

PAPERS ON
MALAYAN HISTORY

Papers submitted to the First International
Conference of South-East Asian Historians,
Singapore, January 1961.

edited by

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INTRODUCTION

These fourteen papers were presented to the First International Conference of South-East Asian Historians held in Singapore in January 1961. Publication of their work in book form has been made possible by a generous grant from the Lee Foundation.

The study of Malayan history is undergoing a swift change. For many years it has been regarded in a Europe-centric fashion. It has been written either as the history of the European in Malaya, or it has been looked at from outside; or both. Now it has become generally accepted that the Malayan community itself must be the centre of studies. Malaya itself has become the core, and developments are studied in the light of their effect on it. It is as if one now studies Malaya from within, looking outwards, the correct way after all to study the history of any country. This stand is clearly reflected in these papers.

Here is assembled for the most part recent research by the post-war generation of Malayan historians. As their work illustrates, Malaya offers exciting research possibilities. There is a vast field for historians, sociologists, economists, jurists and others to explore. If this book and the Conference from which it sprang stimulate further study into the history of the area, particularly by Malaysians themselves, then Dato Lee Kong Chian I am sure will feel well rewarded, and my hopes too will have been realized.

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MALAYAN HISTORY

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