

**MALAYSIAN HISTORICAL JOURNALS (1847-1966):
A BIBLIOMETRIC STUDY**

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ABSTRACT

This article attempts to identify and compile a list of the earliest Malaysian historical journals. The study found that the earliest historical journal is Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia published in 1847 by James Richardson Logan, a well-known lawyer and journalist from the Straits Settlement, British Malaya. Between 1847 till 1966, ten Malaysian historical journals were published by various history-related institutions, associations and individuals. Some of these publications are still active, while others have ceased issuing their journals.

Keyword: History of Journal Publishing; Malaysian Historical Journals; Bibliometrics; Malaysia.

INTRODUCTION

The growth of scholarly journals in Malaysia is an essential phenomenon for it is related to scholarly endeavors and the propagation of new knowledge, which in turn filters into practical applications for the advancement and improvement of the quality of life, argued Zainab (1997). Scholarly journals, with their diversity of topics, are the most important primary sources of current printed information available to library patrons, especially academicians and researchers. Therefore, the publication of historical journals is an important contribution towards the dissemination of accurate and up-to-date historical information and knowledge to scholars, academicians, students and potential users especially those inclined to the discipline of history. Hence, there is an urgent need for a channel of communication to assist and help in the dissemination of historical information and knowledge to serve this very purpose.

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However, according to Lim Huck Tee, it is surprisingly difficult to gather accurate and up-to-date data on the publication of Malaysian scholarly journals (Lim, 1975). He added that new journals were started with very little fanfare, and frequently sunk into oblivion, unnoticed and unmourned. Hence, it is rather difficult to examine accurately the current status of scholarly journals publishing including those of historical journals in Malaysia. Nevertheless, after a thorough literature review search, the writer managed to locate a few library and information science articles which examined the status of Malaysian scholarly journals publishing history.

As early as 1975, Edward Lim Huck Tee, then Chief Librarian of the Science University of Malaysia (*Universiti Sains Malaysia*) in his article entitled 'Problems of Publishing Scholarly Journals in Malaysia' indicated the existence of eight scholarly history journals in Malaysia (Lim, 1975). On the other hand, Md. Sidin Ahmad Ishak of University of Malaya Press, produced a figure of about fifteen scholarly journals, which focused on the discipline of history and its related subjects published within the country (Mohd. Sidin, 1997). Hasrom Haron (1997) through data retrieved from the National University of Malaysia Press found out the existence of twelve historical journals. Hence, from the above information regarding the existence of historical journals published in Malaysia, it is rather difficult to determine the actual number of historical journals published in this country. However, it is very clear that in Malaysia, there exist scholarly historical journal publishing activities and the number is on the rise that is from eight in 1975 to twelve or fifteen in 1997. Nevertheless, the status of history journal publishing can be further exploited to improve the scholastic development of the world of history, especially of Malaysian history.

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

This present paper attempts to survey and investigate the early history of historical journal publishing in Malaysia as no such efforts were made in the past. For this study, historical journals refer to those journals whose contents are mainly related to the discipline of history. However, certain scholarly journals, which regularly publish a few articles related to history were also taken into consideration. The period under study is between 1847 and 1966 when Malaysia was still under the political influence of the Britain, namely the era of the Straits Settlement till the early independence of Malaya. This paper will examine the brief publication history of the said journals, the body responsible for their publications, the language of

publication and the frequency of publication. However, this study is only limited to English and Malay language historical journals and other journals published in either Jawi, Chinese or other local languages are excluded.

METHODOLOGY

To survey and identify the earliest historical journals published in Malaysia, searches were made of the open public access catalogues of the National Library of Malaysia (telnet 161.14.132.123) and University of Malaya Library (telnet 202.185.96.1). In addition, bibliographical sources regarding the publication of journals, especially those in Malaysia were also consulted. Some of these sources referred to are *Bibliography of Malaya* compiled by H. R. Cheeseman (1959), *Historical Periodicals: An Annotated World List of Historical and Related Serial Publications*, edited by Boehm and Adolphus (1961), and *Guide to Current Malaysian Serials* by L. J. Harris (1967). Apart from that, articles and books that explored the publication history of Malaysia and Malaysian historiography were referred to. All the journals were examined individually to observe the following characteristics: history of publication, editorial history, body responsible for the publication, language of publication, changes in titles, and frequency of publication. Finally, from these exercises, a list of the earliest Malaysian historical journals was obtained.

HISTORICAL JOURNAL PUBLISHING IN MALAYSIA (1847-1966)

The earliest history-related journal published in this region is the *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia* by James Richardson Logan, a well-known journalist and lawyer in 1847. This journal was more popularly known as *Logan's Journal* taking into consideration the important role of proprietor, publisher, editor and contributor played by James Richardson Logan in the undertaking of publishing the first learned journal in the Straits Settlement. Altogether, thirteen volumes of the journal were published between 1847-1863. Volume I to Volume IX were issued between 1847-1855 whereas Volume I (new series) to Volume 3 (new series) between 1856-1858 and finally Volume IV (new series) in 1863. There were no issues between the years 1856-1857 and 1859-1861. After 1863, the journal was discontinued due to unforeseen circumstances. Nevertheless, the founding father of *Logan's Journal* passed away in Penang in 1869. On the whole, during its publishing history, an average of 200 to 300 copies of the journal were published and distributed within the region. However, out of this issue, about 50 copies are

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taken up by the East India Company for the benefit of its officers of the Government in the Straits Settlement. The others were taken up by well wishers and supporters of the learned journal. Articles contributed to this historical journal were written in English. This journal contributed immensely to the understanding of the history, geography, ethnology and economy of the Malay Peninsula, Sabah and Sarawak (Bryd, 1991). Table 1 presents the history-related journals published in Malaysia from 1847 to 1966.

Table 1 : History Journals Published in Malaysia (1847 – 1966)

Rank	Journal Titles	Year Issued
1	<i>Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia</i>	1847
2	<i>Journal of Eastern Asia</i>	1875
3	<i>Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> (1878-1922) (continued as <i>Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> (1923-1962) and <i>Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> (1963 up till now)	1878
4	<i>Perak Museum Notes</i> (1893-1898) (continued as <i>Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums</i> (1905-1941), <i>Federation Museums Journal New Series</i> (1953-1991) and <i>Malaysia Museums Journal</i> (1997 until now)	1893
5	<i>Sarawak Museum Journal</i>	1911
6	<i>Malayan Historical Journal, the Journal of the Malayan Historical Society</i> 1954-1956 (continued as <i>Malaya in History</i> (1957-1962) and <i>Malaysia in History</i> (1963-1985)	1954
7	<i>Journal of the Historical Society, University of Malaya</i> (1960-1969/1970) (change in title to <i>Jernal Sejarah</i> (1970-1978))	1960
8	<i>Tanah Melayu dari segi Sejarah</i> (1962-1964) (continued as <i>Malaysia dari segi Sejarah</i> 1967-1985 and <i>Malaysia dari segi Sejarah</i> (Malaysia in History 1986 up till now)	1962
9	<i>Kedah dari segi Sejarah=Kedah in History</i> (1966-1994)(change in name to <i>Cetera</i> (1995 until now)	June 1966
10	<i>Peninjau Sejarah : Journal of the History Teachers' Association of Malaya</i>	July 1966

The next historical journal, which started publishing twelve years after the discontinuation of *Logan's Journal*, was the *Journal of Eastern Asia* published by James Collins in July 1875. Collins, then serving as economic botanist for the Government of the Straits Settlement, also held the position of secretary and librarian of the Raffles Library and Museum, Singapore. In trying to emulate the scholarly endeavor of Logan, Collins bore the whole cost of publishing this quarterly journal. In the first issue of the journal, Collins pointed out the need for information with respect to the Malayan states, which once gained, should be permanently recorded. Moreover, he was morally supported by the Governor of the Straits settlement, Sir Andrew Clarke who gave his sanction and special aid to the starting of this journal. Nevertheless, sad to say, the next issue of this journal, which was supposed to be published in October 1875, did not materialize as a result of financial woes and a lack of articles. Apart from historical contents, the journal also covered subjects such as botany, zoology, geology, mineralogy, meteorology, geography etc. Besides that, space for reviews of books, notes and queries, general scientific information and correspondence space was also allocated. All articles published in the inaugural issue were in English (Cheeseman, 1959; Tiew, 1999).

The third earliest historical journal was the *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, which started publishing from July 1878 by the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society in Singapore. Initially, the journal published articles dealing with natural history, philosophy, geography, geology, literature, philology and ethnology. It was not until the 1920's when the journal was renamed *Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* that writings on history were given priority (Cowan, 1961; Khoo, 1986). Between 1942-1946, the Japanese who had invaded the country interrupted the publication of the journal. In 1963, with the formation of Malaysia that comprised of Malaya, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak, again the name of the journal was changed to *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (1964 till present). From the very beginning till July 1997, an honorary editor (normally a member of the Society) was appointed to edit the Society's journal whose contribution was given due recognition by the inclusion of his name in the list of the Council members for the year. However, as the journal increased in volume and size, an editorial board was appointed to assist the honorary editor in editing the Society's journal. Hence, as of Volume 70 Part 2, December 1997, members of the Editorial Committee consisted of Chairperson Professor Dato Khoo Kay Kim, Cheah Boon Kheng, Henry S. Barlow and Datin Patricia Lim Pui Huen (Book Reviews). Apart from that, as of Volume 71 Part 1, July 1998, an international advisory board comprising of distinguished scholars were invited to sit in the board for the first time in the publication history of the journal since 1878.

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Among the distinguished scholars are Professor Wang Gungwu, Professor A. J. S. Reid, J. M. Gullick, Professor James C. Scott and Dr. George N. Appell. Noor Azlina Yunus joined the editorial committee as of Volume 73 Pt 2, December 2000 whereas Professor Khoo Kay Kim joined the rank of distinguished scholars who sat on the international advisory board to review articles submitted for publication in the journal. The first honorary editor of this learned journal was none other than the first Honorary Secretary of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society and only PhD holder of his time in the Straits settlement, Dr. N. B. Dennys (1878). Among others who had held the editor's post were A.M. Skinner (1879), W. E. Maxell (1883-1887), H. N. Ridley (1890-1893, 1898-1900, 1902-1907, 1909-1911), C. A. Gibson-Hill (1948-1961), Alastair Lamb (1963-1964), Wang Gungwu (1964-1968), S. Arasaratnam (1969-1970), Mubin Sheppard (1971-1994), and Khoo Kay Kim (1995-1998). As of Volume 71 Part 2 December 1998, Dr. Cheah Boon Kheng, Vice President Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society took over the editorship from Khoo Kay Kim. The latest issue of the journal is Volume 75 Part 2 December 2002. Articles submitted to this historical journal were written in English. However, since 1998, the editorial board has started to accept articles in Bahasa Malaysia. Associate Professor Dr. Kamsiah Abdullah contributed the first Malay article in Volume 73, Pt. 1, July 2000 entitled "Sekolah Menengah Melayu di Singapura 1959-1987" [The Malay Secondary Schools in Singapore 1959-1987]. *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* is currently being indexed by numerous international indexing and abstracting services, namely *Biological Abstracts*, *Bibliography of Linguistics*, *Anthropological Index to Current Periodicals in the Library of the Museum of Mankind, America : History and Life*, *Anthropological Literature Index*, *Historical Abstracts*, *Malaysian Periodicals Index* and *Singapore Periodicals Index*.

The next historical journal was the *Perak Museum Notes* (1893-1898) published by the Perak Museum in Taiping that was established in 1883. The first issue of this journal was published in 1893. The curator of the Perak Museum in Taiping, Leonard Wray could be the first editor of this learned journal. Between 1899-1904 there is no mention of any publication of the *Perak Museum Notes*. In 1905, *Journal of the Federated Malay States Museum* was published and took over the place of *Perak Museum Notes*, which were issued between 1893 and 1898. At the same time, the journal was given a new volume number (Notice, 1906). The journal ceased publication during the Japanese occupation of Malaya (1941-1945) and did not resume until 1954 (Notes: The Journal, 1954/1955). The direct successor of the *Journal of the Federated Malay States Museum* was the *Federation Museums Journal, New Series* that was published by the National Museum, Malaysia. With

the new title, a new volume and serial number was given to the journal starting with Volume 1 & II New Series 1954/1955. The first editor for the inaugural post-war issue was G. De G. Sieveking, Curator of the Federation Malay States Museum. Next, Mubin Sheppard took over the editorship as of Volume IV New series 1960. However, due to highly complex editorial routines, as of Volume VI 1961, H. A. Lamb and Lord Medway aided Sheppard in editing the journal. Shahrum bin Yub, the Assistant Director of the National Museum, Malaysia, with the help of Lord Medway was given the task of editing the journal until 1969. From Volume XV New Series 1970, Shahrum bin Yub who had been appointed the new Director of the National Museum took over the editorship of the journal until Volume 30 New Series 1985. Between 1986-1990, there were no issues of the journal until 1991 whereby Volume 31 New Series was published. The editor for that issue was Haji Mohd Zulkifli bin Haji Abdul Aziz, the new Director of Museum who was aided by an editorial board comprising of officers attached to the Department of Museum and Antiquities, Malaysia. After Volume 31 New Series 1991, the journal assumed a new name, *Malaysia Museums Journal* whereby Volume 34 New Series, 1998 was issued with Zuraina Majid as the new editor. This special issue entitled "Archaeological Research and Museum in Malaysia" was published in honour of the retirement of the Director General of the Department of Museum and Antiquities. The next issue published was Volume 35 New Series, which was already five years behind schedule. Most of the contents of this journal were devoted to ethnology, anthropology, archaeology, and Malayan zoology. However, at times, various articles related to history were published too. Like the other earlier historical journals, from the maiden issue till the independence of Malaya, 1957 and the formation of Malaysia in 1963, most of the articles submitted were in English but after the founding of Malaysia in 1963, it started to publish Malay articles (Tiew, 1999). *Anthropological Index to Current Periodicals in the Library of the Museum of Mankind* and *Malaysian Periodicals Index* are indexing the journal.

The fifth earliest historical journal was the *Sarawak Museum Journal*, which was published by the Sarawak Museum. The inaugural issue of the journal appeared in 1911. The first editor of the journal was the Curator of the Sarawak Museum himself, Major J. C. Moulton. By 1937, the Sarawak Museum had succeeded in coming out with fifteen issues of this learned journal. Like other journals, there was a short interruption in publication of the journal due to the invasion of Sarawak by the Japanese's Army. The journal resumed publication only in May 1949 with Volume 5, no. 1 (New Series), no. 16 (Old Series). Among the editors of the journal were Tom Harrison (1949-1965), Tom Harrison and Benedict Sandin (1966-1967), Benedict Sandin (1968-1971), Lucas Chin (1972-1991), Peter M. Kedit (1992-1996)

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and Sanib Said (1997 until now). Normally, since the very first issue, the post of Editor is given to the Curator of the Sarawak Museum. Nevertheless, due to work commitments, as of Volume 24 (Old Series) 45 (New Series) 1976, the editor was given a helping hand by an editorial board consisting of co-editor, Peter M. Kedit, production –cum-circulation manager, Loh Chee Yin, editorial assistants, Tuton Kaboy, Joseph Ingai and R. Nyandoh and some others to share out the editorial, design and photography work. In 1992, Peter M. Kedit took over the editing of the journal as chief editor and he decided to liven up the journal with a full colour front cover. As with Lucas Chin, Peter M. Kedit was assisted by co-ordinator Ipoi Datan, editorial assistants Charles Leh, Suria bin Bujang, Lily Sia and others in design and photography too. Similarly, when Sanib Said took over the post, he too was assisted by editors, Ipoi Datan, Charles Leh, Suria bin Bujang, Tazudin Mohtar and committee members, Lily Sia, Ahmad Rafaie and Lim Yu Seng. On the whole, the journal had been regularly publishing scholarly articles on history, natural history, archaeology, ethnology of Sarawak and its neighbouring regions (Tiew, 1999). The most current issue of the journal is Volume LVI no. 77 (New Series) published in December 2001. Presently, *Geographical Abstracts*, *Anthropological Index to Current Periodicals in the Library of the Museum of Mankind* and *Malaysian Periodicals Index* index the *Sarawak Museum Journal*.

After World War II, another historical journal appeared in this region, namely *Malayan Historical Journal*, the journal of the Malayan Historical Society in May 1953. The first editor of this journal was J. C. Bottoms, Private Secretary to the British High Commissioner who edited the society's journal until the middle of 1956 that was Volume 3, no. 1, July 1956. The post of Honorary Editor was taken over by Mubin C. ff Sheppard who changed the title of the journal, its format and named it *Malaya in History* (1957-1962). However, the new editor maintained the serial number so that the first issue of *Malaya in History* was numbered Volume 3, no. 2 and was dated July 1957. The second editor also livened up the journal with a full colour front cover to attract readers. Apart from that, to generate more funds to enable the society to continue publishing the journal, it was decided to include advertisements in the journal (Khoo Kay Kim, Editorial, 1980). With the formation of Malaysia in September, 1963 *Malaya in History* changed its name to *Malaysia in History* (1963-1985) as of Volume 10, no. 2, February 1967 and it was hoped that articles from East Malaysia would be forthcoming for publication in future issues. Sheppard also changed the word "journal" to "magazine" so as to attract more general readers and to portray a less academic title. In addition, he requested that more illustrations be inserted to make the magazine more attractive and interesting (Sheppard, 1967). Mubin C. ff Sheppard continued to edit the Society's journal for

the next 13 years until Volume 14, no. 2, April 1972. According to Sheppard, the years between 1957 and April 1972 were lean years of the journal as issues were published irregularly. He added that between 1960-1969, several issues of the journal were delayed and none was published in 1963 and 1966. He also complained about the difficulty in finding suitable articles for publication as well as the burden of his other responsibilities (Sheppard, 1979). After that, Professor Zainal Abidin bin A. Wahid succeeded Mubin Sheppard as editor in 1972. After taking over the editorship, Professor Zainal Abidin bin A. Wahid with the help of his able editorial board which comprised of secretary, J. S. Henry, business manager, Mahfudz bin Abdul Hamid and members, Ahmad bin Haji Saleh, Dr. J. Chandran, Khoo Kay Kim and Mohd. Amin bin Haji Hassan managed the society's journal. Many others, who were members of the society also joined the editorial board over time, among them were Mohd Fawzi bin Basri, Sabihah binti Osman, and Khazin @ Khozin bin Mohd Tamrin while others left the board. During the tenure of Professor Zainal Abidin bin A. Wahid as editor, the journal published history articles in both languages, namely English and Bahasa Malaysia. On the 28th of July 1978, Professor Zainal Abidin bin A. Wahid handed over the editorship to Professor Khoo Kay Kim who continued to come up with issues of this learned journal. As chief editor, Khoo Kay Kim was given a helping hand by his editorial board comprising of editors, Mohd. Fadzil Othman, Abdullah Zakaria Ghazali, Ahmat Adam, Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Hassan and Khozin Mohd Tamrin while Jazamuddin Baharuddin held the post of business manager. Later, members of the editorial board were appointed as editors too while Jazamuddin Baharuddin was given the task as coordinator of publication. However, over the years, Khoo Kay Kim lamented that it was becoming more and more difficult to solicit sufficient papers or essays for publication as fewer articles in English were received. Moreover, more and more local history scholars and contributors were beginning to write in the Malaysian language, Bahasa Malaysia (Khoo Kay Kim, 1983; Khoo Kay Kim, 1985). Nevertheless, it was the vision of the society that there was a need to have some channel of communications by which writings on Malaysian history in English could be disseminated overseas, namely through the publication of *Malaysia in History*. Therefore, despite the difficulty in soliciting English history articles for publication, the society continued to come out with issues of its journal. However, the burden proved too heavy to handle, and the society had to discontinue the publication of its journal, *Malaysia in History* due to a lack of contribution of articles in English, lack of sponsorship, drop in donations and the small circulation of the journal. The last issue of the journal was Volume 28, 1985. The journal was indexed in *Malaysian Periodicals Index*.

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The seventh historical journal was the *Journal of the Historical Society, University of Malaya*, first issued in 1960. The Historical Society, Department of History, University of Malaya published this history journal annually. As of Volume IX 1970/1971, the journal was renamed *Jernal Sejarah* as a result of the change in the education policy whereby the medium of instruction in all the local universities had been changed to the Malaysian language, Bahasa Malaysia (Khoo Kay Kim, 1977). From Volume 1, 1960 to Volume V 1966/1967, all published articles were written in English but as of Volume VI 1967/1968 a number of articles appeared in Bahasa Malaysia. Md Nor Long contributed the first essay in Bahasa Malaysia entitled “Gerakan Kebangsaan sebelum Perang Dunia Kedua” [National Movement before the Second World War] (Editorial, *Journal of the Historical Society, University of Malaya*, 1967/1968). The editors of this journal were normally history undergraduates who were members of the Historical Society, Department of History, University of Malaya. Among the editors were R. Bonney (Volume 1, no. 1, 1960), Oh Hong Choon (Volume 1, no. 2, 1961), Gilbert Khoo (Volume 1, no. 3, 1962/1963 – Volume II 1963/1964), Oli Mohamed (Volume III 1964/1965), Mat Rasip Manap (Volume IV 1965/1966), Karthar Singh (Volume V 1966/1967), Xavier Nathan (Volume VI 1967/1968), Anto Austin D’Cruz (Volume VII 1968/1969), Soosay Nathan K. (Volume VIII 1969/1970), G. Palanivel (Volume IX 1970/1971), Thomas Mathews (Volume X 1971/1972), Kassim Abbas (Volume XI 1972/1973), Abdul Manaf Saad (Volume XII 1973/1974), Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (Volume XIII 1974/1975/1976), Sahabudin Mahmud (Volume XIV 1976/1977), and Ismail Wadin (Volume XV 1977/1978) (Lampiran, 1977). The editors of the journal were assisted in the production of the journal by an editorial board made up of co-editors, general manager, business manager and other committee members. In the beginning, staff and undergraduates of the History Department contributed most of the articles published in this journal, which emphasised more on Malaysian history and Southeast Asian history. The last issue of the journal was Volume XV, 1977/1978 and since then, it has sunk into oblivion. The journal was indexed by *Malaysian Periodicals Index*.

The next historical journal was *Tanah Melayu dari segi Sejarah* that was published by the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka for the Malaya Historical Society. The maiden issue was published in 1961, which was a translation of *Malaya in History* into romanised Malay for its members and other readers who prefer a Malay version of the society’s journal. Initially, selected English articles published in *Malaya in History* and *Malaysia in History* were translated and reprinted in this Malay journal. This attempt by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka to come up with a Malay historical journal was probably due to the unavailability of local Malay historical articles and

the shortage of local history journals in this newly independent country. As of Number 4, June 1967, the journal was renamed *Malaysia dari segi Sejarah* to conform to the enlargement of the nation's territory. In other words, *Malaysia dari segi Sejarah* is actually the continuation of *Tanah Melayu dari segi Sejarah* that was first issued in 1961. Between 1961-1972, only seven issues of the journal had been published. In the early 1970s, as more and more Malay articles were being published in *Malaysia in History*, *Malaysia dari segi Sejarah* was not published between 1973-1978. Moreover, according to the Council of the Society, it was not feasible on financial grounds to produce a romanised Malay version of each number of the journal (Sheppard, 1979). However, in conjunction with the silver jubilee of the Malaysian Historical Society in 1978, *Malaysia dari segi Sejarah* was revived with Number 8 published in April 1979 with Khoo Kay Kim as chief editor, Mohd. Fadzil Othman as editor and the editorial board comprising of Abdullah Zakaria Ghazali, Ahmat Adam, Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Hassan, Khozin Mohd Tamrin and business manager Jazamuddin Baharuddin. Henceforth, the journal was to be published annually with its very own special identity and no longer a direct translation of historical essays published in *Malaysia in History*. According to the Chief Editor, the republication of the journal has two-fold objectives. Firstly, it served to disseminate historical works on Malaysia to the outside world and within the region. Secondly, it hoped to be the storehouse of historical knowledge so as to contribute to the enrichment of Malaysian historiography (Khoo Kay Kim, Rencana Pengarang, 1980). But, interestingly, articles in *Malaysia dari segi Sejarah* differed from those in *Malaysia in History* as they were contributed by local undergraduates who were Malaysian-centric in view as to Malaysian historiography and the focus of their studies which were on the indigenous society (Khoo Kay Kim, 1983). Since the revival of *Malaysia dari segi Sejarah* in 1979, the society has continued issuing the journal until now. In 1985, *Malaysia in History* was discontinued and the society decided to merge both the journals *Malaysia in History* and *Malaysia dari segi Sejarah* due to financial constraints, lack on contributions and other unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, from 1986 onwards only *Malaysia dari segi Sejarah* (*Malaysia in History*) no. 15 was published by the society. It was to be noted that, from thereof the number of pages also dwindled due to economic depression and the lack of sponsorship and donations by generous parties (Khoo Kay Kim, Dari Kami, 1986). The merger of both the journals *Malaysia in History* and *Malaysia dari segi Sejarah* in 1986 can be considered a historical event in the publishing history of Malaysia, as for the very first time two historical journals were combined as one, the first in Malaysia, and maybe in the region of Southeast Asia too. Moreover, in future issues of the journal, both articles in English and Malay would be considered for publication. As of Number 17, 1989 Professor Khoo Kay Kim was succeeded as

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chief editor by Professor Dr. Nik Hassan Shuhaimi bin Nik Abdul Rahman who was assisted by editors Pamela Sodhy, Nik Anuar Nik Mahmud, Mohd. Sarim Mustajab, Khozin Mohd. Tamrin and Jazamuddin Baharuddin. Professor Dr. Nik Hassan Shuhaimi edited the journal for 11 years until Number 27, 1999. As of Number 28, 2000, Professor Dr. Abdullah Zakaria Ghazali took over as the chief editor until now. The most current issue of *Malaysia dari segi Sejarah* is Number 30, 2002. *Malaysian Periodicals Index* is indexing the journal.

The ninth earliest historical journal was *Kedah dari Segi Sejarah=Kedah in History*, the magazine of the Kedah Branch of the Malaysian Historical Society. The inaugural issue was published in June 1966. The first editor of this journal was James F. Augustin who edited the journal until 1974. During his editorship, Augustin was given a helping hand by his able assistants, namely Abdul Rahim Bahaudin and Tai Tek Tchin. Next, Desmond John Muzaffar Tate became the editor in 1975. A year later, Ismail Haji Saleh was elected the new editor of *Kedah dari segi Sejarah* as of Volume 7, No. 1, July 1976. In the beginning, most of the published articles were in English but later as a result of the educational reform whereby the Malay language is given more emphasis, it started to publish articles in the Malay language too. As of Volume 12, No. 1, 1995, the journal changed its title to *Cetera* whereby there was a new colourful cover page and a new editor, H. Md. Noor Salleh. It was rather surprising to note that before the appearance of *Cetera* in 1995, between July 1976 and 1995, that is a span of 19 years, only four volumes of the journal were issued. The new editor was assisted by an editorial staff who were mainly staff of the Kedah Museum or selected members of the Kedah Branch of the Malaysian Historical Society. Overall, the focus of most of the articles published in this journal dealt with the history of Kedah in general and were written in English and the Malay language.

The last historical journal in the list was *Peninjau Sejarah: Journal of the History Teachers' Association of Malaya* first published in July 1966. This journal was the product of the History Teachers' Association of Malaya (HITAM) and the History Department, University of Malaya. The very purpose of this journal was to enable history teachers to keep in touch with the research on various aspects of history especially Malaysian history. It was also hoped that through the journal, history teachers would be able to exchange views regarding the teaching of history. The society also agreed to bring out two issues of the journal each year and it would be bilingual too. From the maiden issue till its discontinuation, the sole editor of this journal is Zainal Abidin b. A. Wahid of the Department of History, University of Malaya. The editor is supported by an editorial board comprising of assistant editor,

Khoo Kay Kim, review editor, Cheng Siok Hwa, business manager, J.S. Sidhu, assistant business manager, R. R. Bonney, circulation manager, Phillip Loh and assistant circulation manager, Bro. Felix. In later issues, R. Sankaran and Lim Gueh Ee took over as business manager and assistant business manager. On the whole, the sale of *Peninjau* was not good partly due to the failure to get a business manager appointed to increase the sale of its journal. Moreover, the main concern was the lack of contributions for publication in the journal by fellow teachers and other parties. In addition, the number of society members also decreased year by year and after Volume 3, no. 2, September 1968, no further issue of *Peninjau Sejarah* was published (Zainal Abidin A. Wahid, 1966).

PUBLISHERS OF MALAYSIAN HISTORICAL JOURNALS

Most of the historical journals published in Malaysia were published by history-related associations namely Malaysian Historical Society, Kedah Branch of the Malaysian Historical Society, Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Historical Society of the University of Malaya and History Teachers' Association of Malaya. However, it is to be noted that the two earliest history journals were actually the efforts of two individuals namely James Richardson Logan and James Collins published in 1847 and 1875 respectively. On the other hand, two government institutions directly involved in the museum world, namely, Perak Museum, Taiping (later National Museum of Malaysia) and Sarawak Museum also published their very own journal. Table 2 presents the various publishing institutions of Malaysian Historical Journals.

LANGUAGE OF PUBLICATION

As for the language of publication, most of the earlier historical journals, especially those issued before the independence of Malaysia, published only articles in English. Nine titles were published in English but later on six of these journals started to accept Malay articles too. Among these journals only three, namely *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia*, *Journal of Eastern Asia* and *Sarawak Museum Journal* published only in English. As for the others, they started to publish Malay historical articles especially after the change in the medium of instruction to the Malay language from the primary level to university level, which resulted in less contribution in the English Language. Moreover, it was noted that from then on, less English articles were forthcoming and hence the Malay language superseded English as the preferred language of scholarly writings. Nevertheless, only one historical journal was published in the Malay language from its maiden issues

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namely *Tanah Melayu dari segi Sejarah* from 1961 till 1985. However, after 1986, the publishing institution started to accept English articles for publication as a result of the merger of two historical journals namely *Malaysia in History* and *Malaysia dari segi Sejarah*.

Table 2: Publishers of Malaysian Historical Journals

No	Journal Titles	Publisher
1	<i>Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia</i>	James R. Logan
2	<i>Journal of Eastern Asia</i>	James Collins
3	<i>Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> (1878-1922)(Continued as sebagai <i>Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> (1923-1962) and <i>Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> (1963 up till now)	Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society
4	<i>Perak Museum Notes</i> (1893-1898) (Continued as <i>Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums</i> (1905-1941), <i>Federation Museums Journal New Series</i> (1953-1991) and <i>Malaysia Museums Journal</i> (1997 until now)	Perak Museum, Taiping, Federated Malay States Museum, Department of Museums & Antiquities, Malaysia
5	<i>Sarawak Museum Journal</i>	Sarawak Museum
6	<i>Malayan Historical Journal</i> , the Journal of the Malayan Historical Society 1954-1956 (continued as <i>Malaya in History</i> (1957-1962) and <i>Malaysia in History</i> (1963-1985)	Malaya Historical Society, Malaysian Historical Society
7	<i>Journal of the Historical Society</i> , University of Malaya (1960-1969/1970) (continued as <i>Jernal Sejarah</i> (1970-1978)	Historical Society of University of Malaya
8	<i>Tanah Melayu dari segi Sejarah</i> (1962-1964)(continued as <i>Malaysia dari segi Sejarah</i> 1967-1985) and <i>Malaysia dari segi Sejarah (Malaysia in History)</i> (1986 up till now)	Malaya Historical Society, Malaysian Historical Society
9	<i>Kedah dari segi Sejarah=Kedah in History</i> (1966-1994) (change in name to <i>Cetera</i> (1995 until now)	Kedah Branch of the Malaysian Historical Society
10	<i>Peninjau Sejarah : Journal of the History Teachers' Association of Malaya</i>	History Teachers' Association of Malaya

Table 3 : Language of Contributing Articles

No.	Journal Titles	Language of Publication
1	<i>Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia</i>	English
2	<i>Journal of Eastern Asia</i>	English
3	<i>Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> (1878-1922)(Continued as <i>Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> (1923-1962) and <i>Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> (1963 up till now)	English And Malay language
4	<i>Perak Museum Notes</i> (1893-1898) (Continued as <i>Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums</i> (1905-1941), <i>Federation Museums Journal New Series</i> (1953-1991) and <i>Malaysia Museums Journal</i> (1997 until now)	English And Malay language
5	<i>Sarawak Museum Journal</i>	English
6	<i>Malayan Historical Journal</i> , the <i>Journal of the Malayan Historical Society</i> 1954-1956 (continued as <i>Malaya in History</i> (1957-1962) and <i>Malaysia in History</i> (1963-1985)	English And Malay language
7	<i>Journal of the Historical Society</i> , University of Malaya (1960-1969/1970) (continued as <i>Jernal Sejarah</i> (1970-1978)	English And Malay language
8	<i>Tanah Melayu dari segi Sejarah</i> (1962-1964)(continued as <i>Malaysia dari segi Sejarah</i> 1967-1985) and <i>Malaysia dari segi Sejarah</i> (Malaysia in History) (1986 up till now)	English And Malay language
9	<i>Kedah dari segi Sejarah</i> = <i>Kedah in History</i> (1966-1994) (change in name to <i>Cetera</i> (1995 until now)	English And Malay language
10	<i>Peninjau Sejarah</i> : <i>Journal of the History Teachers' Association of Malaya</i>	English And Malay language

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FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION

In deciding the frequency of publication, the publishing history of the journal including the period whereby the journal changes its title is taken into consideration. This is because some journals were not published at regular and fixed intervals but on an *ad hoc* basis depending on the availability of financial resources. The publishing frequency varied according to certain development during the journal publishing history. Some were first published monthly but later on changed to twice a year and then yearly. On the other hand, some journals, which were issued quarterly or twice a year, became an annual publication. Therefore, journals, which changed its publishing frequency over time, will be considered as irregular publications. On the whole, seven historical journals have irregular publishing history namely *Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia*, *Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (1878-1922)/ *Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (1923-1962)/*Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (1963 up till now), *Perak Museum Notes* (1893-1898)/*Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums* (1905-1941)/*Federation Museums Journal New Series* (1953-1991)/*Malaysia Museums Journal* (1997 until now), *Sarawak Museum Journal*, *Malayan Historical Journal*, *the Journal of the Malayan Historical Society* (1954-1956)/*Malaya in History* (1957-1962)/*Malaysia in History* (1963-1985), *Tanah Melayu dari segi Sejarah* (1962-1964)/*Malaysia dari segi Sejarah* (1967-1985)/*Malaysia dari segi sejarah (Malaysia in History)* (1986 until now) and *Kedah dari segi Sejarah=Kedah in History* (1966-19??) /*Cetera* (1995 until now). Among the same titles titles have been issuing their publication very regularly and frequently namely, *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* (two issues per year since 1963) and *Malaysia dari segi Sejarah* (yearly publication since 1979). On the other hand, one journal was issued annually namely *Journal of the Historical Society, University of Malaya* (1960-1969/1970)/*Jernal Sejarah* (1970-1978), another published quarterly that is *Journal of Eastern Asia* and one published twice a year, *Peninjau Sejarah: Journal of the History Teachers' Association of Malaya*. It was also noted that out of the ten journals, five had ceased publication whereas two others were dormant for a few years probably due to editorial, production and financial problems. The rest are still active.

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Table 4 : Publication Frequency

No.	Journal Title	Frequency	Status
1	<i>Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia</i>	Monthly Annual	Ceased
2	<i>Journal of Eastern Asia</i>	Quarterly	Ceased
3	<i>Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> (1878-1922)(Continued as <i>Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> (1923-1962) and <i>Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society</i> (1963 up till now)	Semi-annual Thrice a year Quarterly Semi-annual	Current
4	<i>Perak Museum Notes</i> (1893-1898) (Continued as <i>Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums</i> (1905-1941), <i>Federation Museums Journal New Series</i> (1953-1991) and <i>Malaysia Museums Journal</i> (1997 until now)	Quarterly Semi-annual Annual	Dormant
5	<i>Sarawak Museum Journal</i>	Semi-annual Annual	Current
6	<i>Malayan Historical Journal</i> , the Journal of the Malayan Historical Society 1954-1956 (continued as <i>Malaya in History</i> (1957-1962) and <i>Malaysia in History</i> (1963-1985)	Semi-annual Annual	Ceased
7	<i>Journal of the Historical Society</i> , University of Malaya (1960-1969/1970) (continued as <i>Jernal Sejarah</i> (1970-1978)	Annual	Ceased
8	<i>Tanah Melayu dari segi Sejarah</i> (1962-1964)(continued as <i>Malaysia dari segi Sejarah</i> 1967-1985) and <i>Malaysia dari segi Sejarah</i> (Malaysia in History) (1986 up till now)	Irregular Annual	Current
9	<i>Kedah dari segi Sejarah=Kedah in History</i> (1966-1994) (change in name to <i>Cetera</i> (1995 until now)	Irregular	Dormant
10	<i>Peninjau Sejarah : Journal of the History Teachers' Association of Malaya</i>	Semi-annual	Ceased

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CONCLUSION

The emergence of Malaysian historical journals is an evidence of documented Malaysian historiography and helps to fill the obvious gap of Malaysian-centric history by local historians. Therefore, all parties especially those directly involved in the production of scholarly historical journals should cooperate and work hand in hand seriously to keep themselves alive be they readers, contributing historians, publishing institutions, generous private sponsors or government-related institutions. There is enough evidence from this study, which shows that only three history journals are still alive, two dormant while the rest had ceased publication.

Finally, the current status of historical journals published since 1966 has been encouraging. Many academic and professional institutions, which are deeply involved with the discipline of history, are publishing their very own serial publications in the form of bulletin, magazine, pamphlet or scholarly journals. For example, various history departments of local universities are coming out with their own journals, namely *Jernal Hubungan Antarabangsa=International Relation Journal* (1973) published by the International Relation Club of the History Department, University of Malaya and *Jernal Sejarah* published by the History Department, University of Malaya (1982) while *Jebat* was first issued by the Historical Society, Department of History, National University of Malaysia (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia) (1972) but later on taken over by the History Department itself. On the other hand, various affiliated branches of the Malaysian Historical Society also issued their own journals, for example, *Sabah dalam Sejarah* (1974) by the Sabah Branch of the Malaysian Historical Society, *Warisan (Negeri Sembilan)* by the Negeri Sembilan Branch of the Malaysian Historical Society, *Jernal Sejarah Kelantan* by the Kelantan Branch of the Malaysian Historical Society (1974), *Jurnal Sejarah Melaka* (1976) a publication of the Melaka Branch of the Malaysian Historical Society, *Journal of the Historical Society Sarawak Branch* (1976), *Mutiara : Jernal Sejarah Negeri Pulau Pinang* issued by the Penang Branch of the Malaysian Historical Society (1979), *Warisan : Jurnal Persatuan Sejarah Malaysia Cawangan Terengganu* by the Terengganu Branch of the Malaysian Historical Society (1979), *Jauhar : Jurnal Sejarah Johor* by the Johor Branch of the Malaysian Historical Society (1982) and *Pahang dalam Sejarah* by the Pahang Branch of the Malaysian Historical Society and the Pahang Museum Board (1982). Apart from that various state museums, state archives and archeological societies also came out with their own publications namely *Sabah Museum Annals* (1979), *Sabah Museum and Archives* (1986), *Sabah Museum Journal* (1993), *Purba: Jurnal*

Persatuan Muzium Malaysia (1982), *Trisulawira: Jurnal Muzium Angkatan Tentera* (1984) and *Jurnal Warisan Johor* by the Johor Heritage Foundation (Yayasan Warisan Johor) (1997). Although after 1966, many historical societies and history-related institutions had come up with their own history journals, their publication frequency were irregular and some were even dormant for the past few years due to various reasons. According to Lim (1975), the problems faced in publishing Malaysian scholarly journals are not insurmountable ones as other countries in this region are also facing the same problems namely, editorial, production, legal, financial and distribution problems. Hence, it is highly recommended that the many publishing institutions which are issuing their own historical journals merge into a national journal so as to overcome these problems. Perhaps, with the publication of a national historical journal like the *Jurnal Sejarah Malaysia = History Journal of Malaysia*, the problem of shortage of articles, the lack of financial resources and the decrease in number of issues per year might be solved. In conclusion, it is very important for all parties involved in the publication of historical journals to come together and work towards the dissemination of historical information in Malaysia and the outside world by keeping their publication current, alive and kicking.

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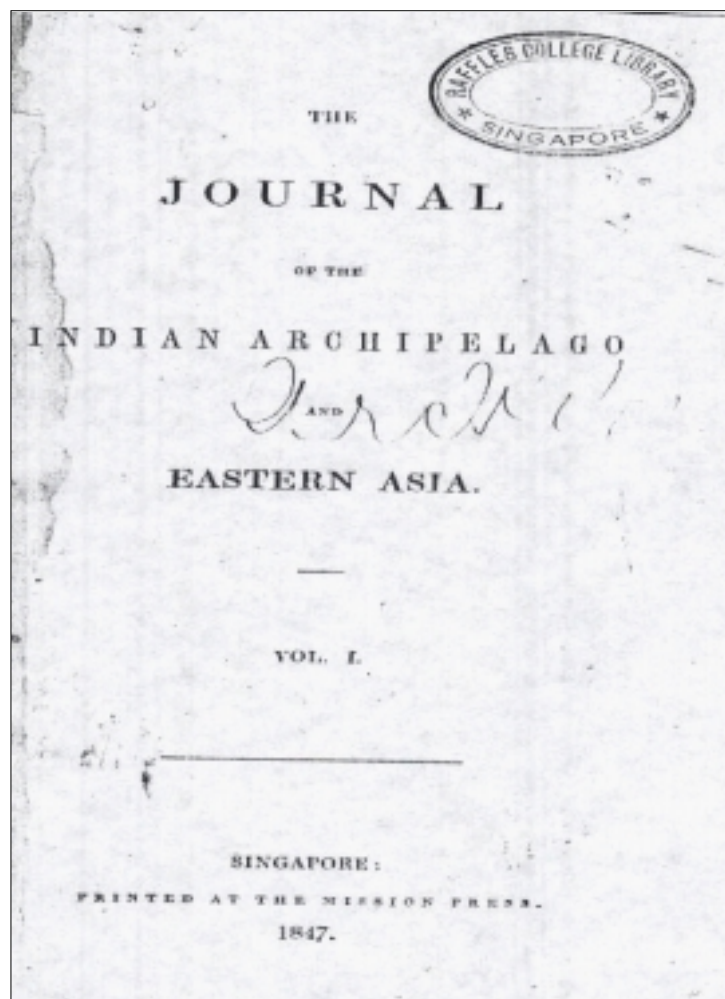
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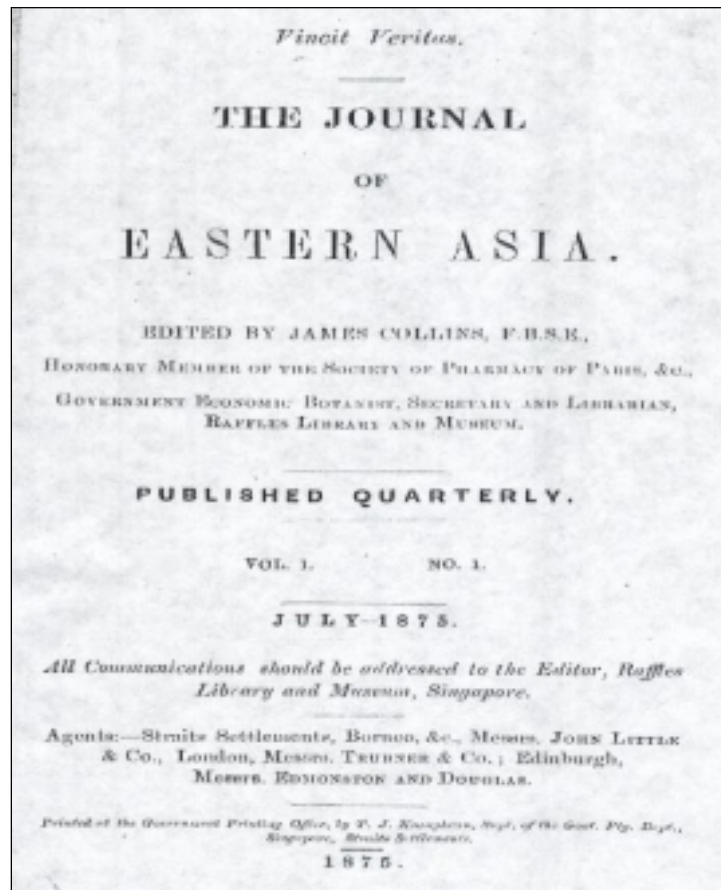
APPENDIX 1

TITLE PAGE,
JOURNAL OF THE INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO AND EASTERN ASIA,
VOL. 1, 1847.
(PUBLISHER : JAMES RICHARDSON LOGAN)



APPENDIX 2

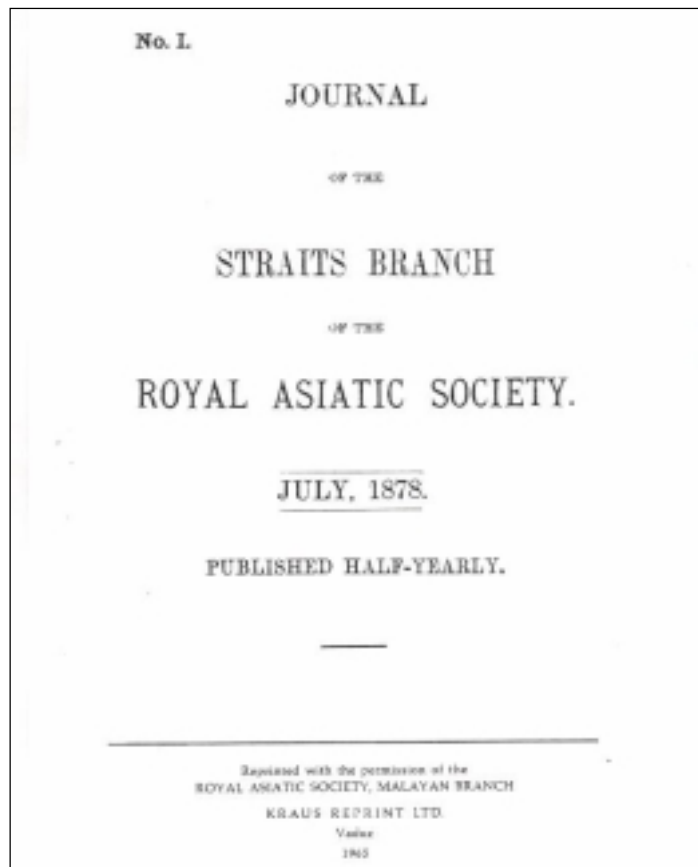
TITLE PAGE,
JOURNAL OF EASTERN ASIA,
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APPENDIX 3

TITLE PAGE,
JOURNAL OF THE STRAITS BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY,
NO. 1, JULY, 1878.
(PUBLISHER : STRAITS BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY)
(REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION BY KRAUS REPRINT LTD.,1965)



APPENDIX 4

**TITLE PAGE,
JOURNAL OF THE FEDERATED MALAY STATES MUSEUMS,
VOL. 1, JANUARY, 1905-MAY, 1906.
(PUBLISHER : FEDERATED MALAY STATES MUSEUMS)**

