, Choy Chan Hong, Looi Wee Kwong, Foo Seng Peng Thong Che Kei, Lee Keow Toon) has been formed.

The committee appointed Laurence Loh Architects as consultants and the firm has completed its Main Hall Roof & Timbers & General Damage Report. Gwyn Jenkins had earlier completed an inventory of the temple's artifacts and students from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology their proposed plans for the building's interior. Sandra Stoddart is organising a group of volunteers to clean and repair the costumes.

The PHT has so far raised RM37,000 for the project (Chai Gang Art Exhibition – RM10,000, PHT Fundraising Dinner '97 – RM17,000, and SOCFIN, the French Plantation Management Company – RM10,000), and the LPH RM56,000 (Sale of furniture – RM43,996, State Government – RM13,000). The LPH also reported pledged donations of up to RM12,000 and the PHT will apply to the Ministry of Culture through the Penang Museum for a further RM250,000 under the 7th Malaysia Plan Mid-term review. (See Treasurer's report)

PHT Office

The PHT has twice written to the authorities to apply for office space in the the Pusat Penyayang (Caring Society building) on Scotland Road. We wait for their reply.

Balai Bomba (Fire Brigade Station) Beach Street

The Balai Bomba has now been "restored" by the JKR.

PHT Museum Shop

The project includes running the Museum carpark. The PHT has made an agreement with Mr Peter Foo, who will use the old Penang Hill Railway coach as the shop, and another with Mr Beh Thye Boo, who will run the carpark. The shop will open when the museum reopens on 2 September. It will also serve as a place where people can sign up for heritage tours.

Tours

The PHT continued to take its members and friends, foreign and local dignitaries, journalists, photographers, TV crews, and Phd students on architectural and gastronomic tours, too many to list here. Khoo Salma and Ms Loh-Lim have trained half a dozen professional guides to help conduct these special tours and PHT guests may in future be asked to give a small donation.

Membership

	July '97	July '96	July'95	July '94
Founder/Life members	45	43	37	36
Ordinary members	292	249	208	154
Total	337	292	245	190

Education in Conservation

Ms Loh-Lim continued to give talks and slide shows to the Penang community whenever she was invited to do so (see Events).

Fundraising and Donations

A good year for fundraising. The PHT organized two antiques and collectibles fairs, an auction, a dinner, and an art exhibition. Donations (see Treasurer's report).

Coffeeshop Painting Exercise

The PHT is taking part in this Heritage Centre Penang project to identify 24 inner-city coffeeshops and paint their facades.

Books by PHT members

Dr Khoo Joo Ee, former Curator of the Asian Art Museum in Kuala Lumpur, published "The Straits Chinese: A Cultural History" (288 pages, RM165.00)

Brochures

Khoo Salma Nasution and Abdur-Razzak Lubis wrote and designed the Taiping Municipal Council brochure "Taiping: Town of Everlasting Peace". Tan Yeow Wooi did the illustrations.

PHTnewsletter

The PHT produced 12 issues this year. Altogether, since February 1994, the PHT has brought out 43 issues.

3

EVENTS

Events the PHT organized, co-organized, or supported in one way or another.

August 1996: Demonstration by Group of Concerned Citizens

A PHT-inspired demonstration at Farquhar Street to urge the MPPP to stop Hotel Continental from using the hammer-driven method of piling for a 20-storey extension and causing structural damage to its neighbour, the newly restored Cheong Fatt Tze mansion.

Heritage Skills Workshop - I

An Introductory Course on tiling, roof insulation, rainwater goods and maintenance organised by Heritage Centre Penang at the Syed Alatas Mansion.

Heritage Skills Workshop - II

A Professional Training Course organised by Heritage Centre Penang at the Syed Alatas Mansion.

Penang: Historical, Architectural, and Cultural Significance

A Talk and Slide Show by Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee for PHT members and guests of the Rasa Sayang Resort

September Baba & Nonya Ceremonies and Artefacts

A Talk & Slide Show by Mr Michael Cheah at INTEC College, Leith Street

Better Living and the Existence of Historic Areas

5th AWPNUC International Symposium at Yogyakarta, Java, Indonesia. Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee represented the PHT. Gwyn Jenkins and Alex Koenig also attended.

October

Heritage Building Photography Competition

Organised by Rasa Sayang Resort in aid of the PHT. The PHT gave advice and took part in the judging. The winning entries were exhibited at the Syed Alatas mansion.

- November** **PHT Antiques & Collectibles Fair '96**
An exhibition and sales of antiques and collectibles at the Dewan Sri Pinang organised under the auspices of Pesta Pulau Pinang by the PHT Antique-Collectors Club in aid of the PHT.
- An Education in Conservation**
A Talk and Slide Show by Ms Loh-Lim Lin Lee to the students and teachers of Convent Light Street
- December** **Christmas Antiques & Collectibles Fair**
An exhibition and sales of antiques and collectibles at the Rasa Sayang Resort organised by the PHT Antique Collectors Club in aid of the PHT
- Yogyakarta: The Heart of Javanese Culture**
A Talk & Slide Show by Loh-Lim Lin Lee and Gwyn Jenkins at 19 Kelawei Road to members of the Trust and their friends.
- February '97** **Press Conference on Prangin Mall Affair**
A press conference called by the Tanjong Area Crack-Affected Homes Representative Action Committee to protest against the destruction wrought upon some 350 inner-city shophouses by inappropriate method of excavation and construction for the mammoth Prangin Mall project. The PHT made a press statement and took part in the demonstration that followed.
- March** **Penang Heritage '97 Seminar**
A seminar bringing government, industry, and heritage groups together to explore new approaches for a balanced development in the city of Georgetown. It was organised by the Penang State Government through PDC AR&T Total Management and the British High Commission and with the support of the British Overseas Trade Services. The PHT put up an exhibition and took part in the discussions, and Khoo Salma and Loh-Lim Lin Lee took the delegates on tours of the city and the Cheong Fatt Tze.
- An Education in Conservation**
Talk & Slide Show by Loh-Lim Lin Lee to the students and teachers of Methodist Boys School.
- The Penang Hill Local Plan**
A Public Forum organised by Friends of Penang Hill. En Ahmad Chik gave a talk, pointing out that "it would be extremely shortsighted to exploit our water resources"
- April** **PHT Fundraising Dinner '97.**
Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, the chief Minister, and Y B Dato' Kee Phaik Cheen were guests of honour. Dato' Nazir Ariff gave a speech urging the government to be more serious in its heritage policy. Loh-Lim Lin Lee gave a talk and slide show on Penang's heritage buildings. There was a silent auction. The event, held at the Rasa Sayang Resort, raised RM50,000. Ms Sandra Stoddart was chairperson of the organising committee.
- June** **Heritage Awareness Competition**
A competition requiring competitors (university and secondary school students of Penang only) to make a detailed study of the historical, cultural, and architectural significance of the city's heritage buildings. Sponsored by the British Council and organised by the PHT.
- July** **Lime Plaster & Stucco Workshop**
Sponsored by the French Government and organised by The Heritage Centre Penang
- Loo Pun Hong Annual Dinner**
Organised by the Guild and supported by the Trust. The money paid by PHT members to attend the dinner went towards the restoration of the building.
- August** **Penang: A Personal Perspective**
An exhibition of paintings by Alan James Flux at the Syed Alatas Mansion. Mr Flux offered to donate 15% of the sales to the PHT.