

KESUSASTERAAN MELAYU SINGAPURA: KUMPULAN PUISI MELAYU (1930 - 2015)



Synopsis

This book is complete with poems written by Singaporeans who first wrote in the pre-war era to the present. The poets are grouped into four: the Pre-World War, the '50s, during Pre-Independence, and Post-Independence. Suratman Markasan also incorporates his own methodology for using these poetry materials. The authors include surviving and deceased writers.

This book was published just in time in 2019, which marks the bicentennial since the arrival of Stamford Raffles in Singapore in 1819. Thus, these poems are almost 100 years old, and reflect the public sentiment about the state of society at the time these poems were written.

About the Writer

Suratman Markasan or more affectionately known as Pak Suratman, is one of the famous writers of Singapore and in the Asian region. This Singaporean has produced various works in the form of poetry and novels, since the 1950s. He has also written and presented many papers on literature, language and culture in Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

Throughout his involvement in the arts and literature, Pak Suratman has received various awards. Among them are the Awards Author Southeast Asia (South East Asian writers, SEA Write Award, 1989), Anugerah Tun Seri Lanang of the Malay Language Council of Singapore (1999), the Malay Archipelago Arts Award of Johor Menteri Besar (1999) and the Laureate Award of Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Malaysia (2003). At the culmination of his artistic career, he was awarded the 2010 Cultural Medallion (Literature), the highest award awarded to an artist in recognition of his contribution to the development of art and culture in Singapore.

Pak Suratman has also been the editor of several magazines. Among them are Majalah Sasterawan (1971-1973), Majalah Sekata (1984-1988), Suara Mendaki (1985-1987), Warita Muis (1989-1992), Ikhwan Darussalam (1993-1997) and Khalifah Muda (1998). He has also participated in various international literary festivals in Japan (Tokyo and Osaka), the United Kingdom (London), France (Paris), Germany (Frankfurt), the United States (San Francisco and Ohio), Malaysia and Singapore.

His contribution to the development of literature, language and culture has been extensive through his involvement in several literature and Malay community. He was the Vice President and President of the Angkatan Sasterawan (ASAS) 50, the President of the Malay Teachers' Union, deputy president of the Central Council, a lecturer at the National Teacher Training College (Sep 1981-1995); Vice-Chairman, Singapore Malay Teachers Cooperative Berhad (1981-1982); and Chairman of the Darussalam Mosque Management Board (1997).

Even in his twilight years, he is still active in writing novels, essays, short stories and poems. He also teaches creative writing in several schools and primary colleges. In 2015, he was invited as a guest writer at NUS-NAC in the Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore.