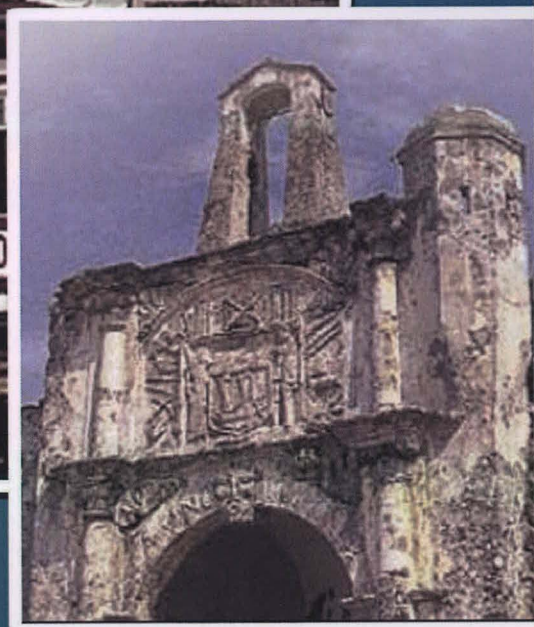
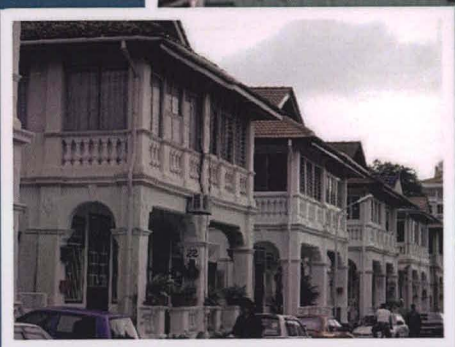
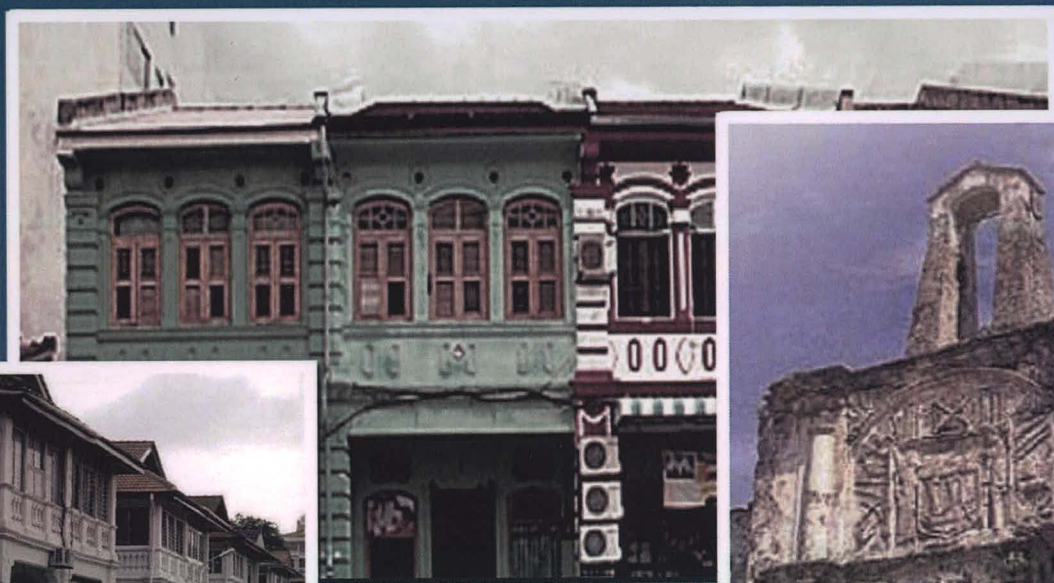


HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION



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CHAPTER 5

EVALUATING TRADITIONAL MEASURES FOR THE CARE OF KERIS FROM SCIENTIFIC POINT OF VIEW

Mukhtaruddin Musa, Mohd Hanafi Ani, Mandana Barkeshli, Raihan Othman

ABSTRACT

Many interesting and unique arts and heritage can be found in Malay World and *Keris* is one of the most important of all Malay cultural objects. The beauty of the *Keris* has attracted many researchers to do a research particularly pattern and decorations used either on *Keris* blade or its sheath. However, it is rare to and almost none of the research has been focus to the issue focusing in materials used in its manufacturing and preservation. An annual cleaning and staining ritual remain an important component of *Keris* preservation. This traditional practice use acidic juice, arsenic solution as well as other local materials. This periodically practice has been applied with intention to remove and keep out rust which can damage the weapon and ultimately render it useless. However, the traditional way of cleaning a *Keris* is a slowly dying art especially to the younger generation of Malays today. It seems that there are only few who still cherish keeping the *Keris*, whether obtained as an heirloom, or kept as a mere hobby collection, and will go to some length to find out how to clean *Keris*. This paper is intend to discuss traditional methods (materials, techniques and associated rituals) apply on *Keris* as a maintenance practices before a depth and further research will be conduct in order to explain scientifically every methods and techniques applied in *Keris* preservation.

Keyword: Acidic Treatment, Malay World, Pamor, Traditional Preservation

INTRODUCTION

The Malay World is the term used to refer to the Malay cultural and linguistic sphere of influence, covering the archipelago of modern-day Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the southernmost part of Thailand and Brunei as illustrated in figure 1. There are many interesting and unique tangible and intangible art, cultural and heritage can be found in this region. One of the most important of all Malay cultural objects and unique heritage is *Keris*.