

“Sarawak Historical Events” 1946-1960

— Compiled By HO AH CHON —

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21 FEB 1995

NASKAH PEMELIHARAAN
PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA

M
959.54
SAR

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Preface

As far as 1952 was concerned, it was an eventful year in the history of Sarawak, unquestionably the most eventful since the cession of the territory to the crown.

One of the last honours bestowed by His Late Majesty King George XI before his death was the conferment of knighthood upon His Excellency the Governor, an honour which was received with pride and satisfaction by people throughout Sarawak. His Excellency was absent from the country on furlough for five months in the middle of the year and during that period the Chief Secretary, Mr. R.G. Aikman, was Officer Administering the Government.

Probably the most important event of the year — at any rate to the citizens of Kuching and Sibü — was the visit in October of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, accompanied by her son the Duke of Kent. This was the first visit of a member of the Royal family to Sarawak. Her Royal Highness arrived in Kuching on the 14th of October from Singapore and with three day's stay she attended many a interesting functions. The Duchess spent most of Thursday, 16th October, at Sibü, flying to and from that town in the Sunderland flying boat which had brought her to Sarawak. The Duchess was welcomed both in Sibü and in Kuching with wholehearted and sincere demonstration of affection and loyalty, and the drive through the brilliantly decorated streets of these towns was a most moving experience for all those who took part in it. In the words of His Excellency the Governor, Her Royal Highness left behind Sarawak a gay and happy memory and a great example of unselfish public service which we will always remember and treasure."

1953 was in Sarawak, most emphatically Coronation Year; a number of other important events occurred but none of these are likely to be as well remembered as the joyful and spontaneous manifestations loyalty throughout the whole country on the occasion of Her Majesty's Coronation. In addition to the services held in churches of all denominations, there were celebrations in towns and villages everywhere, regattas, processions, sports, dancing, dinners and presentations of addresses and sentiments of loyalty to Her Majesty from all classes and races of the community. Some of the gatherings to celebrate the Coronation are shown in photographs in this issue; special mention of any particular event is, perhaps, invidious but those who saw them will long remember the decorations and the great evening procession in Kuching.



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Acknowledgement

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The illustrations and descriptions of the varies events had been reported through the Sarawak Gazette issued by the Sarawak Government 'Sarawak By the Week' issued by the Sarawak Information Service, Sarawak Tribune issued by the Sarawak Press Sdn. Bhd.

I wish to put on record my sincere thanks to Mr. Au Young Nang Gan A.R.P.S. for his kind permission in using many of his picturs for the publication of this Pictorial Book.



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