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**Book Review by :**

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***Our Story: Malacca High School*** is certainly the best book produced in more recent years on the history of one of the leading schools in Malaysia. The Malacca High School, moreover, is no ordinary school. Together with the Penang Free School and the Raffles Institution (Singapore), it was a school which originally provided for the education of not just Malacca' elite but also those from the Malay kingdoms. Raja Mansur and Raja Chulan, both sons of Sultan Abdullah, exiled to the Seychelles after the assassination of J.WW.Birch, the first British Resident in the country, completed their schooling in the Malacca High School.

Much credit is due to the Book Committee for collecting and sieving through innumerable documents to produce a coherent history of the school which was first established as long ago as 1826, the very year that the Straits Settlements was founded, ruled originally from India. Some of the names of old boys which quickly catch the eyes of those who are more familiar with modern Malacca history include Tun Tan Cheng Lock and Tun Tan Siew Sin; also Tun Abdullah Mohd. Salleh who, apart from once holding the post of Chief Secretary to the Government, earlier held various other executive positions including that of the Registrar of the newly established Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in 1969.

The first Chinese commando pioneer in the Malaysian Armed Forces, Lt. Col. Chua Hong Kang, and the first Malayan CPO, ACP Talif Lisut, were also old boys of the Malacca High School, not to mention a plethora of outstanding sportsmen such as Clancy Ang, Mr Universe Class 3 (1962), athlete Shahrudin Ali (later Mej.-Gen.), Robert Choe ( national footballer), Yang Siow Meng (national hockey player) and the well-known cricketing brothers M.C.Poopathy, Umopathy and Kailaspathy, to mention but a few.

Although Malacca itself declined as a port by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it remained an invaluable trading centre and, by the 20<sup>th</sup> century, an important agricultural centre as well. Its continued vibrancy was reflected in the continued development of the school in more recent times. There is so much that the history of an educational institution can mirror the evolution of a society. In this case, it is certainly true that the history of the Malacca High School reflects well the dynamism of modern Malacca society not generally well known among fellow Malaysians, indicating too the poverty of Malaysia's social historiography.