



### ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 July 2013

The Singapore Heritage Society was established in 1986 as a Society. It was registered under the Charities Act on 12 March 1987 and was granted Institution of Public Character status on 14 January 2009.

UEN Number:	S87SS0042J
Registered Address:	50 East Coast Road #02-57 Roxy Square Singapore 428769
Management Committee	The Management Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 3 September 2011 is as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ms Dahlia Shamsuddin (President)</li><li>2. Dr Chua Ai Lin (Vice-President)</li><li>3. Dr Yeo Kang Shua (Hon Secretary)</li><li>4. Mr Tan Wee Cheng (Hon Treasurer)</li><li>5. Dr Terence Chong (Member)</li><li>6. Mr Ho Chi Tim (Member) [resigned December 2012]</li><li>7. Ms Junaidah Jaffar (Member)</li><li>8. Mr Alex Tan Tiong Hee (Member)</li><li>9. Mr Tony Tan (Member)</li></ol>
Trustees	NIL
Banker	OCBC Bank
Auditor	Louise Neo & Co 619E Bukit Timah Road Singapore 269725
Investment Advisor	NIL
Other Advisor(s)	NIL

## **OBJECTIVE**

The Society is dedicated to the preservation, transmission and promotion of Singapore's history, heritage and identity. The Society further aims to promote active interest in the cultural life and history of Singapore and to initiate action on research, evaluation, documentation, publication, collection, display, and preservation and restoration of skills and items of historical interest.

## **POLICIES**

### **Finance & Funding**

The Society is funded by a combination of subscriptions from members, donations from well-wishers as well as through the sale of its publications and the provision of heritage consultancy services. It is the Society's policy that all new projects be self-financing. Throughout its history, the Society has never taken a loan from any individual or institution to finance its activities.

### **Premises for Registered Address & Meetings**

The Society does not own any property. Its registered and correspondence address is at 50 East Coast Road #02-57, Roxy Square, Singapore 428769. The Executive Committee holds its monthly meetings in the Events Room at Betel Box Living Bistro, 200 Joo Chiat Road, Singapore 427471 made possible through the generosity of Betel Box Asia Pte Ltd.

## **REVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2012–2013**

### **Introduction**

This report covers the period September 2012 to July 2013.

### **Administration**

The Society has no paid staff. Since June 2006, the secretarial work of the Society has carried out by Ms Wendy Chua of Bizcomm Pte Ltd who acts as the Society's administrative secretary on a service contract. Since January 2009, the Society has been given Institution of Public Character (IPC) status.

### **SHS Silver Jubilee Dinner**

The Society celebrated its Silver Jubilee (25<sup>th</sup> anniversary) in 2012 with an updated logo, the launch of a new website and a series of events including three exhibitions at the National Library. The Silver Jubilee celebrations culminated with a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner on 15 September 2012 at Re! Hotel with 159 guests. At the dinner, past presidents, Dr Kwok Kian Woon and Dr Kevin YL Tan, were honoured for their work with the Society. They were each presented with paintings by Sunar Sugiyono, a Singaporean artist.

### **Advocacy**

The Society continued its advocacy work on Bukit Brown:

- The Multiple Paper by Terence Chong and Chua Ai Lin. Paper for Public Space in Urban Asia Workshop, 25-26 May 2013 (unpublished)
- Presentation on Bukit Brown by Terence Chong and Chua Ai Lin at the Senior Management Programme, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, on 7 June 2013
- Celebrating Bukit Brown: Rediscovering the Past, organised by the Singapore Heritage Society & All Things Bukit Brown, at The Substation, 20 January 2013

- Talk by Alex Tan Tiong Hee at Bukit Brown, Our Roots, Our Future exhibition organised by All Things Bukit Brown and Chui Huay Lim Club on 7 July 2013

Advocacy on Chinatown:

Dinesh Naidu gave a presentation on Chinatown for participants of the Senior Management Programme, Lee Kuan Yew School Public Policy, on 25 June 2013 followed by a guided tour by Dinesh Naidu and Chua Ai Lin on the same day.

The Society released a press release on Singapore Botanic Gardens as UNESCO World Heritage Site on 2 April 2013. A total of three op-ed commentaries were published:

- Bukit Timah Forests, SIT Flats Worthy of World Heritage status too by Terence Chong, Yeo Kang Shua and Tan Wee Cheng, Published: TODAY, 6 April 2013 (online version only)
- Pulau Ubin and the Unsettled Singapore Psyche by Terence Chong and Yeo Kang Shua, Published: TODAY, 18 April 2013 (print and online)
- Holes in the Heritage Conservation Wall By Yeo Kang Shua and Terence Chong, Published: TODAY, 11 July 2013 (print and online)

The press release and commentaries were widely shared via Facebook and were favourably received by SHS members and the public.

### **Talks and Forums**

Talks and forums remains the most popular of the Society's numerous events and initiatives. During the period under review, most of our talks were co-organised with the National Library Board, the Arts House and Select Books. The following is a list of talks the Society organised between September 2012 and July 2013.

In conjunction with the exhibition Raffles' Letters: Intrigues Behind the Founding of Singapore, a series of five public talks, four curator's tours for the public and one for SHS members were organised. The talks are:

#### **RAFFLES, LAW AND POLITICS IN THE FOUNDING OF SINGAPORE**

Dr Kevin YL Tan

3.30 pm, Saturday, 22 September 2012

Possibility Room, Level 5, National Library Building

Victoria Street

This talk on international and constitutional law and the political intrigues between the Dutch and the British in the days leading to and after Raffles' landing in Singapore attracted a full house.

#### **RAFFLES AND THE BOTANICAL IMPULSE**

Dr Lai Chee Kien

1.30 pm, Saturday, 20 October 2012

Imagination Room, Level 5, National Library Building

Victoria Street

A talk on Raffles, the accomplished natural historian, attracted a full house. The talk focused on the impact of Raffles' interest and initiatives in botany and how it shaped the political and socio-economic histories of the region to this day.

RAFFLES, ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BRITISH IN INDONESIA

Dr John Miksic

2.00 pm, Saturday, 24 November 2012

Possibility Room, Level 5, National Library Building

Victoria Street

Another talk which attracted 60 people. This talk focused on Raffles' contribution to the study of ancient Southeast Asia before the field of archaeology existed.

1822 JACKSON PLAN AND ITS INFLUENCES

Dr Yeo Kang Shua

2.00 pm, Saturday, 26 January 2013

Possibility Room, Level 5, National Library Building

Victoria Street

The 1822 Jackson Plan was Singapore's first town plan and had a tremendous influence on Singapore's urban landscape. The talk attempted to provide the reasons behind the formulation this plan. About 90 people attended this talk.

WHAT DID RAFFLES SEE IN SINGAPORE?

Mr Lim Chen Sian

2.00 pm, Saturday, 24 November 2012

Possibility Room, Level 5, National Library Building

Victoria Street

Based on archaeological findings and historical resources, Lim painted a picture what Singapore was like before and after Raffles arrived to an audience of 90 people.

CAKAP HERITAGE@SELECT BOOKS: GIRLS, GANGSTERS & GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS: ALEX TAN  
ON THE 3G'S OF LIFE IN SINGAPORE IN THE 1950s AND 1960s

Mr Alex Tan Tiong Hee

3.00 pm, Sunday, 25 November 2012

Select Books

Armenian Street

Alex Tan Tiong Hee regaled a crowd of 50 with his recollections of life in the 1950s and 1960s. The session was a lively one with some participants sharing their experience of life during that period.

CAKAPHERITAGE@SELECT BOOKS: LET'S TALK HERITAGE

Mrs Ann Wee

3.00 pm, Saturday 9 March 2013

Select Books,  
Armenian Street

Ann Wee shared her insights of the lives of women in 1950s and 1960s Singapore based on her experience as a teacher in a local girls' school and later as a social worker. About 60 people of all ages listened and asked questions about a Singapore that is now a distant memory.

THE TIME MACHINE IN YOUR HAND: ANTIQUARIAN BOOK COLLECTING

Dr Farish A Noor

3.00 pm, Saturday, 13 April 2013

Imagination Room, Level 5, National Library Building  
Victoria Street

Dr Farish A Noor shared his experience collecting antiquarian books with 70 people. He revealed that he began collecting antiquarian books while he was an undergraduate in the UK. Those who attended were privileged to examine some of the books he brought to the talk.

SACRED SIRIH: TRADITIONS AND SYMBOLISM IN THE MALAY WORLD

Mr Khir Johari

3.00 pm, Saturday, 18 May 2013

Possibility Room, Level 5, National Library Building  
Victoria Street

A hundred people came to listen to Khir Johari talk about the sirih, its role and symbolism in the Malay culture and the wider Malay world. A collection of exquisite tepak sirih (sirih receptacles) was shown in a powerpoint slide to an appreciative and discerning crowd.

BOOK TALK: SUFFERING THROUGH STRENGTH: THE MEN WHO MADE CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Mr John Hunt

3.00 pm, Saturday, 27 July 2013

Select Books  
Armenian Street

60 people came to Select Books to listen to John Hunt talk about Ong Sam Leong, his business on Christmas Island and the Chinese coolies who left China to work in the phosphate mine on the island. Ong Sam Leong is buried in the largest tomb site at Bukit Brown Cemetery in Singapore.

### **Book Launch**

SQUATTERS INTO CITIZENS: THE 1961 BUKIT HO SWEE FIRE AND THE MAKING OF MODERN SINGAPORE

by Dr Loh Kah Seng

2.00 pm, Sunday, 14 July 2013

Imagination Room, National Library Building  
Victoria Street

The Society and NUS Press jointly organised the public launch of the book Squatters into Citizens: the Bukit Ho Swee Fire and the Making of Modern Singapore. Dr Loh Kah Seng, the author, shared his experience writing this book to an audience of 50 people. A lively question and answer session followed.

### **Walks & Tours**

CURATOR'S TOUR OF THE MALAY HERITAGE CENTRE

a Curator's Tour with Ms Noorashikin Zulkifli

7.00 pm, Friday, 18 January 2013

Malay Heritage Centre

24 participants attended a curator's tour of the Malay Heritage Centre (MHC) conducted by Ms Noorashikin Zulkifli. MHC re-opened in 2013 after a long period of renovation. The participants had the opportunity to view the new exhibits at the Malay Heritage Centre. It was the first time that the Society held a tour on a Friday evening. Its success will see the Society organising more tours on a week day evening.

CURATOR'S TOUR OF THE RAFFLES' LETTERS EXHIBITION

a Curator's Tour with Dr Kevin YL Tan

10.30 am, Saturday, 2 February 2013

Level 10, National Library Building

Dr Kevin YL Tan conducted this tour for 25 members. The members were given an insight into Raffles, the people who were instrumental in the establishment of a new British settlement in Singapore and the 13 letters from the Bute Archives, and the challenges in putting together this exhibition. Four curator's tours led by Dr Kevin YL Tan or Mr Lim Chen Sian were conducted for the public between September 2012 and January 2013.

WORSHIPPING SIVA AND BUDDHA IN THE TEMPLES OF EAST JAVA

a Tour with Mr Kwa Chong Guan

24 to 28 May 2013

This tour received an overwhelming response from members. It was sold out 24 hours after it was emailed to members with at least 11 people on the waiting list. Led by Mr Kwa Chong Guan, one of the founders of SHS, 30 participants went on this very informative and interesting tour to Surabaya, Malang, Blitar and Trowulan in east Java. Participants visited important Buddhist and Hindu temples, and the tomb of Suharto, the first president of Indonesia. Through Mr Kwa's extensive research, the participants were given a history of the

Majapahit empire and its impact on the Javanese people and the history of modern Indonesia. Four of the Society's Exco members took this opportunity to meet heritage enthusiasts in Surabaya on 27 May 2013.

**CURATOR'S TOUR OF THE SUN YAT SEN NANYANG MEMORIAL HALL WITH DR TAN TENG PHEE**

Curator's Tours with Dr Tan Teng Phee  
7.00 pm, Friday, 21 June 2013  
Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall  
Tai Gin Road

On the haziest day in Singapore when the PSI reached a high of 401, 24 participants ventured out to attend a curator's tour of the Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall. Conducted by Dr Tan Teng Phee, the participants were given an overview of Sun Yat Sen, the history of this villa and the Singaporeans who had a role to play in China's history. The participants also had an opportunity to view the special exhibit "Kindred Spirits: Dr Sun Yat Sen, Singapore and Japan".

**Conferences, etc**

**HERITAGE@CENTRESTAGE: AN INQUIRY INTO SINGAPORE'S HERITAGE: A SEMINAR BY EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS, 8 SEPTEMBER 2012, POSSIBILITY ROOM, NATIONAL LIBRARY**  
This seminar was jointly organised with the Singapore Association of Social Studies Education (SASSE) for educators and students. A total of 17 presentations were made by educators and students ranging from primary school to undergraduates on topics such as Bukit Brown, preservation of provision shops, the Joo Chiat area and urban heritage in Singapore.

**CELEBRATING BUKIT BROWN**

**SUNDAY, 20 JANUARY 2013, THE SUBSTATION, 2pm – 8pm**

A series of events including a photo exhibition, an update from the official documentation team led by Dr Hui Yew-Foong; a presentation on alternative land use planning by architect, Tay Kheng Soon; a public forum on Bukit Brown; and readings from the works of Kuo Pao Kun. Also included were a presentation on material culture of Bukit Brown and the Chinese diaspora; a presentation on Bukit Brown and WWII; and the first major screening of Bukit Brown Voices, an independent documentary by Khoo Su-Mae and Brian McDairmant. This event, held at The Substation, was jointly organised by the Singapore Heritage Society and All Things Bukit Brown. About 300 to 400 people attended this event.

**Miscellaneous**

**2013 SHS CALENDAR**

Through the generous contribution of SHS members, Mr Hsien Yoong How and Mr Lim Kheng Chye, the Society was able to distribute a calendar to members. The calendar was made up of 24 postcards of old Singapore and was distributed free to members.

## URA AWARDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2012-2014

Dr Yeo Kang Shu, Hon. Secretary, is the Society's representative to this committee.

## IREMEMBERCLIFFORDPIER CONTEST

Clifford Pier celebrated its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 3 June 2013. As part of Clifford Pier's celebrations, an irememberCliffoRdPier contest was organised where the public was invited to share their memories. Ms Dahlia Shamsuddin, President, was one of the judges to select the 10 best memories.

## Book Projects

### **OUR MODERN PAST: MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN SINGAPORE 1920s TO 1970s**

In 2005, the Society received a grant of \$60,900 from the Urban Redevelopment Authority under their Architecture and Urban Design Excellence (AUDE) grant scheme. The Society will publish this 2-volume book with the Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA). The book is expected to be ready by the end of 2013.

### **SONG ONG SIANG'S ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF THE CHINESE IN SINGAPORE**

The Society has embarked on a project to annotate, edit and re-publish Sir Song Ong Siang's classic volume, One Hundred Years of the Chinese in Singapore. This volume was first published in 1921 and underwent two reprints in 1968 and 1991 before going out of print. As Song passed away in 1941, the book is now in the public domain. The Society had originally engaged Dr Loh Kah Seng to undertake the revisions and annotations. Loh is now an assistant professor at the Sogang Institute for East Asian Studies (SIEAS) in South Korea and Dr Thum Ping Tjun has been appointed to undertake this task. The Society will co-publish this book with the National Library Board (NLB). The book was expected to have been ready in 2013 but large changes in procurement rules in the public sector has led to a delay in the awarding of the contract to the Society for the volume. To date, no contract has been signed but NLB assured the Society that it is still trying hard to get the necessary finance to see it through.

### **OH MY GEYLANG**

The Society is working with well-known artist and caricaturist, Morgan Chua, on a graphic book on Geylang. Chua was the Creative Director of the Far Eastern Economic Review for 25 years and grew up in Geylang. Work on this book is on-going and the Society had hoped to publish the book in June 2013. Delays have been experienced for this volume largely on account of Mr Morgan Chua's ill health. He has been very unwell and then suffered a motorcycle accident and has not been able to work on it while recuperating in his home in Batam.

### **GREEN INK ON AN ENVELOPE**

This book about the architect, Sonny Chan of Chan Sau Yan & Associates has been printed. It will be officially launched on 30 August 2013.

### **SIR STAMFORD RAFFLES & HIS CIRCLE BY JOHN BASTIN**

This book will bring together the works by Dr John Bastin on key persons related to the career of Raffles in one volume. The National Library Board (NLB) has expressed an interest in this volume but Dr Bastin has yet to complete his revisions on the original manuscripts.



### Membership

The current membership is 180 members. The opportunity to opt for a 3-year membership for new and existing members has been popular. By choosing the 3-year membership, members pay S\$160 instead of S\$180. A one-year member still costs S\$60 for Ordinary and Associate members.

### Conclusion

As can be seen, the Society has organised a great variety of events and projects. These have not only benefited members directly, but also substantially raised the profile of the Society. All this has been possible only because of the commitment and dedication of the Society's Executive Committee members as well as the ex-Officio members. The problem remains that most of the work is being handled by only a very small minority of the Society's members and this is likely to result in fatigue in the long run. It is our hope that more members will come forward to serve and offer their expertise and help in running the Society so that its missions of Education, Research and Advocacy in the interests of Singapore's heritage may be advanced. The Society places on record its appreciation to Mr Ho Chi Tim and also to Ms Wendy Chua for their hard work and dedication.

### REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATE AND EXPLANATION OF MAJOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

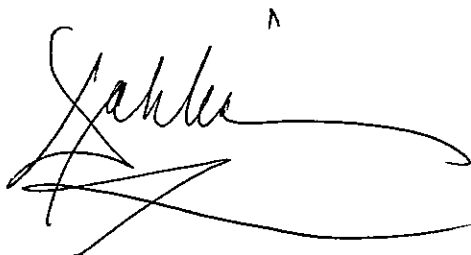
The Society's main source of income is from donations and grants from government projects. Membership subscriptions alone are insufficient to meet day-to-day expenses. Major expenditure items in the Accounts for 2012–2013 relate to archaeological projects, research, exhibitions and publication of books. In all activities the Society has organised, every effort has been made to ensure that each event and project is self-funding. It should nonetheless be noted that subscriptions by members *do not* cover year-to-year operation costs and that cross subsidies are secured through money made in publishing, consulting and other ventures.

### FUTURE PLANS

The Society plans to continue working with various partners to organise its events. We will engage with current and new partners who have expressed interest to partner the Society in furthering the cause of heritage. We will continue to explore business models that involve the publication of its books, provision of consulting and heritage education services, as well as merchandising opportunities.

### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Statement of accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2013 is attached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dahlia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. There is a small 'A' above the signature.

**Ms Dahlia Shamsuddin**  
PRESIDENT  
on behalf of the Executive Committee