



Unveiling  
the Next Chapter of  
the National Museum  
of Singapore



The 'Adopt An Artefact' initiative was established by the National Museum of Singapore to raise monies for the enhancement of the museum's Life in Singapore galleries.

The Life in Singapore galleries on Level 2; augment the content presented in the Singapore History Gallery by "zooming in" to what life in Singapore was like, with a stronger focus on personal stories. They present snapshots of everyday life in Singapore throughout the different eras in Singapore's history.

This is a rare and unique opportunity for partners and patrons to support the museum by adopting an artefact in our galleries.

Artefacts for adoption have been curated from the Singapore History Gallery based on their historic significance and rich provenance. The artefacts are presented in three categories: Our Star Artefact, Our National Treasures & Our Singapore Stories.

## *Adopt An Artefact* Campaign

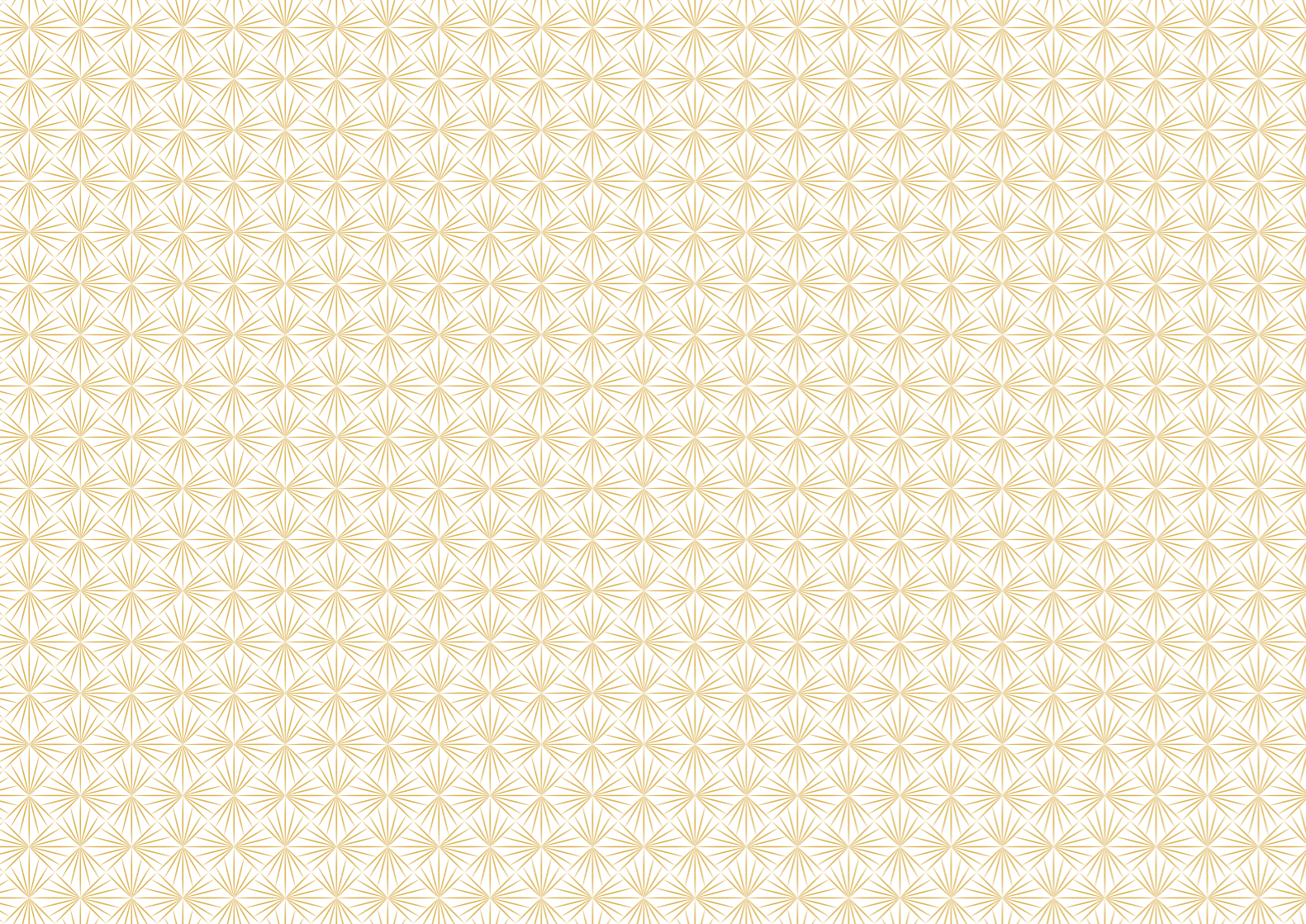
## Donor Privileges

In adopting an artefact in support of the museum's refresh of the Life in Singapore galleries, our donors will enjoy the following privileges:

- Acknowledgement alongside the object in the Singapore History Gallery for a duration of three years
- Rare 'behind the scenes' experience in artefact conservation and handling at the museum
- Exclusive access to the refreshed and revamped galleries before their official opening to the public
- Acknowledgement on the museum's donor wall
- Recognition in the Patron of Heritage Awards and NHB's annual reports
- Acknowledgement in the museum's media release in conjunction with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Singapore's independence (SG60) in 2025
- Tax deduction on the donation made\*
- Invites to the museum's special previews and events

*\* as determined by IRAS*





# Singapore Stone

10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> centuries  
Sandstone  
H 37 x W 74 x D 15.5 cm  
A-1571

The Singapore Stone is the star artefact of the Singapore History Gallery. As one of the oldest and rarest objects in the National Collection, the Singapore Stone takes centre stage as a symbolic entry point into Singapore's early history.

The symbols carved on its surface are the earliest known form of writing found in Singapore. Scholars have suggested that the stone's script is Kawi, which was used in Java between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The language of the inscriptions remains unknown but is thought to include Old Javanese, Sanskrit or Tamil. The Singapore Stone was discovered at the mouth of the Singapore River and stood at about 3m high and 3m wide. In 1843, the boulder was blown up by the British to build military quarters.

## Our Star Artefact

\$150,000  
3 years adoption period





## Our National Treasures

\$80,000

3 years adoption period

Objects represented in the '*Our National Treasures*' category are emblematic of Singapore's rich cultural heritage and identity. They are unique objects that are not only significant in Singapore's history but are one-of-a-kind and valuable treasures in our National Collection.



## Javanese-style gold jewellery

14<sup>th</sup> century

Gold

Armlet: H 0.5 x Dia 10 cm

Earrings (each): H 0.5 x Dia 2 cm

A-1570



These pieces of Javanese-style gold jewellery were found at Bukit Larangan. The armlet bears a repousse plaque of the Javanese kala, which traditionally adorns the top of main entrances of temples, and are still found in many parts of Indonesia. The rings, each with a socket joint and wire hinge, are set with diamonds. They were found at Fort Canning Hill in 1928 by labourers excavating for a reservoir. The site engineer recorded that the ornaments were lying just beneath the top of the pre-colonial soil strata, indicating their existence before the British arrived in 1819. The East Javanese style of these solid gold ornaments is a reminder that in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the island of Singapore was under the political and cultural ambit of the East Java-based kingdom of Majapahit.

## Silver epergne presented by Chinese community in Singapore to William Farquhar

1824

Silver, glass

H 133.3 x W 49.7 x D 49.6 cm

1994-00053



William Farquhar was the first British resident of Singapore from 1819 to 1823. This silver epergne was presented to him as a farewell gift from Singapore's Chinese community, signifying his popularity with the Asian communities that he governed in Singapore. The epergne was made by Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, the London firm of jewellers and goldsmiths. Appointed Royal Goldsmith from 1797 to 1843, the firm was known for producing the Diamond Diadem worn by George IV in the procession to Westminster Abbey, and various Crown Jewels for the coronations of George IV, William IV and Queen Victoria.



## Portrait of Sir Frank Athelstane Swettenham

1904  
John Singer Sargent  
Oil on canvas  
H 259 x W 144 cm  
HP-0011

This portrait, commissioned by the Straits Association, commemorated Sir Frank Swettenham's long service as Resident-General of the Federated Malay States (1896–1901) and Governor of the Straits Settlements (1901–04). It was painted by John Singer Sargent, the most celebrated portraitist of his time. Swettenham is portrayed as a strong leader exuding power and authority. He is dressed in an immaculate white uniform and standing next to a gilded armchair covered in Malay silk brocade. Visible above him, on the left, is the lower half of a globe on a gilt stand, showing a segment of the Malay States.

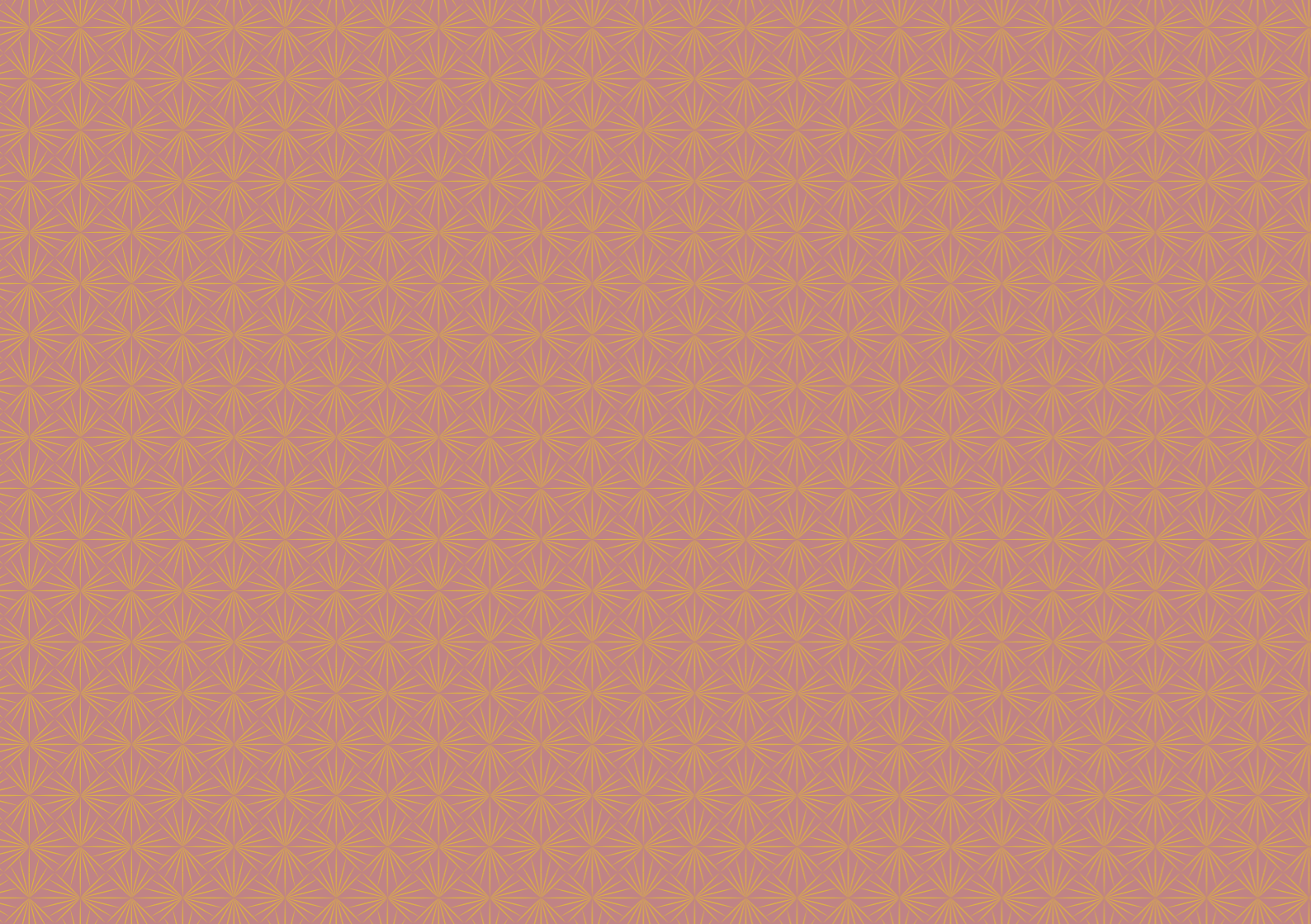


## The Mace of the City of Singapore

1953  
Metal  
H 125.5 x W 14 cm  
Gift of Public Utilities Board  
2003-0230-001

This golden Mace was presented to the City of Singapore by the prominent Chinese philanthropist Loke Wan Tho after a Royal Charter by King George VI in 1951 raised the status of Singapore to a City. The Mace was made by Messrs Hamilton & Inches, Goldsmiths of Edinburgh. It is embellished by Heraldic symbols incorporating the coats of arms of Her Majesty the Queen, Sir Stamford Raffles, the East India Company, the Straits Settlements, the Colony of Singapore and the City of Singapore. The Mace also bears Chinese, Malay, Indian and European figurines and representation of Malayan flowers and animals.





## Our Singapore Stories

\$50,000

3 years adoption period

The '*Our Singapore Stories*' category features a suite of exceptional objects that embody the rich stories of the people and events that have shaped Singapore's history. These rare objects represent significant turning points in Singapore's development as a nation and symbolise the rich identity of Singapore and its people.





## Figurine of a rider on a horse

14<sup>th</sup> century

Lead

L 6.2 x W 2 x H 5.3 cm

2002-00341



This Javanese-style figurine is the only one of its kind discovered in Singapore. It was found in 1998 at the archaeological excavation at Empress Place, on the banks of the Singapore River. The head of the rider was never recovered.

The rider wears a sarong around his lower body and is seated upon a winged horse or a horse with a winged saddle. One theory suggests that the figurine depicts Rajah Suran, a mythical king who was said to emerge from the ocean on a winged horse, and whose descendants ruled Temasek (an ancient name for Singapore).



## Revere Bell

1843

Bronze

H 81 x Cir 173 cm

XXXX-04141



This bell was cast in the Revere foundry in Boston in the tradition of the American patriot, Paul Revere, and is the only such bell known to exist outside of the United States. Revere's daughter, Maria, was married to Joseph Balestier, the first American consul in Singapore (1837–52) and had presented the bell to the Church of St Andrew (the predecessor to St Andrew's Cathedral). Her condition was that it sounded the curfew every night at 8pm to remind sailors to return to their ships and to alert residents to be watchful after dark for robberies and assaults.







## Ning Yeung Wui Kuan bell

1878 (dated “Fourth year of the Guangxu period”)

Brass

H 99.5 x Cir 187.5 cm

Gift of Ning Yeung Wui Kuan

XXXX-04140



The Ning Yeung Wui Kuan (宁阳会馆) is the oldest Chinese clan association in Singapore. It was set up in 1822 by clansmen from Taishan (台山) county in Guangdong province, China, and served as a meeting place, venue of worship and ancestral hall for Cantonese immigrants.

This bell was once housed in the clan building that stood at the corner of South Bridge Road and Hokkien Street until its demolition in 1964. Apart from the date of the bell and the names of the people who presented it to the association, the bell is inscribed with two Chinese idioms that represent the well-wishes of the donors: “风调雨顺” (denoting “favourable weather or circumstances”) and “国泰民安” (denoting “a flourishing country [with its] people at peace”).



## Manuscript of *Sulalat al-Salatin* (Malay Annals)

1896

Paper

H 18.5 x W 24.8 cm

XXXX-02325



The *Sulalat al-Salatin*, popularly referred to as the *Sejarah Melayu* (Malay Annals), is considered to be a fundamental text of Malay world history, detailing the beginnings, adventures and fall of the Malay courts of Singapura and Melaka. The oldest known version was compiled in 1612 by Tun Sri Lanang, a court official at the capital of the Johor Sultanate, although most surviving manuscripts are dated from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This is the original manuscript from which the transliterated 1896 edition by Reverend Dr W. S. Shellabear was printed.





## Necklace presented by Lady Daisy Thomas to Elizabeth Choy

Late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century  
Gold, gemstones  
L 40.5 x W 1.2 x H 1.0 cm  
Gift of Bridget Choy Wai Fong  
2014-00308



This gold necklace, in the shape of a snake, is of Indian workmanship. It was a family heirloom given to Lady Daisy Thomas, the wife of Governor Shenton Thomas, by her grandmother. After World War Two, Lady Thomas gave the necklace to Elizabeth Choy, as a token of gratitude for Mrs Choy's help and kindness in bringing her medicine and daily necessities while she was interned during the occupation. Mrs Choy later gave the necklace to her eldest daughter, Bridget, as a present for her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.



## Singapore Volunteer Corps dress uniform

1900s  
Cotton and metal  
Helmet: L 35 x H 17.3 cm; Shirt: H 106 x W 72 cm;  
Pants: L 118 x W 47 cm; Boots (each): L 27.5 x  
W 8.1 x H 12 cm  
Gift of Paul Riches  
1996-01942-001 (Helmet), 1996-01952 (Shirt),  
1996-01950 (Pants) and 1995-02751 (Boots)

This full parade uniform set comprising a pith helmet, a once-white cotton shirt and pants, together with dress boots, would have been worn by all ranks in the Singapore Volunteer Corps (SVC) in the early 1900s. Initially set up as a militia unit made up of European male residents in 1854 as the Singapore Volunteer Rifle Corps, partly in response to the Chinese secret societies riots of the same year, the unit eventually expanded to include other sub-units such as artillery before being reconstituted as the SVC in 1901. The SVC would be called to action to quell the 1911 sepoy mutiny, and formed the basis of the Straits Settlements Volunteer Forces which aided in the defence of Singapore during World War Two.



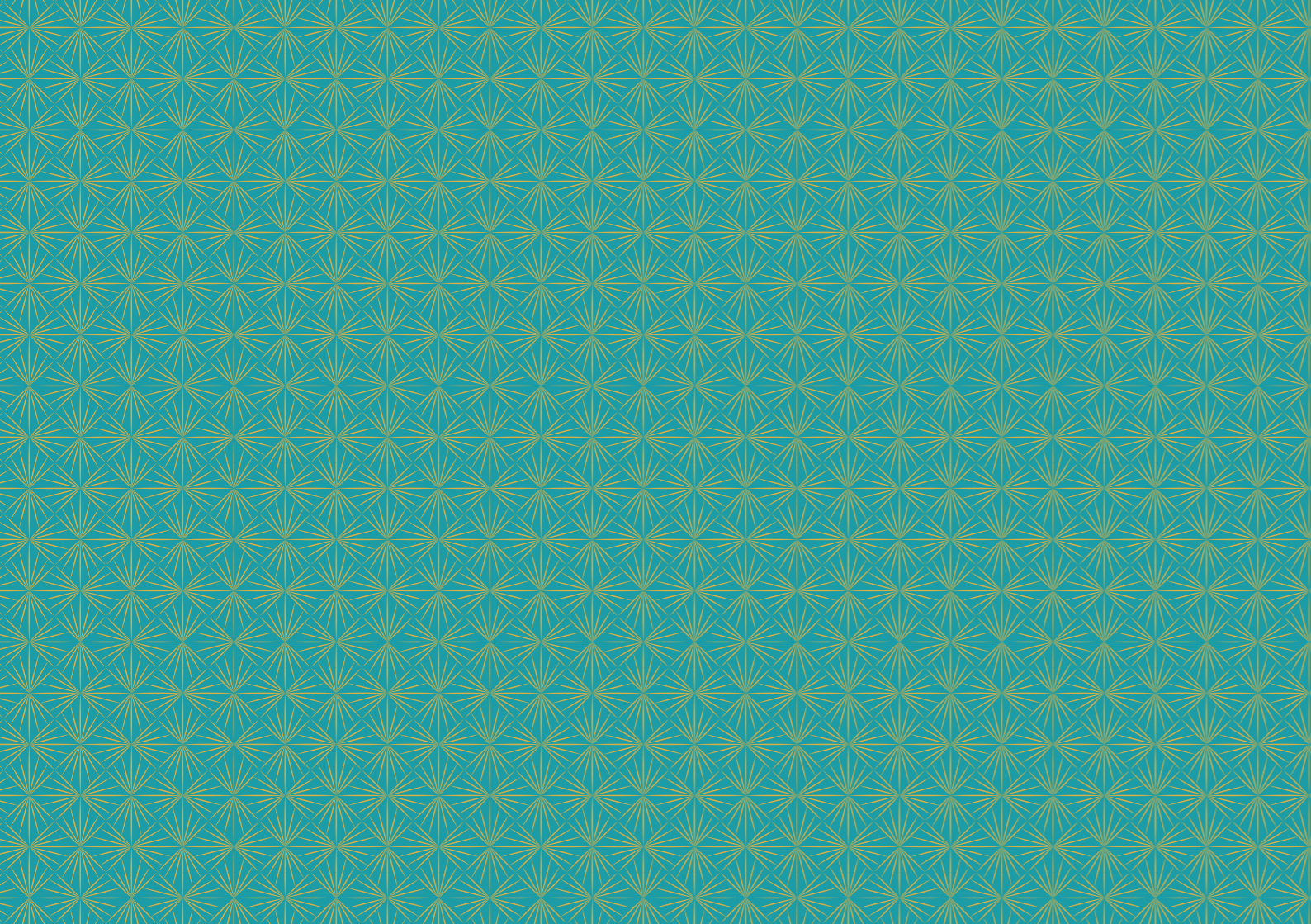


## View of Singapore from Mount Wallich

1856  
Percy Carpenter  
Oil on canvas  
H 97.9 x W 203.5 cm (framed)  
HP-0049

This panoramic view of Singapore is by far the most extensive view of Singapore from the mid-19th century, featuring the Singapore River settlement almost in its entirety. Painted by the celebrated English artist Percy Carpenter, the view stretches from Pearl's Hill on the left to Tanjong Rhu on the right. This painting is a precious document of the Telok Ayer basin before a major land reclamation exercise took place in the 1880s, made possible by the levelling of hills in the vicinity. This included Mount Wallich, the vantage point at what is today Tanjong Pagar, from which this view was painted.





## Other Opportunities for Giving

### Historical Site Markers

Historic sites are places of historical significance, where important events or personalities are commemorated to serve as reminders of Singapore's history. Although the original buildings may not always be retained at these sites, their stories are told through their heritage markers, which contain interesting nuggets of information on the history of the site.

The site markers at the National Museum of Singapore unfold the history to the various sites within the museum's grounds and building. They allow visitors to learn more about the museum's history and key architectural features.



There are eleven site markers in total, four of which are located outdoors.

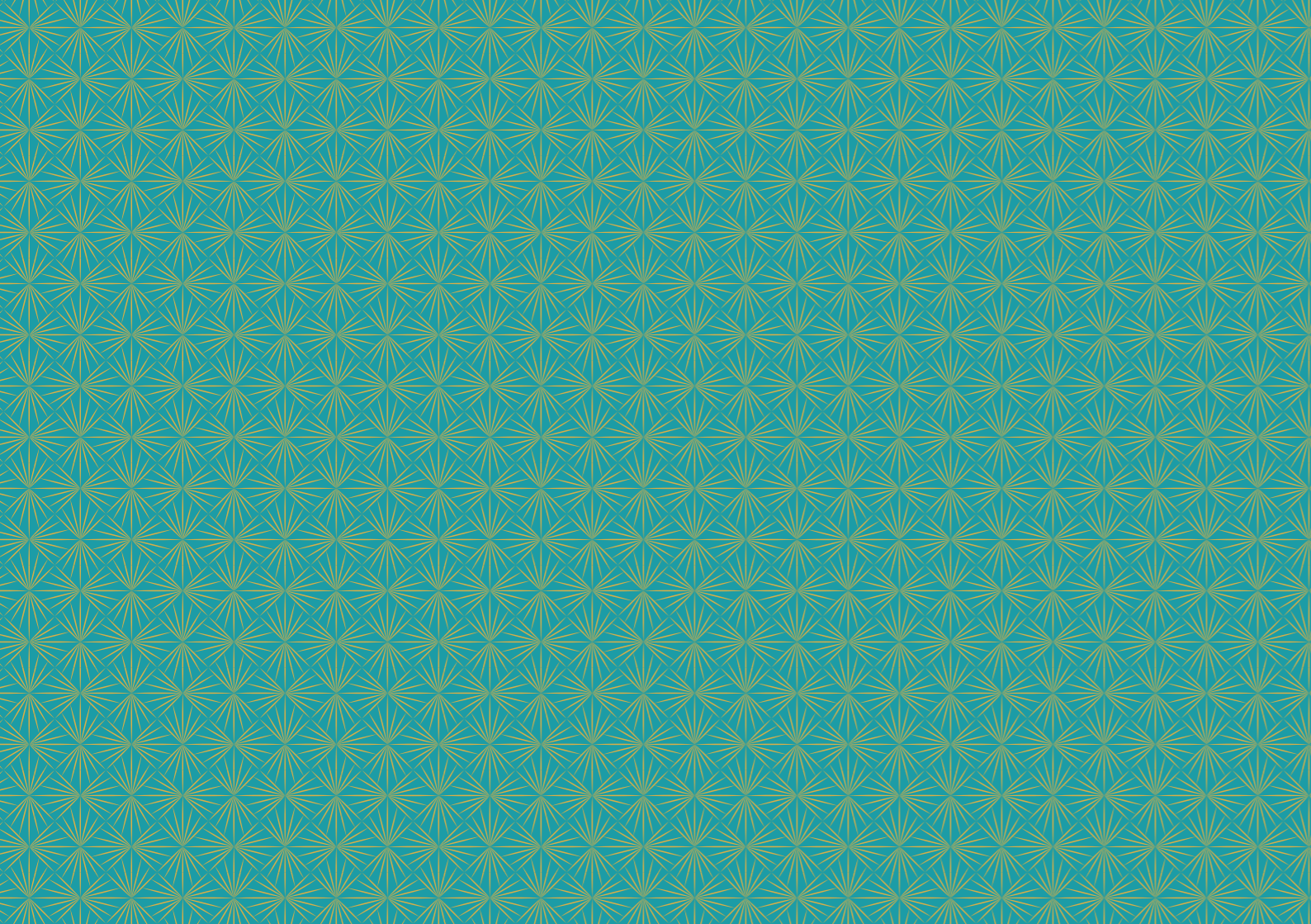
- Introduction
- Rotunda Dome
- 1887 Original Building
- Royal Coat of Arms
- 1916 Extension
- 1926 Extension
- 2006 Extension
- Glass Rotunda
- Spiral Staircase
- Glass Passage
- 1906 Extension

The eleven site markers are available for adoption:

- \$110,000 for 3 years
- \$165,000 for 5 years
- \$250,000 for 10 years

In appreciation of the support to preserve these historical site markers, the donor will be acknowledged on all eleven site markers around the museum.





## Naming Opportunities at the Glass Rotunda

The Glass Rotunda is a highly popular gallery located on Level 2 of the museum. Housed in a 15m-high drum-shaped cylinder, the gallery takes visitors down a 50m spiral ramp to Level 1.

This naming opportunity offers prospective donors a rare chance to build an integral legacy in a public monument like the National Museum.

## Other Opportunities for Giving





The Glass Rotunda currently houses the popular *Story of the Forest*, a digital and immersive installation of animated flora and fauna inspired by the museum's prized William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings. The *Story of the Forest* was launched in 2016 and showcased for 8 years. The floor area of the gallery is an estimated 700 square metres and covers two storeys.

In tandem with the museum's restoration and revamp, the Glass Rotunda gallery will be closed for revamp from October 2024. The *Story of the Forest* installation will be decommissioned and a new digital experience will be launched to commemorate SG60 in 2025. The new immersive installation will feature the themes of identity, natural environment and sustainability.

The Glass Rotunda will be up for a naming opportunity for its reopening in 2025. The National Museum of Singapore welcomes corporations and individuals who strongly believe in the celebration and preservation of Singapore's culture and heritage. Your support will mark a strong stance in preserving our national identity and stories, especially as Singapore commemorates its 60<sup>th</sup> year of independence in 2025.





“The National Museum of Singapore exists to preserve, sustain and promote our Singapore stories. We need like-minded cultural champions who understand the value of supporting our heritage, to help guard the soul of Singapore and her people.”

**Chung May Khuen**  
Director, National Museum of Singapore

We invite you to leave a lasting legacy through your gift. All funds raised will go towards the development and enhancement of the National Museum’s revamped galleries.

For clarifications or further information, please contact the National Museum of Singapore at [supportnms@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:supportnms@nhb.gov.sg).



