



Maps of early Singapore from the National Library's rare materials collection to be featured on Singpost's latest stamps

Singapore, 01 December 2020

ANNEX A

DETAILS OF THE FOUR STAMPS AND DESCRIPTION OF FEATURED MAPS

Stamp	Original Map	Description
	 <p data-bbox="667 1070 882 1104" style="text-align: center;"><u>Map on Book SG</u></p> <p data-bbox="595 1128 957 1162" style="text-align: center;">(Refer to page 141 of eBook)</p>	<p data-bbox="999 696 1406 1055"> <i>Discripção chorographica dos estreitos de Sincapura e Sabbam, Ano, 1604, from Malaca. L'Inde Orientale et le Cathay, page 61</i> Manuel Godinho de Erédia (1563–1623) Brussels, 1881–1882 Collection of National Library, Singapore </p> <p data-bbox="999 1099 1406 1980"> Originally drawn in 1604 by Manuel Godinho de Erédia, a writer and cosmographer born in Melaka, this map captures one of the earliest close-up views of Singapore as an island. It depicts a "Xabandaria" (harbour master's compound) on the settlement, and the Old Strait and New Strait – two key waterways that connected the East-West trade routes. These features indicate the presence of trade activities in Singapore during the 17th century. Interestingly, the map also bears familiar names such as Sungei Bedok, Tanah Merah and Tanjong Rhu, which are still in use today. This map comes from a 19th-century facsimile of the manuscript authored by Erédia. </p>



Map on Book SG

Contrafactur des Scharmutsz els der Hollender wider die Portugesen in dem Flus Balusabar

Johann Theodor (1561–1623)
and Johann Israel de Bry (1565–1609)

Frankfurt am Main, 1606
Collection of National Library,
Singapore

This 17th-century European map depicts a schematic sketch of a naval battle between the Dutch and Portuguese forces off the southeastern coast of Singapore and in the Johor River in 1603. Printed in 1606 by the de Brys, a well-known Flemish family of cartographers, the map highlights the strategic importance of Singapore as European powers wrestled for control of key waterways that provided access to the profitable Asian trade. This intense rivalry continued right up to the 19th century, paving the way for Singapore's rise as a global seaport.



Map on Book SG

(refer to pages 113 and 114 of eBook)

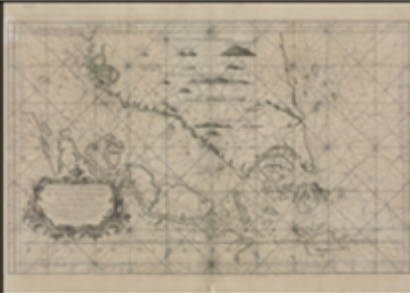
Mao Kun (茅坤) map, from *Wu Bei Zhi* 《武备志》, Chapter 240

Mao Yuanyu 茅元儀 (1594–1640)

China, late 19th century

Collection of National Library, Singapore

Besides European maps, Chinese sources such as the *Mao Kun map* also made references to Singapore. The *Mao Kun map* is the name for a set of nautical charts thought to be based on the naval expeditions of Ming Admiral Zheng He to Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean in the 15th century. It was first published in a military treatise, *Wu Bei Zhi*, in 1628. Singapore appears as a land feature named "Dan Ma Xi" (淡馬錫 or Temasek, the name that preceded Singapura) on a sailing route from Melaka to China through the Straits of Singapore. This map comes from a late 19th-century imprint of *Wu Bei Zhi*.



Map on Book SG

Carte réduite des détroits de Malacca, Singapour, et du Gouverneur

Jacques-Nicolas Bellin (1703–1772)

Paris, 1755

Collection of National Library, Singapore

A chart dated 1755 by French hydrographer Jacques-Nicolas Bellin shows the navigational route along the Melaka and Singapore Straits. Singapore is labelled here as "Pulo ou Isle Panjang" (Pulau Panjang or "long island" in Malay). This is the most common name used in early European maps to refer to the main island of Singapore. The map also indicates the main sea channels of Singapore – the Old Strait, the New Strait and the Governor's Strait – that provided passage to ships travelling between the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.