

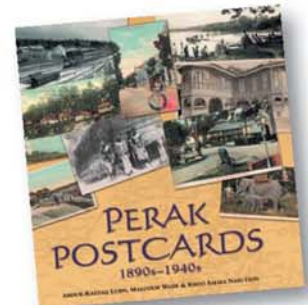
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Silver memories

For early 20th century European and Asian settlers in Malaya, postcards did more than preserve impressions of a place in picturesque vignettes; they also helped them stay in touch with faraway loved ones. Nearly 600 postcards of Perak from these times have been compiled into *Perak Postcards 1890s-1940s*, the latest gem from independent publisher Areca Books.

The collection, the largest ever of Perak postcards assembled into one volume, provides a vivid window to the heydays of the state that pioneered tin mining, rubber, roads and railways in Malaya. Highlights include a postal history by Malaya Study Group stalwart Malcolm Wade and detailed captions by Areca Book publishers Abdur-Razzaq Lubis and Khoo Salma Nasution. Both passionate heritage advocates, they set up their own publishing company to focus on local history and heritage, an area which hitherto bigger publishers have neglected. Their first book *Trams, Trolleybuses and Railways of Penang* was released in 2006. "Trams was an example of how even a very local book could have international appeal to specialists," says Salma. "Through *Perak Postcards*, we want Malaysians, even schoolchildren, to know about the interesting heritage of Malaysian places."



Available at leading bookstores in Malaysia and at the Sun Yat Sen Penang Base, 120 Armenian Street, Georgetown, Penang Opens 10am-2pm, Monday-Saturday Tel +604 2620 123 www.arecabooks.com