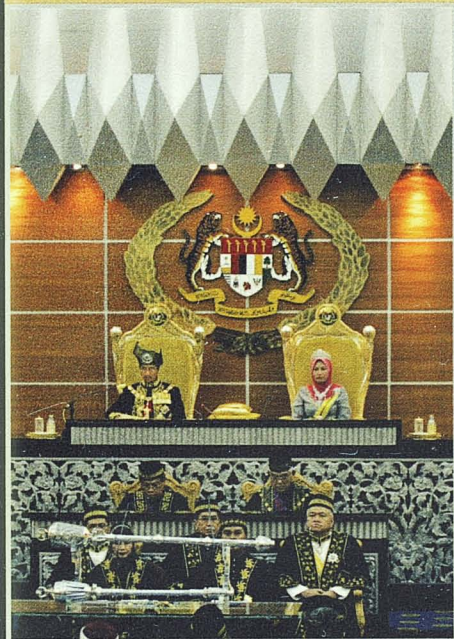


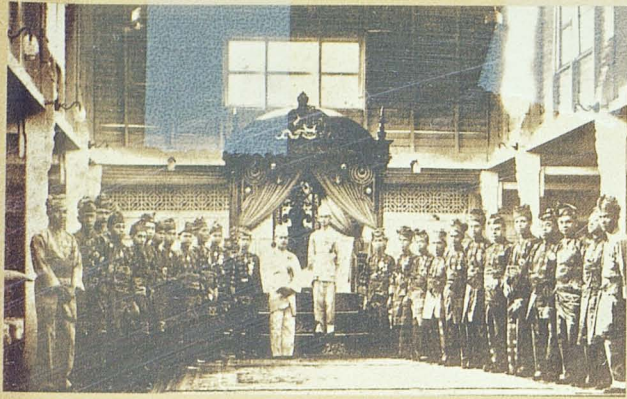
# THE RULERS OF MALAYSIA

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Malaysia is unique among the countries of the world in that the Head of State in each of nine of its component States is a constitutional monarch, a Malay Ruler; its other four States—Melaka, Penang, Sabah and Sarawak—are represented by a Yang di-Pertua Negeri (formerly Governor). At least one of the royal houses can trace its lineage back more than 800 years.

The powers of the Malay Rulers reached their zenith during the Melaka Sultanate which was founded c.1400. The Portuguese conquest of Melaka in 1511 and subsequent intervention by foreign powers gradually reduced the dominance of the Rulers—none more so than the ascendancy of the British from the mid-19th to the mid-20th century. One by one, the Malay Rulers had to accept a British representative known as Resident in the Federated Malay States and as British Adviser in the Unfederated Malay States (with the exception of Johor, where the representative was known as General Adviser).

The birth of the modern Malaysian Monarchy followed the inception of the Federation of Malaya in 1948. This united the nine Malay States and the former Straits Settlements of Penang and Melaka and was the stepping stone to Independence in 1957. It was at Independence that the first Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Paramount Ruler) was elected from and by the Malay Rulers for a five-year term.

This richly illustrated volume contains more than 750 images including artwork, maps and diagrams and covers the history, progress and protocol of the Rulers of Malaysia including the Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Melaka, Penang, Sabah and Sarawak.

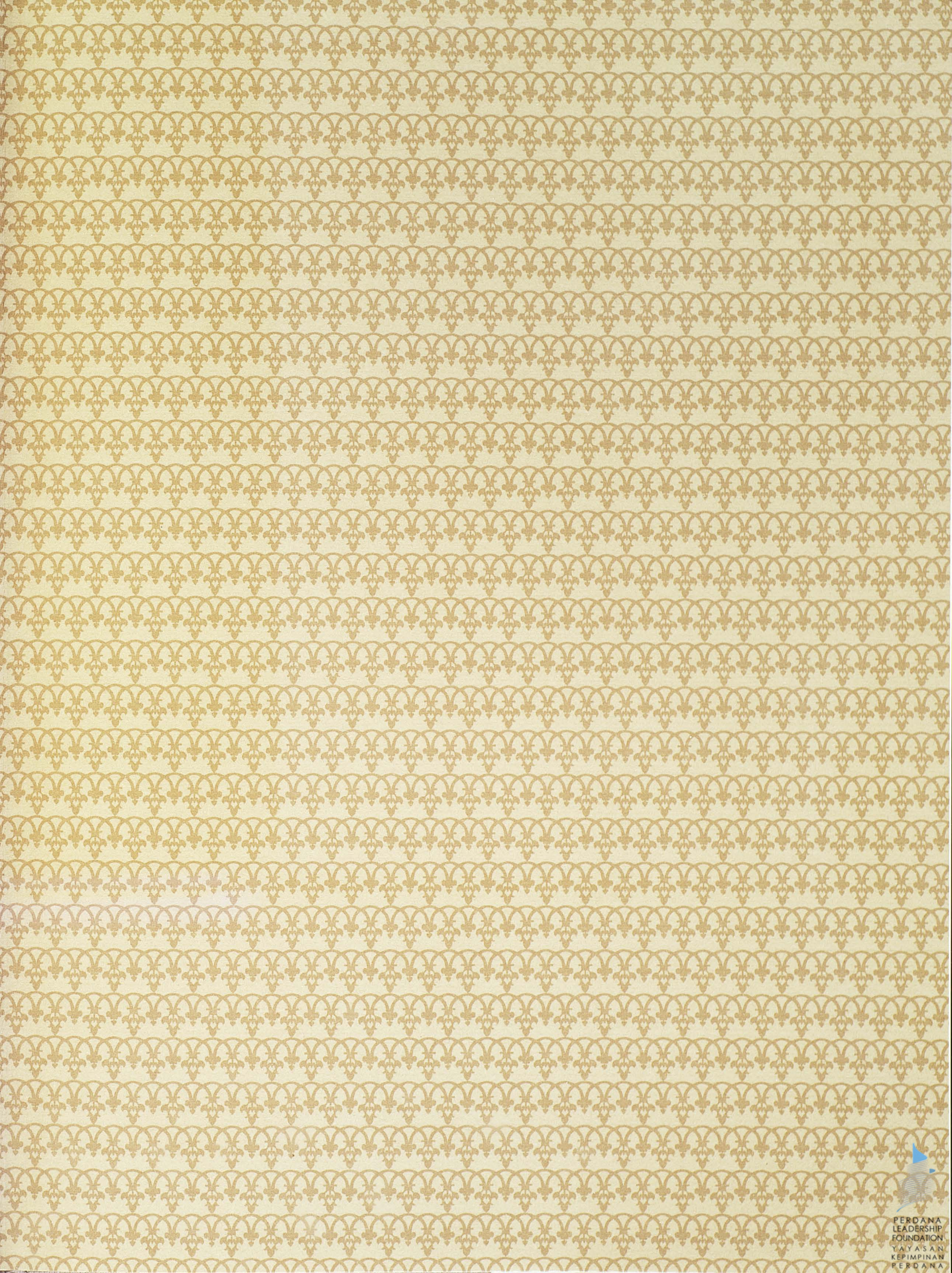
ISBN 978 981 3018 54 9

Jacket Pictures

*Front (clockwise from top left):* The 13th Yang di-Pertuan Agong reading the royal address at the opening of Parliament, 2008 (photograph, Bazuki Muhammad for Reuters); Istana Negara (photograph, Wee Keng Bee for PhotoAsia); the *Sejarah Melayu* (photograph, Legatum Warnerium, Leiden University Library, Sulalat-as-Salatin, Cod.Or.1703, ff.2v-3r); Installation ceremony of the first Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Rahman (photograph, Office of the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal); Royal Regalia (illustration, Chai Kah Yune).

*Front flap (top):* Sultan Ismail of Kelantan with Kelantan dignitaries and government officials on his birthday, c. 1930 (photograph, Arkib Negara Malaysia).

*Back (top left to right):* The Muskat (photograph, Jabatan Penerangan Malaysia); Johor royal decoration (photograph, Yayasan Warisan Johor); crown of the Sultan of Kelantan (photograph, Pejabat D.Y.M.M. Al-Sultan Kelantan); betel box of the Perak royal regalia (photograph, Pejabat D.Y.M.M. Sultan Perak Darul Ridzuan).





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The Publishers wish to thank the following people for their contribution to the first seven volumes:

Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who acted as Chairman of the Editorial Advisory Board; and the late Tan Sri Dato' Dr Noordin Sopiee  
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This volume of *The Encyclopedia of Malaysia* series has required the collaboration of a large number of individuals under the direction of the Editorial Advisory Board. In particular, the Editorial Advisory Board is grateful for the assistance of **Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dr Khoo Kay Kim, Datuk Prof. Emeritus Dr Mohd Taib Osman and Dr Cheah Boon Kheng.**

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© Editions Didier Millet, 2011  
Published by Archipelago Press, an imprint of Editions Didier Millet Pte Ltd  
121 Telok Ayer Street, #03-01, Singapore 068590  
Tel: 65-6324 9260 Fax: 65-6324 9261 E-mail: edm@edmbooks.com.sg

First published 2011

Editions Didier Millet, Kuala Lumpur Office:  
25 Jalan Pudu Lama, 50200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Tel: 03-2031 3805 Fax: 03-2031 6298 E-mail: edmbooks@edmbooks.com.my  
Websites: www.edmbooks.com • www.encyclopedia.com.my

Colour separation by Pica Digital Pte Ltd  
Printed by Star Standard Industries Pte Ltd  
ISBN 978-981-3018-54-9

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Every effort has been taken to present in this volume the most accurate information available at the time of going to press. Titles of persons mentioned in the text reflect those awards and honours bestowed as at the date to which entries refer. We apologize for any errors or omissions that may have occurred.

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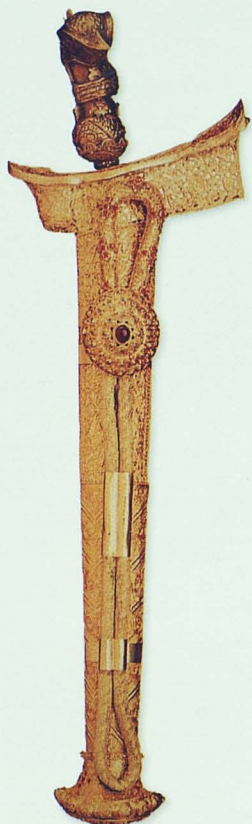
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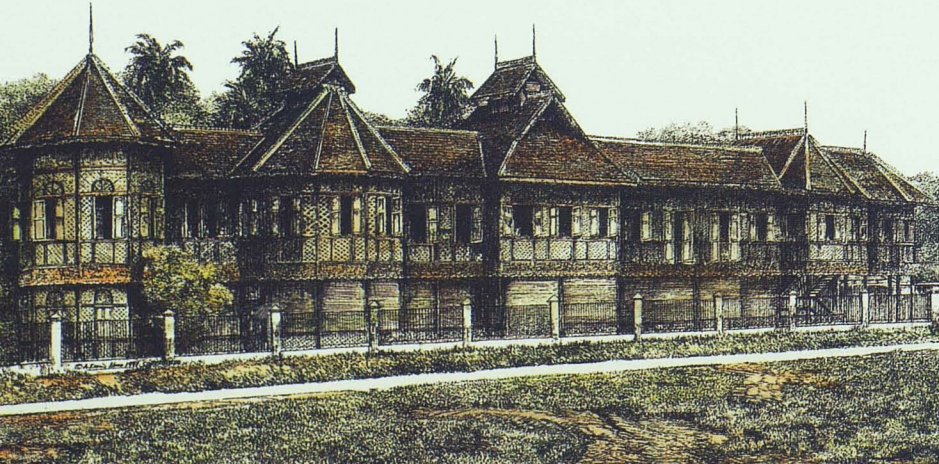


ABOVE: The Keris Terapang Gabus, part of Selangor's royal regalia.

TITLE PAGE: Participants of the 215th Conference of Rulers at Istana Maziah, Kuala Terengganu, 16 October 2008.

HALF TITLE PAGE: Sultan Abu Bakar, Sultan of Pahang, (r. 1932-74) (under the umbrella) inspecting a guard of honour, Pekan, 1933.

Istana Kenangan in Kuala Kangsar, Perak, was built in 1929 and served as the palace of Sultan Iskandar Shah (r. 1918-38) until 1933. It was converted into a museum in 1986.



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