

British Malaya 1824-67

by L. A. MILLS

edited for reprinting,
with a bibliography of writings in English
on British Malaya, 1786-1867,
by C. M. Turnbull

and a new introductory chapter on
European influence in the Malay Peninsula,
1511-1786,
by D. K. Bassett

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Preface

Professor Mills's *British Malaya, 1824-67* was first published in 1925 as Volume III, Part II of the *Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* at a time when little research had been done into this period of Malayan history. Today it still remains the standard work in this field. A growing interest in Malayan history in recent years has led to an increasing demand for the book, but for a long time copies of the original issue have been unobtainable, and it is partly to satisfy this need that the work is re-issued at the present time. An equally important consideration, however, is the fact that whatever may be written by historians in the future on this period of Malayan history, Professor Mills's book will always remain of permanent interest as a most valuable and important pioneer work.

With the approval of Professor Mills, certain changes have been made in the original form of the work. The first chapter, "The English and Dutch in the East, 1579-1786", has been re-written by Dr. D. Bassett, Lecturer in History at the University of Malaya, who has added a bibliography of this chapter. Modifications have been made in Chapter II, "Penang 1786-1830" by Professor K. Tregonning, Raffles Professor of History at the University of Malaya in Singapore, in the light of his own recent research. The collection of Malay documents relating to the Naning War, which was included as an Appendix to the 1925 edition but not used in Professor Mills's text, has been omitted. A new bibliography has been substituted by the Editor. Apart from minor alterations, however, no substantial changes have been made in the last ten chapters which form the main body of the author's original research.

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1 July 1960

CONSTANCE M. TURNBULL.

20 AUG 2003

NASKAH PEMELIHARAAN
PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA

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To Sir Charles Lucas,
with grateful thanks for his unfailing
encouragement and assistance.

1911
1912
1913

Author's Preface

No one who is interested in the British Empire can fail to be impressed by the fact that of the many books which appear every year on Imperial History very few deal with the Crown Colonies. While much painstaking research has been devoted to the development of the self-governing Dominions, no adequate account has yet appeared of a very large number of the Crown Colonies. This book is an attempt to supply the want so far as British Malaya is concerned, for the period 1824 to 1867. The first four chapters form an introduction giving a brief account of the earlier history of the Straits Settlements from 1786 to 1824. The principal events in this period have already been dealt with by Swettenham, Egerton, Boulger and others, so that the introduction is intended merely to summarize, and in some points to supplement, their conclusions, as for example the account of the legal and economic history of Penang and Singapore. The remaining ten chapters of the book are almost entirely based upon my own investigations.

In the matter of acknowledgements I have to express my deep sense of obligation for the assistance which I have received from Sir Charles Lucas, K.C.B., Sir Herbert Warren, K.C.V.O., Mr. C. O. Blagden, Professor Egerton, Professor Coupland, and Mr. E. M. Wrong, by their encouragement and valuable criticisms. I am also indebted to Mr. Blagden for the Appendix of Malayan documents which he discovered and translated at Malacca. They give the Naning War from the native point of view; but unfortunately they did not come into my possession until it was too late to use them in the writing of this book. I have to thank Mr. S. C. Hill, late of the Indian Educational Service, for the use of his unpublished manuscript on East Indian piracy. It is also a pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to Mr. Evans Lewin, the Librarian of the Royal Colonial Institute, and to Mr. Foster, the Librarian of the India Office Library, for their assistance in discovering and placing at my disposal a number of valuable documents.

L. A. MILLS.

Magdalen College, Oxford.
25, June 1924.