

P R E F A C E

Much has already been written about the early history of Penang.¹ This work attempts to examine the principal trends within a fifteen-year period, rather than one particular theme in a longer period. This approach does not imply that an exhaustive account of the period has been attempted. Instead, some of the main trends have been developed in detail /such as the machinery of government and the civil servants who worked it, the judicial and police organisation, the problems of revenue and of land, the agricultural experiments, trade and shipping during the period, and finally the effect on Penang of the founding of Singapore/, while other aspects [such as relations with Aceh, the problems of slavery and piracy, the building of a church and the establishment of the Free School] have been omitted in favour of those subjects more closely related with internal administrative policy. This work is presented in the hope that in its small way it may contribute something to the already existing knowledge of the early history of the first British settlement on the Malay Peninsula.

1. See Bibliography: Unpublished theses and academic exercises.