

## A CATALOG OF OLD MALAY MANUSCRIPTS AND FILES RELATING TO BRUNEI AND BORNEO IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

### 1. The British Library

There are approximately 100 Malay manuscripts texts and 100 Malay letters in the British library. The collection includes the oldest manuscripts of the *Hikayat Raja Pasai* and *Hikayat Banjar*; copies of *Syair Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin* and *Hikayat Perintah Negeri Bengkulu*; an early *Undang-Undang* manuscripts; and a copy of the *Taj al-Salatin*. But, the particular interest of the research are Malay manuscripts and letters relating to Brunei/Borneo. There are a number of Malay letters on Borneo in the Raffles's collections (Mss Eur D742) such as :

1. f.31. Letter from Sultan Syarif Kasim of Pontianak to T.S. Raffles in Melaka dated 26 Safar 1226 ( 22 March 1811). This letter contains on the subject of the Sultan of Pontianak requested help from T.S. Raffles to arrest Pengiran Anom of Sambas and Abdul Rasyid of Mento with their pirates for seizing the Chinese junk from China;
2. f.32. From Sultan Syarif Kasim of Pontianak to T.S. Raffles in Melaka dated 16 Safar 1226 ( 12 March 1811). This letter contains on the subject of the Sultan of Pontianak requested help from T.S. Raffles against the neighbouring state of Sambas whom he accused of harbouring pirates;
3. f.33A. Letter from Sultan Syarif Kasim of Pontianak to Raffles, Melaka dated 20 Muharram 1226 ( 14 February 1811); This letter contains on the subject of that the *Commerce* ship that was seized by Pengiran Sambuda of Burunai and taken to Sarawak. Sultan of Pontianak requested help against from T.S. Raffles to arrest the pirates in the neighbouring state of Sambas;
4. ff.33-34. Copy of letter to Raffles from Kiai Tanu, envoy of the Sultan of Banjarmasin, Melaka dated 9 Zulkaidah 1225;
5. ff.35-36. Letter from Tana Kersa and A Andang, envoys of the Raja of Banjarmasin, Melaka dated 9...1225;
6. f.41. Letter from Sultan Abu Bakar Tajuddin of Sambas to T.S. Raffles in Melaka dated 2 Muharam 1226 (2 February 1811). This letter contains on the subject of *Hare Melaka* Ship and the Captain Ross was captured by Encik Abang Abdul Rasyib and Temenggong in Mento. Sultan of Sambas requested help from Raffles to arrest them for their unlawful behaviour.
7. f.43. Letter from Raja Jambi to T.S. Raffles in Melaka dated 13 Muharram 1226 (7 February 1811). This letter contains on the subject of the Raja Jambi requested help from T.S. Raffles to supply the British Company in Jambi with medicine and ammunition.

## 2. The National Archives

The National Archives has been acknowledged as one of the main institution in the United Kingdom that preserved the files and records on Brunei. Most of these files and records had been released after 25 years of maturity and available for public to access and study. However, the files and records that are considered to be sensitive or contains controversial issues will be kept for more than 25 years and will be opened to a certain period decided by the institution concerned. Nonetheless, this is subjected to the earlier agreement and requirement by the institutions or agencies which created such files or records. Most of the files and records in this institution concerning Brunei are listed with hundreds of categories and accessible to the researchers as well as allowed for duplication or purchasing subject to certain terms and conditions prior to any loan and purchase.

The files and records at the National Archives of United Kingdom are generally catalogued by this institution according to the class or series of records where they are listed. For the most part of the files or records on Brunei can be accessed under the classification of Colonial Office (CO); Foreign Office (FO); Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO); Dominions Office (DO); Cabinet Office (CAB); Ministry of Defence (DEFE); War Office (WO); HM Treasury (T); Prime Minister's Office (PREM); and Air Ministry (AIR).

The research focuses on files or records on Brunei released to the public from 1976 to 2006 such as FO, FCO, DEFE, OD, WO, PREM and T. However, there are several files still retained by the national archives even though they had reached 30 years of maturity such as FCO 15/2186 (Leading Personalities in Brunei) and FCO 15/2187 (Political Relations between Brunei and Malaysia). Some of the research documents are as follows :

1. *FCO 15/2191 (Vietnamese refugees in Brunei)*. The confidential File No: FAR 341/1, dated 1976 contain some correspondences (such as letter, minute of meeting, telegram, note and despatch) between Brunei and the United Kingdom relating to the situation of the 11 Vietnamese refugees in Brunei;
2. *FCO 15/2189 (Negotiations with the Sultan of Brunei)*. Confidential file No: FAR 020/548/2, 1976, contain some correspondences (such as letter, minute of meeting, telegram, note and despatch) between Brunei and United Kingdom relating to the negotiation of Sultan of Brunei with the United Kingdom on the subject of withdrawal of the Gurkha Battalion in Brunei and the evaluating of 1971 Agreement between Brunei and United Kingdom;
3. *DEFE 24/1463 ( Far East Forces: Brunei; withdrawal of the Gurkha Battalion)*. Secret. Ministry of Defence, D/DS6/7/16/35, Vol. 13, contain some correspondances ( such as letter, minute of meeting, telegram, note and despatch) relating to the future of the Gurkha Battalion in Brunei such as the postponement of the amalgamation of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Battalions until the situation over Brunei had clarified;

The research project was successfully studied a few documents and copied as well as purchased the documents in a form of microfilm or CD-ROM or DVD. The files are as follows:

1. FO 973/291 (Brunei).

2. FO 93/187/13 (Agreement on Behalf of the Government of the State of Brunei and the Government of the Republic of Singapore for Air Services between and Beyond the State of Brunei and the Republic of Singapore. Place of Signing: London).
3. FO 93/214 (Brunei).
4. FO 93/214/1 (Treaty of Friendship and Co-Operation with associated Exchanges of Notes. Place of Signing: Brunei).
5. FO 93/214 1A (CONFIDENTIAL Exchange of Notes Concerning a British Brigade of Gurkhas Brunei. Place of Signing: Brunei).
6. FO 93/214/2 (Exchange of Notes terminating the Special Treaty Relations between the United Kingdom and the State of Brunei. Place of Signing: Brunei).
7. FO 93/214/3 (Exchange of Notes concerning the Arrangements for British Forces in Negara Brunei Darussalam. Place of Signing: Bandar Seri Begawan).
8. FO 93/214/4 (Exchange of Notes concerning arrangements for future Air Services (Continuation of Arrangements in force on 31.12.1983). Place of Signing: Brunei)
9. FO 93/214/5 (Exchange of Letters between the British High Commissioner and the Minister of Communication Brunei, Darussalam, about Air Services between the Territory of the United Kingdom including Hong Kong and the Territory of Brunei, Darussalam. Place of Signing: Bandar Seri Begawan).
10. FO 94/2982 (Country: Brunei Darussalam. Accession: Convention for the Suppression of Aircraft. Place and Date of Signature of original Agreement: The Hague, 16 December 1970).
11. FO 94/3008 (Country: Brunei Darussalam. Accession. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation. Place and Date of Signature of Original Agreement: Montreal, 23 September 1971)
12. FO 94/3040 (Country: Brunei Darussalam. Accession: Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction. Place and Date of Signature of original Agreement: London, Moscow, Washington, 10 April 1971).
13. FO 94/3090 (Country: Brunei Darussalam. Acceptance: Agreement on the Reconstitution of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau as CAB International with Agreed Minute. Place and Date of Signature of Original Agreement: London, 8 July 1986).
14. FO 94/3264 (Acceptance by Brunei Darussalam to the Constitution of UNESCO (London, 16 November 1945), London, 17 March 2005)
15. FO 974/686 (Protocol on the Extension of the Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, to Brunei Darussalam, and Act of Community Approval, Signed in Dublin).
16. FCO 15/2188 (UK policy towards Brunei).
17. FCO 15/2189 (Negotiations with the Sultan of Brunei).
18. FCO 15/2190 (Brunei and the United Nations).
19. FCO 15/2191 (Vietnamese Refugees in Brunei).

20. DEFE 11/728 (Brunei).
21. DEFE 13/1268 (Brunei: options for continued presence of the Gurkha Battalion).
22. DEFE 24/1408 (Brunei: political and background: includes negotiations to withdraw British Support forces).
23. DEFE 24/1463 (Far East Forces: Brunei; withdrawal of the Gurkha Battalion).
24. DEFE 24/1464 (Far East Forces: Brunei; withdrawal of the Gurkha Battalion).
25. DEFE 24/1642 (Brunei: UK policy, Cabinet Defence and Overseas Policy Committee; MOD Papers).
26. WO 373/188/1 (Commonwealth Awards to British from Brunei).
27. WO 156/494 (Sham Shui Do Garisson Church and 33 General Hospital Chapel, Kowloon, Hong Kong; St Eligius Church; later Hong Kong, Nepal and Brunei)
28. WO 156/495 (Brunei: One Entry).
29. WO 156/577 (Chapel Berakas Camp (RBMR), Tutong Camp (RBMR), Flotilla Base, Muara Brunei).
30. OD 6/1751 (Brunei - Non Directorate of Overseas Survey Mapping).
31. OD 6/2076 (Brunei).
32. OD 70/30 (Brunei).
33. T 317/2241 (Pension arrangement for Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service (HMOCS) offering serving in Brunei).
34. ED 193/35 (Seria Service Children's School, Brunei).
35. ED 193/35 (Provision of Education for Service Children in Brunei).