








The National Library Board Collaborates with the Embassy of France in Singapore and Epigram Books to Publish a New Book, Diard & Duvaucel: French Natural History Drawings of Singapore and Southeast Asia

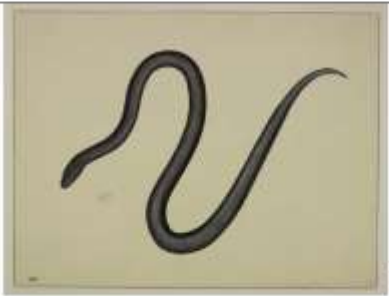

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ANNEX

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NATURAL HISTORY DRAWINGS PUBLISHED IN DIARD & DUVAUCEL: FRENCH NATURAL HISTORY DRAWINGS OF SINGAPORE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

S/ N	Image Reference	Highlight	Description
1		No. 11: Banded Woodpecker (<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>) Page 115	This woodpecker with a yellow-tipped crest can still be spotted in Singapore today. The specimen portrayed in this drawing, however, is more likely from the Malay Peninsula or Sumatra, where Diard and Duvaucel might have collected it. The bird had been described scientifically about 50 years before Diard and Duvaucel travelled to the region.
2		No. 34: Green Broadbill (<i>Calyptomena viridis</i>) Page 126	On 1 June 1820, Raffles wrote about the Green Broadbill in his <i>Descriptive Catalogue of a Zoological Collection</i> thus: "Found in the retired parts of the forests of Singapore and of the interior of Sumatra." There are two depictions of this broadbill in the collection. They are nearly identical, differing only in the composition of the tuft of feathers on the forehead. In both drawings the birds are male, as indicated by the small yellow spots above their eyes. From his catalogue entry, it can be inferred that Raffles must have procured at least two specimens, one from Singapore and another from the environs of Bencoolen (Bengkulu) in Sumatra. Diard, Duvaucel and William Jack (a botanist working with Raffles) could have collected the Singapore specimen during their visit in 1819. This species has the distinction of being the first bird from Singapore to be given a scientific name.
3		No. 1: Crested Fireback (<i>Lophura ignita</i>) Page 56	Raffles listed this pheasant twice among the Sumatran birds in his 1822 <i>Second Part of the Descriptive Catalogue of a Zoological Collection</i> , first as the <i>tugang</i> , which refers to <i>Phasianus ignitus</i> , the species depicted in this drawing. In the second instance, he called the bird the <i>burong trab</i> (<i>Phasianus rufus</i>), which was a new name for the same species. The females differ completely in colour from the males. The annotations on this drawing refer to the bright blue colour of the pheasant's naked cheeks, found in both the males and females. Only the males possess the characteristic blue crest, head and neck. The specimen in this drawing was collected in Sumatra.

4		<p>No. 67: Javanese Lapwing (<i>Vanellus macropterus</i>)</p> <p>Page 80</p>	<p>The lapwing depicted in this drawing used to be found in a few places in Java. Today, it is thought to be extinct and reports of sightings in Sumatra have not been substantiated thus far. Raffles or <u>Diard</u> and <u>Duvaucel</u> might have bought a specimen in a market, which would not have been an unusual practice then. Although the species had been described from a bird in the collections of the <u>Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle</u> in Paris, that specimen has no connection with either <u>Diard</u> or <u>Duvaucel</u>.</p>
5		<p>No. 7b: Hanuman Langur (<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>)</p> <p>Page 152</p>	<p>When <u>Duvaucel</u> was staying in <u>Chandernagor</u> (<u>Chandannagar</u>) in West Bengal, India, langurs were quite a common sight, especially at the start of winter.</p> <p>According to local Bengalis, the monkey species depicted in this drawing is considered sacred because its black face and hands resemble those of the Hindu monkey god Hanuman. According to accounts, every time <u>Duvaucel</u> had a chance to point a gun at one of these langurs, the people around him would start making loud noises, causing the animals to scatter. One day, <u>Duvaucel</u> went to the holy town of <u>Gouptipara</u> (<u>Guptipara</u>) in the Hooghly district, not far from his home, where dozens of langurs were seen sitting in the trees. Before he could get hold of a specimen, however, he was surrounded by a dozen <u>devotees</u> intent on stopping him. On his way home, he noticed a beautiful female Hanuman Langur, unable to resist the</p>
6		<p>No. 3: Kuhl's Gliding Gecko, (<i>Gekko kuhli</i>)</p> <p>Page 157</p>	<p>recently discovered mammals by his uncle (by marriage) <u>Frédéric Cuvier</u> in 1825.</p> <p>The specimen portrayed in this drawing was obtained in Sumatra. This conspicuous gecko was first described from Java, where <u>Diard</u> again found it after he left the employ of Raffles. <u>Kuhl's Gliding Gecko</u> can also be found in Singapore, where an early specimen was collected and donated to the <u>Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle</u> in Paris in December 1868 by the French trader Andrew Spooner.</p>
7		<p>No. 2: Spiny Turtle (<i>Heosemys spinosa</i>)</p> <p>Page 161</p>	<p>"The island of Singapore" – or "isle de <u>Singapour</u>" as the annotation on the drawing states – was quite a remarkable statement to make at a time when Singapore had only just entered the public consciousness in Europe because of Raffles and the East India Company. <u>Diard</u> and <u>Duvaucel</u> were in Singapore between January and February as well as May and June in 1819, during which time they could have observed the young turtle represented in this drawing. Although no date was written on the paper, this could</p>

			well have been the first illustration of an animal drawn in Singapore. The Spiny Turtle is found widely across Southeast Asia, usually in lowland rainforests near rivers or streams.
8		<p>No. 15: Sunbeam Snake (<i>Xenopeltis unicolor</i>)</p> <p>Page 168</p>	<p>The snake depicted in this drawing can grow up to a metre in length. It is a burrowing snake that can be found in many Asian countries, including Indonesia and Singapore. The first scientific description of this species in 1827 referred to a specimen from Java. Although this drawing commissioned by Diard or Duvaucel must have been created before 1827, and from a different locality, the species remained unrecognised until then.</p>
9		<p>No. 2: Flask-shaped Pitcher Plant (<i>Nepenthes ampullaria</i>)</p> <p>Page 179</p>	<p>Raffles collected pitcher plants when he first visited Singapore in early 1819, and these became the first botanical specimens from mainland Singapore. The Scottish botanist William Jack was working for Raffles at the time, but he did not accompany Raffles on this first visit to Singapore and instead remained at the Prince of Wales Island (Penang). When Raffles returned to Penang from Singapore, these botanical specimens were passed to Jack for study.</p> <p>Jack named one of the species <i>Nepenthes rafflesiana</i> Jack (Raffles' Pitcher Plant) to honour the collector, while another, the <i>Nepenthes ampullaria</i>, is depicted in this drawing. These names were published only in 1835, years after Jack's death in 1822 and based on research and drawings that were sent back to England. Diard and Duvaucel would have known about Jack's work, although this painting was probably drawn from a separate specimen at a later date.</p>