

# One Hundred Years of Singapore

Volume Two.

## Editors

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## ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY

*Back row (left to right):* Mr. Tan Teck Soon; Lieutenant-Colonel Sankey, R.E.; Rev. W. Murray, M.A.; Hon. W. R. Collyer, I.S.O.; Mr. H. N. Ridley, M.A., F.R.S.; Mr. A. Knight; Lieutenant-Colonel Pennefather; Dr. G. E. Brooke; Mr. H. F. Rankin, F.F.I.S.; Dr. D. J. Galloway.

*Front row (left to right):* Mr. R. W. Hullett, M.A.; Dr. Linn Boon Keng; R. Hanitsch, Ph.D.; Lieutenant J. N. Biggs, R.G.A.; Mr. G. E. V. Thomas; Mr. C. Emerson; Mr. P. J. Burgess, M.A.; Major Ritchie, M.B.

## ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY

Scotsmen have played no insignificant part in the history of the Colony from its very beginning. In every side of its life—civil, mercantile, social, religious, and educational—they have had a share. We are sure the national sentiment would not be without some forms of expression during the first two decades, although our incomplete annals have no record of it; but it showed itself later in the institution of the Scots' Church, a movement which began in the early 'Forties and took shape in a permanent institution ten years later. In 1879 (the 2nd December) a St. Andrew's Ball was held in the Singapore Club, and it has been ever since a fairly regular annual event, though now and again a banquet has been substituted. In recent years, until the outbreak of war, a Scottish Universities' Dinner has been instituted and held on Hallow-e'en (the 31st October).

On the 27th November 1908 St. Andrew's Society was formed that "there might be in Singapore a regularly constituted body of Scotsmen under whose auspices and control the anniversary of St. Andrew may be observed, and who may take cognizance of, discuss, and take steps in regard to any matters which possess a national and local interest by donations from the Society's funds or otherwise." The Society was also to be "a charitable institution to relieve distressed and deserving countrymen in so far as considered desirable and the funds will permit."

In that year (1908) both the Governor and the Colonial Secretary were Scotsmen ; the former (Sir John Anderson, G.C.M.G.) became Patron, and the latter (Sir Arthur Henderson Young, K.C.M.G.) President. The other members of this first committee of the Society were the Hon. Dr. D. J. Galloway (Vice-President), Mr. James Henry (Secretary), and Mr. J. J. Macbean (Treasurer). The membership in the first year was 133.

Succeeding Presidents have been Dr. Galloway, W. W. Cook, Frank Adam, and Captain Chancellor. Special mention should be made of Mr. Frank Adam, who held the office for five years, and whose enthusiasm in all things Scottish was unique. Besides being a recognised authority on the Scottish clans and tartans, he was a piper, and organised a company of "Pipers of Malaya." He also had a scheme for the formation of a local corps of Scottish Volunteers ; but the outbreak of war and his own retirement from the Colony in 1918 interrupted, but, let us hope, only delayed, its completion and realisation.

Under the auspices of the Society the observance of St. Andrew's Day became a permanent institution. Burns's Anniversary (25th January) was also frequently kept by holding a Scottish concert for charitable purposes, and for the success of these concerts during a number of years the Society owed a great deal to the capable leadership of Mr. Alex. Proctor.

When war broke out in 1914, the Society resolved to suspend for the time the usual national celebrations, and to ask Scotsmen to contribute to war funds what was usually given to these functions, and as much more as they could afford. The result of this appeal has been that about \$25,000 has been raised to date ; and out of this sum help has been given to the Prince of Wales's Fund, the Belgian Relief Fund, and the fund for providing comforts for Scottish soldiers, the last-named getting the largest share of the assistance.

#### THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY

As early as 1825 Raffles wrote to the headquarters of the Society in London, urging the appointment of a lay-agent for Singapore at a salary of £100 a year with travelling expenses. He had experience of the Society's work in Batavia, where an auxiliary had been established in 1814 under his patronage ; and also in Bencoolen, where its good work had much impressed him. The Society's practical interest in this part of the world at that early period was proved by its issue of a Malay version of the Bible from its Calcutta auxiliary in 1814, and by the encouragement it gave to missions in the work of translation and distribution in Malacca, Penang, and Java.

Although more than half a century was to elapse before the desired agency was to be established, the work for which the Society stood was not neglected. In 1837 a local Auxiliary Society was formed, in which the Resident Councillor, Dr. Oxley, and other leading residents, together with Protestant clergymen, took a share. It had for its depot a two-storied building on the site now occupied by the Raffles Girls' School. The removal of nearly all missionaries to China in 1847, when that closed land opened its doors to foreigners, must have been a blow to the work of this auxiliary, and probably accounts for the fact that its existence is lost sight of in succeeding records.

In 1857 a Ladies' Bible and Tract Society was formed, and had the influential support of Mrs. Cavenagh and Lady Ord as its successive Presidents. It employed a Malay colporteur, issued a religious magazine called *The Christian in Singapore*, and instituted a monthly prayer-meeting in which members from all the churches united. In 1870 this Ladies' Society co-operated in the formation of, and became absorbed in, a new auxiliary of the Bible Society, of which the Rev. B. P. Keasberry was President, Rev. W. Dale Secretary, and Mr. Isaac Henderson Treasurer.