

The Memoirs of Keris Mas

SPANNING **30** YEARS
OF LITERARY
DEVELOPMENT

The Memoirs of Keris Mas

SPANNING **30** YEARS
OF LITERARY
DEVELOPMENT

Translated by

SHAH REZAD IBRAHIM ● NOR AZIZAH ABU BAKAR

Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka
Kuala Lumpur

2004

This book *The Memoirs of Keris Mas: Spanning 30 Years of Literary Development* is translated from the original title *Memoir Keris Mas: 30 Tahun Sekitar Sastera* by Keris Mas and published by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Malaysia, P.O. Box 10803, 50926 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

First Published 2004

© Keris Mas 1979

© Translated Version Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Malaysia 2004

All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the Director-General, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, P.O. Box 10803, 50926 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Negotiation is subject to the calculation of royalty or honorarium.

Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Keris Mas, 1922-1992

The memoirs of Keris Mas: spanning 30 years of literary/translated by Shah Rezad Ibrahim, Nor Azizah Abu Bakar.

Includes index

ISBN 983-62-8628-4

1. Keris Mas, 1922-1992. 2. Authors, Malay--Biography. 3. Malay literature--History and criticism. I. Shah Rezad Ibrahim. II. Nor Azizah Abu Bakar. III. Judul.

928.9923

M

928.9923

KER ✓

Printed by

Dawama Sdn. Bhd.

Kompleks Dawama

Lot 1037, Jalan AU3/1 NASKAH PEMELIHARAAN

54200 Ampang/H PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA

Selangor Darul Ehsan

APB

01153625

31 JAN 2005



CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	ix
INTRODUCTION	1
Singapore – The First Time Around	2
Singapore – The Second Time Around	16
A TRAGIC BEGINNING	22
The Publication of <i>Pahlawan Rimba Malaya</i>	26
Stories and Speeches	30
POLITICAL AND CULTURAL THINKING	33
Getting to Know the Kampong Folks	35
A New Impetus	39
Singapore – The Third Time Around	42

Becoming a Journalist	43
A New Horizon	47
From Politics to Literature	51
New Trends in Malay Literature	52
WHY SINGAPORE	58
Left-wing Politics under Pressure	63
The Politics of Culture	66
<i>Mastika</i> Transformed	69
INDONESIAN INFLUENCE	76
A Season for Novels	80
Books and Writers	83
A NEW MOVEMENT TAKES SHAPE	91
A New Force in Singapore	95
In Search of Fame?	100
The Beginnings of the Writers' Association	102
THE BIRTH OF A WRITERS' ASSOCIATION	106
<i>Angkatan Sasterawan 50</i>	109
<i>Lembaga Bahasa Melayu</i>	116
New Trends in Thinking	120
THE TURBULENT YEARS	133
The Need to be a Pressure Group	136
Art for Society	142
Meaningful and Meaningless Conflicts	147
A Writer's Life in Singapore	150
Leaving Utusan Melayu	159
To Penang and Back to Singapore Again	163
Developments in Singapore	171
<i>Persekutuan Bahasa Melayu Universiti Malaya</i>	175
The Third Congress	179
A Stint at the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka	189
Bukit Timbalan	192