

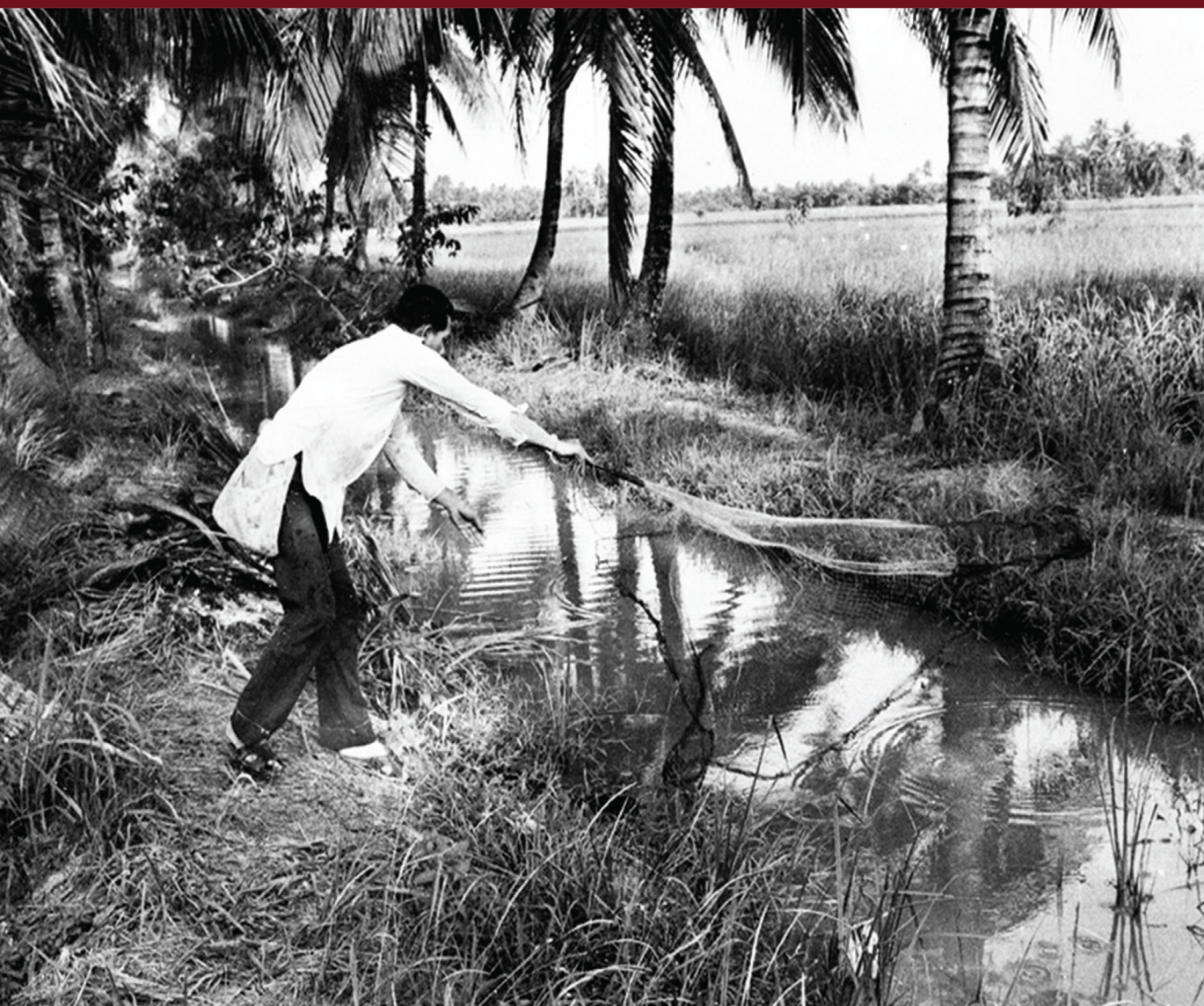
Vol. 96 Part 2

No. 325

December 2023



# Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society



Using a Cast Net to Catch Fish in the Krian Irrigation System, Perak, c. 1974

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**Journal  
of the  
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### **The Cover**

The cover of each issue of the *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* highlights a building or location that is a significant part of the national heritage of Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei.

The current issue features a photograph of a farmer using a cast net (*jala*) to fish for *ikan sepat* in a drainage canal in the Krian Irrigation Scheme, northern Perak, c. 1974. Harvests of padi field fish in the Krian District had already declined compared with previous decades, and double cropping along with the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers have since caused further drops in the fish population.

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# Editor's Note

Several articles in the current issue of JMBRAS revolve around Johor, Singapore, and the Riau Archipelago, the chain of islands immediately to the south of Singapore. The opening essay concerns the authorship of the *Sejarah Melayu* or Malay Annals, and the role played by Raja Bongsu, sometime ruler of Johor. Khoo Chun Yok examines the collapse of the trading entrepôt at Riau in 1784, arguing that Singapore attracted traders because it provided the facilities and services formerly available from Riau. F. Andrew Smith examines the trading environment of the late 18th and early 19th centuries through an examination of the careers of three brothers involved in various ways with maritime activities in the region. An article published in 1821 and reprinted here provides further insight into the trading environment of the time, specifically relations between the private 'country traders' that operated out of ports like Singapore and the British East India Company. Rounding out this issue are articles by Brendan Luyt, who examines Singapore's highly competitive printing industry prior to WWII, and Loh Wei Leng, whose inaugural professorial lecture offers an overview of issues addressed by historians in Malaysia in the early twenty-first century.

Paul Kratoska  
Hon. Editor, JMBRAS



# JMBRAS

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