



The KERIS

The keris (kris) is an iconic cultural artefact unique only to the Malay Archipelago. The word keris was derived from the Old Javanese term *ngiris*, which referred to the action of slicing or wedging. Originating from Java in the 9th century and subsequently spreading throughout the Malay Archipelago, the keris was commonly known to be a defensive weapon.

A keris can be divided into three parts:

Hulu: The hilt, or the handle of the keris, can be made of various materials such as wood and ivory.

Bilah: The blade can be straight, or have bends, which are called *luks*.

Warangka: The sheath to hold the keris is elaborate and artistically made with patterns engraved, using materials such as silver or gold.

Functions of the keris included executions of rituals and ceremonies. It is viewed in high regard and thus was duly respected, eventually becoming a status symbol for Malay royalty and dignitaries.



THE *Malay World* COLLECTION

Situated at Bedok Public Library, this collection is for those who are keen in learning more about Malay arts and culture but do not read in Malay. Featuring titles in English, Chinese and Tamil, the subjects covered include Malay Language, Literature, Arts and Culture. Some topics featured are: History, Heritage and Tradition, Architecture, and Gastronomy.

Literary works in the Malay World Collection include original non-Malay language fictional works written by Singapore Malay writers as well as translated fictional works from the Malay Language into English, Chinese and Tamil languages.

THE *Malay World* SERIES

KERIS: ITS AESTHETIC AND HISTORY

By MR KHAIRI JOHARI AND DR AZHAR IBRAHIM

Sat, 17 November
2.30pm - 4pm
Bedok Public Library
Programme Room, Level 3

The keris is an iconic cultural artefact unique only to the Malay Archipelago. It is regarded as a unique cultural identifier of the indigenous maritime Malays from Nusantara.

Delve into the origins, history and its evolution in this talk by Mr Khairi Johari, the Keris Collector, and moderated by Dr Azhar Ibrahim, Deputy Head, Malay Studies, NUS.

This programme will be conducted in English. Admission is free, no registration is required.



About Khairi Johari

Khairi Johari, also known as Pak JoFe, is a writer and independent researcher and collector of Malay Cultural Relics and Artefacts. An IT Consultant by profession, Khairi Johari has been an active keris collector for over 20 years. Collecting since 1997, Khairi Johari has invested and dedicated a great deal of his time and resource in the study and acquisition of the various plethora of traditional kerises from the Malay Archipelago.



About Dr Azhar Ibrahim

Dr Azhar Ibrahim is a lecturer at the Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore. He teaches Malay-Indonesian literature and ideologies of development. His research interests include sociology of religion, sociology of literature and critical literacy, and the Malay-Indonesia intellectual development.

RECOMMENDED *Reads*

- 1** **Keris and Other Malay Weapons**
By C. B. Gardner
English 739.7 GAR -[ART]
- 2** **The Kris : Mystic Weapon of the Malay World**
By Edward Frey
English 739.7209595 FRE -[ART]
- 3** **Keris Darjat & Kudrat = Keris, Status & Power**
By Perbadanan Kemajuan Kraftangan Malaysia
Malay 623.441 KER
- 4** **Keris Kuno : Estetika, Simbol & Filsafat = Ancient Kris : Aesthetic, Symbol & Philosophy**
By Arief Syaifuddin Huda
Malay 739.7209598 HUD

