

Spectrum of
**CHINESE
CULTURE**



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Frontispiece:
Tapestry with four of the Eight Immortals
embroidered on them. Tapestries like this
are usually hung up in the homes during
happy festive occasions.

Right: Dragon painted by the author.

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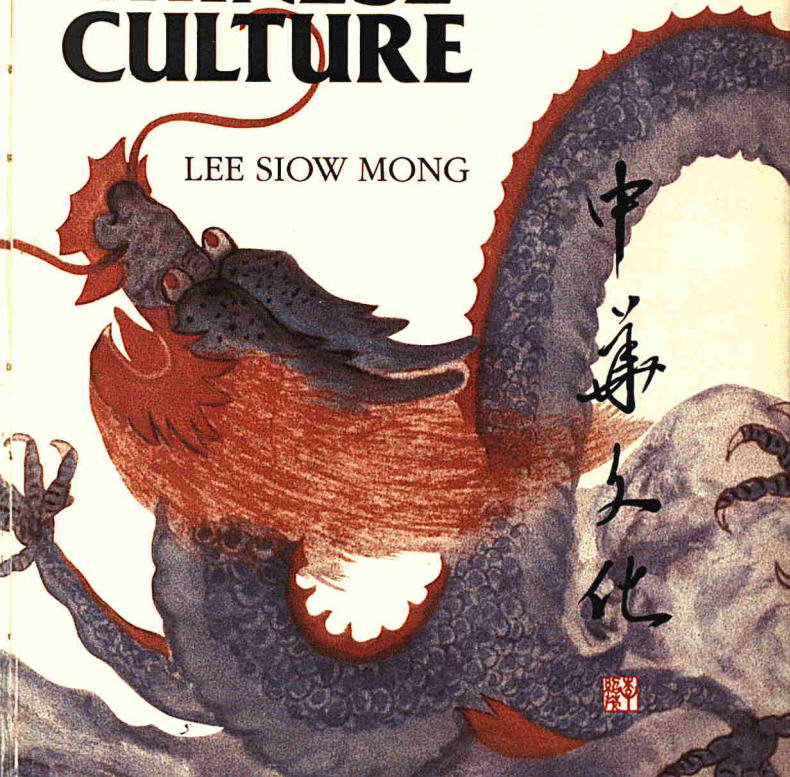


JUL 1987

Spectrum of
**CHINESE
CULTURE**

LEE SIOW MONG

中華文化



This book
is
dedicated
to
members of my family
who grew up
under
the long shadow
of
Chinese Culture

BIODATA

Tan Sri Lee Siow Mong is a man of wide interest and expertise, and irrefutably one who has had the best of many worlds. Born in Singapore in 1915, he had the advantage of living his early formative years in China, absorbing Chinese culture under most congenial surroundings and conditions, and receiving his education at a time when old classical Chinese was changing to modern. It can be said therefore that at the start of life he had the best of two Chinese worlds — the classical and the modern.

When he returned to Singapore in the late 1920s, he continued his Chinese education under private tutelage although he embarked upon an English education. He had the best that Singapore could offer at the time and graduated from Raffles College in 1937 with a Diploma in Science. He was appointed to the Straits Settlements Civil Service after graduation. After the war he was appointed to the British Overseas Civil Service. This enabled him to do Public Administration at Oriol College, Oxford.

He has held many civil service appointments in Singapore including that of Permanent Secretary and Director of Education in the Ministry of Education, and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture. He was also Permanent Secretary on special duties in the Prime Minister's Department and concurrently General Manager of the Public Utilities Board. He retired in 1965 after which the Malaysian Government appointed him as General Manager of the Employees Provident Fund, the biggest financial institution in Malaysia. He held this post for fifteen years; thirteen years as General Manager and two years as Adviser. In 1980 he retired.

