

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS
WITH REFERENCE TO THE
ST. XAVIER'S INSTITUTION, PENANG
1786 TO 1955

By

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THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES,
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA
PENANG
1973/1974.

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In The Straits Settlements.

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PREFACE

The complete history of English education has yet to be written. The main topic of my study is to see how far the educational policy of the British Government was applied to local institutions with special reference to the St. Xavier's Institution, Penang.

Part one of the study deals with the history of English education in the Straits Settlements in which I briefly include the educational policy of the British Government and the growth of the Education Department. Part two deals with the historical development of the St. Xavier's Institution and also the success or failure of the institution in educating the pupils. What sort of individuals had the institution produced and what had these individuals contributed to the society at large?. These are the things that I talk about in my study of St. Xavier's Institution.

My period of study begins from 1786 to 1955 shortly before Malaya achieved her Independence.

My difficult part of writing this historical piece was one concerning my main primary source that is the "Souvenir of the Golden Jubilee of the very Rev. Brother Visitor James O.B.E. 1887 - 1937," which is loaned to me by the Director of the Institution. I find that some of the dates in this souvenir book do not quite tally with those given in the article in the Pinang Gazette. Where the dates are

concerned, my reference is from the souvenir book. There are also a series of events that I leave out as I think they are unnecessary and do not have much historical significance, such as the arrival and death of the Christian Brothers who joined the staff except for outstanding ones only. I also find difficulty in getting the original photograph of the old school building which had been bombed during the Japanese Occupation period.

Due to lack of materials on the first World War and the Japanese Occupation period I am compelled to write the briefest of history concerning these two periods with what material I could gather.

AINI IDROS

PENANG

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