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Press Release

Rivertales - Splashing with History!
***The Singapore History Museum presents its' first exhibition at
Riverside Point***

Fishermen made a living along the Singapore River. Sir Stamford Raffles landed at its mouth. Its waters kept trade bustling and alive. Its banks were a beehive of activity, European traders mulled over merchandise with their Chinese counterparts, bullock carts laden with goods lumbered along the roads. It became eerily quiet during the Japanese Occupation and witnessed the modernisation of Singapore.

Explore the ups and downs of Singapore's history, from ancient times, to the founding of modern Singapore till today, with the Singapore History Museum's first exhibition at Riverside Point, *Rivertales!*

The Singapore River is the cradle of our nation's history and has been for a long time, the pulse of Singapore's economy. *Rivertales* explores the history of Singapore through the development around the Singapore River.

The Museum hopes to engage visitors, particularly teenagers, through a new approach to history – where there is humour, interactivity and mystery. Seven of the dioramas, previously housed in the Stamford Road building and the Singapore Stone will also be presented in this new exhibition, along with other artefacts.

A special interactive mystery game has been incorporated into the exhibition to make history-learning fun and exciting for teenage students. Students who visit the museum in groups, would assume roles as "detectives" to solve a mystery revolving around a skull dredged up from the Singapore River. The Children's Discovery Gallery, designed for children aged 7-12 years old and the Museum Shop will also be presented at Riverside Point in a refreshing way.

Another highlight of this exhibition is the short film, *The Old Man and the River*, directed by talented, award-winning local film-maker, Royston Tan. Commissioned by the Museum, this 12-minute short film brings visitors a painterly view of the river-scape through the Hokkien narration of 77-year-old road sweeper, Chia Tiong Guan.

This is the first exhibition by the Singapore History Museum since the closure of the 115-year-old Stamford Road building in April this year. *Rivertales* will be officially open to the public on 30th August 2003 at the museum's temporary location at Riverside Point.

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