

P r e f a c e

This site is an attempt to present in the most appropriate manner, the works of one of the pioneers of Malaysian photography, His Majesty Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah of Terengganu (1907 - 1979). It does not include the entire scope of the His Majesty's work but focuses mainly on his candid observations of his home state of [Terengganu](#). It leads us to a return to the past, to pre-independence Malaya, and enables us to have an in-depth historical and cultural insight of the country. This can be seen by just gazing at these photographs that speak volumes of the photographer's talent. His Majesty has immortalized the scenes and the people and suggests to us, the viewers, that their memory must live on.

His Majesty ascended the throne in 1945, almost immediately after the end of the Second World War. However, due to pressing official commitments during the first three years of the country's return to peace His Majesty was unable to pursue his photographic prowess which he had acquired in the 1930's. The period of 1948 - 58 which this site covers happens to be an important time in our country's history, climaxing through our independence from colonial rule in 1957. It is therefore highly significant and important that these photographs should contain as much breadth, variety and depth of the time and place.

[His Majesty](#) was not only a very good photographer but also an accomplished [print-maker](#) himself. He had entered his works for competition in the various Malayan International Photography Salons in the 1950's, simply being registered as "Sir Ismail Nasiruddin Shah, Kuala Trengganu" (Note the old spelling for Terengganu). His Majesty met with remarkable success, winning numerous honors and prizes, climaxing with the winning of the Grand Prize in a Malayan International Photography Salon in Singapore in the mid 1950's for the photograph sublimely titled "Mariam". The full extent of his awards is still being researched and therefore not listed on this site as yet.

Research work on His Majesty's photographic exploits began almost ten years ago. I had done that in earnest, without any influence from any quarter; and for the simple reason that the photographs had given me an endearing memory of my childhood. For the first few years it was moving at a snail's pace, lacking any real direction. However, persistence pulled me through and over the years managed to increase my undersanding of the collection. The original recovery of the thousands of negatives slowly led to the next step of cataloguing them. However, due to other commitments in the following years, serious work virtually stopped. Fortunately impetus was regained resulting in the exhibition of a few of His Majesty's prints for the first time in more than forty years (since the days of the Malayan Photographic Salons) in November 1996.



1948-1958

Almarhum Sultan Ismail, 1907-1979



T e r e n g g a n u

1 9 4 8 - 1 9 5 8



BIOGRAPHY

HM Tuanku Ismail Nasiruddin Shah was born in Kuala Terengganu on January 24, 1907

Early education at a Malay School in Kuala Terengganu.

Secondary education at the Malay College in Kuala Kangsar, Perak.

Became sub-inspector of police at age 18 in 1925.

4 April 1929; appointed as a cadet in the Terengganu Civil Service.

1 August 1934; appointed as Assistant Land Office

25 October 1934; appointed as a member of the State Executive Council.

4 April 1939; appointed as Deputy Public Prosecutor in the Court of Appeals.

Later became Secretary of Islamic Affairs.

1 January 1940; appointed as Registrar of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and the Land Court.

Later became First Class Magistrate for Terengganu.

15 November 1941; appointed as Assistant State Secretary.

3 April 1944; married HRH Tuanku Intan Zaharah binti Almarhum Tengku Setia Raja in Terengganu

16 December 1945; installed as the 14th Sultan of Terengganu at the Istana Maziah, Kuala Terengganu.

6 June 1949; Official Coronation as Sultan of Terengganu.

31 August 1957; attended the historic proclamation of Malayan independence celebration at the Stadium Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur.

21 September 1965; elevated to the throne as the fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia (The King).

21 September 1969; concluded term as the Fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong and returned to Terengganu to resume the role of Sultan of Terengganu.

20 September 1979; passed away peacefully in Istana Badariah, Kuala Terengganu.

Almarhum Sultan Ismail, 1907-1979



Makmal Fotografi

It is 11.33 p.m. and his Majesty is at the start of another long night in the darkroom.
This was the first darkroom of the Almarhum at the Istana Badariah (The Palace).
The later one was much bigger, better equipped and more than rivalled most professional laboratories.





Memancing (ca.1949)

HRH The Tuanku Ampuan Intan Zaharah fishing with friends along the river in Chendering, Terengganu.



Jendela (ca. 1950)

Taken prior to a royal ritual ceremony inside the Istana Maziah.



Sungai Tersat - Kajangan

One of the tributaries of Sungai Terengganu. Many river expeditions were conducted by the Almarhum, resulted in the extensive documentation of life and activities along the river and the river edge.



Wakaf Tokeh, Terengganu.(ca. 1955)



Sungai Tersat - Kajangan



Memancing (ca.1949)

HRH The Tuanku Ampuan Intan Zaharah fishing with friends along the river in Chendering, Terengganu.



Istana Maziah (The Palace) - Interior Scene (ca. 1949)

IMAGERY OUTSIDE TERENGGANU

Penang, 1948-1958



Feri
P e n a n g, (ca. 1958)



Tengahari
P e n a n g, (ca. 1959)

A LITTLE ABOUT TERENGGANU ?



MAP OF WEST MALAYSIA

Quik Reference C
TERENG



Some facts (not all in metric scale)

Size 5030.9 sq miles (13,000 sq km), Length 133.5 miles, width 60 miles

Longitude 102.25 - 103.50 Latitude 4 -5.50

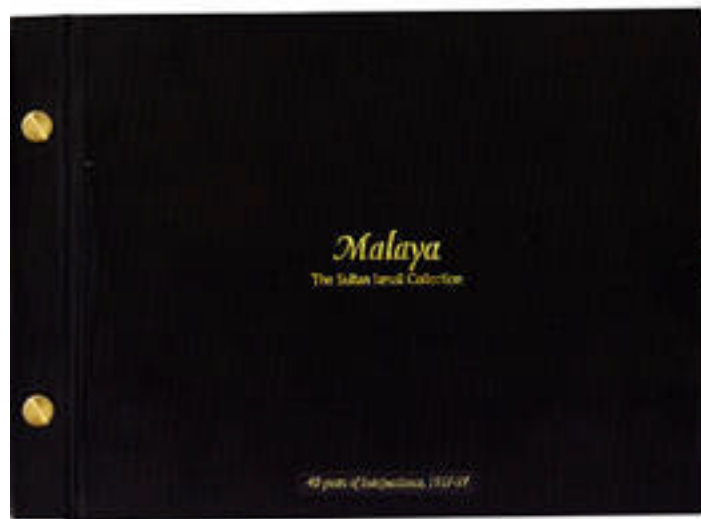
Population - approx. 1.5 million

Divided into six districts

(significant info for placing location of photos taken)

1. Kuala Terengganu
2. Besut
3. Ulu Terengganu
4. Marang
5. Dungun
6. Kemaman

(see map of [respective districts](#))



- Limited Edition -

A l m a r h u m S u l t a n I s m a i l, 1907-1979

To supplement with the recent exhibition at the Petronas Gallery,
a special edition of some fine prints were reproduced in postcards
which were all compiled into this beautiful limited edition of?
Available only at [Elm Quay Fine Arts](http://www.elmquay.com) priced at US\$68-00 per copy.

Visit the Homepage at:

<http://www.mir.com.my/rb/photography/portfolio/sultan/index.htm>