

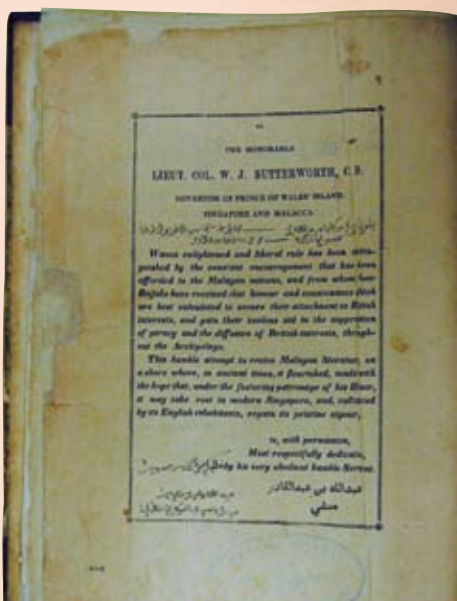
# Hikayat Abdullah

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**Title:** Hikayat Abdullah  
**Author:** Abdullah Abdul Kadir, Munshi, 1796-1854  
**Publisher:** Singapura: Mission Press, 1849  
**Physical Description:** [443] p. : ill. ; 28 cm

This autobiography of Munshi Abdullah Abdul Kadir was written in jawi between 1840 and 1843, and published in 1849. The author was the interpreter and scribe to the founder of modern Singapore, Sir Stamford Raffles. This work serves as an important record of Singapore's early history and the most accurate account of Raffles' arrival.

Abdullah was the first local to give a written account of everyday life in Malaya and the first local Malay to have his works published. He was also the first Malay writer to depart from traditional Malay literary style. Unlike courtly writing, his style was realistic and lively, incorporating many Malay idioms and proverbs. In recognition of his literary contributions, Abdullah has been regarded by many as "The Father of Modern Malay Literature".



English translation of Abdullah's address to Lieutenant Colonel W. J. Butterworth

Terjemahan Inggeris pendahuluan  
Abdullah kepada Leftenan Kolonel W. J.  
Butterworth



*Hikayat Abdullah*, which means the “Story of Abdullah” in Malay, narrates the events of Abdullah’s life related to the activities in Singapore, which was changing under British rule. It describes this transformation and the prominent British personalities of the time, offering observations on political and cultural events.

In *Hikayat Abdullah*, Abdullah remarks on Raffles’ study of the history, customs and language of the people he came into contact with, and his efforts to treat all those he met with due respect and proper courtesies. He also described Raffles’ arrangements for collecting, preserving and recording books and natural history specimens.

From both the literary and historical perspectives, the *Hikayat Abdullah* is a milestone in modern Malay literature. This is a first edition and is very rare. It was produced by the printing technique of lithography, which was widely used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## REFERENCE:

National Library of Australia. (2001). *Treasures from the world's great libraries*. Canberra: National Library of Australia.



Frontispiece of the *Hikayat Abdullah*

Ilustrasi depan *Hikayat Abdullah*

## HIKAYAT ABDULLAH

Autobiografi Munshi Abdullah Abdul Kadir ini ditulis dalam huruf jawi antara tahun 1840 dan 1843, dan diterbitkan pada tahun 1849. Penulis merupakan penterjemah dan jurutulis Sir Stamford Raffles, pengasas Singapura moden. Karya ini merupakan rakaman penting sejarah awal Singapura dan rakaman paling tepat akan kedatangan Raffles ke Singapura.

Abdullah menjadi orang tempatan pertama yang memberikan gambaran kehidupan seharian di Malaya. Karya beliau ini merupakan penulisan Melayu pertama yang dicetak. Gaya penulisan beliau berbeza dengan bentuk penulisan tradisi Melayu. Atas sumbangan beliau terhadap kesusateraan Melayu, Abdullah telah diangkat sebagai Bapa Sastra Melayu Moden.

*Hikayat Abdullah* membincangkan persoalan-persoalan di dalam kehidupan Abdullah yang berkaitan dengan

kehidupan di Singapura yang sedang menjalani perubahan di bawah pemerintahan British. Ia menggambarkan perubahan ini dan juga personaliti-personaliti British yang penting, selain memberikan ulasan kepada kejadian politik dan kebudayaan pada waktu itu.

Di dalam *Hikayat Abdullah*, Abdullah memperkatakan tentang kajian sejarah, adat dan bahasa yang dilakukan oleh Raffles. Beliau juga menyebut usaha Raffles mengumpulkan, melestarikan dan merakamkan kitab-kitab serta spesimen atau contoh bagi kajian ilmu hayat dan alam.

Dari sudut sastera dan sejarah, *Hikayat Abdullah* merupakan karya penting dalam sastera Melayu moden. Ini merupakan edisi pertama dan amat berharga. Ia dicetak menggunakan teknik litografi yang luas digunakan pada abad ke-19.