



A riverside Malay *Kampong* (photograph taken between 1906-1919)
Source: Eleanor O'Hara Collection

The Percy R Hill Collection

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The National Library Board has recently acquired the Percy R Hill Collection. The collection comprises 60 glass plate negatives (8cm x 8cm), taken by Percy Reginald Hill, a chartered accountant who worked in Singapore and Malaya between 1906 -1919.



Percy R Hill in a photograph taken in 1939
Source: Eleanor O'Hara Collection

Born in Lancashire, England in 1888, Percy Hill left England in 1906 to work for the accounting firm Evatt & Company in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. During this period, he photographed scenes of daily life in Singapore and Malaya. The images include rubber plantations, Chinese temples, coastal and river villages, *tongkangs* and ships, tropical fruits, street and market scenes. The subjects taken include portraits of natives, hawkers, peddlers and residents.

Percy Hill left Singapore in 1919 to stay in Sydney, Australia, where he passed away in 1950. In 2007, Percy Hill's daughter, Mrs Eleanor O'Hara, expressed her desire to donate the glass plates to the National Library of Singapore. On 22 February 2008, the National Library received the donation from her daughter, Ms Katherine Hayley, and so fulfilled the personal wish of Mrs O'Hara, who passed away soon after.

This collection will complement other significant National Library collections of early Singapore and will be made available through the National Library website (www.nl.sg) and at the Donors Gallery, Lee Kong Chian Reference Library.

The National Library Board would like to thank the family of the late Mrs Eleanor O'Hara for the donation of the Percy R Hill Collection.



Clog seller in a market (photograph taken between 1906-1919)
Source: Eleanor O'Hara Collection



Chinese hawker selling medicinal drinks by the roadside (photograph taken between 1906-1919)
Source: Eleanor O'Hara Collection