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# MALAYA

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS AND  
THE FEDERATED AND  
UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES

EDITED BY

R. O. WINSTEDT, M.A., D.LITT. (OXON.)  
(Malayan Civil Service)

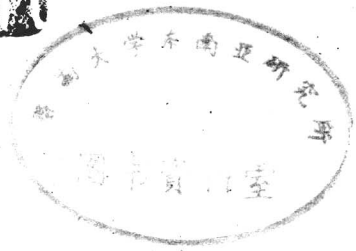
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## PREFACE

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All those chapters not ascribed to others have been written by myself; Mr. C. O. Blagden, Reader in Malay in the University of London, has added to my many obligations to him by reading them and giving me the benefit of his deep and critical knowledge of things Malayan.

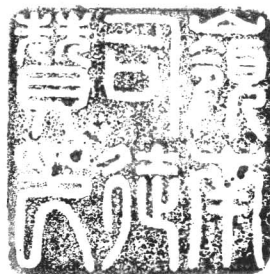
R. O. W.

SINGAPORE, 1922

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## MAP

GENERAL MAP OF THE MALAY PENINSULA - - - *At end of volume*



# MALAYA

## CHAPTER I

### ITS AREA, BOUNDARIES AND DIVISIONS, PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SCENERY

AREA, BOUNDARIES AND DIVISIONS.—On the continent of Europe the Malay Peninsula is still called Malacca, after the old-world settlement that, having played a great part in the history of European adventure in the East, is now best known in England as adorning the name of “a clouded can.” In this book it will be called Malaya, though strictly that term includes also Labuan, the protected Malay State Brunei, the Cocos or Keeling Islands, Christmas Island, the territory of the British North Borneo Company, and Sarawak, the independent Bornean land under the rule of Raja Brooke. The word “Malaya” is an English hybrid applied only to British possessions and protectorates, and especially perhaps to the Peninsula, so that British Malaya is pleonastic. The origin of the word “Malay” is uncertain. It has been fancifully derived from a word meaning to “run” and supposed to refer to some early migration of the race. It has been surmised “that it was carried by the first emigrants from the Malaya country in Southern India.” Almost certainly it springs from a place-name in Sumatra, the *Malayu* country annexed by the Maharaja of Buddhist Palembang (the greatest and oldest of Malay kingdoms) in the time of I-Tsing, a Chinese Buddhist pilgrim. The kingdom of Malayu is mentioned first in Chinese records a few decades before I-Tsing visited Palembang in A.D. 671, and geographical details point to it having been situated in the basin of the Batang Hari, the main river of the Jambi district. When Javanese troops attacked it at the end of the thirteenth century of our era, the Malay country extended up to Minangkabau. And the “Malay Annals,” written about A.D. 1612, preserve a tradition that there was a river Malayu in the Minangkabau region, above which was a mountain, Si-Guntang Mahameru.

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or the modern Merapi, a volcano, and that its basin was the cradle of Malay royalty.

The term "Malay Peninsula" covers that portion of Asia which forms a prolongation of the narrow neck of land, known as the Isthmus of Kra, where Burmese territory abuts on Lower Siam. The southern end of the Peninsula is defined by the estranging sea, but the northern limit has been given by one author as  $10^{\circ}$  north latitude, by another as  $13^{\circ}$  north latitude, while a third has apparently regarded the low country stretching from Kedah to Singgora as the dividing line between the Peninsula and the Isthmus. Geographically,  $10^{\circ}$  north latitude is the best northern limit for the Peninsula, but this book will be devoted to the territory south of  $6^{\circ} 50'$  north latitude. Except for a small piece of Siamese territory on the east coast, this area is under British rule or influence, and covers with adjacent islands approximately 52,500 square miles. It is bounded on the west by the Straits of Malacca, on the east by the South China Sea, and on the south by the shallow waters in which are set the green islands of the Riau-Lingga Archipelago.

Politically that part of the Malay Peninsula under British rule or protection is divided into:

1. The Crown Colony of the Straits Settlements, comprising the island of Singapore, the island of Penang with Province Wellesley and the Dindings, and the Settlement of Malacca.

2. The Federated Malay States: Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang.

3. The Unfederated Malay States: Johore, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Trengganu.

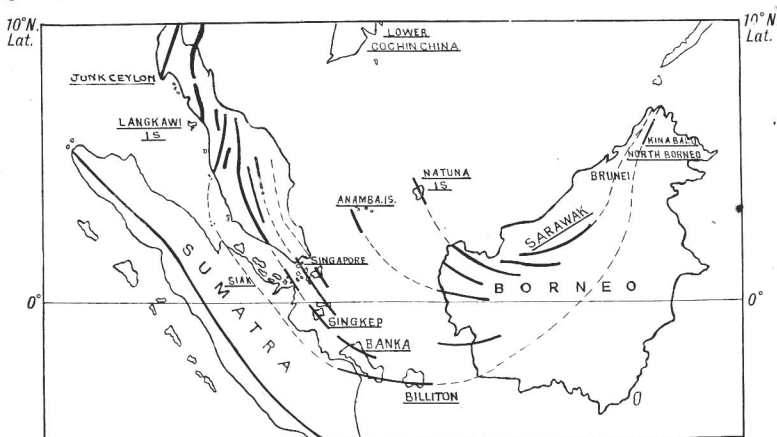
The area of these divisions is made up as follows:

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS :						Square Miles.
<i>Singapore</i>	..	..	..	..	..	217
<i>Penang</i>	..	..	..	..	..	108
<i>Province Wellesley</i>	..	..	..	..	..	280
<i>The Dindings</i>	..	..	..	..	..	183
<i>Malacca</i>	..	..	..	..	..	720
Total						1,508
FEDERATED MALAY STATES:						
<i>Perak</i>	..	..	..	..	..	7,800
<i>Selangor</i>	..	..	..	..	..	3,156
<i>Negri Sembilan</i>	..	..	..	..	..	2,550
<i>Pahang</i>	..	..	..	..	..	14,000
Total						27,506

UNFEDERATED MALAY STATES:

	Square Miles.
<i>Johore</i> .. .. .	7,500
<i>Kedah</i> .. .. .	3,800
<i>Perlis</i> .. .. .	316
<i>Kelantan</i> .. .. .	5,870
<i>Trengganu</i> .. .. .	6,000
Total .. .. .	23,486

**MOUNTAINS AND HILLS.**—The Malay Peninsula may be described briefly as an area of low-lying land trending north-north-west and south-south-east, with a skeleton of mountain ranges lying more or less obliquely to the axis and succeeding one another *en échelon*. Distinct from the mountain ranges there are also isolated hills and groups of hills.



The dark lines in the diagram show these ranges on a small scale and their probable connection with geographical and geological features in the Malay Archipelago. At the extreme north, which is approximately 10° north latitude, is shown the southern end of the range that forms the backbone of the Isthmus of Kra and terminates in the island of Junk Ceylon. To the east of this is a range that extends northwards to form islands in the Gulf of Siam. On the mainland it passes through the Siamese province of Nakawn Sitamarat and then continues as the boundary between Nakawn Sitamarat, Palean and Setul on the west, and Pataloong, Singgora and Perlis on the east. At its southern end this range turns slightly towards the west, and it may be that the Langkawi Islands mark a prolongation of its axis.

No detailed surveys are available of the country north of Perlis, but in lower latitudes information is more accurate and abundant, though surveys are still far from complete.

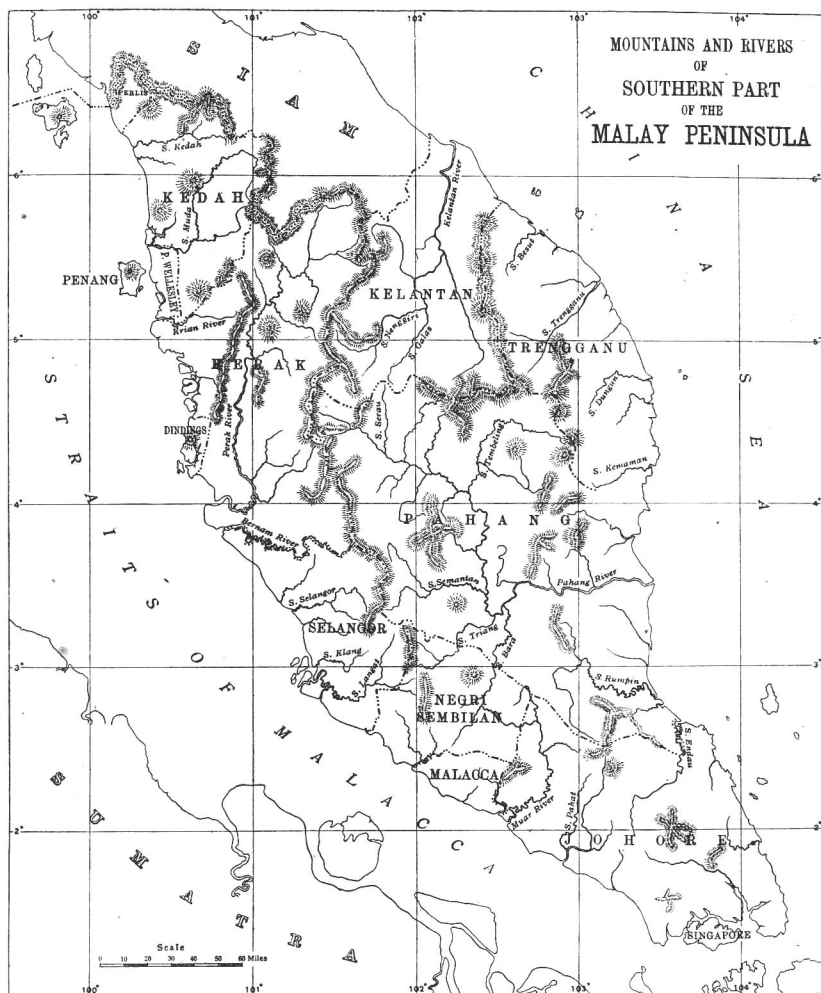
The small state of Perlis consists largely of a flat plain, which is continuous with similar land in Kedah. East of the railway the watershed between Perlis and Kedah on the one hand, and Siamese territory on the other, is low, being not much above 300 feet, until one reaches a range of hills, some more than 2,000 feet high, stretching from the neighbourhood of Alor Star towards Singgora. A cart road to Singgora runs on the west side of this range and on the east side of an isolated ridge, Bukit Talipong.

Kedah, in the north, is largely flat agricultural land. From this land and from its continuation in Perlis small isolated hills rise, the most striking formed of limestone. About the centre of the State are two prominent mountains—Gunong Perak (2,823 feet), believed to be granite, and Kedah Peak (3,978 feet), of quartzite with granitic intrusions. The southern part of Kedah is low rolling country. The eastern part is all hilly, but the highest peaks are found on the boundary that abuts on the Patani valley. The constitution of these mountains and of other peaks beyond, in Siamese territory, is not yet thoroughly known, but southwards they are continued by a line of low hills, which rise suddenly to 6,103 feet in a granite mass known as Gunong Bintang, due east of Penang. The granite continues southwards from Bintang, forming the peaks Inas (5,898 feet), Hijau (4,751 feet) and Bubu (5,434 feet). It ends near Bruas; but the granite of the Dindings and the Pulau Sembilan are obviously outcrops of the same mass. This range has no recognised name, but may be conveniently called the Bintang range.

East of the Bintang range a lower line of heights, the Kledang range, lies between the Perak and Kinta rivers. It is of granite, and is extended beyond the gap through which the Plus flows, by the granite of Gunong Ulu Soh (4,336 feet). North of Gunong Ulu Soh is a quartzite peak, Kendrong (4,010 feet), with a smaller peak Krunai joined to it by a saddle; Kendrong and Krunai rise abruptly and steeply from ground about 600 feet above sea level, and stand as sentinels over a large part of Upper Perak. To the north-north-east of Gunong Ulu Soh is the rugged country of Upper Perak, extending into the little-known headwaters of the Perak river.

East of the Kledang range is the greatest line of granite peaks in the Peninsula, generally known as the main range, the highest being

Korbu, a Sakai word for "mountain" corrupted by Malays to Kerbau (= "buffalo"; 7,160 feet). Northwards from Korbu there are more high peaks, believed to be of granite, though like Korbu they may have a cap of sedimentary rocks. Very little is known of



the structure of the range between Korbu and Noring (6,100 feet), 54 miles to the north-north-east, but north of Noring the range is not much over 2,000 feet, and instead of granite hills consists of altered sedimentary rocks with small granite and diorite intrusions. There is evidence, however, that about 18 miles south-south-west

of Noring, which is of unknown composition, a chain of granite peaks breaks away to the north, cut through by two large tributaries of the Perak, the Sengoh and Tiang, and by the Perak itself. These granite hills continue into Siamese territory between the Patani and Telubin rivers. It appears then that the granite axis of the main range here leaves the watershed, which is continued by the altered rocks to the east.

Korbu is approximately on the centre of a decided curve in the main range. To the north it trends north-north-east, to the south it trends south-south-east, forming the familiar peaks bordering the rich tin-mining district of Kinta, the districts of Batang Padang, Ulu Selangor, Kuala Lumpor, Ulu Langat, and finally dying away in the hilly country of Negri Sembilan and Malacca.

In the Batang Padang and Ulu Selangor districts quartzite hills form a belt of rugged country west of the main range.

On the east of the main range in Pahang is a comparatively low range of quartzite foothills, best seen in the neighbourhood of Bentong, where from Gunong Raka (1,915 feet) one can look north and south along this range. It is believed to extend into Kelantan, and is known to exist in the headwaters of the Pahang basin, where the Telum cuts its way through it in a gorge of hard conglomerate.

East of these foot-hills is a broad plain broken by a few low hills and then on the east of the plain towers the tremendous isolated mass of Benum (6,916 feet), formed of hornblende granite and related rocks. This range is continued southward by a succession of ridges separated by tributaries of the Pahang river and by the Muar. These ridges point towards Mount Ophir (4,187 feet) in Johore, and approach closely the southern end of the main range. To the north Benum is not continued by any high ridges, but on the Jelai and Tanum there are exposures of granitic rocks, which may mark a continuation of this igneous intrusion. In the extreme north-west of Kelantan, where that State abuts on Perak and Siamese territory, there are rocks akin to those found in the Benum range, and it is thought possible that they are a further prolongation of the same igneous mass. The intervening country has yet to be geologically surveyed.

To the east of the Benum axis is a broad outcrop of quartzite, conglomerate and shales, which culminates on the northern border of Pahang in the two mountains—Tahan (7,184 feet), the highest in the Peninsula, and Larong (6,350 feet). The scenery in the neigh-



bourhood of these heights, where the country is about 5,000 feet above sea level, differs greatly from mountain scenery elsewhere in the Peninsula. On the high granite hills vegetation is dense, even to the highest points, and it is only on wind-swept ridges that a traveller can obtain a view over it. But on the Tahan and Larong highlands the lack of nutriment in the little soil there is and the strong winds of the north-east monsoon have combined to keep the vegetation so low that the country is open for miles, and in many places shows bare rock. Cliffs of quartzite, too, are not uncommon; they are particularly conspicuous in a gorge cut by the river Teku, a tributary of the Tahan.

This hard quartzite mountainous country extends into Kelantan northwards. To the south it is continued as rugged but lower hill-land past the Tekai, a tributary of the Tembeling, and reaches the Pahang river a little to the east of the sharp bend where it turns eastward. South of the Pahang river are more quartzite hills, of which little is known yet, and in Johore there are other hills that may form a continuation of this part of the skeleton of the Peninsula. This view is supported by the fact that quartzite and conglomerate, older than the granite of that island, occur in Singapore, which lies on the same line as the quartzite hills in Pahang just mentioned.

To the east of this broad quartzite outcrop again there is evidence of a succession of tin-bearing granite intrusions. They are found in Trengganu, Kuantan, Pontian, Endau, Mersing and the south-east of Johore. It may be that these occurrences mark the extreme summits of another great mass of granite, such as the main range, that has been touched by denudation only at its highest points. They appear to mark a deep-seated skeletal element that extends into Dutch territory, and is, with the Tahan quartzite-band, the reason of the extension of the Peninsula east of the Benum range.

Off the east coast are numerous islands. Some of these are granite, some rhyolite. They have not yet been thoroughly examined geologically. The largest, Tioman, is of granite on the west and altered sediments on the east.

**LIMESTONE HILLS.**—In addition to isolated mountains such as Kedah Peak, and isolated granite hills such as those at Kuala Selangor and Jugra (Kuala Langat, Selangor), a characteristic feature of the country is the limestone hills, which are best developed in Perlis and the Kinta district of Perak. Most of these hills, though