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# Tunku's feats caught writers' imagination

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj was a prince by birth and a prince among men. His love and passion for this country shone through his fight for its independence.

On Aug 31, 1957, it was his voice that proclaimed that this country was free.

His sense of humour, his love for the common people, his patriotism and his call for unity reverberated through the country, and the seeds of freedom that he implanted in the hearts of his countrymen grew strong over the years.

Tunku Abdul Rahman's life as a prince and the country's first prime minister was captured in 17 biographies, the earliest of which was written in 1957, titled *The Architect of Merdeka*.

He had also penned his memoirs: *Viewpoints* (1978), *As a Matter of Interest* (1981) and *Something To Remember* (1983).

*Tunku: A Pictorial Biography 1903-1957* was published



*Malaysiaku Gemilang*

in 1984. It was written by Tan Sri Mubin Sheppard and launched by Sultan Azlan Shah of Perak.

In his speech at the launch, Sultan Azlan Shah said Tunku Abdul Rahman was a man of integrity, dedicated to his beliefs, humble and sincere.

"In the true form, Tunku with his golden touch epitomises the immortal words of Horace; '*Velut inter ignes Luna minores*' (As shines the moon among the lesser fires)."

Tunku Abdul Rahman's feat as the Father of Independence had caught the world's attention, with his biographies written by international writers such as Harry Miller (*Prince and Premier*) and Willard Hanna (*Eight Nation Makers: Southeast Asia's*

*Charismatic Statesmen*).

He is also featured in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Wikipedia and the Encyclopedia Americana.

The latest book on his life is *Prince Among Men: Recollections and Reflections on Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra* by Prabhakaran S. Nair, director of the National Heroes Gallery of the National Archives, launched earlier this month by Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail.

The 493-page book gives readers an insight into his life through the anecdotes and experiences of people close to him, some 50 of whom contributed to this book.

It is published by the National Archives and contains articles and pictures that have never been seen in print before.

Among the contributors are Tunku's son, Tunku Ahmad Nerang Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, Toh Puan Uma Sambanthan, F.R. Bhupalan, and his personal physician, Datuk Dr V. Thuraisingam.