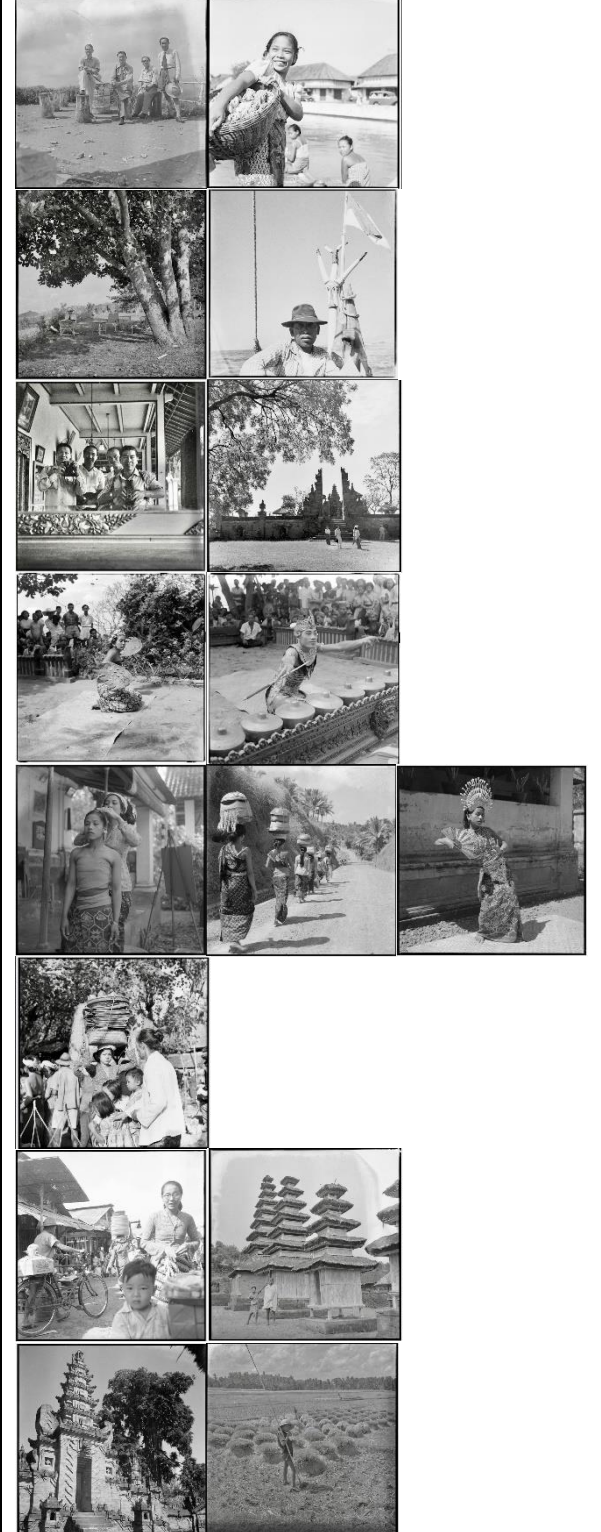
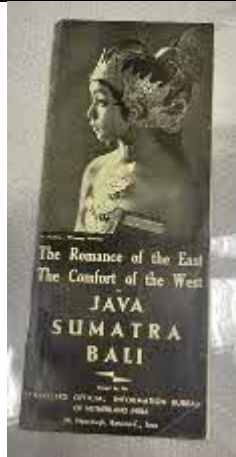


## **Annex A – Highlights from the Exhibition**

Below are notable materials currently on display at the “Untold Stories: Four Singapore Artists’ Quest for Inspiration in Bali 1952” exhibition.

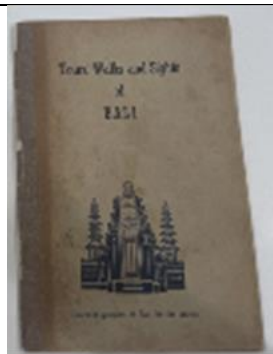
Items	Details
	<p><b>Photographs in Java and Bali</b>  Collection of Liu Kang Family  Photographs by Liu Kang © Liu Kang Family</p> <p>Liu Kang took over 1,000 photographs with his Rolleiflex camera during the trip to Java and Bali in 1952. These photographs document the people and places of the iconic trip, which later inspired many of the four artists’ works.</p>



***The Romance of the East, the Comfort of the West in Java, Sumatra, Bali***

Java: Travellers Official Information Bureau of Netherland India, c. 1920s – 1930s

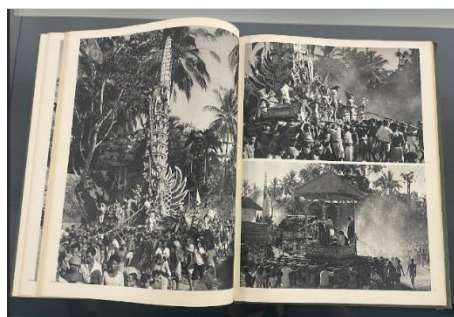
Donated by Cynthia and John Koh



***Tours, Walks and Sights of Bali: Practical Glimpses of Bali for the Tourist***

Denpasar: Bali Drukkerij, c. 1940s  
Liu Kang Collection, National Library Singapore

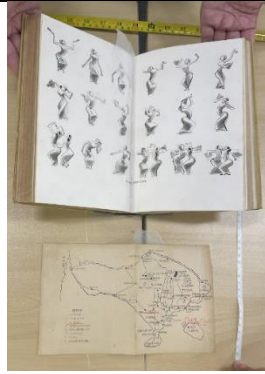
This undated guidebook, likely from the late 1940s, was purchased by Liu Kang in Bali. It provides suggestions for walks and day trips and mentions the villages where the Swiss painter Theo Meier and Dutch painter Rudolf Bonnet lived.



***Bali: Atlas Kebudajaan/ Bali: Cults and Customs/Bali: Cultuurgeschiedenis in Beeld***

Roelof Goris (1898–1965)  
Djakarta: The Government of the Republic of Indonesia, c. 1950s

This illustrated publication in Indonesian, English and Dutch, features about 225 photographs by a Dutch civil servant, P.L. Dronkers, who was posted to Bali in the late 1940s. It also contains detailed information about the island's pre-history, customs, rituals and art. The text was written by Roelof Goris, a Dutch linguist and ethnologist. Published by the former Indonesian Ministry of Education, Art and Science, the book aimed to "deepen the knowledge of Indonesian culture".



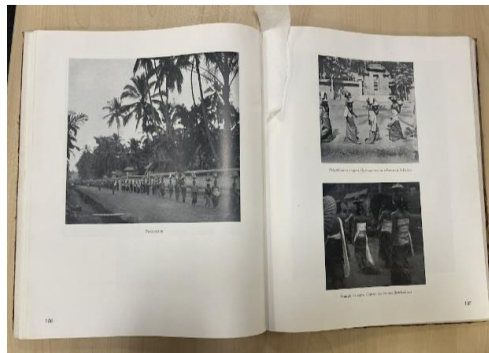
### **Island of Bali**

Miguel Covarrubias (1904–1957)

London: Cassell, 1937

Liu Kang Collection, National Library  
Singapore

Published in 1937, *Island of Bali* is still considered to be one of the most authoritative texts on Bali for non-Balinese. Covarrubias lived in Bali in 1930 for nine months, and later returned in 1933 for another year's stay. The 400-page volume contains extensive details on daily life. The text is illustrated with his paintings and drawings as well as photographs taken by his wife. Liu Kang's copy includes a loose-leaf map with red annotations marking locations such as K Mas (Kampung Mas), a village famous for woodcarving.



### ***Bali***

Gregor Krause (1883–1959)

Hagen: Folkwang, 1922

Dr Gregor Krause's 1920 publication, *Bali, 1912*, features nearly 400 images selected from the more than 4,000 he took as a hobby photographer while posted as a medical officer in Bangli between August 1912 and January 1914.

On display is the 1922 edition. His extensive publication in magazines and books drew attention to the indigenous life, landscape and physical beauty of the Balinese people.



### **Selection of contact prints of the photographs taken.**

Collection of Liu Kang Family



### **Selection of Liu Kang's negatives**

Collection of Liu Kang Family



### **Map of Bali**

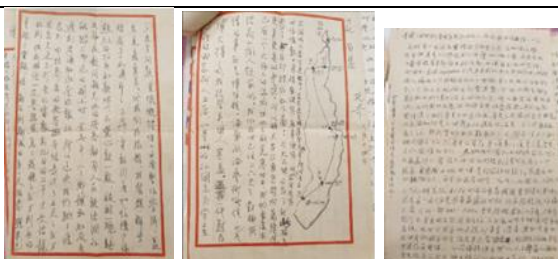
Bandung: Hovic, 1949

Liu Kang Collection, National Library Singapore

Liu Kang purchased this map of Bali in Bandung and marked routes taken in red. The circled place names align with his photographs.

The artists crossed the Bali Strait by a small boat on the morning of Wednesday 25 June. They landed in Gilimanuk and made their way by bus to Singaraja on the northern coast. From Singaraja they travelled to Bedugul where they stayed for two nights, then headed south to Denpasar where they were based for most of their stay.

From Liu Kang's letters, the artists devoted the week of 6 to 12 July to sightseeing. They travelled eastward to Gianyar, Klungkung, Tampaksiring, Iseh, Pura Besakih, Ujung (Udjung) and Karangasem—all of which were photographed by Liu Kang. The purpose, he wrote, was "to gain a deep understanding of Bali through all this, so that we may get a correct grip on the themes of our paintings".



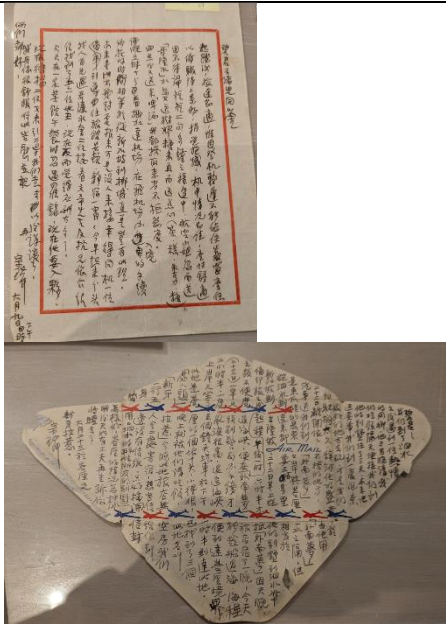
### **Letters from Liu Kang to his wife Chen Jen Pin**

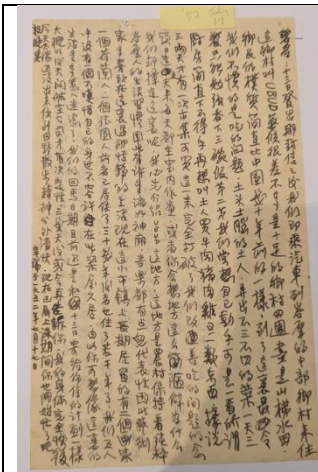
**1–2: 14 June 1952**

**3: 29 June 1952**

Liu Kang Collection, National Library Singapore



	<p>Liu Kang penned a total of nine letters home. Displayed here are three selected pages from the letters dated 14 June and 29 June 1952.</p> <p>The 14 June 1952 letter recounted that, on arrival in Jakarta, they had failed to be met by old friends Xu Junlian and Yang Eng Kuei. As it turned out, a registered letter sent a few days earlier had not arrived. A kind traveller on the same flight helped them find accommodation.</p> <p>In the same letter, Liu Kang shared their initial plan to first travel through Java and then head to Bali. Soon after the letter was sent, however, plans changed due to the impending public holiday of Eid al-Fitr, the busiest travel period in Java.</p> <p>The 29 June 1952 letter gave details of the artists' first few days in Bali. On the displayed page, Liu Kang mentioned staying with a cousin, Liu Wenbang (刘文榜), a coffee merchant in Singaraja whom he had never met before. At this point, although the artists had not decided how long they would stay in Bali, he wrote that the maximum duration would be three weeks.</p>
	<p><b>Letters from Chen Chong Swee to his wife, Tay Peck Koon</b></p> <p><b>1: 9 June 1952</b>  <b>2: 23 June 1952</b>  <b>3: 17 July 1952</b></p> <p>On loan from Chen Chi Sing</p> <p>Of the nine existing letters that Chen Chong Swee sent to his wife in 1952, pages from the letters dated 9 June, 23 June and 17 July are displayed here.</p> <p>His first letter was written on 9 June 1952, the day after arriving in Jakarta, in which he described their chance meeting with Luo Ming (罗铭). The Shanghai art school classmate had been travelling in Southeast</p>



Asia for several years and reconnected with the artists when he held an exhibition in Singapore in 1948. He decided to join the trip to Bali and travelled with them from Bandung onwards.

Chen's letter was posted from Singaraja, Bali, but was likely dated erroneously as 23 June. He described the hospitality received from Lie Tjek Kiong (李泽恭), the businessman and art lover in Surabaya who had been very helpful to them. He also described the adventurous journey on land and sea—the rough crossing of the Bali Strait in a small boat and the dusty bus ride from Gilimanuk to Singaraja.

In his letter of 17 July, Chen explained their reasons for spending time in Ubud. He mentioned the traditional culture and the way of life of the Balinese, and how it had attracted foreign artists to settle in the town.






### 峇厘旅行画集 (Catalogue of paintings from the trip to Bali)

Singapore: Liu Kang, Chen Chong Swee, Chen Wen Hsi and Cheong Soo Pieng, 1953

Liu Kang Collection, National Library Singapore  
B34442506F

The exhibition catalogue in Chinese featured 25 works in colour and black and white images and an essay titled "Trip to Bali" (峇厘行), penned by Liu Kang which shared some of his thoughts on Balinese art and culture. One photograph was also included: a group photograph with Belgian artist Le Mayeur, which is now ascertained to be taken on 29 June 1952 when the artists were invited for lunch.

Chen Wen Hsi mentioned in his oral history interview in 1983 that they had engaged models during the trip, and he did a

	<p>memorable portrait of two ladies. Seen here is Chen's drawing titled "Balinese Girl", which is likely the work that he highlighted.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Ferry</i></b>  Chen Wen Hsi  c. 1952  Oil on canvas, 112.6 × 85.2 cm  Collection of National Gallery Singapore</p>
	<p><b><i>Harvest</i></b>  Chen Chong Swee  1952  Oil on canvas, 47 × 55 cm  Gift of the artist's family  Collection of National Gallery Singapore  © Family of Chen Chong Swee</p>
	<p><b>[Not titled] (<i>Idyllic Landscape, Bali</i>)</b>  Cheong Soo Pieng  1952  Watercolour on paper, 58 × 35.2 cm  Collection of National Gallery Singapore</p>



***Souri***

Liu Kang

1953

Oil on canvas, 120 x 70 cm

Gift of the artist's family

Collection of National Gallery Singapore