



新加坡华人会馆沿革史

History of the Chinese Clan Associations
in Singapore



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12-31-31

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新加坡宗乡会馆联合总会 • 国家档案馆 • 口述历史馆 • 新加坡新闻与出版有限公司

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献词

新加坡的早期华族移民绝大部份在抵埠时都身无分文，中国当时的恶劣经济情况迫使他们到南洋来谋生。到新加坡来的早期移民面对就业和住宿的问题。随着移民人数的不断增加，各种社会需求如教育及文化交流等便应运而生。

英殖民地政府的不干涉政策有助於华人发展他们自己的社会组织，以应付这些需求。这些以血缘和地缘关系为基础的宗乡会馆不仅协助新客定居下来，而且也为宗乡子弟开办学校，并于同乡发生纠纷时充当调解人。

宗乡会馆一般上都能适应新加坡不断改变的社会政治环境。当新加坡争取到政治独立时，宗乡会馆曾慷慨解囊，捐献国防基金。更重要的是，宗乡会馆在建国过程中曾致力协助培养新加坡认同感，从而作出了巨大的贡献。新加坡宗乡会馆联合总会在1985年12月成立后，宗乡会馆今后将发挥更大的作用。

联合总会所展开的其中一项活动是与国家档案馆及口述历史馆联办的“新加坡华人会馆沿革史”展览。配合这次展览，出版这本图片集，内容包括了早期华族移民历史的背景及截至1985年为止的华族宗乡会馆发展情况的照片、地图、旧文件和文物等。虽然这次图片展览和书中所搜集的资料并非十全十美，但仍不失为了解我国的文化、历史的基本参考资料。

庄日昆
社会发展部政务部长

Message

The overwhelming majority of Singapore's early Chinese immigrants arrived virtually penniless. Difficult economic conditions in China then had forced them to seek out a new livelihood in the South Seas (Nanyang). Those who came to Singapore faced the problems of seeking employment and lodging. As the immigrant population grew, other social needs, such as education and cultural interaction, had to be met.

The non-interventionist policy of the British colonial government had led the Chinese community to develop its own social organisations to meet these needs. These clan associations, which were based on kinship and geographical ties, not only helped the newcomers to settle down, they began running classes and schools for members of their own dialect groups and also acted as intermediaries in intra-community conflicts.

The clan associations have kept up with the changing socio-political scenario of Singapore. When Singapore became politically independent, the associations contributed generously to the Defence Fund. More importantly, clan associations have been contributing towards the nation-building process by helping to develop a Singapore identity. This function will be enhanced with the formation of the Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations in December 1985.

One of the activities to be launched by the Federation is a pictorial exhibition and publication on the history of the Chinese clan associations in Singapore organised jointly with the National Archives and the Oral History Department. The exhibition and book include photographs, maps, old documents and artifacts, depicting the background of early Chinese immigrant history and the development of Chinese clan associations up to 1985. Although the material used in the exhibition and book is not exhaustive, nevertheless, it would form a basic reference source for the better understanding of our nation's culture and history.



Ch'ng Jit Koon
Minister Of State
Ministry Of Community Development



献词

新加坡宗乡会馆联合总会很乐意参与《新加坡华人会馆沿革史》的图片展览与图片集的出版。

新加坡是一个高瞻远瞩的国家。以往我们过于重视未来的发展计划，而忽略了历史研究，这未免有所偏差。因为历史本身就是人们智慧和资讯的宝库，正待我们去发掘。

无可否认的，历史知识在塑造一个人的人生观与品格起着决定性的影响。一个没有历史知识的人，是不能妥善地计划将来的。

《新加坡华人会馆沿革史》的出版与图片展览是由宗乡会馆总会，国家档案馆以及口述历史馆联合主办，目的在引导年轻的新加坡人，让他们了解先贤在建国过程中所作的贡献。这并不是为了要炫耀那些过去的辉煌事迹，相反地，我们是希望藉此鼓励年轻一辈继续努力奋斗，以免辜负先辈创业的辛劳。

黄祖耀

新加坡宗乡会馆联合总会会长

序

新加坡宗乡会馆的历史，可说是近百年华人社会发展史的缩影。随着宗乡会馆联合总会的成立(1985年12月)，宗乡会馆又有新的时代使命。在这历史性的一刻，我们有必要记录过去宗乡会馆在新加坡发展的历史沿革，为后世保存史料。这就是出版这本《新加坡华人会馆沿革史》的动机与意义。

我们从各社团、图书馆、收藏家、国家档案馆、书刊及图籍中选出了三百多帧图片，配以文字说明，希望对宗乡会馆的发展历史，作一系统的介绍。我们以历史图片作为本书的主要内容，是因为历史图片富于趣味性与真实感，能够有效地重现过去的社会状况和历史场景，弥补了文字叙述的不足。由于宗乡会馆是华人社会重要的一环，所以在叙述会馆的发展史时，也旁及华人社会的若干问题，这将有助于读者了解我们过去的历史和社会生活情况。

由于篇幅有限，我们只能选择有代表性的图片。对较为少见或未发表过的图片，尽量多选。在编辑过程中，错误在所难免，我们希望读者的指正与批评。

新加坡华人会馆沿革史

编辑委员会

1986年2月

Message

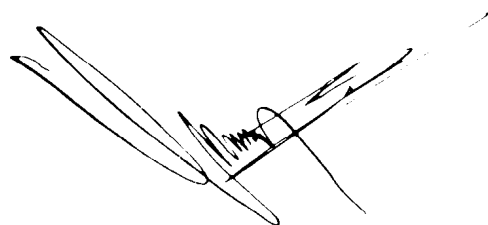
The Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations is delighted to be associated with the pictorial exhibition and book on the history of the Chinese clan associations in Singapore.

By and large, Singapore is a forward looking nation. We are so concerned with planning for the future that we have little time to reflect on the past. This is a serious shortcoming because there is a wealth of knowledge and information to be mined from history.

There is no denying that knowledge of events which occurred before one was born is crucial in shaping the individual's outlook and attitude. A man who is ignorant of his past cannot be expected to plan well for the future.

This book and the pictorial exhibition on the history of the Chinese clan associations in Singapore are being jointly organised with National Archives and the Oral History Department, with the specific objective of reminding the younger Singaporeans of the contributions made by their ancestors in the nation building process.

Our intention is not to "crow" about the past. Rather, we hope in this way to encourage the younger generation to work even harder in the years ahead, and thereby ensure that the past sacrifices made by the earlier immigrants, have not been made in vain.



Wee Cho Yaw
President
The Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations

Preface

The history of the Chinese clan associations in Singapore is in fact a miniature of the development of the Chinese community for the past hundred years. Following the formation of the Singapore Federation of the Chinese Clan Associations in December 1985, the Chinese clan associations have embarked on a new mission. At this historical juncture, there is a need to record the historical development of the Chinese clan associations in Singapore. These are the motive and significance for the publication of this book.

In doing research for the book, our research team laboriously went through the photograph collections of various clan associations, press organisations, libraries, private collectors and National Archives. From these collections and publications, we selected about 300 photographs to depict the development of clan associations in Singapore with captions in Chinese and English. Pictures are interesting and realistic. They are an effective visual medium to capture the past social events and historical scenes. It can supplement written records. As the clan associations are a very important component of the Chinese community, therefore, in presenting the development of clan associations, we also touched on the various aspects of the Chinese community. This will help the readers understand Singapore's past and life as it used to be.

Owing to the limited space, we can only select a representative collection of photographs, many of which have not been published previously. We hope this book will be of interest to you.

Editorial Committee
February 1986

A visual documentation of the history
of the Chinese clan associations in Singapore

Jointly organised by
The Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations
National Archives
Oral History Department

15 March - 15 April 1986
at the National Archives Exhibition Hall

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