



PHT *Newsletter*

Issue No.102 / November 2012



**PENANG
HERITAGE
TRUST**
*Persatuan
Warisan
Pulau
Pinang*
PHT

Support Conservation Efforts in Your Community!

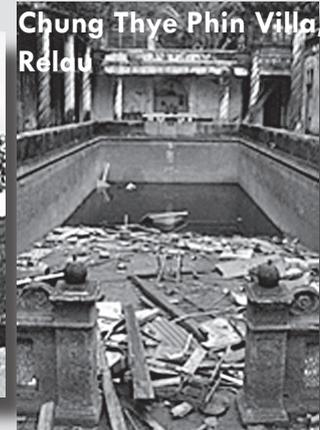
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A traditional Malay fishing settlement faces imminent threat of redevelopment. Stamford Raffles's former home which became a renowned hotel, the historic residences of the Governor of the Straits Settlements, a Kedah prince, two Kapitan and one consul of China -- abandoned and crumbling before our very eyes.

They are too important for Penang to lose!



Former Shih Chung School,
Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah



Chung Thye Phin Villa,
Relau

This is Penang Heritage Trust's 2012 list of **Penang's Most Important Endangered Heritage Sites**

Governor's House, Sepoy Lines



Tanjong Tokong Malay Village



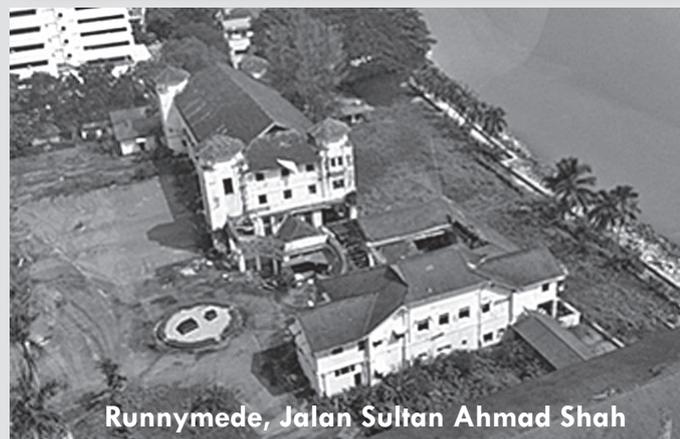
**Khaw Loh Hup & Khaw Boo
Aun's House, Bukit Tambun**



Tengku Kudin's House, Gelugor



Runnymede, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah



EDITORIAL

According to the adage, a picture is worth a thousand words. If so, then the front page of this Newsletter is worth seven thousand! The Penang Heritage Trust has endorsed a list of Penang's Seven Most Important Endangered Heritage Sites for 2012. They are pictured on our front page and described in detail in the following pages. These sites are within the World Heritage area and outside; they are on the island and on the mainland. Some are blatantly obvious to passers-by every day while others are not so conspicuous. All of them are a blight on Penang's reputation, a testament to the failure of the authorities to save for future generations significant parts of Penang's historic fabric. They are too important for Penang to lose!

The list of seven Most Important Endangered Heritage Sites is not exhaustive. In this Newsletter we portray how heritage is parodied by some property development to the extent that such sites have become textbook examples of how not to preserve historic buildings, much to the detriment of Penang's reputation as a model for heritage conservation.

How is this allowed to happen? Some argue that you cannot stop development. But that is not the issue. There are plenty of examples worldwide of how heritage conservation is reconciled with sustainable development. What is required is sensible and sensitive urban planning that is centred on people and community, planning that accommodates higher density housing while assuring that adequate public space is allocated for recreation and that significant heritage buildings essential to the community's identity are appropriately conserved.

Editor

MEDIA COVERAGE

The Star 25 Nov 2012

No to more high-rises

Architect: Development should complement lifestyle and heritage

MANY Penang Global City Centres (PGCC) may come up on Penang island following the raising of density for high-rise buildings, said a former Penang municipal councillor. Teh Leong Meng, who is a *Correspondent* said the...

A key to living in George Town

Heritage panel considering option of restoring the Rent Control Act

By HAN KAR KAY
hankk@thestar.com.my

THE George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI) panel is discussing various ways to attract tourists to continue living in the heritage enclave. "As the locals may not be able to continue living in the heritage enclave," he told a press conference at the City Hall after a full conference...

The Star 25 Oct 2012

Preserving built heritage, attracting talent
By FINTAN NG
fintan@thestar.com.my

Malaysian history and heritage and how this may be one of the avenues to lure talent to the country.

Two stories in recent weeks caught my attention. One was the immediate re-opening of the 100-year-old restaurant located at the intersection of Road and P...

The Star 20 Oct 2012

PENANG'S MOST IMPORTANT ENDANGERED HERITAGE SITES

CRITERIA

The Penang Heritage Trust has announced for 2012 a list of the most important heritage sites according to the following criteria:

- Based on cultural significance the site is worthy of being gazetted in the State Conservation List
- The site is truly endangered, suffering from years of neglect, or because of a change in circumstance, such as an unsympathetic proposal or prospect of sale, and its heritage values are likely to be disregarded
- The research has to be approved by the PHT Council

THE LIST FOR 2012

Governor's Bungalow, 1, Sepoy Lines



Military History: The bungalow at Sepoy Lines first served as the quarters and mess house of the Commanding Officer of the European troops in Penang circa 1881-1897. The Royal Artillery and European troops moved from Fort Cornwallis to Sepoy Lines in 1881 and it is likely that the bungalow and extensive cluster of ancillary buildings were first built then.

Architectural history: The double-storey bungalow is architecturally distinctive with its rounded front porch, deep verandahs and pair of castellated watchtower wings, indicating its design by a colonial engineer or military engineer.

Administrative history: After the withdrawal of European troops from Penang about 1897, the bungalow was converted into a Penang town residence for the Governor of the Straits Settlements then based in Singapore. This conversion entailed physical improvements such as the addition of lavish furnishings and fittings and a well-cultivated garden.

Judicial history: Just before or after the Japanese Occupation, the bungalow began to be used as the Judge's Residence until the late 20th century.

Condition: The bungalow and its ancillary buildings are in a severely dilapidated state. It is disgraceful that one side of the bungalow has been allowed to collapse. PHT urges the government to commission an urgent Heritage Management Plan with a view to its stabilisation, preservation, maintenance and use, while initiating works to stabilize, repair, and ultimately restore the building.

PENANG'S MOST IMPORTANT ENDANGERED HERITAGE SITES (continued)

Khaw Loh Hup & Khaw Boo Aun's Townhouse, 26 Main Road, Bukit Tambun



Built by **Khaw Loh Hup**, father of Kapitan **Khaw Boo Aun** (1837-1906), after his retirement. In 1864 **Khaw Loh Hup** was one of the founders of Han Jiang Ancestral Hall at 381 Carnarvon Street. He and his son **Khaw Boon Aun** were leaders in the Tiechiu section of the Ghee Hin society. Kapitan **Khaw Boo Aun** was appointed to the Perak State Council in 1886. He started a Straits-born Chinese Club known as Hong Wah in Nibong Tebal and was co-founder of the Penang Chinese Town Hall. He was sole Asian commissioner in the Commission of Enquiry (1890).

Architectural history: The house was one of the earliest brick houses in Bukit Tambun. It is a Chinese townhouse and served as an ancestral hall. At High Street, Nibong Tebal, **Boo Aun** left another family residence, which is located near Boo Aun Lane and the Krian River. Boo Aun Lane is where Ghee Hin boats were secretly launched loaded with men and supplies for the Larut War.

Illustrates growth of sugar industry: Under his son **Khaw Boo Aun** the plantations grew to more than 2000 acres in Trans Krian district and planted with sugar cane and tobacco. He founded *Kau Heng* sugar factory in Nibong Tebal and *Kau Huat* sugar mill in Gula, Kuala Kurau.

Condition: The townhouse buildings are in a severely dilapidated state and one side of the bungalow has collapsed. PHT urges the government to commission an urgent Heritage Management Plan with a view to its stabilisation, preservation, maintenance and use, while initiating works to stabilize, repair, and ultimately restore the building.

Chung Thye Phin Villa – Relau



Chung Thye Phin (1879 – 1935) was fourth son of the Hakka tin-miner Chung Keng Kwee. He received his education at St. Xavier's Institution and became a prominent miner and planter in Perak. He was appointed the last Kapitan China of Perak and a member of the Perak State Council. For further detail see separate article in this issue of the Newsletter.

PENANG'S MOST IMPORTANT ENDANGERED HERITAGE SITES (continued)

Udini House, Gelugor

Udini House on Jalan Tunku Kudin (formerly Jalan Udini), Penang, is the former seaside residence of Y.M. Tunku Dhiauddin ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Rashid Muazzam Shah, better known as Tunku Kudin (1835-1909). **Tunku Kudin** was younger brother of Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin (II) Mukkaram Shah of Kedah, a sometime Raja Muda of Kedah, a Viceroy of Selangor (1868-1878) and unsuccessful claimant to the throne of Kedah in 1881. Tunku Kudin's story was given prominence by his great-nephew, Malaysia's first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman. Consequently, the Penang Road Naming Committee renamed Jalan Udini after Tunku Kudin.

Sited on a hill the house commands an excellent view of the Penang Channel and of the mainland beyond. The grounds once had a stable for horses, an aviary and a deer park. A tunnel from Udini House once led to the beach. The foundation stone of Udini House was laid in 1882 by the Lieutenant Governor of Penang, J. F. McNair.

Later the house was bought by Tengku Kudin's namesake, **Tengku Baharuddin bin Tunku Meh** (1848-1932), Raja of Setul (today's Satun in Thailand), commonly known as **Ku Din**. Setul was then a part of Kedah. Ku Din was a capable administrator and was given wide powers by the King of Siam and the Sultan of Kedah with the Siamese title of Phya Phuminath Pakdi ("The Dedicated King"). Ku Din purchased and renovated the house in 1910 as his holiday home. During the Japanese Occupation the Japanese Navy used it and after

the war it was used by the British Military Administration, then by the RAAF. In 1953, the property was acquired by the government for public housing development but the plans fell through. The Marine Police eventually took over the property and the house was allowed to fall into its present derelict state.

Shih Chung School –11 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah (Northam Road)

The once-stately mansion **Goh Chan Lau**, which means "Five-Storey Villa", was built by the brothers **Cheah Tek Soon** (Xie Deshun) and **Cheah Tek Thye** (Xie Detai). Cheah Tek Soon's daughter Cheah Liew Bee (Xie Liumei) was married to Goh Say Eng (Wu Shirong), a fervent supporter of Sun Yat Sen. It was said that Goh Say Eng persuaded the Cheah family to sell off the villa to finance the revolutionary activities of Sun Yat Sen. In 1908, the villa passed into the hands of Tye Kee Yoon (Dai Xiyun), the Manchu Consul in Penang, who turned it into the Chinese Consulate. After the 1911 Revolution, his son Tye Phey Yuen (Dai Shuyuan) became the first Consul of the Republic of China in Penang. In 1915, the brothers Leong Eng Kean (Liang Enquan) and Leong Yin Kean (Liang Yingquan) rented the upper floor of the bungalow as the premises for the P'i Joo Girls' School, which was forced to shut down when the Education Bill of 1920 was put into effect. The Shih Chung Branch School, founded in 1938, occupied the premises until 1994.

PENANG'S MOST IMPORTANT ENDANGERED HERITAGE SITES (continued)**Tanjung Tokong Malay Village**

The Tanjung Tokong Malay village is one of the oldest traditional seaside Malay villages left on Penang Island, complete with mosque and cemetery. Some of the houses date back to the early 20th century. Characterized by its unique location by the Tanjung Tokong shore, it was originally made up of two villages, one on the hill slope and another village called Kampung Telaga Air. The site is endangered because of a redevelopment proposal by UDA.

Runnymede, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah (Northam Road)

Before the Second World War the Runnymede Hotel on Northam Road was considered one of only two deluxe hotels in Penang. Its imposing seafront wing was built in the 1930s and in 1938 it boasted 70 sea-view rooms compared to 71 at the rival Eastern & Oriental Hotel. A large ball-room opens out to lawns.

Established at the turn of the 20th century the hotel took its name from “Runnymede”, the two-storey house on the property that was occupied by Thomas Stamford Raffles and his wife Olivia during their stay in Penang 1805-1811. Although badly damaged by fire in 1921 the original Raffles house has survived largely intact. After the Second World War the Runnymede was used by the British Forces as an officers’ mess and transit centre and later served as headquarters of the Malaysian 2nd Infantry Division. Although now derelict and in a general state of decay since the departure of 2 Division to facilities near the airport, the Runnymede owes its preservation so far to the fact of its long post-war occupation by both the British and Malaysian military. Both the seafront wing of the hotel and of course the early 19th century Raffles house are deserving of restoration as significant heritage buildings of local, national and regional significance.

HERITAGE PARODIES

Since **Hardwicke** was dwarfed by the construction of Northam Tower and **Asdang House (Hotel Metropole)** was illegally demolished to be replaced by a towering condo block bearing a replica façade of the historic stately home, certain property developers seem to be competing for the dubious honour of creating the worst parody of heritage conservation. Below are the most egregious examples.

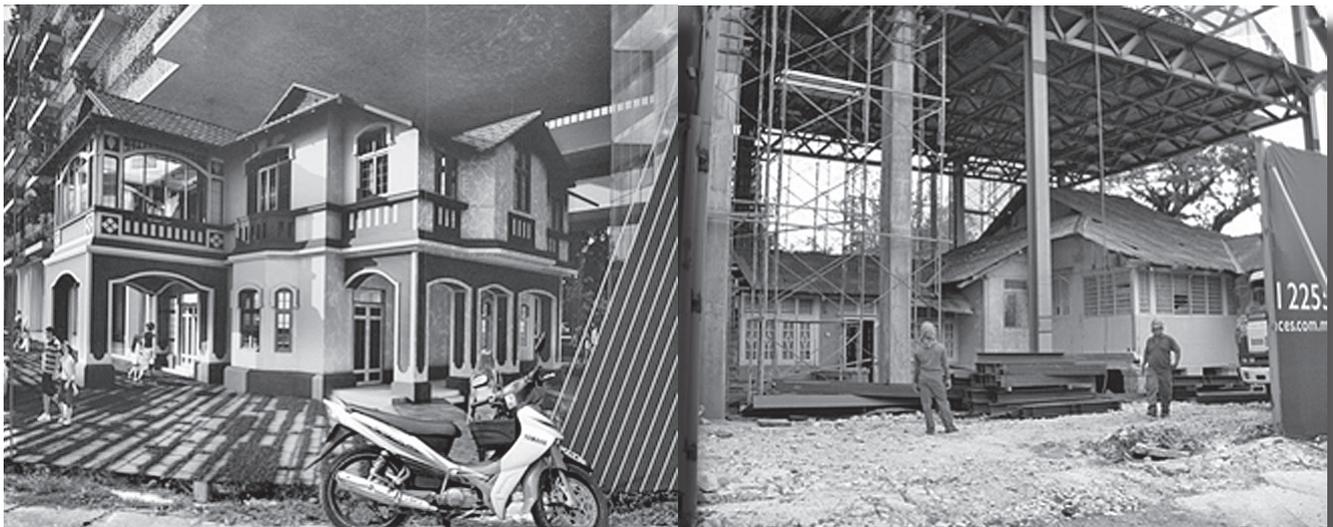
St Joseph’s Novitiate



Dating from 1924 this beautiful building is slowly being engulfed by overweening towers of concrete and glass. Once the training establishment of the La Salle Brothers who devoted their lives to the education of generations of young Malaysians and later, for over twenty years, home to Uplands School, now it suffers the added ignominy of being labelled “St Jo’s” in blatant disregard for the religious significance of its historic name.

Siamese Heritage Houses in Burmah Lane

Promotional poster (left) and reality (right)



PENANG'S CORNICHE

Sir,

How about starting to think of the beautiful but overcrowded coastal road to Batu Ferringhi as a **corniche** to be preserved for its natural beauty and touristic value. It is a gold mine for Penang's future. A road where cars and buses drive slowly to take in the picturesque small beaches below, the sunsets and new vistas of the hills and the sea at every turn. A road which is a joy to behold, where bicycles know their rights and are respected, a corniche that will become famous by itself, like those in Monaco and Nice in France, simply by stopping the road widening and by prohibiting any building on the seashore.

We should demand that the developers of all those highrises invest a few billion in a fast but invisible road for daily traffic between Mount Erskine and Batu Ferringhi. Invisible because it would tunnel under the hills and follow a straight line with only a few exits to the existing clusters of highrise complexes. Yes, tunnels are expensive but so are those hundreds of condos that must contribute to easing the traffic, not worsen it. Preserve the existing seaside road for tourism and biking and make a radical new tunnelled road direct to Batu Ferringhi for daily through traffic.

Go Under not Over the Hills

Switzerland, France and Italy have miles and miles of tunnels and their mountains are much higher than Penang's hills. Learn from their experience. The present situation is untenable. The seaside road cannot cope and there is no real alternative. Developers are making a fortune out of selling condos. Instead of a parallel inland highway that will cut more ugly gashes in Penang's beautiful hillsides, risking more landslides and tempting more building, a tunnelled road would help preserve what remains of Penang's seacoast legacy.

Reduce the time it takes to reach Batu Ferringhi and let the developers pay for it. Save the beach road, there is only one of its kind, put a toll on it, reduce the speed limit, give it a real bicycle lane. It could be called the Penang Corniche, or named after whoever has the vision to make it happen and the courage to call the bluff of those who now rape the hills and destroy the beaches.

Annelies Allain
Tanjung Bunga Residents Association (TBRA)



<http://prosvet-my.livejournal.com/144484.html>

NOTICE

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Reminder for membership renewal with increase in subscription for 2013:

Admission: RM50

Annual subscription: RM60

Overseas postal surcharge:

RM14 annually for Asia, Australia, New Zealand

RM24 annually for rest of the world

Enquiries: phtrust@streamyx.com

Tel: +604- 264 2631

Please send cheque or visit

Penang Heritage Trust

26 Church Street

City of George Town, 10200 Penang

13 October 2012

Sir,

I found the Penang Heritage Trust site and am writing to give my support to PHT in its efforts to protect Penang from developers and misguided government policies.

I grew up in Penang and now live in London, but I always come back to Penang with my mother at least once a year. One thing that has saddened me is the destruction of Gurney Drive and how the reclamation by Tanjong Tokong has reduced Gurney Drive into mostly mudflat. In July when I was in Penang I learnt about the development of Tanjong Bungah, along the hillside. I am definitely against more development of Tanjong Bungah as it is creating so much pressure on the infrastructure.

I am not against progress and want Penang to do well and have a successful economy, but development should be done sympathetically and sustainably. I am delighted that Penang has received UNESCO Heritage status, which I hope will ensure protection of the island.

Yours sincerely
Siu Fun Hui
London SW1
England

30 November 2012

Greetings,

I am descended from James Scott, George Scott and John Allan all of whom resided in Penang back in the early days of European settlement.

I would love to find out more about anyone connected with your organisation who is interested in these families or has researched them.

We thank you for your restoration work on some of these families graves at the cemetery at George Town.

I will be travelling to Penang later next year and would love to have contact with any relevant historians.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Diana
Diana Pepper
Leederville
Australia

30 November 2012

“RUNNYMEDE” – HERITAGE HOTEL & RAFFLES HOUSE

Sir,

I applaud PHT's decision to include the Runnymede in its 2012 List of Penang's Most Important Endangered Heritage Sites. I fear, however, that time is running out if we are to save this important site for future generations of Penangites and Malaysians.

Before the Second World War the Runnymede Hotel was one of only two de luxe hotels in Penang, both situated on the coast and close to George Town. Ironically, the Runnymede owes its survival to the fact that that it was requisitioned by the British forces and later occupied by the Malaysian army. Unfortunately, since the departure of the Malaysian army for more suitable facilities the current owners appear to have deliberately allowed the hotel building with its spacious seafront rooms, magnificent ballroom and swimming pool to deteriorate lamentably.

As important as the old hotel itself, if not more so, is the derelict house to the east of the main hotel wing. This is the original “Runnymede” rented in 1805 by Stamford Raffles and his wife Olivia as their home while awaiting the construction of their house on Mount Olivia. Although damaged by fire in the early years of the 20th century and with slight interior modifications to suit the needs of the commander of the Malaysian 2nd Infantry Division, whose official residence it was, this house and the hotel should be protected and restored as major Malaysian historic buildings. Although some may mistakenly think that “colonial” buildings do not merit conservation, we cannot rewrite history and ignore this significant part of our heritage.

I am writing because there are credible rumours circulating to the effect that the current owners are planning soon to demolish the Runnymede buildings with a view to “developing” the site. They may do so perhaps believing that the property is immune from state heritage controls because it lies outside the World Heritage core and buffer zones or because it was owned by the federal government. I hope that PHT will take the lead in urging the authorities to prevent the destruction of these important buildings.

Sincerely,
Kok Pow Lin

Editor's Note: Below see 1930s post card of the Runnymede as viewed from the sea.

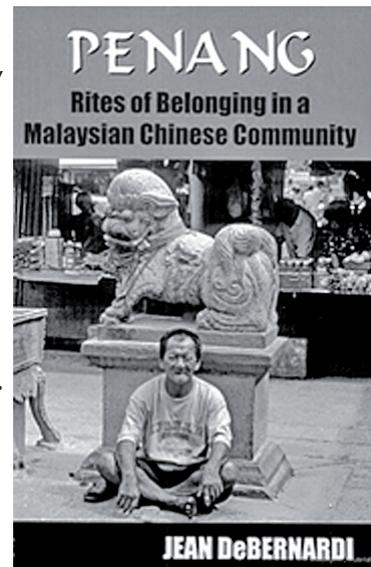


post card courtesy L.A.K.James

Penang: Rites of Belonging in a Malaysian Chinese Community

By Jean DeBernardi, NUS Press, Singapore, 2009.

The special character of Penang and its people attracts and intrigues many visitors. Few outsiders, however, may be aware of how significant the uniqueness of the Penang Hokkien community is in making Penang such a special place. University of Alberta anthropologist Jean DeBernardi's study of the Penang Hokkien community provides a lively and very readable account of the influences that have contributed to the Penang Hokkien community's uniqueness, making it distinct even from other Hokkien communities in China, Taiwan and elsewhere in Southeast Asia. The distribution in Malaysia of this masterful study of the Chinese of Penang is long overdue. First published by Stanford University Press in 2004, it was finally made available in Malaysia by NUS Press of the National University of Singapore.



A speaker of both Mandarin and Hokkien, DeBernardi observes that “a sense of belonging in the idiom of the sacred is deeply rooted in the historical experiences of the Penang Chinese.” She discusses these historical experiences with reference to two broad periods, the colonial and the postcolonial, noting that traditions were not simply transmitted from generation to generation but were also adapted in response to the prevailing historical context. DeBernardi takes issue with the interpretations of colonial era scholars such as Vaughan and Purcell who regarded the Penang Chinese as rooted in the past. From the very beginning, she observes, the Penang Chinese have “engaged in an ongoing dialogue with ethnic others”. The first part of DeBernardi's book explores the implicit and sometimes explicit competition for societal control between the Penang Chinese and the colonial authorities. The interesting role of James Richardson Logan in promoting accommodation in this competition in the mid-19th century is discussed in detail. In the second part of her study, DeBernardi examines how Penang Hokkien culture has endured in the face of postcolonial (Malay-based) nationalism, multiculturalism, and modernization. The more recent effects of urbanization, industrialization and globalization along with demographic trends remain to be assessed. An appendix at the end of the book, however, provides an revealing comparison of how Chinese festivals celebrated in Penang have grown in number and character between 1857 and the present day.

For those active in the promotion and conservation of Penang's heritage, now embodied in the universal values of George Town's UNESCO World Heritage inscription, Jean DeBernardi's book is essential reading. **Rites of Belonging** is not a dry anthropology textbook but an informative handbook on the Penang Hokkien community and its historical significance for Penang's special identity.

By Leslie A.K. James

Goddess of Mercy Temple



photography by Vanessa



SIAMESE HERITAGE CELEBRATION

This year, PHT celebrated the 4th anniversary of George Town World Heritage Day by co-organizing several programmes with George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI).

The first programme recognized Penang’s ethnic **Siamese community** and the long historical ties between Penang and Thailand, a project initiated by PHT council member Clement Liang. On 6th July PHT and the Royal Thai Consulate-General hosted a full-house evening talk by three historians from Thailand and Malaysia at the House of Yeap Chor Ee. The discussion shed light on the forgotten sojourns of Thai princes and politicians in Penang as well as the successive Thai royal visits (from King Rama V to the current King Rama IX) to the island. Professor Tengku Sepora, a descendant of Ku Din Ku Meh, elaborated her ancestor’s role in the geopolitical transformation in Siam and northern Malaya.

On 8th July, a ceremony took place at Wat Pinbang Onn in Green Lane to unveil a memorial plaque to commemorate **Phraya Manopakorn Nititada**, the first Thai Prime Minister, who died in exile in Penang in 1948. Attended by his granddaughter, Thai consulate officials and local dignitaries, the solemn ceremony and emotional speeches testified the unique role of Penang as an historic place of asylum. The plaque designed by PHT documents the history of Manopakorn in Thai, English, Malay and Chinese.

In the evening, GTWHI and PHT, with the support of the Cheah Trust and local residents, organized an open-air event aptly named “**One Night in Bangkok Lane**”, Penang’s first ever Thai-themed street party. Hundreds thronged the car-free street – surely one of George Town’s architecturally most beautiful -- sampling Thai hawker food and handicrafts and watching performances of traditional Thai dances, including the renowned “Menora”, a rare Thai temple dance found only in northern Malaysia and southern Thailand. This street party marked the end of the three-day World Heritage Day celebrations.

Wat Pinbang Onn, Green Lane



Bangkok Lane



<http://www.penang-traveltips.com/wat-pinbangonn.htm>

<http://bennytpix.blogspot.com/2011/04/burma-lane-george-town-penang.html>



SPECIAL HERITAGE TRAIL TOURS

On 7th July, PHT organized heritage trails for the public in connection with the World Heritage Day celebrations. The forever green **Street of Harmony Walk** was guided by PHT cultural guides Teresa Capol and Cumalle Ang. It was part of the opening event for the celebrations officiated by the Chief Minister of Penang. In the afternoon, we had our heritage trail **Mansions of Great Men**, a special guided tour of the homes of some of George Town’s most historic figures: the first Kapitan China of Penang, Koh Lay Huan; businessman and philanthropist Yeap Chor Ee; and Cheong Fatt Tze, the famous Blue Mansion, guided by Joann Khaw, Paul Gerarts and Cumalle Ang. We are very grateful for the support of Laurence Loh and Loh-Lim, Darryl Yeap and Rebecca Wilkinson for allowing us to visit these premises.

‘EARLY SECRET SOCIETIES’ TALK AND TOUR

On 8th July, PHT marked the last day of the World Heritage Day celebrations by organizing the **Early Secret Societies Trail** and presentation on an unexplored route of the early secret societies in Penang researched by council member Lim Gaik Siang. The walk received an overwhelming response with participants following a two-hour trail guided by Gaik Siang assisted by May Yeap Kam Moey (in Mandarin) and Joann Khaw (in English).

In the afternoon, a public talk entitled “The Early Secret Societies of George Town” specifically on the alliance between Malay and Chinese “secret societies” was presented by local historian Tan Kim Hong and Professor Mahani Musa of Universiti Sains Malaysia at the Town Hall on the Esplanade. The audience learnt about the Ghee Hin and Tua Pek Kong societies and the Red Flag and White Flag groups that ran the inner city of George Town. The talk attracted more than 100 people.

House Of Yeap Chor Ee

Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion



President's Message 2012

'Preserving our heritage for future generations'. It is a simple mission to enunciate but not so easy to carry out. Over the years, the Penang Heritage Trust has embraced an ever-widening scope of interests and championed an increasing number of heritage causes big and small. Now that there are many players on the culture, arts and heritage scene, the organisation needs to focus and consolidate its strengths. At the end of last year, we invited Peter Watts, the legendary director emeritus of the Historic Houses Trust, New South Wales, to spend a month in residence in Penang as our advisor. With his guidance, we held a visualisation workshop to think about restructuring our organisation and came to a consensus.

Our core business is **advocacy**, which includes education and awareness. Our support comes from our **membership** base. In order to be **financially sustainable** we conduct income-generating activities which complement our objectives. By improving our **governance** we ensure that we fulfil our mandate effectively and accountably.

Rebecca Duckett and Ben Wismen looked at our membership structure and convinced us that we should have a younger membership. Our goal is to achieve 1000 members by 2015, of which 30% should be below the age of 40. Accordingly we held an Emergency General Meeting in April to revise our membership structure. As soon the Registrar of Societies approves the amendments to the constitution we intend to embark on a membership campaign to recruit more youths.

We have reached out to potential members through fundraising event such as the Loke Villa private house visit on World Heritage Day, and Strawwalde's exhibition at the Gehrig Gallery. We organised a series of talks by diverse personalities, UN Assistant Secretary-General Judy Cheng (who is now a PHT member), Professor Lynn Hollen Lees of Pennsylvania University, the Parsons-trained communication designer Sali Sasaki and the Australian-Malaysian chef Tony Tan.

Penang Heritage Trust joined Penang Forum to protest unrestrained hill-slope development, to reject the hyper-dense 87 units per acre formula, and to call for a moratorium on the demolition of heritage buildings outside the World Heritage Site. Loh-Lim and Laurence Loh have played a leading role in this advocacy. Experience has taught us that each time we have a heritage alert we tend to address the symptoms instead of diagnosing the syndrome or tackling the disease. So we decided to explore new strategies in our advocacy.

Through councillor Dr. Lim Mah Hui's initiative, the Municipal Council of Penang Island (MPPP) has agreed to hold dialogues with Penang Heritage Trust to bring up systemic issues affecting heritage and to make recommendations for mainstreaming heritage management. We have had two dialogues so far, and the outcomes are most encouraging. Our Honorary Treasurer Lim Gaik Siang is now representing Penang Heritage Trust on MPPP's Technical Review Panel which assesses planning and building applications with the objective of safeguarding heritage and ensuring good design.

We are deeply concerned that we are losing our **kampung warisan** or 'heritage villages' in Penang state, and especially on the island. Our vice-president Dato' Dr. Razha and our Muslim advisor Dr. Wazir Karim are championing the gravely endangered Tanjong Tokong. We met up with Janaton's descendants and the relevant interest groups championing Batu Uban which is gradually encroached upon by surrounding high-rises. And we are now on a fact-finding mission in relation to Balik Pulau, as its idyllic setting is encroached by new suburban developments. In response to this dire situation, we are bringing together various parties to meet with the authorities.

In identifying heritage, we often select items to fit into existing typologies (for example, shophouses, bungalows, forts) and categories (for example, monuments, buildings, archaeological sites, un-

derwater heritage). Those items which do not fall into existing typologies and categories will be 'invisible' to planners and therefore the authorities may neglect to protect them until it is too late. We are losing our **Jawi Peranakan** houses because the typology has not been properly researched, defined, developed and promoted. As for kampung warisan, I have drafted the following definition for discussion and proposed future inclusion in our heritage legislation:

Heritage villages (kampung warisan) are clusters of traditional dwellings, including their setting, open spaces, trees and any related communal, service or ancillary buildings therein, which represent the social history of particular ethnic, indigenous or hybrid communities. The spatial character of heritage villages depicts their rural or suburban beginnings, even though they may have since been subsumed by urban expansion.

Penang Heritage Trust and Think City are partners in continuing the Penang Story lecture series and the Penang and the Indian Ocean focus. Our commemoration of the legacy of Dr. Wu Lien Teh, 'a Penang hero who modernised medicine in China', has led to the founding of the Dr. Wu Lien-teh Society, on 14 October 2012, with Dato' Anwar Fazal as pro tem president. The visit by Professor Sugata Bose of Harvard University and his mother, former Indian Member of Parliament Krishna Bose, has strategically renewed Penang's historical links with Calcutta. Our Honorary Secretary Clement Liang has helped to identify the Thai community's heritage in Penang, to establish the German Heritage Trail, and to remember the Japanese Occupation.

Our heritage alerts are usually passed on to George Town World Heritage Incorporated which helps to mediate between private owners, NGOs, MPPP and other statutory bodies to achieve desired heritage outcomes. This year, GTWHI has initiated a major project on Revitalizing Intangible Cultural Heritage (acronym RICH) in the George Town World Heritage Site. Penang Heritage Trust is heavily involved in supporting the survey of traditional trades, traditional crafts and traditional arts. In the process, we have recruited and trained many young people as cultural surveyors, initiating them in the experience of heritage investigation.

When George Town functioned as the capital of Penang, a large percentage of the population lived in shophouses in town. Even those who lived outside the city centre would regularly come downtown to shop and pay their government bills, as well as visit their friends and relatives staying in shophouses. The older generation tend to assume that familiarity with local place-names, walking along five-footways, stopping at a sundry shop or coffeeshop, shopping along Campbell Street, or going to a cinema on Penang Road are all part of the common Penang experience. However, most Penang youth who have more recently grown up in the suburbs and satellite towns no longer share this local knowledge and social memory. By involving young people in the investigation of our intangible cultural heritage, by encouraging them to communicate with long-time residents and shopkeepers, we have the opportunity to expose them to our common heritage.

We believe that heritage is important as a cultural resource for future generations. As part of 'preserving our heritage for future generations' we have to learn to transmit our social memory and cultural values more effectively to the younger generation. Only in this way can we nurture future leaders and champions of heritage. With this, we hope that all of you will go all out to help us to recruit your friends, family members and relatives and also their children as PHT members in order to revitalize our movement with a youthful membership, for it is they who will ultimately secure a future for our heritage.

Khoo Salma Nasution
President, Penang Heritage Trust

TONY TAN'S TALK ON PERANAKAN CUISINE



Tony Tan

On 14th August, **Tony Tan** delivered a talk as one of PHT 25th anniversary fundraising events. Tony Tan is one of Australia's most respected culinary teachers and chefs specialising in Chinese, Nyonya, Indonesian, Korean, Japanese, Thai, Vietnamese, Indian, Singaporean, Malaysian and cross-cultural cooking. Trained at La Varenne in France and at Leith's School of Food and Wine in England, he has owned and cooked at Shakahari Restaurant in Melbourne and Tatlers Café in Sydney. Although the talk took place during Ramadan, it successfully attracted 40 paying guests. We wish to thank China House for providing the space for this fund-raising event.



SALI SASAKI'S WORKSHOP & TALK

Together with GTWHI, PHT invited **Sali Sasaki**, a communication designer and researcher in design, to come to George Town. She is familiar with George Town as well as Kuala Lumpur and aspects of the local design field and creative industries. Sali Sasaki was in Penang for four days in August to explore the role of design in sustaining heritage in the George Town World Heritage Site. She gave a public lecture and also conducted a workshop that helped to build capacity among local craft designers, heritage practitioners, cultural programmers, cultural entrepreneurs, researchers and facilitators, and also look at the local crafts markets and cultural enterprises.

Sali Sasaki



photography by Vanessa



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