



NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Heritage In Focus

2017
2018





Xiangqi (Chinese Chess) players near Chinatown Complex



Mobile ice cream vendor along the Singapore River

Our SG Heritage Plan Heritage in Focus

Our SG Heritage Plan was officially launched by Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Grace Fu on 7 April 2018 at the *Singapore Heritage Festival 2018* at Jurong Town Hall. The launch followed two years of engagement and consultations with National Heritage Board's (NHB) partners, stakeholders and members of the public, to review our achievements; identify areas of improvement; and seek feedback through interviews, focus groups and public engagement. Together, we worked to co-develop forward-looking strategies and initiatives for the future of Singapore's heritage and museum sector.

As the first master plan for the sector, *Our SG Heritage Plan* sets forth NHB's vision for a culturally vibrant nation through four pillars: *Our Places*, which refer to the preservation and appreciation of Singapore's historic buildings, structures, sites and precincts; *Our Cultures*, which celebrate our intangible cultural heritage; *Our Treasures*, which refer to the artworks and artefacts in our National Collection, and the museums and institutions that house them; and *Our Communities*, which encompass the groups and individuals who promote and celebrate Singapore's heritage.

Our SG Heritage Plan gives a broad overview of the current situation, takes stock of what has already been done, and outlines the way forward. For us at NHB, the plan is a demonstration of our commitment to, and aspirations for, the heritage and museum sector. Implemented over the next five years (2018 to 2022), environmental changes, unforeseen circumstances and other challenges will mean that tweaks and refinements will be made. The launch of the plan, therefore, is just the beginning of the work that has to be done.

Our SG Heritage Plan brings our heritage into focus, which is the theme of this year's Annual Report. Our shared heritage is a legacy that we have been entrusted with, and we have a duty as stewards to value and celebrate it to the best of our ability. The plan is a means to achieve this, with clearly defined goals and objectives. It sharpens our resolve, and zeroes in on what is necessary and important to achieve our mission and vision as NHB.

Our Vision » Pride in Our Past, Legacy for Our Future

Our Mission » To Preserve and Celebrate Our Shared Heritage



A hawker preparing meals at one of the over 110 hawker centres located in Singapore

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

“Hence, the cultural “investment” that *Our SG Heritage Plan* is making, through the unrolling of its different strategies and initiatives, is critical to ensure that our rich and diverse legacy is protected for future generations.”

Our Places, Our Cultures, Our Treasures and Our Communities – these are the four pillars of *Our SG Heritage Plan*, which will guide the work of Singapore's heritage and museum sector over the next five years. This plan is the result of much hard work including dialogues and consultations with fellow Singaporeans. It represents a major milestone in our heritage journey. Being the first master plan of its kind. It unifies different agencies, groups and communities to work together towards a single goal: securing the future of our heritage for the generations that will come after us.

In my time as Chairman to NHB, seeing the plan come to fruition has been one of my proudest and most memorable moments. It was that we had a clear heritage plan for our future. Amidst today's increasingly complex and divided world, the plan demonstrates how heritage can be a unifying force in challenging and polarising times. It is also important to plan ahead and make wise decisions about the resources that we have. Hence, the cultural “investment” that *Our SG Heritage Plan* is making, through the unrolling of its different strategies and initiatives, is critical to ensure that our rich and diverse legacy is protected for future generations.

This will be my last message as Chairman of NHB as I am stepping down after seven fulfilling years. I am proud of what we have managed to achieve together, and honoured to have been able to play a part in the momentous events that NHB has been involved in.

The past few years have seen a remarkable surge in interest in heritage matters, the rapid growth

of technology in the heritage sector, and several watershed moments in our journey as a nation, including SG50 in 2015. I feel privileged to have been part of the NHB team through all of this. Most of all, I am very happy to have been able to work with the great team at NHB; you will be hard-pressed to find a more passionate, dedicated group of people than you will in the NHB family.

I know that I will be leaving NHB in the very good hands of Ms Yeoh Chee Yan. She is very familiar with our work, as the former Permanent Secretary for MCCY, and her experience and intimate knowledge of both the public service and the cultural sector will certainly enhance NHB's role as heritage custodian.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to my fellow board members, our partners, patrons, docents, volunteers and staff. You have enriched my time with NHB greatly, and I am humbled by your passion and commitment to our mission and vision. I am confident that NHB will continue to grow from strength to strength as the work continues, with fellow Singaporeans, to secure a legacy for our future. You can be certain of my unwavering support.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes.

MR ONG YEW HUAT
CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

Our SG Heritage Plan brings together areas we have done well in, so we can build on these, while identifying gaps we can plug, to deepen the impact of our work. To put it simply, *Our SG Heritage Plan* helps sharpen our focus on Singapore's heritage, and provides a clear roadmap for its future.



Our SG Heritage Plan Travelling Exhibition @ Toa Payoh Hub

This is my first message as Chief Executive of NHB, and while I am familiar with NHB's work, having served on the board from 2009 to 2015, it is quite a different experience working every day in the thick of the action. I have been impressed by the attitude and commitment of my colleagues as we work together to reach our goals for the heritage sector.

While *Our SG Heritage Plan* was launched on 7 April 2018, the work actually started two years ago. Many have asked us, why the need for a plan, and why now? I think the answer is clear when we consider the rapid pace at which the heritage sector has grown in the past few years, and the increasing interest Singaporeans have shown in our museums and heritage.

Our SG Heritage Plan brings together areas we have done well in, so we can build on these, while identifying gaps we can plug, to deepen the impact of our work. To put it simply, *Our SG Heritage Plan* helps sharpen our focus on Singapore's heritage, and provides a clear roadmap for its future. For this reason, we thought it only apt that this year's Annual Report should be centred on the plan.

Under *Our Cultures* in the plan, NHB, together with the National Environment Agency and the Federation of Merchants' Associations, Singapore announced the good news of the nomination of our beloved Hawker Culture for UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. There are few things that bring Singaporeans together like our food, and we hope that this nomination will help bond Singaporeans over the celebration of our Hawker Culture. The results of the nomination will be known by end 2020, so this is only the start of a very exciting journey where Singaporeans will be called

upon to show their support for Hawker Culture. So please pledge your support at oursgheritage.sg!

Work on *Our Places*, *Our Treasures* and *Our Communities* also continues. In the past year, our museums and institutions – *Our Treasures* – continued to celebrate our Singapore story, and demonstrate our connections to the world. The Asian Civilisations Museum staged its largest exhibition to date, *Joseon Korea: Court Treasures and City Life*, which told the tale of Korea's last dynasty, one which had a profound influence on the modern Korea we know today. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore, the National Museum of Singapore staged a special international exhibition titled *Witness to War: Remembering 1942*, featuring artefacts from both our National Collection and our overseas museum partners. To celebrate the special relationship we share with Brunei, the Singapore Philatelic Museum presented *Abode of Peace & The Lion City: A Brunei-Singapore Exhibition*, which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Currency Interchangeability Agreement.

As for *Our Communities*, we received good news on the heritage education front, and I would like to congratulate the team behind the *Heritage Explorers Programme*, which won a *Best Practice Award* by the International Council of Museums International Committee for Education and Cultural Action! This follows the first award received for the *Singapore's Little Treasures* programme. Our heritage education programmes, coupled with our philanthropic initiative *HeritageCares*, along with the efforts across our museums and institutions, demonstrate our continued commitment to making heritage inclusive and accessible to all.

Work on *Our Places* went beyond preservation to ensuring necessary and crucial work is done behind-the scenes, such as the care and restoration of our National Monuments. The *National Monuments Fund* provides restoration and maintenance support for our National Monuments. This is important to ensure that these icons of our built heritage continue to stand the test of time. Promoting awareness of the spaces around us is also important and we have stepped up efforts with more heritage trails, such as the new *Tampines Heritage Trail* and *Our Tampines Gallery*. These initiatives are an indication of how we have grown in celebrating and honouring our built heritage.

I would like to express my thanks to Mr Ong Yew Huat for his seven years as Chairman of NHB. We will miss his wisdom and passion for our work, and his invaluable guidance and advice. He has contributed much to the heritage and culture sector in Singapore, and I am sure that his support will continue.

I would also like to welcome Ms Yeoh Chee Yan as our new Chairperson. I have had the opportunity to work and interact with Ms Yeoh over the years we have served in the government together. Ms Yeoh has a keen interest in culture and heritage, and was always very supportive of NHB in her time as Permanent Secretary for MCCY. As she moves even closer to our work as Chair of the board, I am looking forward to her leadership and guidance as we continue to advance NHB's mission and vision, through *Our SG Heritage Plan*.

 MS CHANG HWEE NEE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD



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Chairman,
National Heritage Board



Ms Chang Hwee Nee
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National University of Singapore;
Head
South Asian Studies Programme
National University of Singapore

Ms Wendy Ang
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National Archives of Singapore

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(As of 31 March 2018)





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Mr Yeo Kirk Siang
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A nation's memories will always be indelibly etched on its physical spaces; buildings, sites and structures that have witnessed great historical events, as well as the lives of men and women who lived through them. These places are markers of our identity, and beacons for our sense of belonging.

NHB works closely with other government agencies and stakeholders to properly honour *Our Places* — our built heritage. The safeguarding of our tangible heritage is carried out through the preservation, restoration and care for our National Monuments, alongside rigorous research and documentation. Heritage trails and their markers celebrate and give meaning to the spaces around us, reminding us of the importance of passing on these stories to those who come after us.

our^{/o1} places





NATIONAL MONUMENTS

National Monuments Fund

Maintenance Funding expanded in scope to provide greater support

Singapore's National Monuments require care and attention to keep them in a condition befitting their status. It is for this reason that the *National Monuments Fund* was created; to provide co-funding for the restoration and maintenance of National Monuments owned and managed by non-profit or religious organisations.

In FY2017, \$2.2 million was disbursed to 17 National Monuments. \$200,000 of this total amount was used to co-fund maintenance works. This is double the amount awarded under the *Maintenance Fund* last year, and reflects the growing awareness amongst monument owners of the importance of conducting regular maintenance works to restrain building deterioration. The *Maintenance Fund* was also further expanded in scope to include support for more types of maintenance works, such as the removal of vegetation close to the monument, and lightning protection.

Recipients of the fund for FY2017 included Abdul Gafoor Mosque, which was given close to \$500,000 for its restoration and maintenance works. These works included the structural investigation of its roof and pinnacles, repainting of the sunburst ornamentation adorned with the names of 25 Islamic prophets in elegant Arabic calligraphy on the pediment, and restoration of the stained-glass windows around the dome, among other items. Chesed-El Synagogue also received close to \$400,000 to conduct structural enhancements to its front canopies, including the repair of its ornate floral plasterwork and cornices.

National Monument Technical Guide Books

The care of our National Monuments presents a unique set of challenges and requirements, and the Preservation of Sites and Monuments division's (PSM) guide books share technical knowledge and general information with monument owners and stakeholders about how best to approach the preservation, repair, maintenance and management of these historic buildings and structures. Three titles have been published — *A Brief Guide for Owners and Occupiers of National Monuments*, *Painting National Monuments*, and *Signage for National Monuments* — and two more — *Leaded, Stained and Coloured Glass in National Monuments* and *Shanghai Plaster on National Monuments* — are planned.

Raffles Hotel Special Exhibition and Tour 1-12 Aug 2017

Raffles Hotel and PSM worked together to develop a specially curated exhibition, titled *A Last, Lingerin' Look at an Icon*, and guided tours of the historic building, offering members of the public and hotel guests a final look at the hotel ahead of its closure for the second phase of its restoration.

The tours, led by NHB's volunteer guides, were very well received and included visits to the Hall of Fame, and exclusive suites within the hotel which have housed many illustrious guests, such as writer Rudyard Kipling, actress Ava Gardner and Queen Elizabeth II. Visitors were also encouraged to pen their memories of Raffles Hotel on postcards.



New Episodes of Eye in the Sky — National Monuments

Three new episodes of the heritage documentary series, *Eye in the Sky*, were produced for our National Monuments. Using aerial drones, the unique architectural elements of the Armenian Church, Sri Thendayuthapani Temple and Sultan Mosque were featured. Besides offering viewers never-before-seen views of these religious buildings, the videos also introduce the history and significance of the different communities who built them. The new episodes can be viewed on NHB's heritage portal, *Roots.sg* and YouTube channel *HeritageTV*.





Hawker Centres' Heritage Boards

To enable the public to learn more about the heritage of our beloved hawker centres, NHB embarked on a joint project with the National Environment Agency to conduct research and develop heritage boards at 12 hawker centres. These were selected based on their historical and heritage value, key architectural features, and social significance to the estates in which they are located.

The boards provide information about the hawker centres' heritage, enhancing our knowledge of these community spaces that have become such an integral part of Singaporean life.

NHB’s 16th Heritage Trail —
Tampines Heritage Trail

Launched in September 2018, the *Tampines Heritage Trail* invites visitors to explore the historic boundaries of the Tampines district, which stretched from Punggol to Changi, as well as the bustling residential Tampines Town of today. The trail traces the district’s growth from a rural area into an award-winning residential town over the last two centuries through archival records and stories, contributed by past and present residents through an open call. One of the trail’s three bite-sized, thematic routes is the *Green Spaces* trail, which is NHB’s first cycling heritage trail, bringing cyclists to heritage and scenic locales in Tampines.



Tangible Heritage Survey
and Inventory

The Heritage Research and Assessment division commissioned the first nationwide *Tangible Heritage Survey* in 2015 to identify and document historic buildings, structures and sites of architectural, historical and cultural interests. The fieldwork for the survey was completed at the end of 2017, and the findings will enable plans for future needs to be made with heritage considerations in mind. The survey’s findings are progressively shared on NHB’s heritage portal, *Roots.sg*.





Every nation has its own traditions, customs and practices that are passed down through the generations. Our Cultures — our intangible cultural heritage — are strong statements of our identity; they define us and make us unique as a people.

This is the reason why our intangible cultural heritage must have a future. NHB spearheads various efforts to safeguard and promote the transmission of Singapore's intangible cultural heritage. This is done through research and documentation, culminating in the recently launched intangible cultural heritage inventory, and also at our museums and institutions through festivals and programmes. Our traditions, rituals, crafts, knowledge and skills are living and breathing, and must adapt to remain relevant to our lives, so that they can be practised, appreciated and celebrated for years to come.

our /02 cultures

Singapore's Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory
Launched in April 2017

The Heritage Research and Assessment division launched Singapore's very own inventory of diverse intangible cultural heritage elements that are present and practised in multicultural Singapore. Establishing the inventory is a major step for the safeguarding of Singapore's living heritage. Its goal is to document and make more information available on Singapore's intangible cultural heritage, and also to promote greater understanding and appreciation of our diverse cultures, traditions and practices.

In this inventory, the intangible cultural heritage elements are grouped into six categories: Oral Traditions and Expressions, Performing Arts, Social Practices, Rituals and Festive Events, Knowledge and Practices concerning Nature and Universe, Traditional Craftsmanship and Food Heritage.

Our intangible cultural heritage is dynamic, evolving and constantly being adapted in response to our changing environments and lifestyles. The inventory will grow as work continues to identify and document living traditions, and to add more intangible cultural heritage elements over time.





Heritage Institution Festivals

DEEPAVALI CELEBRATION 2017 **23 September—18 October 2017**

The Indian Heritage Centre's (IHC) *Deepavali Celebration 2017* was themed *Vanishing Traditions of Deepavali*, and it aimed to foster a greater appreciation of traditional Indian practices during the festival of lights.

Workshops included *Tanjore* painting, flower garland making, *Rangoli* art, and Indian folk percussion, along with cooking demonstrations. These programmes provided an engaging experience on traditional Indian customs and practices for visitors.

INDIAN HERITAGE CENTRE **CULTUREFEST 2017** **6—16 December 2017**

IHC's third annual *CultureFest* celebrated the diversity of Indian culture, arts and heritage with the theme *Rasa*, a word that refers to aesthetic essence. *CultureFest 2017* focused on craft traditions from the Indian subcontinent, an integral part of the Indian community's diverse intangible cultural heritage.

Featuring interactive contemporary and traditional programmes such as craft

workshops, lectures, talks, traditional cultural performances and Little India heritage trails, *CultureFest 2017* opened with a live *Jugalbandhi* orchestra and a combination of *Kathak* and *Bharatanatyam* dances that provided an immersive multi-sensory experience.

15 master craftspeople from India were also brought to IHC to conduct demonstrations of their areas of expertise, which include calligraphy, leather work, painting, paper-cutting and embroidery. These crafts contribute to the rich material heritage of Singapore's diverse Indian communities, and both *CultureFest 2017* and the special exhibition, *Symbols and Scripts: The Language of Craft*, emphasised the importance of the safeguarding and transmission of these traditions for future generations.

PONGAL CELEBRATION 2018 **6—20 January 2018**

The Indian harvest festival, Pongal, was celebrated at IHC with a slew of programmes, which included traditional Indian folk performances, cooking master classes, and a *Kolam* competition. These engendered a greater understanding and appreciation of the festival, its harvest traditions, and Indian culture.



Heritage Institution Festivals

MALAY CULTUREFEST 2017 *13 to 28 October 2017*

In celebration of the richness and diversity of Malay culture and heritage, the Malay Heritage Centre (MHC) organised its annual *Malay CultureFest* with the theme of *Adat* (Traditions & Customs) in conjunction with the launch of the *Sirri na Pesse: Navigating Bugis Identities in Singapore* special exhibition. The festival explored the manifestations of *Adat* not only in customary practices and traditions, but also how they are understood in a contemporary context. Visitors were treated to a host of programmes, including a *silat* demonstration, a *Gendang* performance, trails led by the community, Bugis language workshops and lectures on Bugis identity and Architecture.

A highlight of *Malay CultureFest 2017* was also the sixth installation of *Lintas Nusantara*, an annual cross-cultural exchange between MHC and the Guntur Mataram Dance Company from Yogyakarta, Indonesia. This year's edition saw a spectacle of dance, music and martial arts from Singapore, while the Indonesian provinces of Riau, South Sulawesi and Yogyakarta performed to the year's theme of "*Lawan Memikat – Opposites Attract*".

Heritage Institution Festivals

WAN QING DUMPLING FESTIVAL
27–28 May 2017

The Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (SYSNMH) held its sixth annual *Wan Qing Dumpling Festival* in conjunction with the launch of SYSNMH’s special exhibition *Stitches of Love – Hidden Blessings in Children’s Clothing and Accessories*. The two-day festival celebrated the well-loved Chinese tradition of dumpling-making, alongside other programmes which included musical performances, pouch embroidery workshops, mini dragon boat racing, and special exhibition guided tours.

WAN QING MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL
26 September–15 October 2017

Featuring five larger-than-life lantern art installations of animals crafted out of cellophane that made for Instagram-worthy moments, SYSNMH celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival with a special weekend programme that included performances, mooncake and pomelo tasting, storytelling sessions, special guided tours, mooncake-making, and cellophane lantern workshops. The lantern art installations have become a

much-anticipated highlight for visitors to SYSNMH, and make this one of the institution’s most popular programmes.

WAN QING CULTUREFEST 2017
4–11 November 2017

Wan Qing CultureFest 2017 marked the second partnership between SYSNMH and the Promote Mandarin Council, and featured storytelling sessions, outdoor film screenings, cultural and language workshops, heritage trails and guided tours, traditional games, and concert performances – all designed to promote greater awareness and appreciation of Chinese arts, culture and heritage.

WAN QING FESTIVAL OF SPRING
6 February–5 March 2018

SYSNMH’s annual *Wan Qing Festival of Spring* celebrations brought visitors of different ethnic groups and cultural backgrounds together to celebrate the Chinese New Year. A highlight was *Canines Celebrate!*, an installation of eight dog sculptures covered with decorative designs, inspired by the Chinese folk art of paper-cutting and featuring common Peranakan objects such as a wall tile, a tiffin carrier, a *kerosang* and a *sarong kebaya*.



Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth Mr Baey Yam Keng at the annual Wan Qing Dumpling Festival





Clockwise from top left: Malraux Seminar 2018, ‘Designing an Engaging and Meaningful Heritage Gallery in Schools’ Workshop and Culture Academy Leadership Programme 2017



‘Reviving and Revitalising Cities and Spaces Through Arts and Culture’ Conference 2017

Grooming The Next Generation Of Cultural Leaders

The Culture Academy Singapore (CA) was established in 2015 by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) to be a centre of excellence for the development of culture professionals and administrators in Singapore’s public sector. The Academy’s work spans three broad areas: education and capability development; research and scholarship and promoting thought leadership in our arts and culture sector.

In FY 2017, 1,200 people attended professional development workshops and leadership programmes, curatorial talks, a *Plug-in* session and thought leadership conferences. CA’s reached was boosted further though the annual journal *Cultural Connections*.

Education and Capability Development

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

As part of the *Professional Development Workshop* series, CA collaborated with Museums Victoria to co-create a workshop on “Designing Engaging Exhibitions”, which covered exhibition design techniques from writing story boards, to designing programmes and exhibitions for various age groups and people with special needs.

CA also developed a workshop for the Ministry of Education’s Heritage Centre on “Designing an Engaging and Meaningful Heritage Gallery in Schools”, which expounded the whys, whats and hows of designing an engaging heritage gallery or corner in their schools.

CULTURAL ACADEMY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

CA staged its inaugural run of the *Culture Academy Leadership Programme*, aimed at grooming middle managers in cultural institutions to move to the next level in their careers, and to build camaraderie and a common ethos among leaders in the sector. The programme included a 3-day overseas component to Yogyakarta and Jakarta to broaden participants’ view on culture, and to appreciate the soft power of culture in strengthening bilateral relations.

REGULAR PROGRAMMES

CA continued to cater to the intellectual and professional development needs of the sector through regular offerings such as *Plug-in*, CA’s networking session, hosted by The Esplanade. Ms Grace Low, Head of Community Engagement at The Esplanade, shared about their

approach to reaching out to the underserved.

CA’s monthly Curatorial Talks featured curators from the MCCY family of institutions, who spoke about their curatorial research and ideas.

Research and Scholarship

CA published the second issue of annual journal *Cultural Connections*, to promote thought leadership in cultural work in the public sector. This issue looked at the role of arts and culture in making cities liveable, and featured articles by diplomats, academics, and professionals from MCCY institutions.

In 2017, CA started a knowledge repository to build up a bank of case studies from the arts and culture sector that document experiences and knowledge gained, which future generations of culture leaders can learn from. CA worked with the Civil

Service College to conduct a workshop to equip 16 officers from the MCCY family of institutions with the skill of case writing. The case studies written by these officers have been used as learning and resource materials for our leadership programme and will be available for researchers of cultural policies and other related cultural projects.

Thought Leadership

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

CA’s second international thought leadership conference on “Reviving and Revitalising Cities and Spaces through Arts and Culture” was held on 7 December 2017 and attracted 260 participants. Renowned speakers included Mr Douglas Gautier, Chief Executive Officer and Artistic Director of the Adelaide Festival Centre who delivered the keynote on the roles and responsibilities of arts

and cultural institutions in creating a multicultural and creative city, and Mr Joe Sidek, Festival Director of the George Town Festival who shared about how place-making through arts and culture has brought about a stronger sense of belonging and identity among the locals.

CA also jointly organised the *Malraux Seminar 2018* with the French Ministry of Culture, MCCY and the Embassy of France – Institut Français Singapore. The seminar featured both French and Singaporean speakers, and was themed “Cultural Innovation in the 21st Century –Staying Relevant, Creating Value and Embracing Everyone”.



our^{/03} treasures

The word “treasure” is defined as “something of great worth or value”, and “a collection of precious things”. We call our museums, heritage institutions and the collections within them Our Treasures, because these places and artefacts are very important to us. More than just objects, they are imbued with stories of our culture, our heritage, and how Singapore came to be.

Besides being a link to our past, they also play a vital role for our future. They help us navigate an increasingly complex global environment by acting as anchors for our identity, and serve as a source of inspiration and pride to spur us onward. Here at the NHB, it is our duty and our privilege to be the custodian of these treasures, making sure that they are well taken care of, and are inclusive and accessible to all.

Javanese-style gold jewellery discovered at Bukit Larangan (Fort Canning Hill)
Circa 14th century. Collection of National Museum of Singapore.

Asian Civilisations Museum

JOSEON KOREA:
COURT TREASURES AND CITY LIFE
22 April – 23 July 2017

Joseon Korea: Court Treasures and City Life was a tour through 500 years of Korea’s last dynasty the Joseon (1392 to 1897) — a period that shaped modern

Korea. This exquisite showcase featured more than 150 treasures from the National Museum of Korea and National Palace Museum of Korea that depict different facets of the vibrant Joseon era, highlighting its royal and religious patronage, life in the courts of power, as well as the everyday lives of the people.

The exhibition included a contemporary interpretation of traditional Korean cultural motifs by award-winning South Korean artist Ran Hwang. *Becoming Again; Coming Together* at the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) was Ran’s largest mixed-media installation to date.



Asian Civilisations Museum

GHOST NETS OF THE OCEAN –
AU KAREM IRA LAMAR LU
1 June–14 August 2017

Ghost Nets of the Ocean was jointly undertaken by Australian Arts Centre–Erub Arts and ACM, and supported by the Australian Government and NHB. It was one of the first collaborations between both countries assisted by the Australia Singapore Arts Group, established under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and Singapore. The exhibition transformed abandoned fishing nets, called “ghost nets”, into a marine-themed art installation that provoked reflection on human impact on the environment.

The exhibition’s outreach included partnerships with eight schools (Torres Strait schools, and local, international, and special needs students from schools in Singapore). The students worked with Erub Arts and ACM to create *Tiny Turtles*, an installation of over 700 handmade turtles using recycled plastic ocean debris on the ACM Green.



Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Ms Grace Fu speaking to students at the *Ghost Nets of the Ocean-Au Karem ira Lamar Lu* exhibition launch

Asian Civilisations Museum

ANCIENT RELIGIONS GALLERY
AND SINGAPORE RIVER GALLERY
From November 2017

FY2017 saw the opening of two new galleries at the ACM – the Ancient Religions Gallery and Singapore River Gallery– as part of its long-running revamp.

The new Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Gallery of Ancient Religions features the grand religions of India – Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism. The gallery displays over 200 masterpieces of

sculpture, painting, and ritual objects. The story traces the spread of these religions via trade routes from India to China, and on to Southeast Asia, and shows how artworks were changed and adapted to cater to different cultures.

The Singapore River Gallery, a new space at ACM overlooking the river, explores the history and development of the lifeblood of the city for the last 200

years. From busy port and go-downs to the vibrant cultural and dining destination of today, the story of the river is told through photographs and narratives. Visitors can gain an understanding of the early days of trade and commerce in Singapore, and learn how the area has changed over the years.



National Museum of Singapore

WITNESS TO WAR:
REMEMBERING 1942
23 September 2017–25 March 2018

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore, the National Museum of Singapore staged a special international exhibition titled *Witness to War: Remembering 1942*. It explored the complexities of the events that led to the Fall of Singapore, paying homage to the extraordinary courage and tenacity of the men and women who lived through those times. The exhibition featured artefacts from 10 overseas museums, including the

Australian War Memorial and the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, and examined how Singapore's fall was part of a wider campaign waged by the Japanese Empire across the Pacific. These overseas artefacts, many of which had never been displayed in Southeast Asia before, highlighted a shared regional history. The exhibition was complemented with an array of programmes that included film screenings, talks and guided tours. The *Student Archivist Project* was also launched to allow students to co-create exhibition content with the museum; six stories submitted by secondary and

tertiary students were exhibited at the exhibition. Also presented in conjunction with the exhibition, *After the Fall: Artworks by Angela Tiatia and Debbie Ding* reflected on how World War II in the Pacific is remembered, while *Exhibiting the Fall: Remembering and Representing War and its Aftermath in Asia* brought scholars and practitioners together to discuss the ways that Asia's violent mid-20th century history is understood and represented.



National Museum of Singapore

DIGIMUSE
From December 2017

The *DigiMuse* programme is an initiative by the National Museum, aimed at building a vibrant cultural sector that is invested in digital innovation. *DigiMuse* seeks to engage the wider digital-technology industry to encourage creative experimentation in cultural spaces. The programme invites artists, technologists and culture professionals to co-create digital projects that demonstrate the possibilities of integrating culture and technology.

National Museum of Singapore

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE –
130th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
13–15 October 2017

On Wednesday, 12 October 1887 at 5pm, the 14th Governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir Frederick Weld, ceremoniously opened the Raffles Library and Museum at Stamford Road. The museum was established to spur intellectual inquiry in the region, and was the first of its kind in Singapore. It has grown alongside the country, survived the Japanese Occupation and has transformed into a well-loved socio-historical and cultural institution. As the National Museum celebrated its 130th birthday, visitors were invited to discover its fascinating history, the building itself, its galleries and the people who keep it going, through art installations and guided tours by the museum's curators and docents.

Peranakan Museum

PERANAKAN GALLERY AT CHANGI AIRPORT TERMINAL 4
From 31 October 2017

The Peranakan Gallery is the first-ever collaboration between the Changi Airport Group and NHB. Designed and developed by the Peranakan Museum, the gallery lets travellers learn about the rich culture of the Peranakans, and their influence on contemporary local design.

Located in the Departure Transit area, the Peranakan Gallery is part of Terminal 4’s Heritage Zone, where travellers can see a model of a Peranakan shophouse, an antique wooden wedding bed, beautifully embroidered *sarong kebaya*, and Peranakan *nyonyaware* porcelain. There is also a contemporary reinterpretation of traditional Peranakan porcelain – *Spotted Nyonya* by Singaporean artist Hans Tan.



Singapore Philatelic Museum

PRECIOUS EGGS: OF ART, BEAUTY AND CULTURE
12 April–29 October 2017

For the very first time outside of Europe, a collection of 148 one-of-a-kind eggs, specially selected from the vaults of the Liechtenstein National Museum, were on show at the Singapore Philatelic Museum (SPM). The artistic creations, from the renowned *Adulf Peter Goop Collection*, told stories that reflected love, history, culture, art, faiths and traditions. Besides intricately decorated natural eggs, there were eggs crafted from precious and enamelled metals, marble, wood, and other materials. Also on show was a series of commissioned egg sculptures created by Liechtenstein’s leading artists.

To enhance the museum experience for visitors, SPM incorporated multimedia elements, and also organised special programmes, including an Easter Sunday ‘pysanka’, or traditional Ukrainian Easter egg demonstration, and a ‘Green Eggs & Ham’ participatory storytelling session.



Singapore Philatelic Museum

**ABODE OF PEACE & THE LION CITY:
A BRUNEI-SINGAPORE EXHIBITION**
6 July 2017–18 March 2018

The exhibition celebrated the deep-rooted friendship and diplomatic relations between Singapore and Brunei, and commemorated the 50th anniversary of the unique Currency Interchangeability Agreement. It showcased the political, economic and social development, cultures, and flora and fauna of the two countries, and was staged in both Singapore at SPM and in Brunei Darussalam at the Art Gallery.

The Singapore leg of the exhibition highlighted colourful, interesting and informative facets of the Brunei Sultanate, Brunei’s history, its ethnic communities, and world-renowned flora and fauna. Treasures from the Royal Regalia were also displayed for the first time in Asia, outside of Brunei. It was complemented by cultural performances and activities conducted by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam.

The Brunei leg of the exhibition enabled visitors to discover the unique city-state of Singapore that blends the East and the West, the old and the new, with nature right at the doorstep of our *City in a Garden*. Visitors could “enter” a Housing Development Board (HDB) flat, and experience the exciting Singaporean way of life, and ever-evolving “Singaporean” culture reflected in our cuisine, music and arts.



Singapore Philatelic Museum

ANIME X STAMPS
16 November 2017–13 May 2018

Anime X Stamps exhibition marked the centenary of Japanese anime. The colourful and immersive exhibition featured a comprehensive collection of over 900 stamps and philatelic materials from Japan and Singapore that depict anime, which included 80 titles, limited edition collectibles toys, costumes, figurines and one-of-a-kind original production artworks specially put together for the exhibition. Covering the gamut of anime genres from comedy and action, to magic and *mecha* (mechanical), history, sci-fi and more, the exhibition was a discovery, where just like stamps, anime opened windows to new worlds.



Singapore Philatelic Museum

**150th ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST POSTAGE STAMP
ISSUED IN SINGAPORE EXHIBITION**
1 September 2017–1 January 2018

2017 marked the 150th anniversary of the issuance of the first postage stamps in Singapore, and this exhibition was jointly organised by SPM and the Association of Singapore Philatelists to commemorate this postal milestone. SingPost also launched a new commemorative stamp issue on the same theme –*150th Anniversary of First Postage Stamp Issued in Singapore* on the day.

The exhibition displayed some of the rarest collections of stamps, covers and other philatelic materials from SPM's collection, and also from private collectors. These demonstrated how Singapore was connected to the rest of the world during the 19th century, and included stamps that were issued for the first time by the Singapore post office 150 years ago. Several exhibits were from the award winning collections of world-renowned philatelists.

Singapore Philatelic Museum

ALL ABOUT DOGS
14 February–December 2018

The *All About Dogs* children's exhibition celebrated the close bond between dogs and humans, in conjunction with the Chinese Zodiac Year of the Dog.

The exhibition explored the different roles dogs play in society, how they originated from wolves thousands of years ago, and the many different breeds that exist today. More than 300 beautiful dog-themed stamps were featured, along with hands-on interactive stations. Visitors could role-play as a dog groomer; test the sharpness of a human's hearing compared to a dog's; identify scents; see the colour of the world through a dog's eyes; and piece together dog stamp jigsaws.

To highlight the role which dogs play in our lives, the museum worked with partners such as Guide Dogs for Singapore and Action for Singapore Dogs.



Indian Heritage Centre

**SYMBOLS AND SCRIPTS:
THE LANGUAGE OF CRAFT**
7 December 2017–30 June 2018

Symbols and Scripts: The Language of Craft was the Indian Heritage Centre's (IHC) second special exhibition, and it showcased over 5,000 years of craft traditions and rare artefacts from the Indian subcontinent, in the context of Singapore's Indian communities.

The exhibition presented the material heritage of Singapore's diverse Indian communities, triggering memories for those distanced from this heritage through the mediums of language and script, as well as motifs, patterns and symbols. It highlighted the complex tapestry of stories of the Indian community, and emphasised the need to ensure the continuity of these traditions.

Key lenders to the exhibition included the National Museum of India, New Delhi, the Museum of Art and Photography, Bangalore, as well as other private lenders.

As part of the exhibition, the *Crafting Scripts Demonstration Platform* brought 15 reputed Indian craftspeople to IHC to conduct public demonstrations over a six-month period, organised with the support of the High Commission of India in Singapore, the Dastkari Haat Samiti (a national association of Indian craftspeople), and the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.



Malay Heritage Centre

**SIRRI NA PESSE:
NAVIGATING BUGIS IDENTITIES IN SINGAPORE**
14 October 2017–24 June 2018

This community co-curated exhibition was part of the Malay Heritage Centre's (MHC) *Se-Nusantara* (Of the Same Archipelago) series of exhibitions that rediscover the diverse heritage and culture of the Malay community in Singapore.

Sirri na Pesse, which loosely translates to 'honour and pride' in the Bugis language, featured the history and development of the Malay-Bugis community in Singapore. It also showcased the ways through which they maintained their distinct cultural heritage whilst establishing a modern Bugis identity unique to their Singapore experience. The exhibition featured a diverse range of artefacts, including family heirlooms contributed by the community and loans from the Johor Bugis Museum, Malaysia.



Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall

**STITCHES OF LOVE –
HIDDEN BLESSINGS IN CHILDREN'S
CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES**
27 May 2017–4 March 2018

Co-presented by the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall (SYSNMH) and the Memorial Museum of Generalissimo Sun Yat-sen's Mansion from Guangzhou, China, this special exhibition showcased 99 artefacts with a wide range of motifs rich in symbolic meanings, employed to bestow good fortune, longevity, and success. The collection on display included clothing, hats, ear muffs, bibs and shoes adorned with a variety of motifs derived from the natural world, history, literature and folklore.

*Travelling Exhibitions
by the Heritage Institutions*

**PIONEERING RURAL
SETTLEMENTS: THE LEGACY
OF LIM NEE SOON**
3 April–2 November 2017

SYSNMH collaborated with Singapore Chinese Girls' School to produce this travelling exhibition, to promote a better appreciation of the life of Dr Lim Boon Keng, his relationship with Dr Sun Yat Sen and other Nanyang Revolutionaries, and his contributions to Singapore and the Nanyang community.

**PASSION & KNOWLEDGE:
SINGAPORE CHINESE PIONEERS
IN EDUCATION**
10 April–23 November 2017

This travelling exhibition was a collaboration between SYSNMH and Chung Cheng High School (Main), and showcased the contributions of Aw Boon Haw, Liew Yuen Sien, Tan Boo Liat and Tan Yeok Seong; four Singapore Chinese pioneers in the development of education in Singapore.

**MALAY PIONEER SERIES:
PRINTERS & PUBLISHERS**
21 April–31 October 2017

The *Malay Pioneers Series: Printers and Publishers* travelling exhibition told the stories of enterprising pioneers who battled convention to embrace the shift from an oral to a print culture, seeing within the technology the potential for advocacy, preservation, education and entertainment.

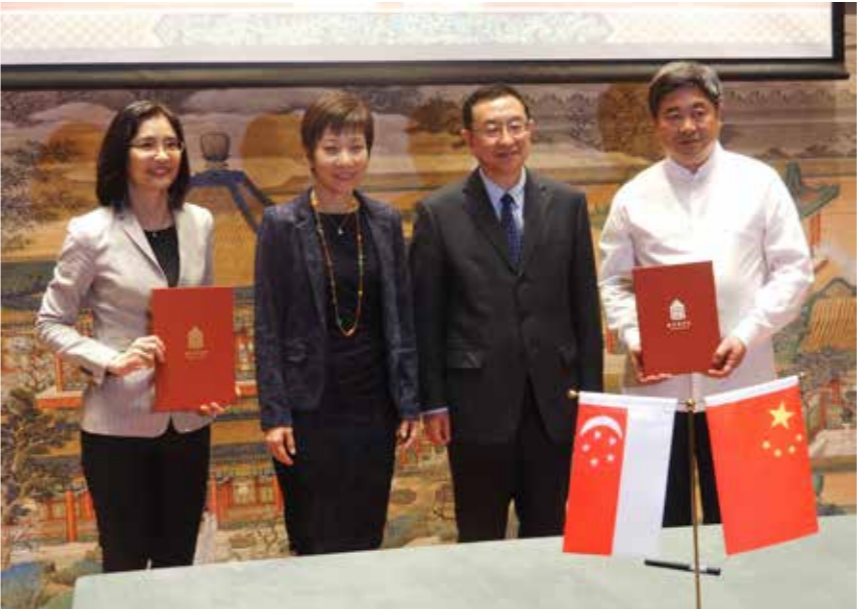


**CELEBRATING HARI RAYA:
STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY**
29 May–10 July 2017

MHC collaborated with student interviewers from Tanjong Katong Secondary School to produce a travelling exhibition focusing on the Hari Raya festival. The exhibition explored how Hari Raya is celebrated in Singapore, shared little-known facts, and featured interviews conducted by the students.

**CRAFTS AND COMMUNITIES
PRE-EXHIBITION POP-UP**
17–26 November 2017

IHC collaborated with the Esplanade for their annual *Kalaa Utsavam Festival of Indian Arts*. The collaboration included a pre-exhibition pop-up at the Esplanade's Festival Corner, featuring samples of and information about various Indians crafts, along with a photo-booth style display of Rajasthani puppets.



International Relations

International collaboration is essential to any agency seeking to be a world-class heritage organisation. Through the development of long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships with reputable international counterparts, NHB will be plugged into a vast network of resources, expertise and collections, and can also share the best of Singapore's heritage with the rest of the world.

**NHB-PALACE MUSEUM MEMORANDUM
OF UNDERSTANDING**

A key objective of NHB's international engagements has been to build a network of international partnerships with world-class counterparts for mutual benefit. An example of a worthwhile result of this was the signing in June 2017 of a five-year collaborative memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Palace Museum of China between NHB Chief Executive Ms Chang Hwee Nee and Palace Museum Director Mr Shan Jixiang.

The Palace Museum, based in the Forbidden City in Beijing, is one of the foremost museums in China. The MOU covers collaboration in numerous areas, including joint exhibitions, conservation and collection exchanges, capability development workshops, and research collaborations.

**JOINT ICOM-SINGAPORE AND ICOM-CHINA
WORKSHOP ON AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT**
14–19 August 2017

NHB held its first ever International Council of Museums (ICOM) Singapore workshop at ACM, titled *Future of Museums: Audience Engagement for Social Inclusion and Community Building*. The workshop was jointly organised by NHB with the Palace Museum of China and the ICOM-China National Committee, and was a key commitment under the NHB-Palace Museum MOU. Attended by 30 local and international museum educators and programmers from Singapore, China and Southeast Asia, it featured eminent local and international speakers who shared their experiences at their respective museums and institutions on the titular subject.

**FUNDING FOR INTERNATIONAL
CONSERVATION WORKSHOP**

In 2017, NHB successfully obtained Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) funding support for HCC to organise an *International Conservation Workshop* in Singapore in 2019. Funding was approved by the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives for the workshop, which will allow HCC to expand its list of invitees beyond Singapore, to cultural counterparts in ASEAN member states.



Heritage Conservation Centre

The Heritage Conservation Centre (HCC) is the repository and conservation facility for the management and preservation of Singapore's National Collection. HCC is at the heart of NHB's expertise in preventive and interventive conservation, and supports NHB's museums and institutions for exhibitions and artefact rotations. These included exhibitions such as *Witness to War: Remembering 1942* at the National Museum, and *Symbols and Scripts: The Language of Craft* at IHC.

COLLABORATION WITH THE SINGAPORE GENERAL HOSPITAL

HCC's four-year long collaboration with the Singapore General Hospital's (SGH) Department of Diagnostic Radiology for radiological imaging of artefacts continued, with more than 70 artworks and artefacts examined to date. X-ray examinations are carried out four to six times a year at SGH on objects that include paintings, furniture, sculptures, textiles, and ethnographical and archaeological objects. These examinations help show the internal construction of objects, the extent of structural damage and deterioration, compositional changes and other hidden details, enabling curators and conservators to better understand the National Collection, and design the most appropriate conservation treatments.

CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT

HCC's Paper Section organised a five-day training workshop on preventive conservation and photograph identification in February/ March 2018. The comprehensive programme covered identification, deterioration & preventive conservation of photographs, and concluded with a public lecture at the National Gallery Singapore.

We are all connected to others, through a complex network of family and friends, which knit us together into communities. Our Communities shape us and mould our identities, and provide us with a sense of belonging to something greater than ourselves.

At NHB, we work closely with different communities – Singaporeans from all walks of life – to preserve, promote and celebrate our heritage. This is done through our festivals, language campaigns, community events, education programmes and grant schemes. We have, over the years, built strong partnerships with a special group of people who form the backbone of what we do – fellow museum professionals in the Museum Roundtable (MR), industry experts, teachers and educators, dedicated volunteers, and patrons of heritage.

Together, their efforts contribute to securing the legacy of our shared heritage for future generations. With *Our Communities*' support, heritage is also made more accessible and inclusive for all.

/04 **our communities**





Singapore Heritage Festival 2018

Festivals

**SINGAPORE HERITAGE
FESTIVAL 2017**
28 April–14 May 2017

***100 partners for this “Festival for the People,
by the People”***

The 14th edition of NHB’s signature heritage festival continued to highlight the lesser-known stories of our shared spaces and ways of life in Singapore. With over 100 partners and approximately 130 programme offerings spanning three weekends, the festival enabled different communities to share their stories in a celebration of our diverse cultural heritage.

With four festival highlight venues, island-wide exhibitions and guided tours, the *Singapore Heritage Festival 2017* reached out to over 1.6 million visitors. For the first time, the Caldecott Broadcast Centre, where many local productions were filmed, was opened to the public with programmes that included a commissioned theatrical performance — *Studio 6* — celebrating key productions and milestones in Singapore’s rich broadcast history, and highly popular guided tours around the premises by Mediacorp staff volunteers.

The festival also went to Campbell Lane, where festival-goers enjoyed the rich cultural expressions of performing arts groups from the Little India Arts Belt, and sampled treats from food businesses from the Little India Shopkeepers and Heritage Association.

The Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) riverfront lawn hosted a selection of hawkers, including satay stalls and special installations inspired by the former Empress Place Food Centre, while the *Museum of Eating* exhibition within the museum explored some Singaporean habits, quirks and practices related to the act of eating.

**CHILDREN’S SEASON
SINGAPORE 2017**
27 May–25 June 2017

Children’s Season Singapore, NHB’s annual festival for children, celebrated its 10th edition in 2017 and reached out to over 400,000 visitors. The festival welcomed new partners such as Wildlife Reserves Singapore and the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, which allowed it to extend its scope beyond museums to include interests such as music, performing arts and nature.

Highlights included a wonderland of discovery and play at the National Museum of Singapore, which featured a trail around popular family hangouts and heritage enclaves from the 1970s and

1980s; as well as *Ghost Nets of the Ocean – Au Karem ira Lamar Lu* at ACM.

19 MR museums extended the festival’s repertoire of programmes, and these included MINT Museum of Toys’ *Old School Toys*, which featured toys and games from the past, and the Science Centre Singapore’s *Cryogenics Science Show*, which explored the icy wonders that occur at temperatures below zero.

SINGAPORE NIGHT FESTIVAL 2017
18–26 August 2017

***Record 740,000 visitors to festival’s
10th edition***

The *Singapore Night Festival* (SNF) celebrated its first decade with the theme *10 Magical Years* in August 2017. A record 740,000 visitors delighted in a mix of local and international festival offerings over two weekends, with crowd pleasers *Convolutions*, a mapping work on the National Museum’s façade by French artists EZ3kiel, and highlight show *Globe* by Dutch street theatre company Close-Act at the Cathay Green. *SNF 2017* featured a strong line-up of Singaporean artists who have grown alongside the festival, including flow arts collective Starlight Alchemy, percussion group Bloco Singapura, performing group Peranakan Sayang and the ZingO Festival Drum Group.

After its successful first run, the *Night Lights Open Call* returned for a second year, with festival-goers flocking to immerse themselves in the magic of *Phosphene* and *Tessellations of Time* by tertiary student groups Praxis+ and LiteWerkz respectively, and *Dream City Window* by budding design studio Untitled Project.



Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth Ms Sim Ann visiting the *Singapore Night Festival 2017*



Singapore Night Festival 2017



Children's Season Singapore 2017
at the National Museum of Singapore

Language Campaigns

BULAN BAHASA 2017

Bulan Bahasa (Malay Language Month) is the annual signature celebration by the Malay Language Council, Singapore. *Bulan Bahasa 2017* was launched at the Malay Heritage Centre (MHC) in Kampong Gelam, where visitors were treated to a day of festivities and programmes. Throughout the day, guided tours by *Rakan Bahasa* (Friends of the Language) were held for visitors within MHC’s galleries.

Two months of exciting programmes and activities followed, showcasing the Malay language as *Bahasa Ilmu* (knowledge), *Bahasa Budaya* (culture) and *Bahasa*

Mesra (relationships). *Bulan Bahasa* was also brought to the heartlands of Chua Chu Kang, Jurong, Nee Soon, Sembawang and Tampines. Organised by residents of the respective constituencies, the celebrations were held to promote awareness and engage the wider community to appreciate and encourage the use of the Malay language.

ANUGERAH GURU ARIF BUDIMAN 2017

Five exceptional Malay Language teachers were awarded the *Anugerah Guru Arif Budiman* (Malay Language Teachers’ Award) for their contributions to the learning of the Malay Language.

ANUGERAH PERSURATAN 2017

The biennial *Anugerah Persuratan* (Malay Literary Award) recognised 19 writers across four award categories in 2017, to encourage the publication of high quality works and promote Malay literature in the community. The top *Tun Seri Lanang Award* was presented to Rasiah Hill for her contribution to literary arts.

SPEAK MANDARIN CAMPAIGN 2017

A signature event of the *Speak Mandarin Campaign*, the annual *Parent-Child Talent Competition* was held for the fifth time in 2017. The competition provided opportunities for parents to bond and have fun with their children in Mandarin, with teams putting up stunning performances around the theme “Childhood Memories”.

The campaign’s “*My Story*” *Public Speaking Competition*, aimed at students from 13 to 18 years of age, encouraged participants to express themselves in Mandarin, through the sharing of personal stories and experiences. For the finals, participants had to put their quick-

thinking skills to the test during the improvisation segment.

Throughout the year, the *Speak Mandarin Campaign* supported numerous partner and community led initiatives, and organised pocket programmes at schools, libraries and other public spaces. The Campaign also conducted Mandarin programmes during Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall’s festival celebrations and *Wan Qing CultureFest*.



Bulan Bahasa 2017



Speak Mandarin Campaign 2017

Language Campaigns

SPEAK GOOD ENGLISH MOVEMENT

The *Speak Good English Movement* presented its first ever symposium, titled “English in Singapore”, at The Arts House. Participants shared different perspectives and thoughts on the English language, and posed various questions to the panellists. The importance of using Standard English and the need for the conscious learning of the language were brought up during the

discussions, which featured topics such as “English in the Singaporean Home”, “Effective English at Work” and “English, Singlish and Broken English”.

At the symposium, Chairman of the *Speak Good English Movement*, Mr Goh Eck Kheng, announced the launch of a funding support scheme for programmes that encourage the use of Standard English in fun and creative ways.

At the *Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2017*, seven English teachers were recognised for their passion in making the English language relevant and interesting to their students, and were presented the *Teaching Award*. Two Heads of Department were awarded the *Leadership Award* for their outstanding efforts in leading their team of teachers in the development and implementation of an effective English programme.

TAMIL LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

To encourage Tamil-speaking Singaporeans to “Love Tamil. Speak Tamil”, the *Tamil Language Festival 2017* presented a month of Tamil language programmes such as dramas, music and dance performances, literature appreciation sessions, competitions, and lectures on various topics. Festival highlights included the staging of the

popular novel *Ponniyin Selvan* for three sold-out nights at the Esplanade, and the presentation of traditional epic *Sivakamiyin Sabatham* at the Umar Pulavar Tamil Language Centre (UPTLC). In a continuing collaboration with the UPTLC, the third edition of the “Living Language, Living Heritage” notebook was also published.

Beyond the festival, the Tamil Language Council also supported partner-led

programmes and capacity building initiatives, to deepen the appreciation of the Tamil language. Groups including the Traditional Music of Tanjore, Avant Theatre and Language, Athipathi International Theatre and 2 Tango Dazzle conducted weeks of training and workshops, where participants gained valuable skills and knowledge in various art forms as they boosted their confidence in their use of the Tamil language.



Speak Good English Movement



Tamil Language Festival



HeritageCares

**200 programmes organised
8,000 participants reached
1,600 volunteers engaged**

HeritageCares is a philanthropic initiative that reaches out to families-in-difficulty, persons with disabilities and/or special needs, youth-at-risk and senior citizens, through programmes at NHB museums and heritage institutions. Part of NHB's overall community outreach efforts, the initiative is supported by donations from Patek Philippe and Cortina Watch Pte Ltd. *HeritageCares* also provides volunteering opportunities for corporate organisations and members of the public. Since its launch in March 2016, *HeritageCares* has organised over 200 programmes, served more than 8,000 participants and engaged 1,600 volunteers.

In 2017, *HeritageCares* organised *Kids' Day Out*, a school holiday programme that provides quality educational experiences for children from low-income families. The inaugural run engaged 400 children on enriching activities that included traditional Malay games, craft and storytelling. Over 90 volunteers, including NHB staff, contributed as facilitators and befrienders for the programme.

HeritageCares also remains a key collaborator with Youth Corps Singapore on *A Walk to Remember*, with more than 100 children and 150 youth volunteers participating in activities along *Jubilee Walk* sites annually, as well as *Creative Hands, Curious Minds*, a pilot initiative that promotes international bonding through shared conversations on heritage. Such partnerships and initiatives serve the long-term goal of enabling heritage to be progressively inclusive and accessible to all.

Heritage Grants

**Over \$7.9 million awarded to
more than 280 grant recipients**

NHB's *Heritage Project Grant* and *Heritage Participation Grant* support ground-up heritage initiatives by individuals and heritage groups to foster capability, ownership and promotion of our shared heritage. Since their launch in 2013, NHB has awarded over \$7.9m to more than 280 applicants.

The grants have benefitted a wide range of projects, including publications, exhibitions, documentaries and events, adding to the variety of heritage touch-points and offerings. A highlight was the documentary film *Reviving Our Forefathers' Disappearing Foods*, which showcases Cantonese and Hakka food as a way to encourage a deeper understanding of the heritage of the two cultures. Notable publications supported include *Jean Marshall's Pahang Letters*, a compilation of personal letters by Jean Marshall, the widow of Singapore's first elected Chief Minister David Marshall, which sheds light on life during the Malayan Emergency.

Heritage Education for Our Young

HERITAGE EXPLORERS PROGRAMME

**Awarded Best Practice Award
by ICOM**

The *Heritage Explorers Programme* enables primary school students to experience life as a curator, historian, designer, educator and heritage ambassador. Through creative role-playing, the programme creates enjoyable experiences with the aim of raising awareness of Singapore's heritage amongst the young.

The programme complements the learning of Social Studies, National Education, and Character and Citizenship Education in schools, while also emphasising school-parent partnerships

and greater parent-child bonding. To date, the programme has reached out to 94 primary schools, and more than 57,800 students have signed up to be young *Heritage Explorers*.

The *Heritage Explorers Programme* was conferred the *Best Practice Award* by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) International Committee for Education and Cultural Action in 2017, which is given to 'best practice' museum education projects around the world.

SINGAPORE'S LITTLE TREASURES

**More than 300 pre-schools
and 500 teachers trained**

Singapore's Little Treasures is NHB's first heritage education programme dedicated to pre-schoolers. The programme aims to provide pre-schoolers the opportunity to discover our multicultural heritage through creative, engaging and purposeful classroom activities, and meaningful learning journeys at the museums. The programme also promotes Singapore's multicultural heritage in the three official Mother Tongue Languages – Malay, Mandarin and Tamil.

Since its launch in May 2014, the programme has reached out to more than 300 pre-schools, and trained close to 500 teachers. To-date, NHB has engaged close to 7,000 pre-schoolers through the programme at both our museums and heritage institutions.

NATIONAL HERITAGE BADGE

Launched in 1999, the *National Heritage Badge* is awarded by NHB to deserving secondary school students in uniformed groups who have completed a heritage project. It aims to raise students' awareness of Singapore's heritage, and encourage them to promote heritage through their projects. The programme has been refreshed in 2018 to include a new *National Heritage Badge* design, accompanying guidebooks for teachers and students, and more interesting project tasks relevant to the young today.

Travelling Exhibitions

PIONEERING LEGACIES

Pioneering Legacies features eight pioneers – Edmund William Barker, S. Rajaratnam, Edwin Tessensohn, Eunus Abdullah, Ee Peng Liang, V. Pakirisamy Pillai, Tan Kah Kee and Munshi Abdullah – who made significant contributions to Singapore in areas such as politics, education and the community. Through their lives and actions, they helped shape Singapore, and made a difference in the everyday lives of the people.

SINGAPORE SNAPSHOTS

Singapore Snapshots has been adapted from the National Museum’s *Singapore History Gallery*, which focuses on the development of the island over the past 700 years, as it evolved from ancient Singapura to a Crown Colony, Syonan-To, and finally, Singapore. The exhibition highlights our nation’s defining moments, and examines challenges and achievements throughout our history.

FROZEN IN TIME:
TIME CAPSULES IN SINGAPORE

Frozen in Time: Time capsules in Singapore is the first exhibition of its kind to explore the history of time capsules in Singapore, and the rich trove of objects and stories they contain. Time capsules are meaningful because of the stories and memories they hold for Singaporeans. Many of the objects featured in the exhibition are familiar to visitors, who are able to touch and interact with them, and through them, exchange stories with friends and family.

Volunteers

*Guided 9,000 tours
for 92,000 visitors in 2017*

NHB’s family of volunteers across our museums, heritage institutions and divisions are a pillar of support for our mission of celebrating Singapore’s heritage. Together, our family of docents guided over 9,000 tours and 92,000 visitors in 2017.

NHB’s long-standing partner of 40 years, the Friends of the Museums (FOM) continued to show strong support toward our heritage programmes and initiatives. In addition to the regular guided tours they conduct, the FOM-NHB Heritage Grant, established in 2008 to support the capability development of our museum professionals, has benefitted a total of 23 NHB officers through attachments at museums overseas.

Also part of our docent family are our Museum Volunteers, who are working adults committing their time to guiding on weekends and public holidays; our Mandarin Guides and Mandarin Docents, who serve our Mandarin and dialect-speaking visitors; and our Japanese Docents, who engage the Japanese-speaking community. Our Preservation of Sites and Monuments and heritage trail guides bring visitors beyond our institutions to our National Monuments and heritage trails.

Beyond our docent community, passionate individuals have also generously volunteered their time and energy at our programmes and festivals throughout the year. Our volunteers are an invaluable asset to our museum and heritage landscape, championing an appreciation and passion for our heritage.

Community Gallery

OUR TAMPINES GALLERY

Our Tampines Gallery (OTG) is a collaborative effort between the National Library Board (NLB), People’s Association, students from Temasek Polytechnic (TP), and the Tampines community. Launched in August 2017, the gallery serves as a dynamic community space for Singaporeans to learn more about Tampines’ history and heritage, share and contribute to a growing pool of Tampines stories, and co-create exhibitions and programmes. Community heritage spaces such as OTG help make heritage more accessible and inclusive,

and encourage the community to play a more active role in commemorating and celebrating our shared heritage.

The gallery features a permanent exhibition, *Tampines: A History*, as well as temporary exhibitions such as *Faces of Tampines*, which was developed in collaboration with TP and through social media open calls. Community volunteer guides provide free guided tours of the permanent exhibition every Saturday.

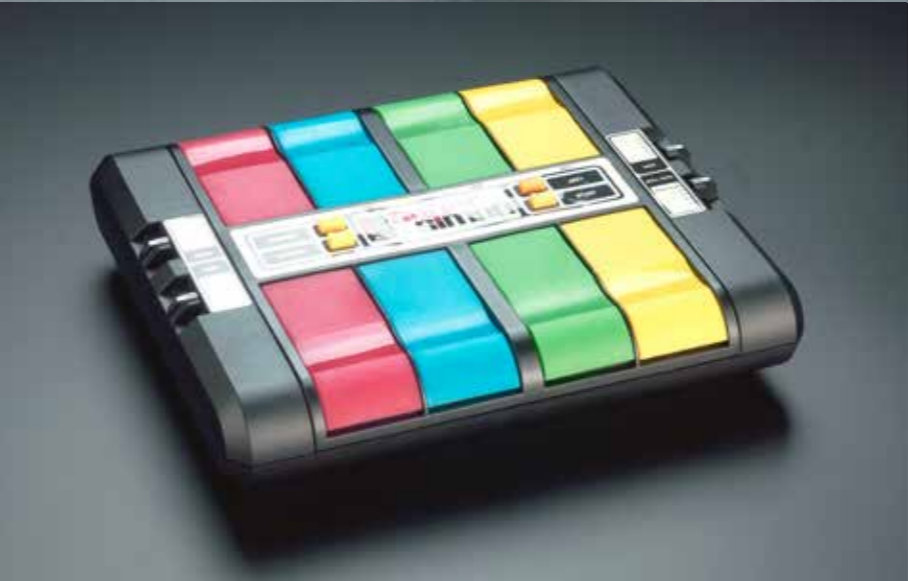
Apart from exhibitions, partners such as NLB also bring integrated programming into OTG, including monthly storytelling sessions on children books themed around Singaporean and Asian heritage and culture.



NHB volunteer guiding a gallery tour



Frozen in Time: Time Capsules in Singapore
travelling exhibition





Istana Art Event

Museum Roundtable

MUSEUM ROUNDTABLE

The Museum Roundtable (MR) is a network of 54 public and private museums and galleries chaired by NHB to support the development of Singapore's museum-going culture, by nurturing a museum community which includes audiences, museum practitioners and emerging professionals. MR focuses on supporting the training of people who work in museums, and connecting members with each other to encourage discussion, collaboration and partnership.

BUILDING CAPABILITIES: TRAINING AND NETWORKING

On-going professional development and training is key to supporting museums in their efforts to serve their communities. Regular workshops and meetings also provide opportunities for peer engagement and learning.

MR organised workshops by the Thinking Museum from Amsterdam and Carol Rogers from National Museums Liverpool. *Visible Thinking in the Museum* by the Thinking Museum introduced participants to thinking routines to help facilitate and guide visitors' visits to the museum. Carol Rogers, a well-known advocate for access and social inclusion for museums, led two workshops on community engagement for inclusive museums, including the award-winning *House of Memories* programme for people living with dementia, their carers, families and communities.

The year ended with the *Museum Roundtable Networking Night*, held at the newly relocated Red Dot Design Museum.

BATTLE FOR SINGAPORE

The *Battle for Singapore* marked the 76th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore in 1942, and NHB partnered community groups and museums to present Singapore's war stories through a series of guided tours to World War II sites and special museum programmes.

This year's edition saw groups such as MyCommunity, All Things Bukit Brown and Sentosa Development Corporation lead the ever-popular World War II walking trails, including a new guided tour at Bukit Brown focusing on the fruits and vegetables that provided wartime sustenance.

ISTANA ART EVENT

Presented by NHB and the Singapore Art Museum, the 17th edition of the Istana Art Event featured an exciting line-up of arts and heritage activities for the family, held in conjunction with the *Istana Open House* in celebration of National Day. Programmes included all-time favourites such as the *On-the-Spot Art Competition* and the *Museum Roundtable Arts and Heritage Village*.

Members such as the Gan Heritage Centre showcased kinship words in English and Chinese so visitors could construct their own family trees, while STPI introduced relief printing to participants.

Patron of Heritage Awards 2017

The *Patron of Heritage Awards 2017* honoured the generosity of 67 organisations and individuals who gave over \$5.5 million toward the museum and heritage sector in 2017. The contributions of these donors enabled our museums and heritage institutions to present world-class exhibitions, organise well-loved festivals, introduce engaging public programmes, and launch insightful publications. Their gifts are vital to the growth and development of Singapore's heritage sector, ensuring that what has been left to us from the past will become a legacy for the future.



Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Ms Grace Fu with Mr Ben Webb from Givaudan Singapore, during an award presentation at *Patron of Heritage 2017*

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

JULIA OH-NHB INTERNATIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT

The grant aims to develop and strengthen curatorial and conservation related competencies and knowledge for our officers. It also provides our officers with the opportunity to network and foster potential partnership opportunities with other museums and institutions.

Roger Lee Chee Choon
Assistant Conservator (Paintings)
Heritage Conservation Centre

Jane Tan Ying Hui
Assistant Conservator (Paper)
Heritage Conservation Centre

FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS [FOM]

– NHB HERITAGE GRANT

The grant provides officers with the opportunity to acquire new skills, knowledge and ideas to promote museum and heritage education to NHB audiences. It also serves as a platform to network and foster potential partnership opportunities with overseas counterparts.

Sarah Teo Joo
Manager (Policy & Education)
Preservation of Sites and Monuments

Nurliyana Halid
Manager
Education and Community Outreach

Jasmine Low
Senior Officer (Programmes & Outreach)
National Museum of Singapore

THE PROF KOH AWARD 2018

The Prof Koh Award was established in 2011 to recognise and reward staff innovation and excellence. It is funded through donations from NHB’s Honorary Chairman, Professor Tommy Koh.

Most Visited Exhibition

Nyonya Needlework:
Embroidery and Beadwork
in the Peranakan World

Best Selling Publication

The Tang Shipwreck: Art & Exchange
in the 9th Century

Most Innovative Project

#TampinesMemories Open Call &
Mobile Trail Experience

Most Innovative Project (Merit)

Conversation Starter Toolkit for Seniors
Heritage Database
Student Archivist Project

Innovation Champion

Chua Pei Jun Jermaine

Innovation Champion (Merit)

Soh Pang Ching

EPIC Award

Chong Joon Wei Jeff
Lee Kah Fang Carine
Mohamed Hafiz Bin Mohamed Shariff
Ng Chee Cha
Sylvia Haliman

LONG SERVICE AWARDS 2017

5-year Service

Wang Zhenghui Naomi
Nur Sri Heryanti Binte Jamal
Siti Farhana Binte Sahher
Lim Chye Hong
Chiong Yuet Siem Lynn
Chen Peiling, Sharon
Cheong Yongneng Conan
Low Soon Aik Dominic
Chia Shao Xiong
Birte Koehler
Chua Li Koon
Muhammad Qazim Bin Abdul Karim
Marshall Yousheng Penafort
Chee Lai See
Sim Si Si Celest
Lim Guirong Brianca
Tang Si Hui Elizabeth
Chen Xuhao

10-year Service

Lau May Ying Agnes
Ratnawati Erlimus
Denisonde Lumboy Simbol
Teo Hock Seng John
Yogamalar Thiagarajan

Ong Chiew Yen
Mary Lim
Polly Tan
Tan Pei Qi
Lee Kum Chun Dave
Lu Kok Chong Derek
Chen Chuance
Wong Chang Chen Darren
Lim Kok Wee
Xu Hanni Lynn

15-year Service

David Alan Henkel
Lee Kah Fang Carine
Ang Boon Kok
Teo Sui Hong Angelita

20-year Service

Ng Yew Peng
Chung May Khuen
Tan Chay Kiang Adeline
Mohamad Nazry Bin Yusof

25-year Service

Ishak Bin Ahmad

30-year Service

Karthigesu Thangamma

Special Appreciation Award for Re-employed Officers

Sebastin Emmanuel Victor

PUBLIC SECTOR TRANSFORMATION AWARDS 2018

The Public Sector Transformation (PST) Awards recognise and reward public officers and agencies for excellence in service delivery, organisation practices and innovation. The awards spur officers and agencies to pursue PST outcomes, and showcase best practices to support learning across the Public Service.

PSD PST Awards

Star Service Team

NHB Heritage Grants Team 2017

Star Service Individual

Nurliyana Binte Abdul Halid

ExCEL Innovation Champion

Soh Pang Ching

MCCY/PST Awards

Star Service Team

NHB Heritage Grants Team 2017

Star Service Individual

Nurliyana Binte Abdul Halid
Tashauna Amanda Dass

ExCEL Innovation Champion

Chua Pei Jun Jermaine
Soh Pang Ching

ExCEL Innovative Project

Heritage Database
#TampinesMemories Open Call &
Mobile Trail Experience
(Certificate of Recognition)

EXCELLENT SERVICE AWARD 2017

Excellent Service Award (EXSA) is a national award the recognises individuals who have delivered quality service. It seeks to develop service models for staff to emulate and to create service champions.

EXSA Star

Chen Peiling Sharon
Lu Kok Chong Derek
Ng Pee Lian
Sim Si Si Celest
Soh Pang Ching
Tan Chay Kiang Adeline
Tashauna Amanda Dass
Ting Liangfa Alvin

EXSA Gold

Chia Shao Xiong
Lim Xin Yuan Joanne
Low Zhi Wei Lawrence
Nurliyana Binte Abdul Halid
Ong Chun Yeow
Peh Wee Peng
Young Wei Qi

EXSA Silver

Abdul Hazis Bin Mohd
Chin Jia Hui Priscilla
Chong Joon Wei Jeff
Chua Meng Tee Eddy
Ding Xiao Wei Daphne
Lim Sheng Hoo Joseph
Ling Li Li
Miki Komatsu

Muhammad Khair Bin Kambeli
Muhammad Noor Aliff Bin Ghani
Poh Bee Kee Maggie
Sebastin Emmanuel Victor
Seow Chee Loong Jimmy
Seow Wen Fang Karel
Sin Lye Kwan Josephine
Tan Geok Keow Angeline

NATIONAL DAY AWARDS 2017

Meritorious Service Medal

Mr Patrick Lee
Member
National Heritage Board

Public Service Star

Mr Ong Yew Huat
Chairman
National Heritage Board

Public Service Medal

Dr Suriani Binti Suratman
Vice-Chairperson,
Malay Heritage Foundation
Member, National Heritage Board

Public Administration Medal (Silver)

Mr Alvin Tan Tze Ee
Assistant Chief Executive
Policy & Community

Commendation Medal

Mr David Chew Eu Jin
Assistant Director (Arts and Heritage)
Arts and Heritage Division
Seconded to Ministry of Culture,
Community and Youth

OUR DONORS

OUR DONORS AND PATRONS Partner

(Nominees who have cumulatively contributed between S\$150,000 and S\$ 999,999 between 1 Jan & 31 Dec 2017)

Changi Airport Group
Givaudan Singapore Pte Ltd
Lee Foundation
Singapore Art Museum
SBS Transit Ltd
Singapore Management University
Singapore Post Limited

Friend

(Nominees who have cumulatively contributed between S\$50,000 and S\$149,999 between 1 Jan & 31 Dec 2017)

Armenian Apostolic Church of St. Gregory the Illuminator Singapore
Aspial-Lee Hwa Jewellery Pte Ltd
Capitol Investment Holdings Pte Ltd
CHUMES managed by Perennial (S'pore) Retail Management Pte Ltd
Dominie Press Pte Ltd
Electronics & Engineering Pte Ltd
Mr Richard Eu
Mrs Pamela Hickley
Home TeamNS
Mr Mohamed Abdul Jaleel — BBM
Panasonic System Solutions Asia Pacific
Pan-United Corporation Ltd
Mr Teh Kiu Cheong
Yuvabharathi International School Pte Ltd

Supporter of Heritage

(Nominees who have made long-term loans of materials (artefacts, artworks and others) valued between S\$10,000 and S\$1,000,000 between 1 Jan & 31 Dec 2017)

Supporter

(Nominees who have cumulatively contributed between S\$10,000 and S\$49,999 between 1 Jan & 31 Dec 2017)

Mr Hideki Akiyoshi
Asia Culture Communication Pte Ltd
Association of Singapore Philatelists
Australian International School
Bollore Logistics Pte Ltd
Cedele
Mr Chen Zhen Ming
Chinese Language and Culture Fund
Mr Chong Chu Fong
ECPark Pte Ltd

Edrington Singapore
Friends of the Museums (FOM)
GSM Project
Hotel Royal @ Queens
Institut Français Singapour
James Cook University
Janice Wong Singapore
Keisuke Singapore Pte Ltd
Mr Lau Tai San
Mr Peter Lee
Mdm Leong Fan Chin
Little India Shopkeepers and Heritage Association
Mr Loh Lik Peng
Majic Communications Pte Ltd
Mr Boedi Mranata
Mrs Julia Oh
One Farrer Hotel and Spa
OOH Media
Plaza Singapura
Raffles City Shopping Centre
Mr and Mrs Rajkumar
Rendezvous Hotel Singapore
Rossi & Rossi Ltd
Singapore Airlines Cargo Pte Ltd
Singapore Airlines Limited
Steinway Gallery Singapore
Tai Sun (Lim Kee) Food Industries Pte Ltd
The Pratt Foundation
Thekchen Choling (Singapore)
Velocity @ Novena Square
Westgate
Mr Whang Shang Ying
White Lodge Education Group
Services Pte Ltd
Mr Hugh Young

Ms Pauline Tan Wyatt
(Some donors have requested to remain anonymous)

HERITAGE GRANTS

RECIPIENTS OF THE HERITAGE PARTICIPATION GRANT

Keming Primary School Keming Primary School Heritage Corner	Mandakini Arora <i>Jean Marshall's Pahang Letters, 1953-1954: Sidelights on Malaya during the Emergency</i>
Holy Innocents' High School Heritage Gallery at Holy Innocent's High School	SCWO-Service Fund <i>The Lives of Women</i>
Serangoon Garden Secondary School SGS Heritage Centre	Telok Kurau Primary School TKPS School Foyer Gallery
Madrasah Al-Ma'arif Al-Islamiah 80th Anniversary of Madrasah Al-Ma'arif Al-Islamiah (1936–2016)	Paul Supramaniam <i>Tale of Pionner Singapore Doctor aka 'Dr Tan Tock Seng' – Story of Dr JMJ Supramanian</i>
Chow Chuhong Daryl <i>Speak Baba Malay the Easy Way</i>	Singapore Lam Ann Association <i>Soaring Phoenix of the South – The History, Architecture and Culture of the Hong San See</i>
Wan Jun Yan <i>Singapore: The Impregnable Fortress</i>	Ow Kim Kit <i>Families of food (Of Heritage & Heirlooms... A Singapore Story)</i>
Lynn Wong Yuqing <i>Reviving Lost Foods of Our Forefathers</i>	Lionel Teng Wei Wai <i>Heritage Fiesta 2018 – Diversity creates Dimension: A story of multiculturalism in Singapore</i>
Ibrahim bin Ariff <i>The Bugis in Singapore</i>	Singapore Film Society <i>Heritage Short Film Compeition 2018</i>
Orchid Park Secondary School Heritage Room at Orchid Park Secondary School	Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations <i>River Angbao 2018: My Home, My New Year</i>
John Geno-Oehlers <i>In Good Company: Straits Settlements Eurasian men who defended the Empire at home and abroad, 1869–1957</i>	Frederick James Francis <i>Pre-schoolers Singapore Heritage & History Learning Journey</i>

Singapore Chinese Girls' School

Understanding, Loving and Preserving our Heritage: Enhancing our Heritage Centre

CHJ Katong Primary School
Our CHJ Katong Heritage

Nanyang Junior College

NYJC Heritage Wall

Sri Guru Singh Sabha
Centennial Coffee Book 2018

Yew Tee Primary School

Bridging Bridges, Forging Futures

West View Primary School
Heritage Wall and NE Walkway

Anglo-Chinese School (ACS)

Old Boys' Association (OBA)
ONE ACS Heritage Centre

Teck Whye Primary School
Young Authors Programme

Indra Rani D/O E.S. Muthu

They came from Jaffna

Wan Jun Yan
The King's Charter: A Colony Building Game

St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School

140 years of Canossian Education in Singapore

RECIPIENTS OF THE HERITAGE PROJECT GRANT

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Kwong Wai Siew Peck San Theng Heritage Centre

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Taoist Mission (Singapore)

Taoist Culture in Singapore: A Living Tradition

Seletar Hills Estate Residents' Association
SHERA 50th Anniversary Heritage

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NMF (Restoration)

Abdul Gafoor Mosque
Al-Abrar Mosque
Chesed-El Synagogue
Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Maghain Aboth Synagogue
Ying Fo Fui Kun

NMF (Maintenance)

Abdul Gafoor Mosque
Al-Abrar Mosque
Armenian Church of St Gregory
Chesed-El Synagogue
Church of Our Lady of Lourdes
Church of St Teresa
Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Hong San See
Maghain Aboth Synagogue
Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church
Sri Mariamman Temple
Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple
St George's Church
St Joseph's Church
Tan Si Chong Su
Thian Hock Keng

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GIFTS &
ACQUISITIONS



Official robe
Thailand, 1902,
Cotton tulle, gold netting,
gold bullion threads, sequins,
and soutache, 104 x 58 cm

King Rama V of Thailand bestowed a royal title and rank, and with them this official robe (*sua khruai*), upon the Danish “father of the Thai navy” Andreas du Plessisde Richelieu (1852–1932). This elaborately embroidered garment is customised with ship’s anchors, wheels, and other nautical motifs.



Shanghai bund with regatta in progress
China, 1849–51
Oil on canvas, 40.5 x 139 cm

This panoramic painting is one of the earliest known views of the Shanghai Bund. From the buildings visible, we can guess that it was made between 1849 and 1851. The artist included several landmarks, including the first European-style buildings in the settlement and the Chinese Custom House. As Shanghai grew in stature as a British and European settlement, paintings like this were important records of the development of the port and the increasing volume of international ships in the harbour. The city became a gateway for interactions between East and West.

(Right) Hakka–Malay Dictionary
1927, Singapore

This thread bound Hakka-Malay dictionary was printed in Singapore. The name written on the front cover indicates that it was owned by a man named Tao Qifeng. Such publications, available in the main Chinese dialects such as Cantonese, Hokkien, Hakka and Hainanese, show the way the local Chinese community was eager to learn the indigenous language and adapt to local culture.

(Far right) Singapore Hua Pao
1929, Singapore

Although Dr Sun Yat Sen passed away in March 1925, he was only buried in the Nanjing mausoleum in June 1929. *Singapore Hua Pao* issued a special commemorative issue in June 1929 to mark this event. This particular magazine found its way to Canada, evidenced from the stamp on the front cover which states “Wah Sun Book Shop, Vancouver, BC”. This could indicate an international distribution of *Hua Pao* to Chinese communities in North America.



GIFTS & ACQUISITIONS

Daoist immortal
China, 16th or 17th century, Bronze, height 47 cm

The double-gourd hanging from a cord fastened around the figure's waist suggests that he is probably an immortal. The gourd was associated with longevity, as well as protective and magical properties in Chinese culture. The figure could be Lü Dongbin, a Tang dynasty (618–907) poet and scholar who came to be venerated as one of the Eight Immortals in Daoism. Lü is regarded as the most influential of the Eight Immortals and is also revered as the Patriarch of the Daoist Quanzhen (Complete Perfection) sect.

Gilded Wedding Crown Set with Diamantes
*First half of the 20th century
Singapore*

This silver-gilt crown is set with dozens of diamantes and features a floral centerpiece typical of decorative traditions in the Malay peninsula and archipelago, alongside wing-like scrolled bands that recall the headgear of princely characters in the *Ramayana*. This elegant hybridism showcases the rich decorative heritage of the Malay world.

Malay Brass Rose Water Sprinkler
*18th Century
Northern Malaysia*

This artefact is an elegant and beautiful example of the sprinkler that commonly features in important Malay ceremonies, including the *cukur rambut* ceremony which marks a Malay child's first haircut, and the *berinai* ceremony which marks the day before a Malay wedding.



Ossuary figure
*Eastern Borneo (Indonesia),
19th century, Wood, height 61.5 cm*

This figure would have decorated an ossuary, a box used to store the remains of revered ancestors. It was found hidden deep inside a cave. The figure is probably meant to represent an ancestor, now acting as a protecting spirit to frighten away thieves and evil spirits. Ancestor figures carved in the form of a squatting man are found all over Southeast Asia.



**Pair of Chased and
Gadrooned Silver Bowls**
Circa 1900, Brunei

The rim of these silver bowls are decorated with a floral border whilst the base of each bowl displays a cartouche engraved with *Jawi*. Originating from Brunei, the ornamentation and *Jawi* script indicates the country's shared linguistic and decorative heritage with the rest of the Malay archipelago.

GIFTS & ACQUISITIONS



Barutdan (Powder Flask)
19th century, Rajasthan, India
Wood, Mother of Pearl and Ivory

Powder flasks were used to store and carry gun powder, and to prevent the powder from getting wet. Indian powder flasks often feature intricate carving, and are sometimes covered with leather or fabric. These flasks were produced by craftsmen of the *Khatri* caste in the Kotah state during the 19th century, and were popular in Europe after they were featured in exhibitions such as the *Colonial and Indian Exhibition* held in London in 1886. This *barutdan* or powder flask is made of wood and comes in the form of a mollusc or nautilus shell.

British Empire Marketing Board poster promoting Malayan pineapples
1931, colour lithograph

This poster was acquired together with other colonial and travel posters related to Singapore. Printed in 1931 and based on the artwork of Edgar Ainsworth, it was part of a series of five posters by the British Empire Marketing Board that promoted different colony commodities.



Ivory Figurine of A Sri Lankan Nobleman
18th–19th century
Sri Lanka, Ivory

This ivory figurine is a depiction of a Sri Lankan nobleman or dignitary standing on a small pedestal. He wears a benevolent expression, with closed eyes and a magnificent handlebar moustache. His facial expression denotes a devout aspect. Statuettes of kings, other royalty and the nobility – as well as ordinary men and women – are common in ivory dating from this period. The model for this piece might have been a member of the royal family, perhaps a prince or king.



(top)
Two-part panoramic view of Telok Ayer Bay from Mount Erskine
c1870, Albumen print

This is a photographic view from Mount Erskine, looking down Amoy Street. The roof of the Chinese temple, Thian Hock Keng, features in the foreground, while St Andrew's Cathedral, the Court House and the Empress Place Building are faintly visible in the background. Telok Ayer Bay is shown on the right of the image, with the old Telok Ayer market along the coast, and a scattering of ships further out at sea.



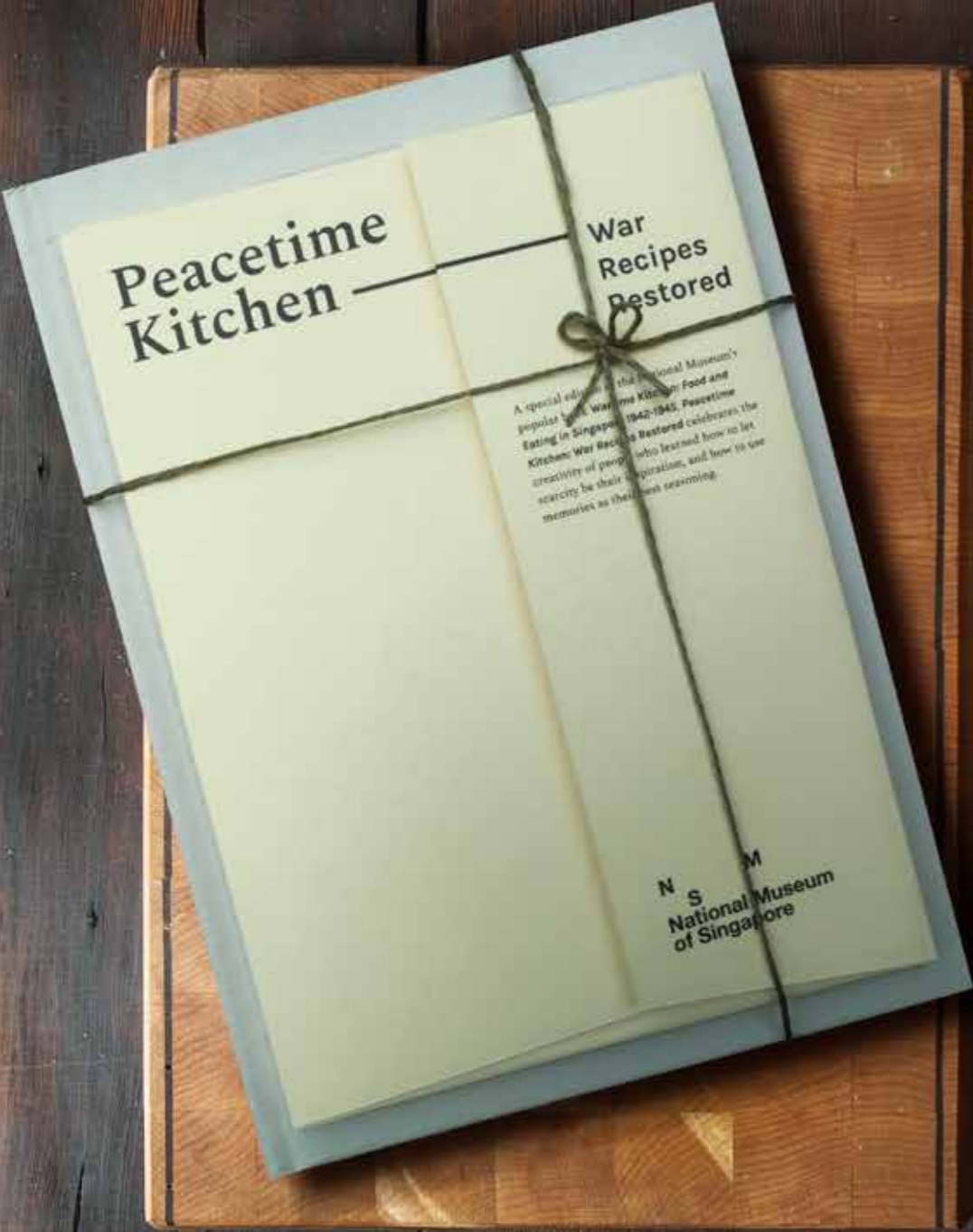
(above left)
Singapore from the Roadstead
c1850, Oil on canvas

This is a mid-19th century oil on canvas view of Singapore from the sea, with Telok Ayer basin on the left and the European town on the right, and with Government Hill in the centre, with the Governor's bungalow and flagstaff visible. Several Malay *prahu* and *sampan* are depicted in the foreground.

(above right)
Map of Singapore Town
1881

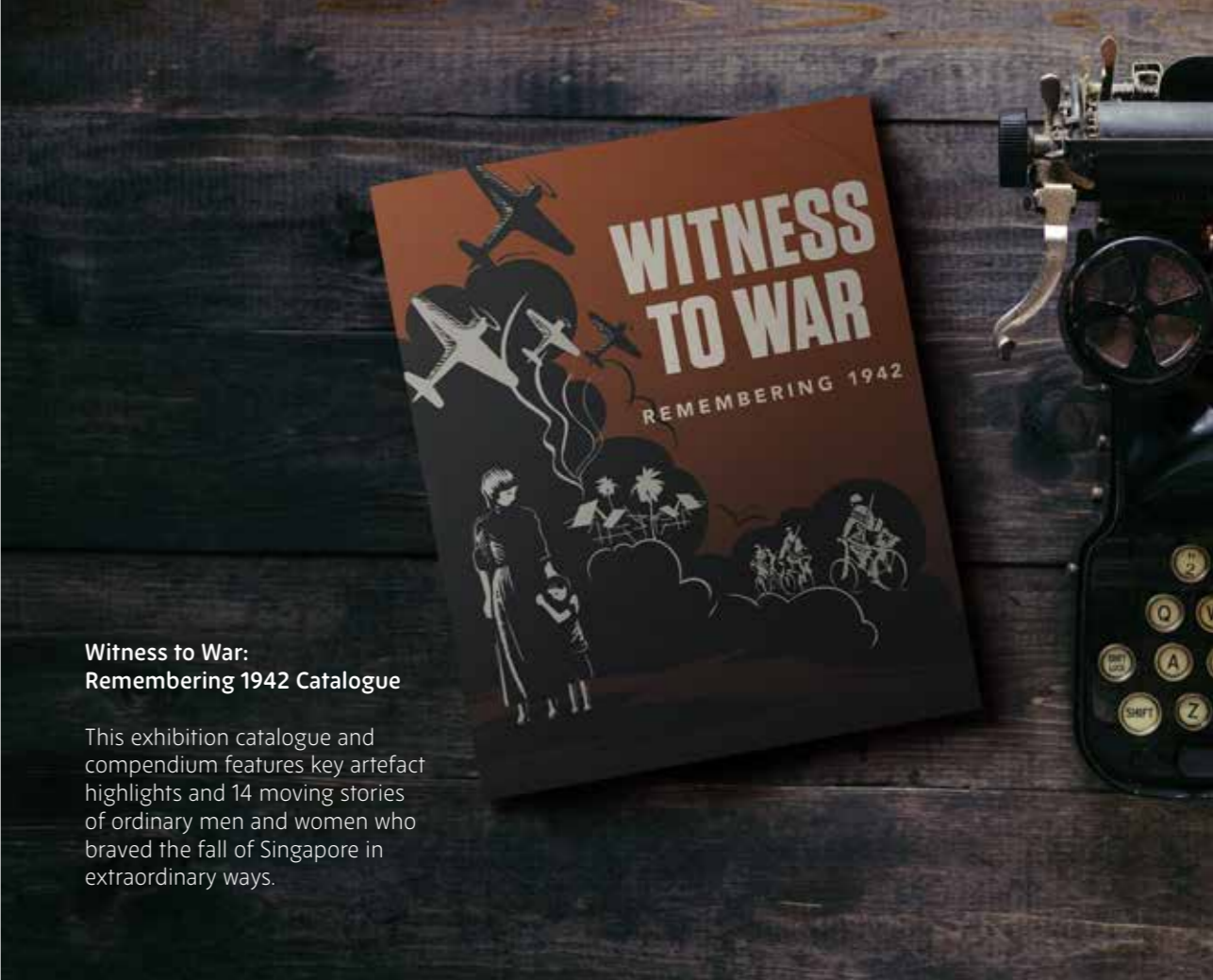
This map of Singapore town was produced by Acting Colonial Engineer H. E. McCallum in 1881. It features a highly detailed building allotment and topography of Singapore town from Tanjong Pagar to the left and Kallang to the right. Owned by Collector of Land Revenues and Registrar of Deeds H. T. Haughton, this map shows the preliminary plans for the use of the land to be reclaimed along the Telok Ayer Basin.

NEW PUBLICATIONS



Peacetime Kitchen: War Recipes Restored

This special edition of the National Museum's popular book *Wartime Kitchen: Food and Eating in Singapore*, has been repackaged with 12 wartime recipes adapted for modern kitchens, and produced in conjunction with the *Witness to War: Remembering 1942* exhibition. The recipes speak of the human spirit of creativity, fortitude and determination to eat (and live) normally in the darkest of times.



Witness to War: Remembering 1942 Catalogue

This exhibition catalogue and compendium features key artefact highlights and 14 moving stories of ordinary men and women who braved the fall of Singapore in extraordinary ways.



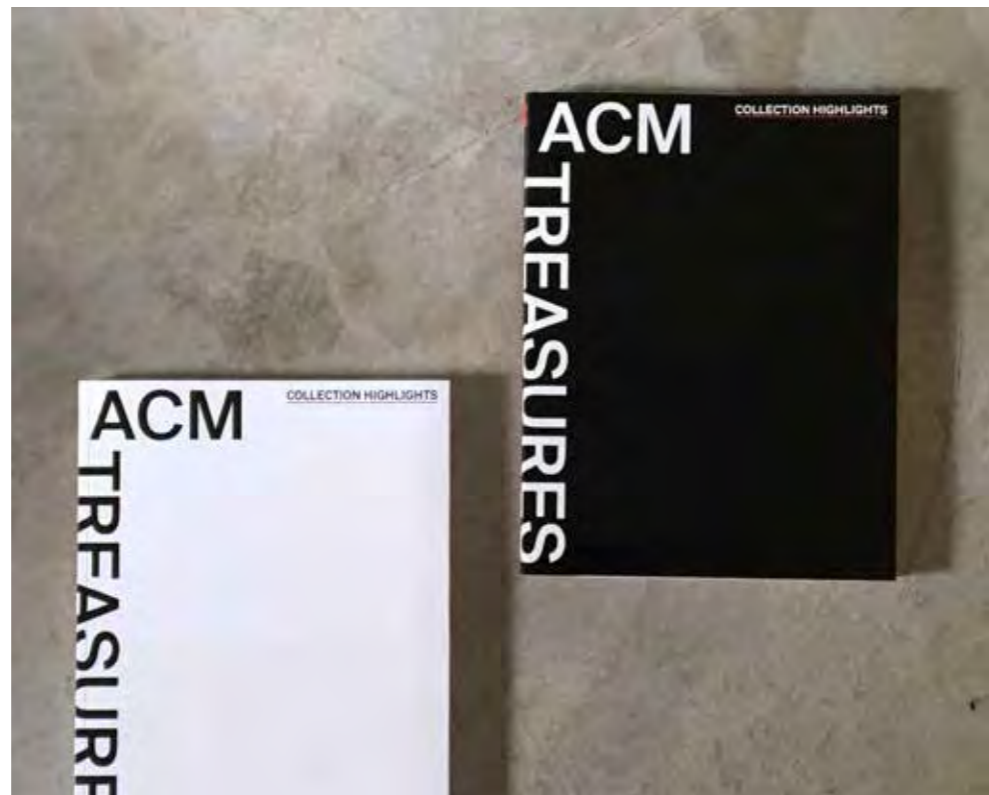
Entertainment: Forms of Leisure in Singapore, 1920s-1970s

Published to coincide with the National Museum's 130th anniversary, this book offers a visual feast and nostalgic journey that explores early and popular forms of recreation in Singapore, through images from the museum's rich collections. These include entertainment parks, cinema, radio and music from the early 20th century until the 1970s, with first-person accounts that bring memories to life.



Ghost Nets of the Ocean— Au Karem Ira Lamar Lu

Published in conjunction with the exhibition of the same name at the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM), the book presents the story of how artists from Erub Island in the Torres Strait, Australia, have turned “Ghost Nets” – abandoned plastic fishing nets – into works of art that raise awareness of ocean pollution, and specifically the harm that these nets can cause to marine wildlife. The book also documents how several schools in Singapore and Australia joined the project to create their own artworks from plastic ocean debris.



Joseon Korea: Court Treasures and City Life

Published in conjunction with the exhibition of the same name at ACM, the book explores the exuberant culture of Korea’s Joseon dynasty (1392–1897) through lavish costumes, painted screens, ceramics, scrolls, furnishings, and ritual wares. The objects, all borrowed from national museums in Korea, include luxuries of the royal court, elegant furnishings for scholar-officials, and images and objects for spiritual sustenance. This profusely illustrated catalogue provides a perfect introduction to Joseon culture and art.

ACM Treasures: Collection Highlights

ACM Treasures: Collection Highlights, features nearly 200 objects in full colour, each with a short explanation, and follows the structure of the permanent galleries of the ACM, with sections dedicated to *Trade*, *Faith and Belief*, and *Materials and Design*. Within each section, chapters mapping onto present and future gallery spaces present art objects from each gallery of the museum.

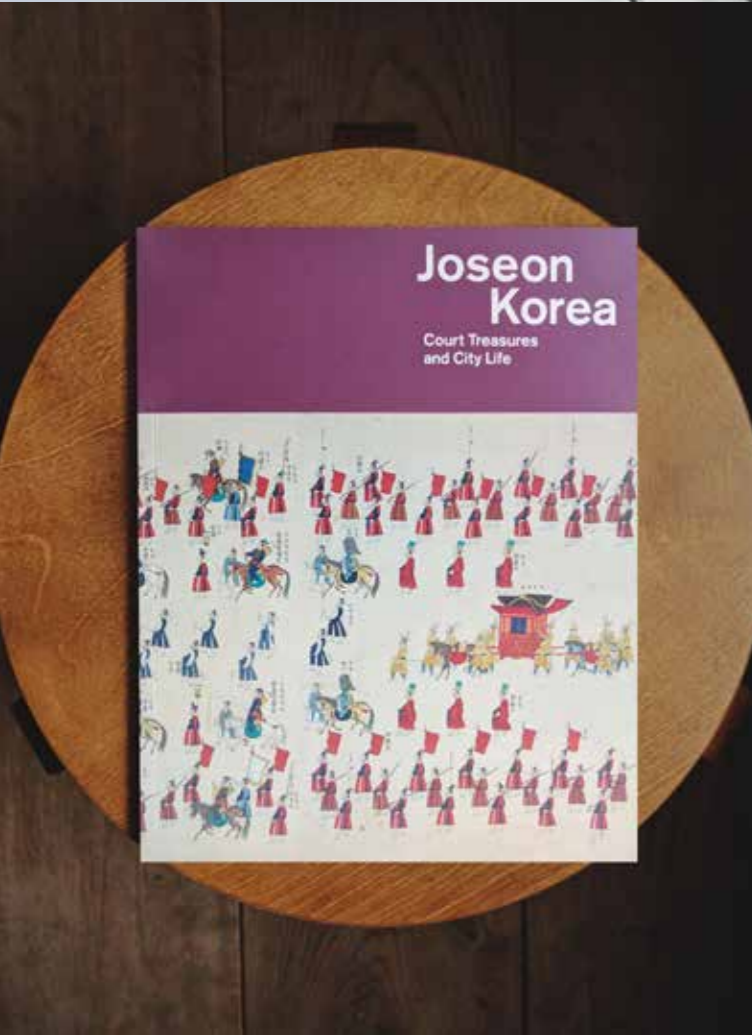
Wan Qing Yuan: A New Chapter

Wan Qing Yuan: A New Chapter provides readers with an insight into the content of the Sun Yat Sun Nanyang Memorial Hall’s permanent galleries and special exhibitions, which promote awareness of the local Chinese community’s contributions to the 1911 Revolution, the impact of the revolution on Singapore, as well as local Chinese culture and heritage. This coffee table book was updated for 2017.



Mereka Utusan: Imprinting Malay Modernity, 1920s – 1960s

Mereka Utusan: Imprinting Malay Modernity 1920s – 1960s showcased the dramatic growth and transformation of the Malay printing industry between the 1920s and 1960s. The catalogue features essays written by contributors from Malaysia and Japan, and includes a selection of full-colour advertisements and editorial cartoons reprinted for the first time since their initial print run in the 1960s.





Fullerton Building overlooking the Singapore River



Devotees observing the Nine Emperor God Festival
at Tou Mu Kung Temple in Upper Serangoon Road



A statue of an angel blowing a trumpet above the porch of Our Lady of Lourdes Church



A roadside barber at an alley near Boon Tat Street and Telok Ayer Street

