

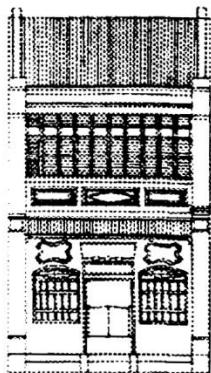
PHT newsletter

PENANG HERITAGE TRUST * PERSATUAN WARISAN PULAU PINANG

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New PHT Office

Finally, a place to call our own. The Penang Heritage Trust office has moved into an old shophouse lovingly restored by a team of old Penang tradesmen, supervised by PHT council member Mrs. Loh-Lim Lin Lee. Interior architect Gwyn Jenkins helped with the drawings. Executive Secretary Priscilla and faithful volunteers Swee-lin Yeoh and Stephanie Lee led the moving crew on 21 September 1998. Thanks to all who have helped.

During the Loo Pun Hong Street Party on 25 September, the PHT held an open house and we were overwhelmed with visitors curious to see our new office. Some members have kindly donated lovely furniture, plants or given them to us on "permanent loan", but we are still in need of some more things. There is still some painting, repairs, etc. to be done. We would appreciate more volunteers and donations in cash and in kind.

Now that we have an office, please drop in regularly and give us your feedback. At the moment, there are too few of us trying to do too many things. We would like to involve more members and to enlarge the movement. Suggestions, please.

Annual General Meeting '98

Please be sure to make a date with us on Friday 20 November. The AGM will start at 3 pm, followed by tea. Members who have not renewed their membership, please do so by completing the enclosed form. You can also sign up on the AGM day itself. As voting is biannual, there will be no voting this year.

**Friday,
20 November 1998
at 26-A Lorong Stewart
- at 3.00pm
the Annual General Meeting**

**- at 5.30pm
Launching of PHT office
by Penang Chief Minister,**

**- Launching of the free paint
campaign sponsored by Jotun to
spruce up the neighbourhood**

**- Presentation of mock cheque for
funds raised for Loo Pun Hong**

**- Launching of Old Salt Cafe at 26-A
Lorong Stewart**

Launching of PHT Office

The Chief Minister, YAB Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon will be launching the PHT office at 5.00 pm, 20 November 1998.

At the same time, PHT will be launching a free paint campaign to spruce up the neighbourhood facades. The paint company Jotun is sponsoring the free paint - water-based acrylic paint for walls and timber gloss for timber beams and frames. Encik Ahmad Chik is the council member heading this

project. We will be going door-to-door to approach the neighbours, and we need volunteers as local dialect interpreters. Please contact Priscilla if you can join us.



Apologies

We apologize to PHT members for not issuing a newsletter for the month of September. This is because everyone was busy helping out with the Heritage Fundraising '98, the Street Party, the Silent Auction at Loo Pun Hong and moving into the PHT office. To make up for it, this issue is a bumper issue with twice as much news.



Heritage Fundraising '98

Congratulations to Lee Laine, PHT treasurer for having devotedly pulled the whole thing together, also to the committee chairman Dr. Khoo Joo Ee for gracing the stage at the opening ceremony, which was officiated by the Penang Chief Minister on 25 September. The preliminary report of the funds raised sounds good, but we will keep it a secret until our treasurer is ready to announce it - that is, on the occasion of the Launching of the PHT Office.

We had quite a crowd during the Loo Pun Hong Street Party. Several remarked that the night was alive with people of all cultural backgrounds walking up and down the street. The bridal couple in old costumes, the lion dances, Penang's famous contortionist the "plastic man", the Chinese orchestra, the drums and many other events were enjoyed by all, young and old. The Silent Auction was classy and the food was exquisite.

We also received feedback that the street event may have upset some neighbours and neighbourhood hawkers who did not receive sufficient notice of it. We apologise if we have been remiss in any way, and we are sincere in wanting to strengthen our ties with the community. We hope to generate better understanding and goodwill by extending an invitation to all our neighbours to the Launching of the PHT Office.



Musings on Love Lane

There's an old saying that I can never forget from my school days. "There are three types of people in this world: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wonder what happened." I will use this saying to sum up how I feel about the whole heritage fundraising affair in general.

Suffice to say, high praises to the organising committee. It took delicate tact and loads of patience to work with people from all walks of life, each speaking a different lingo and each with their own agenda. What we achieved in terms of human communications and organisation, far outweighed the difficulties and frustrations that we encountered.

The street party was good in terms of human traffic. We were doubly blessed with a rainless night. Throngs of hawkers, architects, backpackers, the expatriate community, hoteliers and factory employees streamed into the inner courtyard of the Loo Pun. Some of the more pious even paid tribute to the statue of Loo Pun. I am sure that even in its heyday, the guild had not seen such an outpouring of humanity before. It gladdened me to see the interest shown by the younger generation. In fact, it was the children who asked to pose for a snapshot with the opera stars in the inner courtyard.

However, there were certain parts that looked more like a "pasar malam" than a special street party. The hawkers saved the day. I recall planning elaborately all the traditional arts and crafts that we were going to exhibit on that day. Somehow as I walked along the streets, I realized, sadly, that the dying arts are indeed dying or have died altogether. There was a forlorn looking clog stall and no silver smith, noodle maker, singing minstrel and dough dolls as

promised. Had these artisans conveniently forgotten or did they not think it was worth their while to show the world a glimpse into the past?

Perhaps one day the tinkle of the silver smith's hammer and the lilting tune of the Chinese mandolin player will become extinct. The descendants of hardy Nanyang immigrants have settled into a comfortable-as-a-cabbage-patch lifestyle, which offers no impetus to learn about the past.

The silent auction became a competitive ground because some of the bidders shared the same taste in a particular piece of antique. Surely there will be some short-term ill feelings when someone else carts away your treasure.

At least all the items up for auction were genuine. I was amused by some of the sales pitches that I heard during my two days of browsing at the antique fair. I picked up a brass rococo item and was told that it was an inkwell of an Indian maharajah while the collector's spouse said that it was a reproduction of a French Faberge egg! So which is which? Some of the items were very unique but it took a lot of patience to scour through the plethora to come up with your personal collectible.

Now all the organizers are taking a much deserved rest. All those lofty ideas and all those nerve-wrecking moments, all those press conferences and working meetings have taken their toll.

This article is a tribute to those unsung heroes who believed in the project right from the start, those who jumped into it in the middle, and those who stepped in during the last moment when some had abandoned ship. And a thank you to all who watched and wished us well. So for those volunteers who "made things happen, for those who watched things happen and for those who made things happen", this is for you! We have all contributed in our own unique way as part of the Penang community! - *Stephanie Lee*



New Council Member

Ms. Swee-lin Yeoh returned to Penang after several years of service with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). As she has been volunteering regularly

with PHT since March 1998, we have nominated her to be our new council member, as provided for in the PHT constitution. She is replacing outgoing council member Vincent Yeap who left Penang recently.

Swee-lin studied fine arts in Geneva and is now making a career as an artist. She specialises in porcelain painting, and is proficient in several techniques including the ancient Islamic method of traditional enamel carving. She and her partners will soon be running the cafe.



Obituary

PHT would like to say goodbye to an old friend, Charles Krimminger, who passed away on 27 September. Charlie as he was known, had a motorcycle accident in April and did not recover from it. PHT members Anna and Ren Fennamore helped to nurse him in his last days.



Beaded Embroidery Classes

The PHT is organising beaded embroidery classes in December at the PHT office. The fee is RM100 for four sessions, once or twice a week. Light refreshments will be provided, but the fee excludes materials, which will be sold at cost. The classes will be conducted by Mr. Michael Cheah, a member of PHT, who has been contributing actively to PHT's antique collectors' fairs. Those interested, please call Priscilla at the PHT office.



Save Our Muslim Heritage

The PHT received a carbon copy of a letter written by Tajuddin Mohd. Noor to the MPPP.

Tajuddin is a descendant of Cauder Mohideen, founder of the Kapitan Kling Mosque, who passed away in 1834. Kapitan Kling's tomb is located in Kampong Kolam. The writer complained that since 1993, a zinc fence has been erected in the middle of the tomb's compound. The fence is preventing the public, especially Muslim tourists from visiting the Kapitan Kling tomb. The writer requested the MPPP to investigate if

the fence is an illegal erection and if so, to take action to remove it.

It is indeed appalling that the tomb of the founder of one of Penang's most prominent historic mosques should have been left in such a state of neglect. Islam is the national religion, Malaysia is trying to attract tourists, including Muslim tourists, and George Town has a rich legacy of Muslim heritage. Therefore, it is difficult to understand the sad state of our Muslim heritage, which reflects badly on us all.

What can the Penang Heritage Trust do? Firstly, we could start off with a simple tour to familiarise ourselves with the Muslim heritage in the inner city. This would also help build support for the State Government's plans to conserve George Town's inner city historic enclave. I can lead this tour on a Sunday morning, tentatively on 29 November. The route will cover Lebuah Acheh, Jalan Mesjid Kapitan Kling, Kampong Kolam and Lebuah Chulia.

Secondly, the Penang Heritage Trust has for some months now wanted to organise a seminar entitled "Warisan Kita di Tanjung" but we have postponed it several times because we have had too much on our plate recently. The seminar is now scheduled for the first quarter of next year. This is an open appeal to our PHT members and friends, both Muslim and non-Muslim to help prepare for the seminar.

If any of you are interested in the tour or seminar, please contact Priscilla. - KSN

NETWORKING

Upcoming Dutch Period Seminar, 2-6 Nov 1998

Organised by the Malacca Museum Corporation (PERZIM) and sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, the seminar will feature the following speakers:

- *Ir. Peter Van Dunn from The Netherlands Department of Conservation*
- *Associate Professor Syed Zainol Abidin Idid, Badan Warisan Malaysia, Dr. A. Ghafar Ahmad, USM, and other speakers from*

UKM and UTM in Malaysia.

- *Speakers from Gajdah Mada University Yogyakarta, Yayasan Gedung Arsip Nasional Indonesia, University Sumatera Utara, Medan and IKIP Padang in Indonesia*
- *Institute of Environmental Studies and ICOMOS Sri Lanka*
- *CNO, India*

Delegates will be taken along heritage walks within the Conservation Zone of Historic City of Malacca and participate in site management sessions related to the Action Plan for Heeren Street-Jonker Street, and the St. Paul's Hill Revitalization.

There is a good possibility that Ir. Peter Van Dunn from The Netherlands Department of Conservation will also visit Penang after the seminar to look at the situation faced by the inner city historic enclave of George Town on the eve of rent control repeal.

Drs. Z. Pangaduan Lubis, University Sumatera Utara, Medan, who is an ethno-musicologist and an expert on Mandailing culture will also stay in Penang for several days and is willing to give a talk on the subject in Bahasa Indonesia. Anyone who is interested to meet either Ir. Peter Van Dunn or Drs. Z. Pangaduan Lubis, contact Priscilla at the PHT office.

Exchange with Sumatra Heritage Trust

The Sumatra Heritage Trust or Badan Warisan Sumatra was formed earlier this year and is based in Medan. Its representative in Penang is Abdur-Razzaq Lubis, husband of Khoo Salma Nasution.

In July, its Executive Director Hasti Tarekat wrote to us, "One of the urgent needs of Sumatra Heritage Trust is human resources. We have teachers and students from architecture departments but none of them are familiar enough with heritage organisations. They are keen volunteers and show eagerness to learn about our organisation. I have the idea to arrange regular apprentices for them in some heritage organisations. The main goal is to nurture them and to introduce to them what to do in a heritage organisation".

So upon mutual agreement, Sumatra Heritage Trust sent an intern to Penang Heritage Trust to vol-

unteer for the PHT and at the same time to learn about our organisation. Indra Tjakradharma, a third-year architecture student from St. Thomas Catholic University apprenticed in Penang from 23 August to 8 September 1998. At that time, we had not yet moved into 26A Stewart Lane, so he stayed with Lubis and Khoo Salma at 120 Armenian Street and helped out at the temporary office.

He was very helpful especially with computer design tasks and managed to accomplish the following during his stay:

1. Drew an elevation of the Penang Heritage Trust office and designed the new Penang Heritage Trust membership form.
2. Drew a plan of the inner city park at Armenian Street and Acheen Street Youth Centre which is being proposed for revitalization into a child-friendly community facility.
3. Helped insert a few hundred or thousand bookmarks into the Heritage Fundraising ticket cards.
4. Helped his hosts Khoo Salma and Abdur-Razzaq design a tile logo for heritage postcards and draw a picture of the mausoleum of Namora Pandei Bosi for the Sumatra Heritage Trust conservation proposal.
5. Discussed conservation with Mrs. Loh-Lim, Gwyn Jenkins, Alex Koenig, Alan Flux, David Yeoh, Priscilla, and Swee-lin.

Penang Heritage Trust members who are planning a trip to Medan and would like to get in touch with our sister organisation can contact, Abdur-Razzaq Lubis in Penang, tel 04-2620123 or Hasti Tarekat, Executive Director, Sumatra Heritage Trust. Office: 56 Sei Padang, Medan, 20154 Indonesia. Tel 62 61-81 35 34. Email hastitar@indosat.net.id. Homepage: <http://www.garudahotel.com/sumatra-heritage>.

Kedah Heritage Trust Proposed

On 11 October, the new Penang Heritage Trust office received one of its first distinguished guests, Puan Seri Nila, the wife of Dato' Sanusi Junid the Menteri Besar of Kedah. She had met with Khoo Salma, Abdur-Razzaq, Naziaty Mohd. Yaacob and Zuraimi Harun to dis-

cuss how to go about forming a Kedah Heritage Trust. We suggested that a seminar be organised to attract interest from all quarters. We also expressed the hope that Penang Heritage Trust, Sumatra Heritage Trust and Kedah Heritage Trust would forge a close working relationship in the near future.

Zuraimi, an architect based in Alor Setar and a PHT member, will be the key contact person for the proposed Kedah Heritage Trust. For inquiries, contact Zuraimi, Tel 04-730 3479.



"Postcards" of Penang shown in Adelaide

Penang was featured in an episode of Keith Conlon's "Postcards", arguably one of the best television documentaries ever made of Penang. It was screened in South Australia recently and received high ratings. The producers have sent PHT a copy and we will arrange for a screening at the Old Salt Cafe when the latter opens.

On 27 October, the Friends of Penang, which is made up of people from our sister city of Adelaide, held a reception in Penang. We met Alderman Roger Rowse, chairman of the Adelaide-Georgetown Sister City committee, who has proposed that Adelaide Week in Penang start on 10 October. In light of the many heritage exchanges between Penang and Adelaide that have taken over the last few years, we hope that a heritage agenda will be included in this event which is organised jointly by the Adelaide City Council and the Penang Island Municipal Council (MPPP).



LETTERS Roots in Penang

Dear PHT, I bought the book "Streets of Georgetown" when I visited Penang last month. It was of immense interest to me and I learnt a lot about Georgetown.

During the last year I have been trying to retrace my father's roots. He was born in Penang in 1914 in Bishop Street behind the Sun Wooi

Association building. I believe my grandfather came from Sun Wooi (Xin Hui) in Guangdong Province.

When we were kids, we used to visit Penang and I have always returned there for holidays over the last few years. I have very fond memories of Penang and I am glad that the development of Penang has not been as rapid as say Kuala Lumpur. However, it seems that much of the historical aspects of Penang has been glossed over and in fact neglected. Worse still, there does not seem to be any constructive plan to preserve what is left of it. For me, I think Penang has such a rich past and this can be today's cultural agenda and attraction.

I would be most interested to find out more about the Penang Heritage Trust or any association that promotes Penang as a cultural site. I would be grateful if you can let me know in due course. - Mr C.K. FONG, West Midlands, UK

Dear Mr. Fong, Please give us a call when you next come to Penang and we will introduce you to a one or two Mandarin-speaking local historians who may be able to help you retrace your roots - KSN



No Action Talk Only

Dear PHT, I have just received the latest Newsletter, July 1998, which, as usual, my wife and I have read with the greatest interest.

Our connection with Penang goes back a long way over one hundred years in my wife's case (her great grandmother arrive in about 1890) and nearly fifty years in my case (I met my wife in Penang in 1952, and we were married in St. George's Church in 1953). I say this merely to establish our deep and abiding affection for Penang and its people of all races, in case what I am about to write should give any offence which would grieve me deeply, for absolutely none is intended.

So: what impression does at least this good friend of Penang derive from the latest newsletter? I will be quite straight: A huge amount of

talk, and very little action on the ground, at the sharp end, call it what you will.

Let us look at the facts: the Newsletter in question mentions the following: "a large study group (for a) Comparative Study on Housing and Urban Design"; including 16 students and their 2 lecturers from the University of South Australia. They will consider "Urban Design Solutions", with all its ramifications; then "Urban Housing-Traditional versus Modern". They will produce "a range of design ideas and concepts". They will then meet up "to talk about the site, and about conservation in Penang in general." (more talk) Then a visit to Balik Pulau, and on the Sunday a lecture entitled "Architecture for people". Next comes a "Workshop on Improving An Inner City Open Space for about 15 people who can "contribute suggestions" (more talk). Then comes a one-day forum supported by The Sustainable Penang Initiative with five invited speakers. (more talk)

And so it goes on and on, and a glance at previous Newsletters show much the same picture. Meanwhile, on the ground, at the sharp end, what there?

Suffolk House sinks slowly but inexorably from sight and memory: that gem which could form the centre and hub for all peoples, religions and customs which have made Penang the place it is. The destruction of a whole row of heritage building near the E & O Hotel; the destruction of individual shophouses, Chinese temples, pre-war houses and the unnecessary of hideous concrete monstrosities which would look better in Singapore and New York. It is all enough to make an outside observer, such as your present correspondent, weep tears of blood for the beautiful Penang we all knew not so many years ago.

As for money, one hesitates to estimate the money spent on talking about Penang. The air-fares for eighteen people from Australia alone would start off a sizeable fund, not to mention the local cost incurred

on talks, conferences, work-shops, and the like.

I do pray that your readers are not tearing up this letter in disgust, for it is not aimed at the many splendid, learned and devoted people who try so hard to get things done. It is aimed at the general concept that 'to talk is to accomplish'. If it stirs one breast to realise that 'accomplishment' is the aim, it will be worth the risk of the ire it may bring upon my head.

Lastly, I support every word the Vice-Chairman says in his eloquent front-page message, including a plea to the owners and Authorities to take action, before all is a mere distant memory.

*With very best wishes to Penang -
Mr. A.P. HAMMICK, Exeter, UK*

Dear Mr. Hammick, Alas, your criticisms are valid. With hardly any funds and too few volunteers for the big task ahead, we have been doing more talking than real work. Most of the time, we too receive a lot of verbal support (and criticisms), while what we need are membership renewals, volunteers and donations. We would like heritage-lovers to put their money where their mouths are, invest in heritage properties and heritage businesses.

As for the students, the matter can be simply explained. We do occasionally get such teams of student volunteers coming to do small projects. We encourage educational and cultural exchanges by helping to familiarise them with the local context. We never, ever pay for their tickets. These students and their lecturers financed their own travel, food and stay. It was a mixed group of Malaysian students from UTM and South Australian students from University of South Australia. Although this group didn't stay long enough to finish the community park drawings, four of the Australian students are returning in January and have offered to spend more time as volunteers for the PHT.

For those of us who live in Penang, it pains us to watch our heritage slip away. Our resources are very limited.

We have only one paid staff, and the rest of us are spending all our free time working for heritage instead of making money like everyone else. We urge you and others who love Penang's heritage to help us. Your letter is eloquent and strong. Regular letters like this to the local and international newspapers do help change the climate of opinion. Perhaps you could also represent us in the UK to raise funds for Suffolk House, as an monument of "shared heritage".

Some of us who have been volunteering for the Penang Heritage Trust for the last ten years feel that public awareness about heritage has finally reached a level where we are beginning to see things happen - small restorations initiated, small entrepreneurs investing in heritage buildings. Each old house restored and cared for is like a ray of hope lighting up the gloom of a neglected city. We just hope that we are not too late to save the old city from the worst repercussions of Rent Control Repeal which are already beginning to be felt in the inner city neighbourhoods - KSN



PHT's Living Treasure

Dear PHT, Firstly, many thanks for continuing to send me the PHT Newsletter - I very much look forward to keeping in touch via its pages, even if the conservation news is occasionally rather sad.

However, my main reason for writing is to mark the retirement from the PHT of Tan Teong Kooi. Teong Kooi, a great character with a genuine love of old Penang, and a tireless campaigner on her behalf, was a great friend to people such as myself, who have frequently passed through Georgetown and wished to know something of the colourful part of this fascinating settlement.

Since I joined the PHT when I was teaching in Penang in 1992, I have enjoyed many evenings in Teong Kooi's company, feeling the benefits of his typical Penang-style hospitality at one or another of his favourite restaurants or coffee-shops, where he loves to sit with a table of friends

and acquaintances, ordering delicious dishes and insisting that visitors try this or that traditional Nonya titbit.

I have been driven for miles in Teong Kooi's famous old sports car - the envy of many a motorist along the way - to sample a particular kind of pancake or other snack at stalls which have been serving the same home-cooked food for generations, whilst being regaled the while with stories and reminiscences from days long past; we have explored old ruined houses off the beaten track, and I have been introduced to people, places and events normally inaccessible to the casual visitor.

This has all served to greatly enrich my experience of Penang, and has helped, I'm sure, to inspire me when painting the old Georgetown buildings which have featured in my exhibitions. The latest of these was held last year at the Syed Alatas Mansion, and could not have been mounted without invaluable help from Teong Kooi and other members of the Trust.

(Incidentally, a percentage of the profits from this show is due to go to the Trust, and will do so as soon as I am able to make my next visit to Georgetown - which will be soon I hope).

Greetings also to Joyce, always present to help at PHT events and working behind the scenes to ensure its smooth running, dealing with any situations in her typically quiet and patient manner and always ready with a cup of coffee for those of us who found ourselves occasionally at their delightful home in Free School Road, a haven of interesting artefacts and vintage jazz. I hope that the enthusiastic influence of this warm and genuine couple will continue to permeate the Trust for a long time to come. So, salutations, Teong Kooi, and a long and happy retirement - and I hope our paths may cross again before too long.

Greeting also to my other PHT friends and acquaintances - with sincere best wishes for future conservation successes - ALAN JAMES FLUX, Isle of Wight, UK.

Vision for Penang's Cultural Vibrancy

arising from the Sustainable Penang Initiative roundtable

Recognizing that Penang is a **multi-cultural society with a rich history** and a wealth of spiritual and artistic traditions, historic communities, heritage buildings and ecologically diverse landscapes, and that these **cultural endowments are the rightful inheritance of our children and youth,**

considering that Penang's **cultural vibrancy and diversity is essential to its quality of life, long-term social and economic sustainability,**

recognizing that some **our best-loved places exemplify best practices of sustainable society** such as the 'Street of Harmony and Peace' along Jalan Masjid Kapitan Kling, which teaches us about a **culture of peaceful co-existence**, the shophouse city which teaches us about **sustainable urban patterns**, or the Balik Pulau community and habitat which teaches us a **culture of living in harmony with the environment,**

recognizing that Penang has a **great tradition of street culture**, street food, street traders, street celebrations and street theatre, that is lively, friendly, popular, culturally vibrant, economically resilient and socially equitable,

considering that Penang's myriad customs, costumes, trades, languages, lifestyles, literature and the arts are the **special strengths of Penang**, and that these **represent an accumulation of knowledge and cultural resources** which will help develop the peoples' human and economic potential,

considering that Penang's **tradition of excellence in education**, one which includes the oldest library and oldest schools in the country, has consistently produced many **great achievers** who contribute to Penang's economic productivity,

considering that Penang's **traditional and local culture** is neither fixed nor unchanging but is **constantly evolving and being constructed anew** as it interacts with technology, modernity and transnational global culture,

We who have gathered in Penang at the Roundtable on Cultural Vibrancy on 27-28 June 1998 urge that the people and government of Penang be committed to a path of sustainable development and a vision of a culturally vibrant Penang:



1. A **heritage-conscious society** that takes up custodianship of its artistic and cultural traditions, built heritage and cultural landscapes so that future generations are not deprived of their cultural inheritance, and a government which conserves and promotes heritage not only for tourists, but **mainly for the cultural education and inspiration of Penangites and Malaysians.**

2. A **culturally confident society** where young and old do not suffer from cultural cringe ("fear of no culture" and therefore feeling that other cultures are superior to their own) but **know, take pride and rejoice in their own culture and ethos**, and where the older generation is **actively transmitting cultural knowledge and sense of identity** to the younger generation.

3. A **people-centred society** in which 'ordinarily sacred places' and ordinary traditions are treasured, **because ordinary people matter**, and which develops **knowledge and stewardship** for these places and traditions, for example through a process of **cultural mapping and community visioning.**

4. An enlightened society which recognizes the importance of **local history, social history, cultural history** and a **people-centred history**, which recovers the history of local places, ordinary people, historic minorities, and marginalised peoples.

5. A state and society which promotes **multiculturalism and cultural diversity**, for example by protecting the habitat and economic basis of historic communities, allowing cultural minorities to **reaffirm their cultural identities**, and encouraging the **transmission of diverse languages and dialects.**

6. A culturally mature society which promotes the **expansion of shared spaces, shared values, common**

languages and the common heritage of the various ethnic and religious communities.

7. A **people-centred city** which encourages the **flourishing of street culture** by creating more and more **pedestrian-friendly streets for people.**

8. A state and society partnership that pursues a **development strategy** that values diversity of habitat, promotes **urban quality, conserves traditional greenery and open spaces**, endorses and promotes **climatically appropriate and culturally appropriate housing**, building and planning, and protects us all from modern 'uglytechure'.

9. A culturally vigorous society that is able to meet **modern cultural challenges**, for example by positively engaging technology, modernity and transnational influences to **strengthen and diversify** its own culture, rather than allowing the local culture to be colonized, weakened or eroded by globalization.

10. A culturally developed society where the **creative potential of our local talent** – performers, artisans and artists – can be realized through the **support of government, media and public, adequate cultural infrastructure and infostructure.**

11. A **culturally discerning society** that values authenticity over pastiche, which chooses substance over spectacle, endorses the creative rather than commercial and **nurtures local creative responses to modernity and globalization.**

12. A **healthy youth culture** that is nourished by ample spaces, places and opportunities for **creativity, recreation and friendship.**

13. A **school system** that encourages **critical thinking, creativity and innovation**, for example by strengthening **art education** and **promoting extra-curricular activities** which build character and encourage students to learn about their environment.

14. An **esteemed centre of higher learning** which provides increasing educational opportunities, **continuous learning** and increasing educational choice for a wider range of people.

15. A **reading culture and information culture** supported by **libraries,**

publishing and literary activities, through initiatives such as a state-of-the-art fully accessible library in the middle of the city, a good Penang Collection, a centre for second-hand book retailers, and a Friends of the Library movement.

16. A resourceful society which endeavours to develop its indigenous knowledge, traditional skills and cultural resources in all areas of life, for example by creating centres for researching, developing and transmitting traditional healthcare, craftsmanship and arts.

17. A culturally-conscious civil society which develops linkages between cultural vibrancy and ecological, social and economic sustainability, for example by showcasing culturally appropriate best practices.

18. A pro-women culture which engenders the workplace and the public sphere to suit women's needs, for example by mainstreaming the breastfeeding culture.

19. A historically dynamic society with a conscious strategy of reinvesting in social and cultural capital, for example by mobilising Penang's historic guilds and associations in responding to cultural, social and economic challenges of the future.

20. A state and society partnership which strives for cultural excellence and sustainable development in human settlements, for example, by putting the "Historic Enclave of George Town & Fort Cornwallis" - a living heritage city - on the World Heritage Map.

21. A place which is so culturally, socially and economically attractive that it can attract the best minds and talents from all over the country to live and work in Penang, and contribute to Penang's cultural vibrancy and economic productivity.

The 'Vision for Penang's Cultural Vibrancy' is a statement of the Roundtable on Cultural Vibrancy on 27-28 June 1998 as part of The Sustainable Penang Initiative.

If you wish to make any comments, additions or inquiries, please contact:

Coordinator, The Sustainable Penang Initiative (SPI), Socio-Economic & Environmental Research Institute (SERI), 10A Persiaran Bukit Jambul (International College Grounds), 11900 Bayan Lepas, Penang, Malaysia, Tel (604) 645 1710. Fax (604) 645 1807, E-mail seripe@tm.net.my

Old Salt Cafe

What can you do with an old building that was once owned by a brotherhood of Chinese seafarers? This was the question that stumped the council members of Penang Heritage Trust when we first chanced upon the old Seafarer's Lodge at Stewart Lane. After years of neglect in the hands of geriatric bachelors, the place needed a woman's touch. It was practically an all women team that spruced up the place and moved in to occupy the premises. A dignified bohemian English couple, Roy and Louise then moved in with their little boy, Jake.

Then Swee-lin decided to start a little cafe in the courtyard of the house. It is called Old Salt Cafe in tribute to the seafarers who used to lodge in the house. Soon, the old house will come alive again with the sounds of clinking crockery and aro-

mas of cooking wafting in the warm, afternoon air. The shaded courtyard will be the place where ladies (and gentlemen, too) will learn to make delicate beaded slippers and absorb the intricacies of nonya customs and cooking. An air of domesticity will prevail and take over the house that once resounded with the gruff patois of Hainanese sailors.

And the menu? The partners of the cafe have decided that the menu will take a sea voyage around the world. The ports of call will include the five continents. Beef stroganoff, chicken picatta, tribal stews, tortillas, Middle Eastern pilafs and exotic drinks will make its way into the menu from time to time. Of course, we will not neglect the local palate. Old Salt Cafe will feature Penang favourites as well, something different for each day. - Stephanie Lee



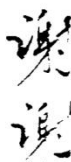
Neighbourhood gift shop

We were pleased to discover an old shop on 319 Lebuhr Chulia, just at the bus-stop facing the junction with Lorong Love. Chinese kites, curios, and greeting cards are sold here.

Greeting cards with coloured, delicate Chinese paper cuts are priced between RM3.50 and RM5.50. Mr. See Khoo Hoe, 62, personally dedicates the cards in beautiful Chinese and roman alphabet calligraphy at no extra cost. Engraved limestone pendants start

from RM6. Pendants engraved with your name, RM8 and pendants with Tung and Song dynasty poems, RM22. Mr. See's son, See Kean Eng, 25, is a local watercolour artist known for his heritage street scenes, which are also on sale here. Educated at Chung Ling High School, See junior started painting in his teens and won a scholarship to the Malaysian Institute of Art.

PHT hopes to promote such local heritage businesses which contribute to the vibrancy of the inner city. - KSA



Thank you
from
Penang Heritage
Trust



Come In, Look See

To all Members & Friends of the Penang Heritage Trust, may we introduce you to

...our new home at No. 26A Stewart lane a.k.a 'Kuan Yin Teng Au' (behind the Kuan Yin Temple)

...the ex-home to the Hainanese mariners of the port of Penang

...the new office of Priscilla who can be found each morning chatting up the teh tarik stall owner up the street, or picking up her supply of freshly roasted & ground coffee beans from the neighbourhood caffeine supplier

...the new home upstairs (in the time-proven tradition of the ubiquitous Shophouse) to Roy, Louise & 4 year old Jake, who have brought some delightful cultural diversity and stirred some excitement in the calm of the historic enclave. PHT members Roy and Louise Whyte teach at the British Council while Jake goes to Uplands School.

...the future premises of the 'The Old Salt', a trendy, alfresco (almost) cafe in the charming open inner courtyard of 26-A Lorong Stewart, to be run by 4 lovely young women who are also PHT members

May we also share with you.....

...our local scavenger-recycler who has aided us tremendously by whipping away, instantly, all discarded rubbish that we placed outside the premises in the moving in process.

...the initial raising of timber louvered windows of surrounding dwellings & the peering from chintzy floral curtains suspended on stretched springy lines, each day as busy workmen scurried in & out with ladders, scaffolding, limewash paints, timber, salvaged sanitarywares and recycled furniture

...the neighbours' progressive ventures onto the 5-foot way fronting No.26-A with cautious enquiries of the identity of the 'new kid on the block' (try explaining Penang Heritage Trust in Hokkien...)

...the final revelation to our neighbours (& hopefully acceptance) upon

the installation of the PHT signboard in traditional vertical form extruding from the façade of the building, & the open invitation to visit on the night of the Loo Pun Hong Street Party (taken up with enthusiasm by grandmothers and babies alike)

...our plans to include the surrounding community in our vision for the revitalisation of the area (they're all invited for the official opening of the premises by the CM on 20th November 1998)

...and lastly, our gratitude to David Yeoh for sharing his 'totally appropriate' timber artefacts with us. He has added greatly to the charm of No.26A

In short, we would like to invite you to join us in sharing the charm of the office and the sentiment of unpretentious curiosity and warmth of the neighbourhood. Come & sit in, feel the vibrant, yet studied calm of the inner city, browse through our reading materials, chat with those of similar interests, have a cuppa at the new cafe. What else can we say? The PHT office feels right, it is the culmination of many years of hard work and we believe it will be the centre for many processes of change and awareness. We are now with the community in the heart of historic Georgetown, the focus of our ideals.

- Mrs. Loh-Lim Lin Lee

