



INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES
Heng Mui Keng Terrace, Pasir Panjang, Singapore 0511

The Institute of Southeast Asian Studies was established as an autonomous organization in May 1968. It is a regional research centre for scholars and other specialists concerned with modern Southeast Asia. The Institute's research interest is focused on the many-faceted problems of development and modernization, and political and social change in Southeast Asia.

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TANGLED WORLDS

The Story of Maria Hertogh

LOCAL HISTORY AND MEMOIRS

The importance of Oral History as a means of recovering and recording descriptions and interpretations of events of recent history by men and women who made history is fairly widely accepted. In the context of Southeast Asia, it is of particular significance, as it is unlikely that many Southeast Asians will write memoirs, biographies or leave their papers behind in such a way that scholars will have access to them in the future. If their contributions and perceptions are not recorded and preserved, historians may lose a vital source for their future histories of the region.

With this in mind, the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in 1972 inaugurated a modest, long-term programme in Oral History, with special emphasis on the social and economic history of Singapore and Malaysia. In addition to this programme, the Institute planned several special projects, including one on the ethnography of the Singapore cultural communities. Indeed, the latter activities have developed to such a point as to necessitate the Oral History Programme of the Institute being subsumed under the wider rubric of "Local History and Memoirs". This, it is hoped, will not only allow for greater scope and flexibility but also better reflect the Institute's real interest in the area. All the same, as in the case of the Oral History Programme, the Institute looks forward to working with all those concerned with the collection and preservation of ethnographic data, reminiscences, recollections, and memoirs or biographies of those who participated in the history and development of the region generally or in a particular event therein.

Tangled Worlds -- The Story of Maria Hertogh is the first publication of the Institute's expanded Local History and Memoirs Programme.

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The Story of Maria Hertogh

Tom Eames Hughes

Local History and Memoirs No. 1

Institute of Southeast Asian Studies

1980

