

## Recent Books from Malaysia – Nov 2019

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### Art

Perspectives: Narratives in Malaysian Art, Volume 4 / (Ed) Nur Hanim Khairuddin (et al.)  
Kuala Lumpur: Rogue Art, 2019  
288p.  
9789671001189  
\$ 20.00 / PB  
396gm.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=658280>

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### Ecology/Environment

Borneo Spiders: A Photographic Field Guide / Joseph K H Koh & Nicky Bay  
Sabah: Sabah Forestry Department, 2019  
504p.  
9789670180205  
\$ 110.00 / PB  
1600gm.

Despite this book's misleading title - a two kilo book hardly qualifies as a 'field guide' - it can claim to be the most comprehensive and up to date book on the spiders to be found in the Bornean rain forests. The authors have used macro photography, increasing the life size of minute creatures, to document and illustrate over 540 species of spiders to be found in Sabah and Sarawak.  
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667302>

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A Guide to Snakes of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore / To Charlton Sabah: Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd., 2020

viii, 300p.

Includes Index

9789838121965

\$ 85.00 / HB

844gm.

Long considered one of the major biodiversity hotspots of the world, Peninsular Malaysia is renowned for its richness of fauna and flora, and snakes are included amongst the great diversity of wildlife found here. Over 160 species can be found occupying most habitat types from hot and humid lowland rainforest to mountain summits, in and around towns and cities and even in the ocean. Lying to the south of Peninsular Malaysia across the Johor Strait is the highly urbanised island nation of Singapore which, despite a small landmass, is also remarkably rich in wildlife. Many of the snakes found in Peninsular Malaysia can also be found inhabiting Singapore's city, parks and remaining wild spaces. The primary aim of this book is to introduce the reader to the snake fauna of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore, and to assist with their identification. It is intended for use by a wide audience, from amateur enthusiasts to those working professionally with snakes. Following a brief introduction to the history and ecology of the snakes found inhabiting these two countries, individual species accounts for all of the land, freshwater and brackish snake species, along with a selection of the marine-dwelling sea snakes and sea kraits, are provided. Each species account includes concise descriptions of morphology and coloration, an overview of ecology and distribution, and detailed photographs provided by a number of talented wildlife photographers. Largely non-technical dichotomous keys are also included to aid field identification.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667303>

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Opogi: A Bornean Crocodile / Jaswinder Kaur Kler, Luke J. Evans & Benoit Goossens (Photographer) Rudi Delvaux (et al.)

Sabah: Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd., 2019  
viii, 88p.

Includes Index

9789838121958

\$ 10.00 / PB

226gm.

This is a story about Opogi, a Bornean crocodile who is over a year old and who lives in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. Written largely in Opogi and his relatives' voices, the young crocodile takes readers on a journey to discover what he learns from those around him. He lives in the ecologically important Kinabatangan region in eastern Sabah, an area that is also known for its vast agricultural plantations. From those around him, Opogi learns about the origin of crocodiles, their distribution worldwide and locally, and of folklore that associates this reptile with humans and other animals. This publication also covers the nesting behaviour of crocodiles, their diet, homing patterns, sensory organs and research that is done on the species. Pressures including hunting and other threats are also touched on. Photos in this publication showcase crocodiles and their habitat, and other wildlife found in Sabah. Opogi: a Bornean Crocodile provides an overview of this reptile and will hopefully inspire readers to better understand this species.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667304>

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A Guide to Wild Fruits of Borneo / Anthony Lamb  
Sabah: Natural History Publications (Borneo) Sdn. Bhd., 2019  
xii 296p.  
Includes Index  
9789838121927  
\$ 40.00 / PB  
676gm.

The edible wild fruits, nuts and seeds of Borneo that are found in the different forests from coastal seashores and islands, through the lowlands and hills, to the montane forests, and on different soils, are estimated to be in the region of 500 different species. These were consumed by the many groups of people inhabiting the island, over many decades. They were the ones who had initially discovered whether different fruits, nuts and seeds were edible, and that some otherwise toxic species become edible only after cooking or fermentation processes. Botanists and taxonomists have subsequently provided the scientific names for these plants and classified most of them into their respective families and genera. However, there are still new species being discovered in what are some of the most species-rich forests in the world, and for many genera, Borneo is their centre of diversity. Many species are rare and little known, and over 30% of plant species are endemic to Borneo.

The lowland forests are particularly rich, with most of the species being trees, but treelets, shrubs and herbs also have species with edible fruits. This guide mostly introduces the better-known species, but to showcase this diversity, some examples of rare or little-known species are also included, resulting in a total of 34 families, 55 genera, and 109 species being illustrated.

Many of the lowland forests have now been cleared for the development of agriculture, forest plantations, towns and roads, and the diversity of varieties of some species has become greatly reduced. Though some germplasm has been conserved in agricultural stations and research facilities, much more needs to be done so that those species with good commercial potential can be selected and bred as future crops for farmers. Some species have already been researched, and selected clones made available, but there are still many more with good horticultural potential.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667305>

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Beguiled On Larut Hills / Liew Suet Fun

Taiping, Perak: Liew Suet Fun, 2019

xii, 148p.

9789671142127

1. Bukit Larut (Perak, Malaysia).

2. Taiping, Perak (Malaysia).

\$ 40.00 / PB

368gm.

Atop the southern end of Bintang Range, about 20 kilometres from the north-western shoreline of Peninsular Malaysia, is Larut Hills. It is a 6,878-hectare forest reserve spanning lowland, hill dipterocarp, oak-laurel and montane forests, whose citizenry include rare plants, enchanting fauna and the human residents of Maxwell's Hill, a hill station conjured out of the wilderness by the British in the 19th century. The forest-clad mountains, inhabited by ancient fern trees, delicate mosses, giant palms and hidden waterfalls host, on their periphery, rambling timber bungalows, a steep road of 72 hairpin bends and old footpaths drenched in mist and cloud. Here is the home of the enigmatic agile gibbon, helmeted hornbill, clouded leopard, the world's largest moth, the atlas, and one of the world's loudest insects, the empress cicada, to name a few. It is a space of curious, ethereal wonderment, a counterpoint to the world beyond that beats to the rhythm of high-speed communication and nature-by-design.

In this book about the land and her people, we are offered a view of wildness and the physical and spiritual gifts that they impart to us. It is also a meditation on the power of a landscape and how such a place remains our geography of hope on an Earth beleaguered by the values and choices we have come to live by.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=659746>

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## **Economics/Development Studies**

For A Sane, Green Future / S. M. Mohamed Idris  
Pulau Pinang: Consumer's Association of Penang, 1990 (2<sup>nd</sup> Printing  
2019)  
260p.  
9789675447945  
\$ 10.00 / PB  
340gm.

We live in an era of escalating problems and crises. With the Greenhouse effect and resource depletion, the survival of the earth itself is at stake. For the past two decades — before ecology became popular — CAP President S.M. Mohamed Idris has been raising a wide range of issues that are now recognised as the critical problems of our age. This book brings together the many strands of his ideas on daily living (food, health, transport, culture); national affairs (politics, economics, national unity); environment, development and survival. With insight into the roots of the various crises, the author puts forward alternatives and visions for future patterns of living and national development — which are in harmony with nature, human needs and spiritual values. This book is both a commentary on Malaysian social life and an argument for urgent changes towards a sane and greener world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667306>

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Free Port To Modern Economy: Economic Development and Social Change in Penang 1969 to 1990 / (Ed) Chet Singh, Rajah Rasiah & Wong Yee Tuan

Penang, Malaysia/Singapore: Penang Institute/ISEAS, 2019  
xviii, 274p.

9789814843966

1. Economic development – Malaysia – Pulau Pinang.
2. Pulau Pinang (Malaysia) – Economic conditions – 20<sup>th</sup> century.
3. Pulau Pinang (Malaysia) – Social conditions – 20<sup>th</sup> century.

\$ 19.90 / PB

400gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667307>

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## **Education**

Educational Development in Malaysia: Issues and Challenges / Tan Yao Sua

Petaling Jaya: SIRD-Strategic Information and Research Development Centre, 2020

Xiv, 353p.

9789672165699

1. Education – Malaysia.
2. Education and state – Malaysia.

\$ 27.50 / PB

554gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=659766>

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## **History**

A Story of George Town Pulau Pinang Malaysia, c. 1780s to c. 2000s / Ooi Keat Gin

Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, 2019

xxviii, 202p.

Includes Index; Bibliography

9789834919627

1. Pulau Pinang (Malaysia) – History.
3. Pulau Pinang (Malaysia) – Social conditons.

\$ 45.00 / PB

832gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667308>

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The Wolf Catcher: The true story of how one woman exposed the world's biggest heist / Claire Rewcastle Brown & Eddie Barnes (Afterword)

Gordon Brown

UK: Lost World Press, 2019

x, 310p.

9781527244757

\$ 20.00 / PB

476gm.

ADAPTED from (The Sarawak Report - The Inside Story of The 1MDB Expose)

When London journalist Clare Rewcastle Brown set up a small website highlighting environmental damage in Borneo, she didn't expect to bring down a government.

But she stumbled upon one of the great scoops of all time: a multi-billion dollar heist, on the orders of a prime minister, which – among other things – was splurged on a major Hollywood movie, a \$250 million yacht, one of the world's largest diamonds, a supermodel's see-through grand piano – and a whole lot of Cristal champagne.

Following the trail through Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Abu Dhabi, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and the beautiful but threatened rainforests of Sarawak, this incredible true story reveals how one woman bravely tracked down the truth behind the 1MDB affair – and exposed the ruthless criminals who thought they had got away with it.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667309>

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Malaysian Murders and Mysteries: A Century of Shocking Cases that Grippped the National / Martin Vengadesan & Andrew Sagayam

Singapore: Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2020

236p.

9789814868556

1. Crime – Malaysia.
2. Murder – Malaysia.
3. True crime stories – Malaysia.

\$ 19.90 / PB

236gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667310>

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## **Politics**

Identity, Nationhood and State-Building in Malaysia / K. J. Ratnam  
Petaling Jaya: SIRD-Strategic Information and Research Development  
Centre, 2019

viii, 132p.

9789672165651

1. Malaysia – Politics and government.

2. Malaysia – Social conditions.

\$ 12.50 / PB

202gm.

(Including “Regaining the Middle Ground in Malaysian Politics”: A  
Conversation with Patrick Pillai)

Identity, loyalty and nation building are key global challenges today. In the first part of this book, Emeritus Professor K.J. Ratnam, a leading Malaysian social scientist, discusses multiple identities in complex societies, political loyalty, and the challenges that ethnic and religious differences pose for social cohesion.

In the second section of the book, done in conversational style, he talks to researcher-writer Patrick Pillai about the importance of regaining the middle ground in Malaysian politics. He expresses a clear preference for civic over ethnic nationalism, arguing that, by embracing all citizens, it provides a more sustainable basis for loyalty. Among key issues discussed are whether Malaysia is a 13-State or a three-State federation, democracy and governance, ethnic politics, and electoral reform.

Professor Ratnam also analyses current political alignments and their impact on ethnic relations, the perils of ethnic stereotyping, and the need for a national consensus on foundational issues. He says visions, narratives, national ideologies and constitutions may be useful in bringing people together, but are not enough for holding them together, and suggests some practical ways this problem can be overcome.

Sweeping in scope yet detailed in analysis, this publication will interest scholars, students, policy makers and laymen, and encourage reflection on useful ways of facing up to the many complex challenges confronting multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies like Malaysia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=655531>

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Rising Up: The Fight for Chin Refugees: The Journey of a young leader and activist to help battle in the struggles of his people in Malaysia / James Bawi Thang Bik (Eds) Samantha Chow & Michael Moey  
Petaling Jaya: Persatuan Kebajikan Perlindungan Kanak-Kanak Pelarian (Refuge for the Refugees), 2019

84p.

Includes Bibliography

9789671727300

\$ 12.50 / PB

102gm.

On 13 June 2018, the ethnic Myanmar Chin community in Malaysia were shocked by the news. UNHCR had announced that the Chins will remain refugees only until the end of 2019, confirming rumours that there was a policy to end international protection for the community.

Now, they are given two choices: return to Myanmar or stay in Malaysia as undocumented migrants. The community, many of who have left their land and home years ago, finds neither of these options possible.

Without refugee protection, many lost their jobs and young people quit school to find work. Feeling hopeless and desperate, a Chin man jumped off the 13th floor of an apartment block.

The book tells the story of how an entire refugee community and its advocates got together to fight and protect themselves against a system that failed to put the people at the heart of its decisions and policies.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=659749>

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Minorities Matter: Malaysian Politics and People Volume III / (Ed) Sophie Lemiére

Petaling Jaya/Singapore: SIRD-Strategic Information and Research Development Centre/ISEAS, 2019

xx, 184p.

9789672165583; 9789814843768

1. Malaysia – Politics and government.

2. Malaysia – Social conditions.

\$ 25.00 / PB

314gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=667311>

