



NOTES Of The DAY

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Elephant Records

IN an estate bungalow in Johore recently an argument arose as to whether the Indian elephant (of which the Malayan is a sub-species) is bigger than the African elephant, and it was decided to write to me and ask whether I could supply the answer. Accordingly I have consulted a reference work, which settles the argument in favour of *Elephas Africanus*.

The jungles of Asia contain no elephant as huge as old Jumbo, an African elephant well-known for many years at the London Zoo, who stood 11 feet 3 inches high at the shoulder and weighed six and a half tons. Fourteen-foot elephants are supposed to have existed in Africa, but they are legendary, and there are no authenticated measurements beyond 12 feet.

Jumbo was very exceptional, but the African elephant not uncommonly attains a height of ten feet and a weight of four tons, whereas an average Indian elephant stands eight feet high and weighs three tons. The tusks of the African species are much heavier, the record being 235 lb., as compared with 102 lb. in India.

In the Malay Peninsula a ten-foot elephant has never been recorded, so far as is known. The tallest elephant of which Mr. Theodore Hubback has had reliable evidence was one shot by Mr. Frederiksen in Kelantan which measured 9 feet 8 inches at the shoulder. The heaviest tusks recorded in the Peninsula are supposed to have been a pair weighing 90¾ lb. which were taken from an elephant shot by the late Mr. William Hay in Pahang.

Bitter-Sweet

HARKING back to Cape Rumania and the fruit after which it is named, a reader has pointed out that this figure in a pantun which is quoted in Fauconnier's novel "The Soul of Malaya." Here the alternative spelling *rembungia* is used.

Recommended Articles

The Singapore Free Press / Article, Illustration

Jumbo is no white elephant

16 September 1958 - Jumbo is no white elephant This little jumbo is no White Elephant. In fact you will have a hard time keeping enthusiastic friends from wanting to take him home with them i Jumbo !* of milk white German porcelain and stands ten inchej long and j eight inches tall. Caught...

The Straits Times / Article

700 lb? a mere tiddler

29 July 1956 - 700 lb? a mere tiddler I ANGLING BY SPINNER %WHOOPS, pardon me while I pick up the clanger I dropped the other week. Apparently the 700-odd lb. marlin I wrote about was a mere tiddler compared with some of the rod-benders that swim around our waters. Mr O. D. Vhnell,...

The Straits Times / Article, Illustration

The day a dead elephant nearly killed me

29 October 1967 - A.K. ROBINSON by THE author wot Game Warden or Pjhtng from 1955 to 1958. He became Superintendent of the National Park in 1958 and retired under Malayisation in 1962. Since then he has made many trips to the jungle haunts he knows...

The Straits Times / Article

THREE DAYS' CHASE IN THE JUNGLE.

17 November 1934 - An Elephant In Negri Seir.bilan, (How he trm ked an elephant lor three days th&t; mgh the jungle in Negri Sembilan ij related by Mr. H. H. Banks, a noted Malayan shikari, in the October number of "British Malaya." The article is reproduced below)...

The Straits Times / Article

A JOURNAL IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL.

18 July 1931 - Clubs Versus Homes In Malaya— Houses One Remembers Breaking Up A Famous Collection Mr. A. E. Dick's Furred And Feathered Friends Why Not A Water Garden? The Modern Malay Student— A Week-End At Tanjong Malim. (By Our Kuala Lumpnr Correspondent.) Kuala Lumpur, July 17....

The Straits Times / Article, Illustration

A GAME WARDEN'S DAY



ketiga dengan asam rembungia

Nyawa menanggih di-pintu kubur
hendak pulang ka-dalam dunia.

And now I will quote the passage immediately following these lines in the novel:—

"The first two lines of a pantun," explained Roland, "are only a preparation for the idea that is to develop in the succeeding ones. They create an atmosphere without the crudity of metaphor. Here are bitter-sweet fruits, plants with an acid flavour. It is to introduce what follows . . ."

What follows is a couplet which sets forth the common belief of mankind that the fabled joys of eternity are rather cold comfort compared with the grosser but solid pleasures of earth.

Turtle Point

If you ask Singapore people what the name Tanjong Katong means, nine out of ten will tell you that it means Turtle Point, and they will probably add that turtles used to lay their eggs in the beach there until the new club-house of the Swimming Club scared them away.

I always accepted the Turtle Point theory myself until this week, when I had occasion to look up the Malay word for turtle and found that Winstedt's small dictionary gave *tuntong*, *penyu* and *labi-labi*—but not *katong*.

Tanjong Katong, I also learnt, is not merely the name of a particular Singapore suburb but a term used by the Malays for a particular type of tanjong. Wilkinson says that it is the "name given to a low sandy promontory that seems to the eye to move with the movement of the waves." Tanjong Katong may have looked like that once, but now the eye is firmly riveted by the megalithic concrete flagpole of the S.S.C.

However, Wilkinson also says that Minangkabau Malays call the king-turtle *katong* apparently because Sang-Katong meant king or ruler in old Java.

Sindhi Bulls

NOT often does a British Resident permit himself a flicker of humour in his annual report, but it occurs in Mr. G. L. Ham's report, issued last week. Reporting the purchase of 17 Sindhi bulls from India to improve livestock in Negri Sembilan, Mr. Ham states:

"A visitor to the depot shortly after their arrival would be impressed chiefly by their mild and friendly appearance, and it remains to be seen whether entry on a serious professional life will lead to disillusionment with a consequent souring of temper."

Anak Singapura.

12 July 1936 - Theodore Hubback Rescues A Young Elephant A small herd of elephants trampling down the banks of the Jelai River visited the site of an abandoned house. Near the house was an old well and into this a young bull elephant fell. The beast was soon found...

The Straits Times / Article, Illustration

A Malayan Countryman's Diary THE FOWLS WERE CURIOUS

15 May 1948 - A Malayan Countryman's Diary THE FOWLS WERE CURIOUS WE have been back here nearly eighteen months, but it was not till a few days ago that we had a chance to shoot a monitor lizard. It was observed having a sort of conference with a bunch of our chickens, at...

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