

**PENAUNG : PATRONS**

Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah  
Ibni Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj, Sultan Selangor  
Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana  
Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah  
Chan Sek Keong, Esq.

**TALK via Zoom (100 places available)**  
**On the Saturday 29th May 2021 at 3.00 pm**  
**Organized by Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society**

To REGISTER please e-mail: [mbrasmsb@gmail.com](mailto:mbrasmsb@gmail.com)

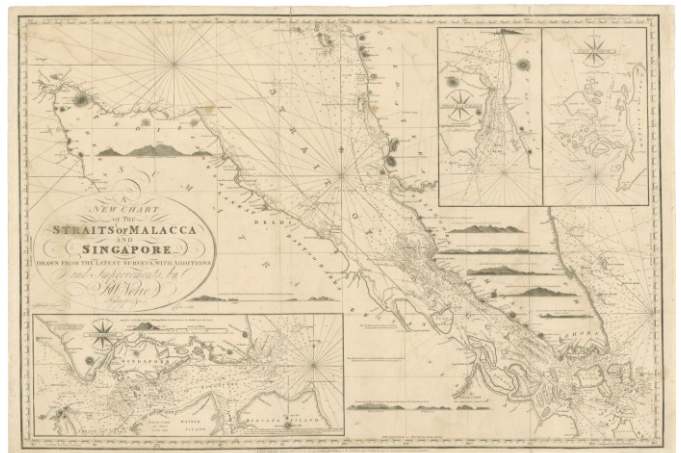
**The Straits of Malacca:**  
**A Cartographic Journey Through History using Nautical Charts**  
by  
**Mr Julian Candiah**

By its geographic good fortune, the Straits of Malacca is situated approximately equidistance between two great ancient civilizations, that of China and India. In addition, due to further good fortune, it is also halfway between the monsoon winds that alternate every six months, which, for approximately 2,300 years before the invention of the steam engine, made sailing possible via the maritime sea route between these great nations.

This talk will employ 15 nautical sea charts, dating from the 1530s to the mid-1850s, and will take us through a historical odyssey along the Straits of Malacca. Beginning around 500 B.C., with the Bujang Valley in Kedah, located at the northern entrance to the Straits, Mr Candiah will discuss the cultural, religious and trade links that flourished from ancient Roman times, between various pre-European empires along the Straits of Malacca, focusing on 8th -11th century Srivijaya, and 15th century Malacca. He will then discuss the coming of the Europeans with the Portuguese arrival in 1498 in India, and the start of a new phase of exploration, maritime trade and cultural exchange in the Straits of Malacca using Dutch charts based on Portuguese sources, and VOC sea charts. There will also be a focus on English nautical charts, some issued by private mapmakers, and others by the British Admiralty which, in 1795, started publishing its own naval charts. Comparing various English sea charts to trace their geographic and nautical evolution, the talk will end around the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, when the use of steamships revolutionized the world of shipping, dramatically altering existing trade and maritime routes in the Southeast Asian region and beyond.

**Julian Candiah** is a collector of antique maps of Malaysia (namely Johor and Penang), Singapore and Hong Kong and owns over 50 antique “blueback” and British Admiralty Hydrographic nautical charts depicting the island of Penang, the Malacca and Singapore Straits, Hong Kong, the China coast, and the Burmese coast, some of which are exceptionally rare. He has previously spoken on the subject of cartography at Cambridge University and the National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan.

Having read Engineering at Magdalene College, Cambridge University, Mr Candiah graduated with a First-Class Honours in 1991 following which he read for a Masters in Manufacturing Engineering in 1992 also at Cambridge. He was an international banker at Credit Suisse Financial Products, Bear Stearns, JP Morgan, and BNP Paribas in London, Hong Kong and Singapore (1994 to 2007) before joining Merrill Lynch in 2006. In 2007, he left the industry to focus on private equity and investments. For a year starting April 2009, Mr Candiah served on a pro-bono basis as Special Advisor to the Chief Minister of Penang, focusing on key strategic and operational issues related to several high-impact economic projects in the State. He is currently working on a series of short articles about the history of Johor from the early 19th century.



**To register** please e-mail [mbrasmsb@gmail.com](mailto:mbrasmsb@gmail.com) by 27th May 2021. If your Zoom window name does not match your registration, please advise the alternative in the Registration. This will help us to ensure smooth connection to the event. Participation is on a first-come-first served basis, with places limited to 100.