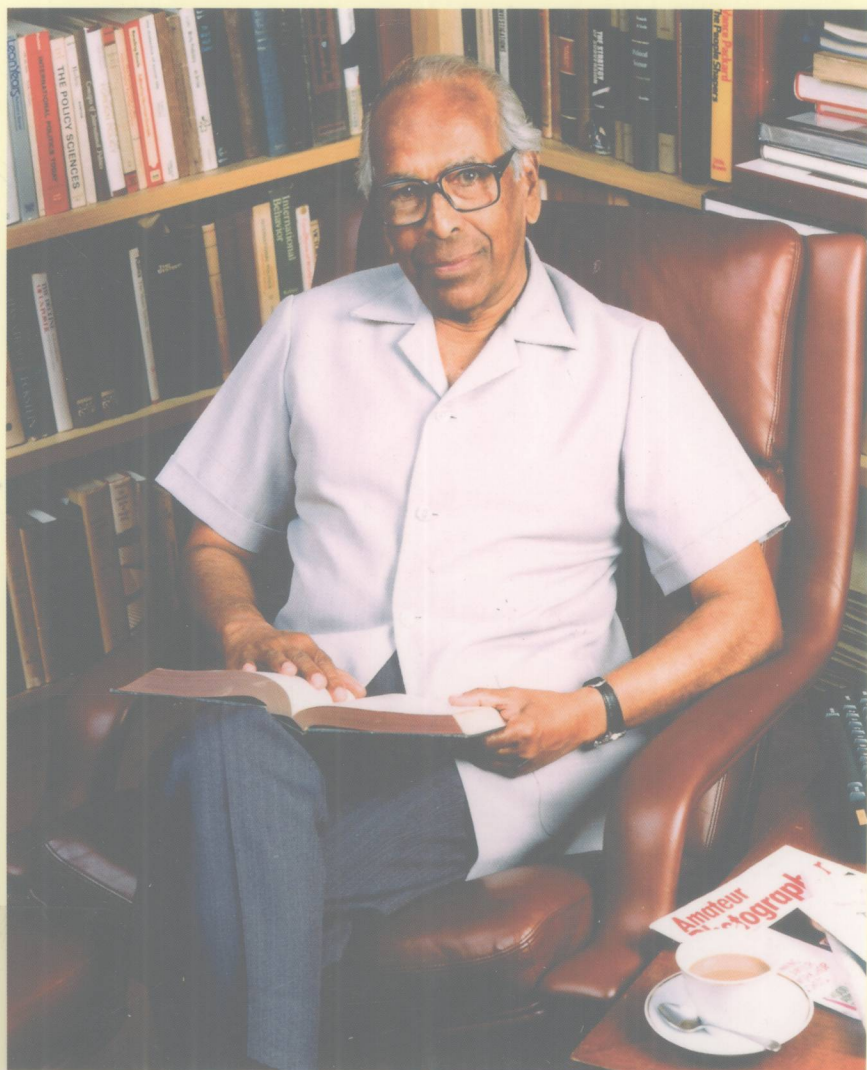


The S. Rajaratnam  
Collection in the  
ISEAS Library, Singapore  
*A Catalogue*



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**The S. Rajaratnam  
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The **Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)** was established as an autonomous organization in 1968. It is a regional centre dedicated to the study of socio-political, security and economic trends and developments in Southeast Asia and its wider geostrategic and economic environment.

The Institute's research programmes are the Regional Economic Studies (RES, including ASEAN and APEC), Regional Strategic and Political Studies (RSPS), and Regional Social and Cultural Studies (RSCS).

The **ISEAS Library** is a regional centre which houses a unique collection of over 500,000 Southeast Asian materials on the applied social sciences. The items are in English, European, and Southeast and East Asian languages. While its main emphasis is on contemporary Southeast Asia, it also has archival titles in microform and print, as well as invaluable primary sources of information in its Private Paper collections.

The Library supports the research programmes of the Institute, and serves in-house researchers, visiting scholars, researchers and specialists. It is also open to Government officials, postgraduate students, professionals, the business and diplomatic communities, and any person interested in Southeast Asia studies.

## FOREWORD

### **A Man and His Books**

People tell me that Mr Rajaratnam was fierce when he set about demolishing his political opponents at election campaigns but I have never known him as a politician. His name first came to my attention in 1949 as the editorial writer of the *Malaya Tribune* and then later of the *Singapore Standard*. As undergraduate students at the University of Malaya, we read his editorials with great admiration. He put into words what many of us felt and said it so well that those words became key parts of our consciousness. Some of us had chances to meet him and we were captivated by the shy smile and soft and thoughtful phrases he seemed to have reserved for talking to the young. We would never have guessed that he could be fiery and passionate against those who appeared to him both dogmatic and ideological. He occasionally asked some of us to play badminton at his house and, it was on one of those occasions that I had my first glimpse of his books. I did not know how many he had at the time but it seemed to me he had a fine library. This stuck in my mind because not many people collected books in the 1950s.

Some fifty years later, in 2006, when I heard that he had left his books for the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Library, I was curious to know more about what he had, and have been waiting for the full catalogue to be produced. When I was asked if I would write a foreword for The Rajaratnam Collection, I immediately agreed. At last I can learn more about the private man I used to know. I emphasise the word "private". I had left Singapore to go to Kuala Lumpur in 1959, just before he gave up his journalist career to stand for election as a People's Action Party candidate. After that, I did read his political speeches but they were not much different from some of the political editorials he had been writing. The words were familiar, both the sharp scathing clauses and the soothing and persuasive ones. At his most witty and winning, the words struck me as coming from someone who had read deeply, someone thoroughly familiar with the works of the great masters of the English language that he had grown to admire when he was in London. The few times when I met him again on my visits to Singapore, we tended to talk about history and political philosophy. His breadth of reading was immense. He was never content with well-known books but would draw my attention, wherever appropriate, to the work of

specialists who have contributed original ideas through careful thinking and scholarship. I never went away from our meetings without making a note of the books I would have to read if I were ever to discuss similar issues again.

The man and his books. I have long wondered about that. Now I have the list before me to share with all who enjoy peering into another person's mind through his reading. I have dipped into the list and found the obvious with the familiar and not so familiar, and the many more that I simply had not known. With particular personal pleasure, I have found that his subject biases greatly resemble my own: very strong on history (over a quarter of the books listed) and literature (about fifteen percent) and then about ten per cent each for Political Science and Sociology. And if one groups religion and philosophy together, that number would exceed twelve percent. In short, not surprisingly, some three-quarters of all his books are in the fields that kept springing up in his editorial writings, his speeches and the policy and political analyses he wrote from time to time. And, if I may add, these were also the topics I remember in our conversations. There was only one small surprise. He has more books on the sciences and on psychology than on economics. With Singapore's great emphasis on economic development, one would have expected more books in that discipline. But then, his responsibility was mainly in cultural and foreign affairs. And for these, his selections on history, literature, philosophy and religion must have directly contributed to the judgments he needed to make to deal with an uncertain and even hostile environment.

I shall look at the collection more closely when the book catalogue is out. From what I have seen, I would recommend to those who are as curious as I am about the connection between books and the influence of a man's words and ideas that they too, do the same. In this case, Rajaratnam also turned his words into results that shaped a new nation – not only to the people in Singapore he wanted to see help build that nation but also to the leaders of other nations and their foreign advisers whose support was vital to Singapore's survival.

*Wang Gungwu*

*Chairman, ISEAS Board of Trustees*

*Director, East Asia Institute, National University of Singapore*

*May 2007*

## PREFACE

Mr S. Rajaratnam, Singapore's first and longest-serving Foreign Minister was a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) from 1988 to 1997, soon after he retired from active politics. He died on 22 February 2006 at the age of ninety-one years.

He was an avid reader and collector of books of which he accumulated nearly 5,000 volumes. His nephews Datuk Dr S. Vijayaratnam and Mr S. Jothiratnam donated the entire collection to the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS).

This catalogue to the S. Rajaratnam Collection in the ISEAS Library contains a total of 4,315 title entries. This eclectic collection is accessible to researchers and the general public of the ISEAS Library. A selection of 1,000 titles is on open display; the rest are shelved in closed stacks and available upon request.

As soon as the books were transferred to ISEAS Library in April 2006, Library staff began to work earnestly to facilitate their physical processing and identification. The books were fumigated in batches, and damaged ones were repaired. Preliminary cataloguing was done by undergraduate students and Library staff under professional direction and supervision. The cataloguing processes were completed in August 2006, and the catalogue entries are now available in the ISEAS Library's online catalogue *SEALion* (<http://sealion.iseas.edu.sg>). The editing work to produce the printed catalogue was outsourced to experienced professional librarians in October 2006. The final printed catalogued draft was completed in January 2007. ISEAS Library professionals then refined it for publication.

### **Arrangement**

The catalogue is arranged alphabetically by author or title entries under broad subject categories, supplemented by the author and subject indexes.

### **Authority and Style**

The compilation was generally guided by the *Chicago Manual of Style*. However, some variations were necessary to avoid repetition of



information within a record, except in cases of pseudonyms, or where there were variations in the names used by the author.

The *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* and the *Library of Congress Subject Headings* (authorities for name and topical headings) were generally adhered to, with some modifications to citations of Malay and Chinese names following ISEAS Library conventions.

The shelf number based on the *Library of Congress Classification* scheme appears at the end of each entry to denote the specific location of the book in the ISEAS Library.

Where appropriate and useful, cross references were made to link related items or sections. Thus readers are reminded at the Literature section that those on "Historical Fiction" and "Science Fiction" are also relevant.

### Indexes

The author and subject indexes point to the running numbers in the main entries. For the Author Index (or Name Index), the term "Author" is used in a broad, generic sense: the Author Index contains names of all individuals, events, organizations, and institutions that had a creative role for the items cited.

The Subject Index cites all significant proper nouns, such as names of individuals, events and organizations. Countries and country groupings (e.g., ASEAN, Arab countries) are also indexed, with events and topics listed in relation to each country.

In addition to the main subject terms, ISEAS cataloguers have established linkages to certain items to enhance information. For example, for Edmund Wilson's celebrated title, *To the Finland Station*, a related subject term is "Lenin", who stopped at the station on his return to lead the Russian Revolution; and "Socrates" being a key protagonist is established as a subject for Plato's *Dialogues* and discourses. Authors who are also subjects of enquiry, as in autobiographical works, are listed under the Subject Index for these titles; thus for personal names these two indexes should be used together.

It was decided not to include the title index as it would not significantly improve a search which is already served well by the Author and Subject indexes. In any case, an online title search, which is more efficient and accurate, can be made on *SEALion*.

**Exhibition to Complement the Collection Display**

To complement the book display, a multimedia representation was conceptualized to portray S. Rajaratnam's contributions to national and regional politics, and to depict his career, personal life and hobbies over several decades.

To weave a compelling story of the passion and dedication of one man's service to his country, more than 20,000 photographs from a wide range of sources and institutions were reviewed for the final selection of about 100 now on display.

Besides a photomontage on display, a selection of photographs and write-ups on and by S. Rajaratnam were reprinted in an album. A selection of photographs on flora, fauna, people and places taken by Rajaratnam himself was reproduced in a DVD, accompanied by his favourite music, for viewing on site. In addition, two video programmes produced by MediaCorp and audio recordings of Rajaratnam's speeches are available for reference.

**Companion Volume**

ISEAS Library has also compiled and published *S. Rajaratnam: A Bibliography* as a companion volume to this catalogue. It contains citations of speeches, articles and works by and on S. Rajaratnam.

**Acknowledgement**

Datuk Dr S. Vijayaratnam and Mr S. Jothiratnam have honoured the Institute and ISEAS Library by the donation of their uncle's precious book collection. ISEAS owes a huge debt to President S.R. Nathan, Professor Tommy Koh, Chairman, Institute of Policy Studies, and Chairman, National Heritage Board, and Dr V.K. Pillay, a close cousin of Mr S. Rajaratnam, for making this deposition possible.

Mrs Margaret Lien, Governor of the Lien Foundation has supported the project with a generous grant which made possible the processing of the books in the collection, the compilation and publication of the printed catalogue and bibliography, the photograph exhibition and its by-products. Mr Lee Poh Wah, Programme Director, Lien Foundation, facilitated the funding.

Mrs Khoo Siew Mun and Mr Ibrahim Ismail, both outstanding librarians of many years, rallied to our urgent call to edit the catalogue

entries for publication in a record time of three months. They were ably supported by Mr Ronald Khoo who wrote a unique program which produced the camera-ready copy.

The Singapore Press Holdings (SPH) Library (Mr Idris Rashid Khan, Head Librarian, Ms Gokelam Ponniah Achary, Ms Chong Yin Fong), the National Archives (NAS) (Mr Pitt Kuan Wah, Director, Ms Irene Lim, Deputy Director, Ms Noridah Jamaluddin), the National Museum (Mr Chng Mun Wye, Ms Chung May Khuen), the National Library Board (NLB) Lee Kong Chien Reference Library (Ms Nor-Afidah Abd Rahman, Ms Judy Ng), MINDEF Museum Centre for Heritage Services (Mr Evan Teo Kheng Ann, Ms Lisa Lim Kheng Tin), MediaCorp (Mr Lucas Chow, Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr Yong Chung Jin, Senior Manager, MediaCorp News Pte Ltd), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) Library (Ms Chong Yee Ming), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Library (Ms Lim Bee Leng), Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) Corporation Ltd (Ms Bon Elan) have been cooperative and helpful in the exhibition. They have provided photographs, documents and CD documentaries.

Dr V.K. Pillay provided photographs and useful information. He donated Rajaratnam's briefcase to add to the memorabilia.

Professor Tommy Koh rallied various agencies to provide the necessary support and contributions.

Professor Wang Gungwu, Chairman, ISEAS Board of Trustees and Director, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore, promptly obliged with the foreword.

The entire project was twelve months in the making. It was a remarkable team work at its best. It was conceptualized, developed and managed by ISEAS Library staff and supported by the ISEAS Administration and Publications Units. The ISEAS Director Ambassador K. Kesavapany and Deputy Director Dr Chin Kin Wah provided advice and guidance. Senior Fellow Dr Russell Heng helped in the editorial process.

Over and above their regular responsibilities, ISEAS Library staff have been exemplary in helping to bring about the processing and cataloguing of the books, the publication of this printed catalogue and the bibliography, and the setting up of the exhibition: Ms Zaleha Tamby provided the overall supervision of the cataloguing project; Ms D. Gandhimathy produced and proofread the preliminary listing and

dealt with other technical requirements; she liaised with the exhibition designer GRID Pte Ltd, and outside institutions and helped to select and obtain documents and photographs from them; Ms Linda Yip helped to review catalogue records and proofread the draft printed catalogue; she also helped to edit the text and select the visuals for the exhibition; Ms Susan Low helped to select and obtain photographs at the SPH, the NAS and the RSIS; Mr Ramli Mohd fumigated and repaired the books; Mr Mohamed Kassim Ishak, Ms Azian Nordin, Ms Dahlia Mohd Tawil, Ms Nordiana Ya'cob, Ms Rosni Mohd Yusuf, Mrs S. Muthamilselvi, Ms Sin Lai Lai and Ms Diana Lee helped in the preliminary cataloguing and/or processing of the books. Ms Iris Kim provided secretarial assistance.

All told, it was a labour of love from everyone involved, demonstrating the deep admiration and respect for the statesman, the humanist and the thinker, who spent ten of his retirement years in his office at the ISEAS Library.

The S. Rajaratnam Project, comprising the book collection, the exhibition, the printed catalogue, and the bibliography commemorates not only the achievements of a founding father of Singapore, but aims to help inspire and educate younger generations on the relentless strive of one special democratic nation-builder for a multicultural society based on 'justice and equality', 'regardless of race, language or religion'.

*Ch'ng Kim See*  
*Head, ISEAS Library*  
*Institute of Southeast Asian Studies*

*May 2007*

## BIOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE

### Sinnathamby Rajaratnam

#### Personal

- 1915 Born in Jaffna, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and raised in Seremban, Malaysia
- 1937 Enrolled for degree course in Law at King's College, University of London  
During the Second World War, he became a journalist in London and joined the Fabian Society and the Marxist Left Book Club where he met his wife
- 1941 Married Piroska Feher (deceased 1989)
- 2006 Died on 22 February

#### Career

- 1948-50 Journalist, *Malayan Tribune*
- 1950-54 Associate Editor, *Singapore Standard*
- 1954 Started his own weekly *The Raayat*
- 1955-59 Leader Writer, *The Straits Times*
- 1959-88 Member of Parliament for Kampong Glam
- 1959-65 Minister for Culture
- 1963-65 Member of the Malaysian Federal Parliament
- 1965-80 Minister for Foreign Affairs
- 1968-71 Minister for Labour (Second portfolio)
- 1980-85 Second Deputy Prime Minister (Foreign Affairs)
- 1985-88 Senior Minister (Prime Minister's Office)
- 1988-97 Distinguished Senior Fellow, ISEAS (Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore)

#### Office

- 1950-54 Secretary, Malayan Indian Congress
- 1954 Founding Member, People's Action Party
- 1954 Founding Member and President, Singapore Union of Journalists
- 1955 Member, Malayanisation Commission
- 1956 Member, Minimum Standards of Livelihood Committee

- 1969–97      Member, Presidential Council for Minority Rights  
Member, Staff Side Panel, Civil Service Arbitration Agreement  
Member, Further Education Committee of the Singapore Council of Adult Education
- 1990–97      Editor-in-Chief, *Trends* (a monthly publication of ISEAS)

**Awards**

- 1990      Order of Temasek (First Class), Singapore
- 1990      Distinguished Service Medal (People's Action Party)
- 1997      ASEAN Heads of Government Citation Award

**Hobbies**

Reading and Photography (Honorary Life Member, Photographic Society of Singapore)

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