

MALAYSIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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50776 KUALA LUMPUR
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PATRON

YAB TAN SRI DATUK PATINGGI HJ ABDUL TAIB BIN MAHMUD
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What is 'Tiga Sama' ?

One day while I was waiting for a friend in Kampung Cina in Kota Bharu. I went to a Malay stall and ate a packet of nasi lemak and a cup of teh tarik. After finishing my meal, I asked the Malay lady Mek, berapa and tried to sound Kelantanese. She answered 'Tiga Sama'. I stared at her and began to garuk my kepala. She then realised I must be orang luar and not the orang Kampung Cina. She quickly said "Satu Ringgit Lima Puluh Sen".

Later, I told my friend what had happened and he said that what she wanted was 'tiga satu mas'. You know orang Kelantan – aya for ayam and ika for ikan. It seems in the olden days, satu mas is 50 cents and so tiga sama is RM1.50. Later, I found out in one of our books in the library that 1 Spanish Dollar – 2 mas.

However, this is more to this sama business that meets the eye. But then it is another story.

IN MEMORY OF MR. E.E.SIM

The first time I met Mr. Sim Ewe Eong was in a coin auction in the “Green Room” at Hotel Majestic, Kuala Lumpur. He was with Mr. Tony O’ Brian, Mr. Ottovenger and Mr. Tony Lye and they were conducting the auction. I was told to come on Sundays if I wish to meet people who are interested in coins. Mr. Sim seldom missed the Sunday mornings at Hotel Majestic where there were always a group of people who brought and sold coins and discussed them. (He told me the Sunday mornings with us were some of his happiest times).

What is it that drives a man who was a judge and the Registrar of the High Court to be interested in coin and eventually form the Malaysia Numismatic Society. He was the President of the Society since its inception in 1968 until 2001 when he stepped down due to ill health. He was also the first Malaysian to be a member of the FRNS (Fellowship of the Royal Numismatic Society). I can only say that he had this great passion for collecting coins and looking and studying them. When he was collecting coins of Portuguese Melaka and writing his articles on Portuguese coinage of the Malay Peninsular – The Bartardos of King Dom Manuel I, he wanted to get the feel of things that are Portuguese. So, he invited Mr. Tony Au and myself and together with his wife, we drove to Melaka on Saint Pedro’s Feast Day and celebrated the fiesta with the Melaka Portuguese people.

Mr. and Mrs. Sim used to join us in our trips to Tasei coin shows in Hong Kong and Singapore. There, instead of hunting for coins like the rest of us were doing, he would rather spend his time talking to the people involved in the publication of coin magazines and catalogues. Later in the evening he would go through what we have purchased and buy from us. He said we are professionals and know how to buy good coins at the right prices.

Mr. Sim once confessed that he had no hand for business. One day while he was in Kuching, a guy offered him eight pieces of British North Borneo 1 cent 1907H in uncirculated condition. He only wanted RM10 each. Mr. Sim bought two pieces and showed them to me. When I asked him why he did not buy all the eight pieces, he looked at me and after a while he said that it did not occur that he should have done that.

In parting, Mr. Sim we will say our good-byes to you and also thank you for your contributions to the Numismatic world and also to your fatherly advice that you have often given to us.

By Tan Tai Seng
M.N.S.

IN MEMORIAM LEENA TAN

The Malaysia Numismatic Society lost a dear friend, Leena Tan on 23rd March 2005. The now late wife of Mr. Steven Tan of International Stamp & Coin Sdn Bhd has departed. Leena as she was commonly called has assisted Steven in his shop for many years and has probably handled more stamps & coins than any of us. Whilst Steven was always behind his desk in the enclosed office, Leena was faithfully posted at the shop front attending to customers' purchases. Her attractive countenance and business-like but friendly demeanor is almost a permanent feature as one enters Steven's shop.

Leena was a true partner to Steven in both his life and business. She will be dearly missed. MNS extends our deepest condolence to Steven Tan and family for their loss which is deeply felt by us all.

AUCTION COLUMN

123rd Auction - 7th Sep 2003

The results of the 123rd Auction which was held at Muzium Negara, Kuala Lumpur, are given below. Lot numbers not shown were withdrawn

Lot No	Amount	Lot No	Amount	Lot No	Amount	Lot No	Amount
2	190	3	1400	14	180	20	50
28	35	38	36	39	500	44	28
45	60	48	33	62	15	72	15
74	48	75	70	76	260	78	18
80	30	85	25	87	40	89	15
90	25	91	15	92	15	93	15
95	20	98	30	101	29	103	39
104	44	106	55	108	45	111	30
112	25	113	60	115	45	120	60
123	8	124	10	125	30	128	16
129	10	133	40	136	100		

Kuala Lumpur International Money Fair 2003 - 3 - 5th Oct. 2003

The results of the above Auction which was held at PWTC, Kuala Lumpur, are given below. Lot numbers not shown were withdrawn.

Lot No	Amount	Lot No	Amount	Lot No	Amount	Lot No	Amount
2	320	3	480	7	350	16	100
17	90	23	115	26	85	68	30
69	30	76	150	77	150	78	120
79	110	80	55	81	35	83	120
100	300	102	95	103	300	104	275
115	60	118	60	119	240	131	520
132	140	133	320	134	100	136	120
145	60	167	250	172	300	179	75
189	120	191	55	192	120	196	150
218	290	223	250	228	650	233	1400
236	1500	239	350	240	2500	241	400
247	400	248	900	251	2150	252	650
253	500	257	850	258	1800	259	380
260	60	261	560	262	150	267	230
276	140	277	140	282	100	283	85
285	650	286	650	295	90	310	90
314	300	316	50				

124th Auction - 4th Jan 2004

The results of the 124th Auction which was held at Muzium Negara, Kuala Lumpur, are given below. Lot numbers not shown were withdrawn.

Lot No	Amount	Lot No	Amount	Lot No	Amount	Lot No	Amount
16	25	19	30	29	50	35	45
36	50	41	30	44	60	47	180
48	190	49	200	50	280	53	340
54	100	55	270	60	70	63	30
66	80	67	250	68	32	69	290
72	220	74	25	89	100	91	120
92	360	93	190	107	20	118	35
121	65	129	30	131	30	134	100
138	30	140	25	141	30		

125th Auction - 11th July 2004

The results of the 124th Auction which was held at Muzium Negara, Kuala Lumpur, are given below. Lot numbers not shown were withdrawn.

Lot No	Amount	Lot No	Amount	Lot No	Amount	Lot No	Amount
4	450	11	600	14	60	21	140
22	75	24	70	25	70	26	70
27	150	34	55	35	42	39	90
40	130	46	1430	53	140	55	36
56	20	57	30	58	50	61	160
62	50	63	80	65	150	66	35
70	42	71	75	74	55	76	70
78	140	89	20	90	12	93	200
96	55	97	60	98	150	99	350
104	10	105	10	106	12	108	15
109	40	110	33	113	24	114	26
120	80	121	25				