

# Book Launch & Talk: The French in Singapore

By **Maxime Pilon & Danièle Weiler**

The Singapore Heritage Society, National Library Singapore and Editions Didier Millet invites you to the public launch of *The French in Singapore: An Illustrated History (1819-Today)*, by Maxime Pilon and Danièle Weiler. Don't miss this opportunity to meet the authors up close and to obtain the book at a very special price. The authors will be giving a presentation, sharing their experiences in putting the book together and presenting excerpts from their book, particularly the contributions made by the French to Singapore's historical development, influencing and shaping to some extent the cosmopolitan outlook of Singapore. Courtesy of Editions Didier Millet, *The French in*

*Singapore* will also be on sale at a very special price of \$40.00 (usual price \$53.39) during this event.

In 1819, when Sir Stamford Raffles founded Singapore, he was accompanied by two French naturalists. Ever since, French missionaries, merchants, planters and other pioneers have contributed to its economic, educational and cultural development. Be inspired and entertained by the colourful stories of personalities, such as J. Casteleyns (who built the first hostelry, the Hotel de l'Europe, in 1857), Father Jean-Marie Beurel (who constructed the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd and St Joseph's Institution) and Alfred Clouët (who started the well-known Ayam Brand canned sardines business). Amply illustrated with photographs, paintings, sketches, old documents and maps, *The French in Singapore* is an invaluable resource for anyone seeking to discover the little-known history of the French in the Singapore we know today.



**About the Book:**  
Maxime Pilon and Danièle Weiler, *The French in Singapore: An Illustrated History (1819-today)*, Editions Didier Millet, 2011.

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| venue        | The Pod<br>Level 16, National Library Building<br>100 Victoria Street<br>Singapore 188064 |
| date   time  | Saturday, 3 March 2012<br>Begins at 3pm   |
| admission    | Free and open to the public   |
| registration | <a href="http://alturl.com/xg9cj">http://alturl.com/xg9cj</a>                             |
| enquiries    | Wendy Chua<br>( <a href="mailto:shs.secretary@gmail.com">shs.secretary@gmail.com</a> )    |



**MAXIME PILON** was born in 1970 in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France. After graduating with a Masters in History from the University of Lille III, he performed national service as a history and geography teacher at the French school in Ho Chi Minh City. He then taught at French schools in Mumbai and Copenhagen. In 2001, he moved to Singapore to teach at the Lycée Français de Singapour. In 2008 he was awarded the Chevalier dans l'ordre des Palmes Académiques (Knight of the Order of Academic Palms). His articles have been published in various webzines and guidebooks.

**DANIÈLE WEILER** studied art at the Ecole Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs de Paris. Posted to Tahiti as a teacher, she became interested in the history of the Polynesians and contributed to a book about local medicinal plants. She also worked with the Musée de Tahiti. In 1987, she returned to France and graduated with a Masters in Library Science. She was posted to Hong Kong as a teacher-librarian at the Lycée Français and later to Singapore in 2001, where she was awarded the Academic Palms. She has written various articles about Singapore for publication in webzines and guidebooks.