

# The Legacy of Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian



毅誠

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Entrepreneurs, business barons and philanthropists of the highest order – Tan Kah Kee (1874–1961) and Lee Kong Chian (1893–1967) were all these and more, leaving their combined influence on Singapore for over a century. They were two of Singapore’s most successful entrepreneurs and millionaires, their fortunes built on hard work and prudent investments. They were also ardent supporters of education and community and social causes, using their wealth not for personal betterment but to improve the lot of society as a whole. It is the fact that they made giving back to society a way of life that puts them in a class of their own in social philanthropy.

“*The Legacy of Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian*” exhibition is initiated by the National Library of Singapore. It is jointly organised with the Tan Kah Kee Foundation, and the participation of Xiamen Library. It is generously sponsored by the National

University of Singapore, OCBC Bank, Auric Pacific Group Ltd, the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation, Ee Hoe Hean Club, and contributions from the Tan Kah Kee Museum (China), Furong Foundation of Nan’an, Johor Bahru Rubber Dealers’ Association, National Museum of Singapore, Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan and their affiliated Schools, Hwa Chong Institution, Lam Ann Association, Singapore Chin Kang Huay Kuan, Rubber Trade Association of Singapore, Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry and other local institutions. It is the 4<sup>th</sup> in a series of major exhibitions held at the National Library since 2005, starting with Zheng He & Maritime Asia, followed by Aksara: The Passage of Malay Scripts, and Kaalachakra ‘Wheel of Time’: The Early Indian Influences in Southeast Asia.

## Exhibition Highlights

The exhibition will highlight the con-

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tributions of Tan Kah Kee & Lee Kong Chian to Singapore:

- As Entrepreneurs
- As Promoters of Education
- As Community Leaders
- In Leaving a Strong Legacy

Some areas that will be showcased in the exhibition include what made them entrepreneurs, the philosophy of the two men's strong belief and support for education, and the change of their national and political identity.

**Related Programmes**

Conference

An International Conference entitled "Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian: Their Significance in the Making of Modern Singapore and Malaysia", will be held at the National Library on 28 and 29 November 2008. Speakers include Dr Yong Chin Fatt (Australia),

Prof Yen Ching-hwang (Australia), Prof Liu Hong (UK), Mr Zheng Bingshan (China), Dr Wu Hin Yung (Malaysia), Associate Prof Lee Guan Kin, Associate Prof Huang Jianli, Asst. Prof Neo Peng Fu, Asst. Prof Yow Cheun Hoe and Mr Chua Leong Kian. The bilingual conference will include simultaneous interpreters in English and Mandarin.

Heritage Trails

Heritage Trails combined with guided tours of the exhibition will be scheduled during the 6-month exhibition. These include visits to the historical places associated with Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian, such as the Ee Hoe Hean Club which was a platform for raising political awareness of the Japanese invasion of China, and the headquarters for Tan Kah Kee's various Relief Fund efforts. There will also

be trips to the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industries Building, the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan and other places.

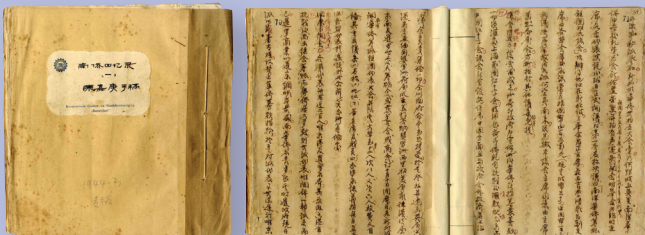
Public Talks

A public talk in Mandarin on the *Singapore Factors in the Making of Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian* by Mdm Chen Yiming (Xiamen) will be given on 20 July 2008 at 2.00pm in the Possibility Room at Level 5 of the National Library. A talk in English will be organised later in the year and details will be provided in due course.

Make a date with us and visit *The Legacy of Tan Kah Kee and Lee Kong Chian Exhibition* at Level 10 of the National Library, 18 July – 31 December 2008, 10am – 9pm. (Closed on Public Holidays)

**Selected sections of Tan Kah Kee's Manuscript**  
[Replica, Original Artifact currently at Tan Kah Kee Museum (China)]

陈嘉庚《南侨回忆录》手稿复制件，原件现藏于陈嘉庚纪念馆（中国）



Tan first began writing his autobiography when he was hiding in Java from the Japanese in 1943. This work, published when he returned safely to Singapore in 1946, is now considered as one of the best documented autobiographies by a Southeast Asian Chinese, and remains highly valued not only as a reflection of Tan Kah Kee's life but also in presenting the political and social context of Malayan Chinese at that time.

陈嘉庚于二战期间避难于爪哇玛琅，开始撰写自传——《南侨回忆录》，1946年于新加坡出版。

《南侨回忆录》是他最重要的著作。此书不仅是研究陈嘉庚生平与思想的重要文献，对了解当时华人华侨在东南亚的政治与社会活动，也有很高的参考价值。

**Postcard sent by Lee Kong Chian** (Replica: Original Artefact is a Personal Collection of Mr Weng Ruquan)

李光前于1910年10月14日在上海寄出的明信片复制件：翁如泉先生收藏



This postcard, dated 14 Oct 1910, was sent by Lee Kong Chian when he was studying in China, to a friend teaching in the Anglo-Chinese College in Xiamen. Lee Kong Chian came to Singapore to join his father in 1903. He studied in the Anglo-Tamil School and later enrolled in Chong Cheng School and Tao Nan School. He went back to China in 1908 to further his studies at Jinan School, Qinghua High School (Beijing) and the College of Mining and Communication in Tangshan, before returning to Singapore in 1912 to make a living.

李光前1903年随父李国专到新加坡，于英印学堂受教育，后入崇正、道南学堂学中文。1908年回中国求学于暨南、清华和唐山路矿诸学校。在中国求学期间，他寄了一张明信片给在厦门英华学院教书的友人。李光前于1912年返回新加坡谋生。



承前启后 继往开来

黄美萍

高级图书馆管理员，  
李光前参考图书馆

# 陈嘉庚与李光前

陈嘉庚（1874-1961）与李光前（1893-1967）集企业家、商业巨子和慈善家于一身，其臻于至善的一生，在过去的百余年间对新加坡影响至深。这两位本地最为成功的企业富商，凭着自己的勤勉努力和前瞻性的投资策略，为个人积累了巨大财富，又将所得财富用之社会，热心促进本地教育、支持慈善公益事业，使整个新加坡社会广为受益。

“承前启后 继往开来：陈嘉庚与李光前”展览项目是由新加坡国家图书馆管理局与陈嘉庚基金联办，由厦门图书馆协办，获得了新加坡国立大学、华侨银行、金利太平洋集团、陈振传基金与怡和轩俱乐部的赞助，并得到陈嘉庚纪念馆（中国）、南安市芙蓉基金会（中国）、新山树胶商会（马来西亚）、新加坡国家博物馆、新加坡福建会馆及属下学校、华侨中学、新加坡南安会馆、新加坡晋江会馆、新加坡树胶公会、新加坡中华总商会等机构的支持与协助。自2005年开始，国家图书馆举办了“郑和与海洋亚洲”展、“字母：马来字体的演变”展以及“时间之轮：印度文化对东南亚的影响”，“承前启后 继往开来”已是国家图书馆主办的第四个大型展览了。

## 展览主题

展览共分为四个展区，主要呈现了陈嘉庚与李光前对新加坡经济、教育、社会和文化发展所做的贡献，展区分别是：

- ◆ 励志图远的实业家；
- ◆ 兴学办校的倡导者；
- ◆ 率先垂范的社群领袖；
- ◆ 流芳百世的智者善人

展览探讨了一些有趣的课题，例如，是什么造就了像陈嘉庚与李光前这样的企业家？推动他们全心全意兴办教育的又是什么？两位先生的政治认同与转向有什么不同呢？除此之外，参观者也可以回到上世纪五、六十年代，感受一下当时学生的学习环境、通过照片了解他们的活动、看看他们使用过的课本。

## 节目

### 国际研讨会

配合这次展览，新加坡国家图书馆定于2008年11月28至29日主办一个国际研讨会，主题是《陈嘉庚、李光前与现代新马》。受邀主讲者包括杨进发博士（澳洲）、颜清煌博士（澳洲）、刘宏教授（英国）、郑炳山先生（中国）、胡兴荣博士（马来西亚）、以及新加坡的李元瑾副教授、黄坚立博士、梁秉赋博士、游俊豪博士以及蔡良乾先生。研讨会将以华、英语进行（

同步传译）。

### 历史文化之旅

展览期间，图书馆将举办由专人讲解的历史文化之旅，行程包括“承前启后继往开来：陈嘉庚与李光前展览，和与陈嘉庚和李光前有关的历史场所，如陈嘉庚筹款抗日救亡的行动总部怡和轩、华人领袖的重镇中华总商会，鼎力支持教育的福建会馆等。

### 公开讲座

国家图书馆也将在2008年7月20日，下午两点于5楼“良机”演讲厅，举办一场华语讲座，主讲者是陈毅明教授，讲题目是“新加坡——成就陈嘉庚的重要因素”，除了探讨新加坡与陈嘉庚的关系，也将分析陈嘉庚与李光前之间的异同。

陈毅明教授在1961年毕业于厦门大学历史系，毕业后留校任教，1988年评定为副教授，1990年调华侨博物院任院长，曾兼任厦门大学陈嘉庚研究室副主任，并在1999年6月退休。

国家图书馆也将举办一个英文讲座，内容稍后公布。

“承前启后 继往开来：陈嘉庚与李光前”展从2008年7月18日开始，至12月31日止，地点是国家图书馆10楼，时间从早上10时至晚上9时。（公共假日除外。）