

Prosperity with Purpose: Lee Choon Seng and the Cultural Responsibilities of Singapore's Early Chinese Business Leaders

📅 Wednesday, 11 February 2026, 02:00pm - 04:00pm

📍 Seminar Room, Central Library (Level 4)



Speaker: Dr Tan Teng Phee
Chief Researcher, Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Some questions:

Who was Mr Lee Choon Seng (LCS, 1886-1966)?

What did LCS do during his lifetime? Legacy?

Is LCS still important to us today?

Let's ask chatgpt: Who is LCS?

“**Lee Choon Seng (李俊承; 1888 – 5 June 1966)** was a prominent **Singaporean Chinese businessman, philanthropist, and community leader** in the early to mid-20th century. He was born in Fujian Province, China and later settled in Singapore, where he built successful commercial interests including companies and rubber plantations.

Lee played key roles in the **local Chinese business community**, serving in leadership positions such as president of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce, and he helped promote the development of Chinese banking by advocating the merger that formed the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), later becoming one of its directors.

Who is LCS?

A devoted Buddhist, he was instrumental in establishing major Buddhist organisations and institutions in Singapore, including the Singapore Buddhist Lodge, the Singapore Buddhist Federation, and the Poh Ern Shih Temple—the latter built as a “Temple of Thanksgiving” to commemorate those who died in World War II.

Lee also supported Sun Yat-Sen’s revolutionary movement and efforts in China, and he was recognised for his philanthropy and leadership within the Hokkien community. ”

60 Prominent Cultural Figures from the Chinese Community

Lee Choon Seng (1888-1966)

Lee Choon Seng was a visionary leader in Singapore's Chinese community, recognised for his contributions to banking, commerce and philanthropy. He supported Sun Yat Sen's revolutionary movement and helped preserve Wan Qing Yuan, now Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall.

As a key figure in establishing Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, he strengthened financial resources for Chinese businesses. He also served as president of Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

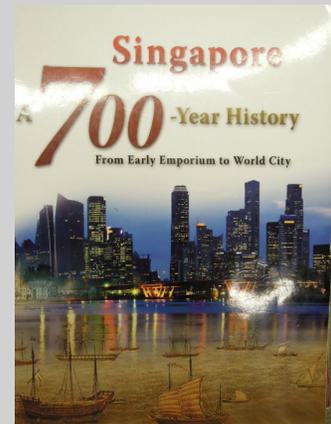
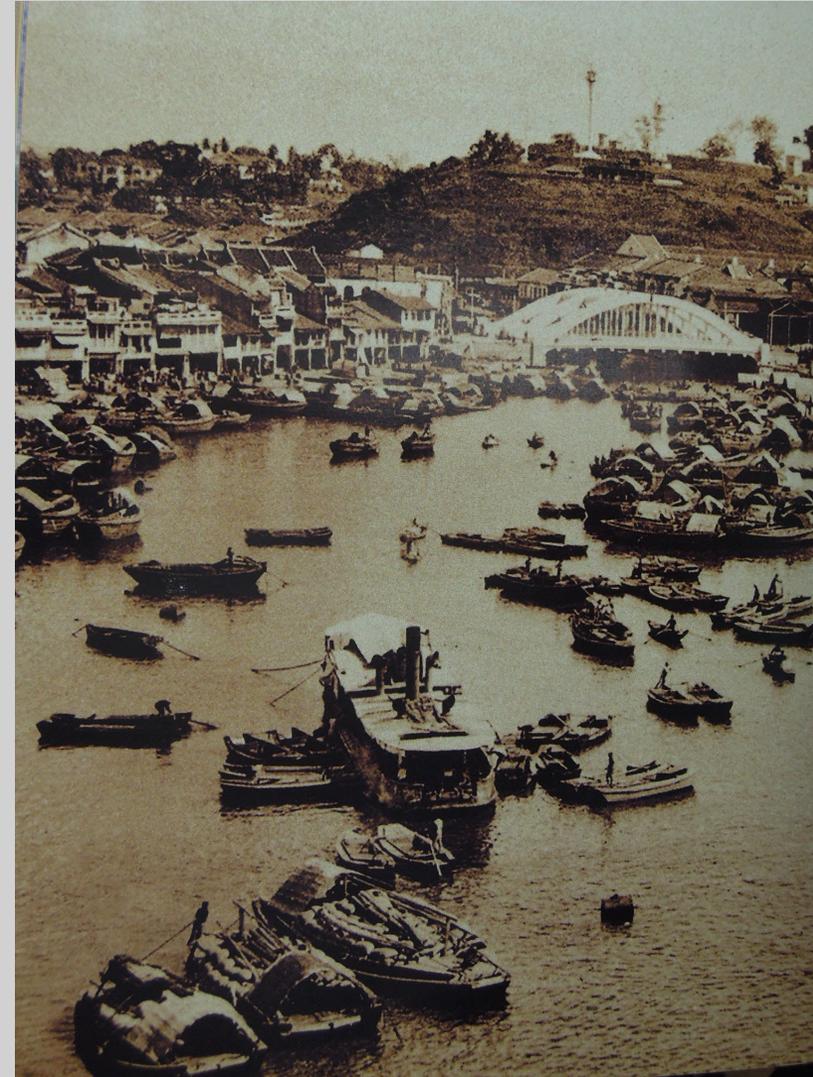
A devout Buddhist, Lee founded Singapore Buddhist Federation, uniting Buddhist communities and promoting charitable causes. Lesser known was his passion for poetry, which often depicted his personal spiritual journey.

Outline:

- Historical setting: Early Chinese immigrant society in Singapore
- Biographical study approach: Analytical framework and various “lens”
- Lee Choon Seng: His Life and legacy
- Crossing boundaries:
- Conclusion:

A Place of Hope: Singapore 1819 onwards

- ❑ Free port policy:
- ❑ Entrepot trade:
- ❑ Economic development:
- ❑ regional network:
- ❑ Labor market:

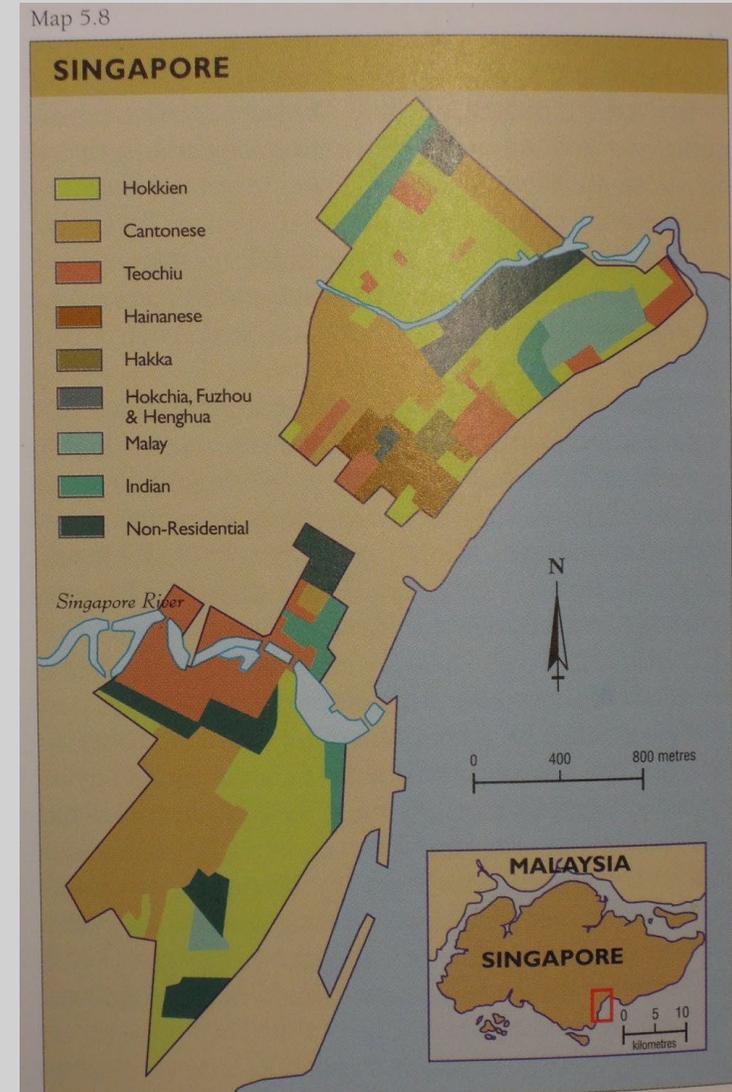


Historical forces: The Push — Pull factors



The Hakkas often inhabit the same areas as the Cantonese, Hokkien, and other tribes. The following authorities, among others, have been followed: (1) Linguistic Map of China, *Geographical J.* cii/2 (August 1943), p. 5; (2) Ta Chen, *Emigrant Communities*, p. 23; (3) W. J. Cator, *The Economic Position of the Chinese in the Netherlands Indies* (1936), p. 28 (map).

Two geographical locations: Home country — host country



Source: Hodder (1953).

Table 5.14

DISTRIBUTION OF SINGAPORE'S TOTAL POPULATION BY ETHNIC GROUP

YEAR	TOTAL POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION				TOTAL
		CHINESE	MALAY	INDIAN	OTHERS	
1824	10,683	31.0	60.2	7.1	1.7	100
1830	16,634	39.4	45.9	11.5	3.2	100
1836	29,984	45.9	41.7	9.9	2.6	100
1840	35,389	50.0	37.3	9.5	3.1	100
1849	52,891	52.9	32.2	11.9	3.0	100
1860	81,734	61.2	19.8	15.9	3.1	100
1871	97,111	56.2	26.9	11.8	5.0	100
1891	181,602	67.1	19.7	8.8	4.3	100
1901	226,842	72.1	15.8	7.8	4.3	100
1911	303,321	72.4	13.8	9.2	4.7	100
1921	418,358	75.3	12.8	7.7	4.2	100
1931	557,745	75.1	11.7	9.1	4.2	100
1947	938,144	77.8	12.1	7.4	2.8	100
1957	1,445,929	75.4	13.6	8.6	2.4	100
1970	2,074,507	76.2	15.0	7.0	1.8	100
1980	2,413,945	76.9	14.6	6.4	2.1	100
1990	3,016,379	74.7	13.5	7.6	4.1	100

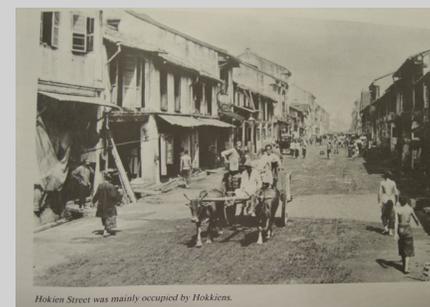
'Total population' includes non-citizens and non-permanent residents in the post-independence censuses. 'Malays' is a generic category for various indigenous peoples of the Malay Archipelago. 'Indians' from 1970 onwards, include Sri Lankans or Ceylonese, previously classified under 'Others.' Sources: Cheng (1985); Saw (1970); Singapore Census of Population 1990, Demographic Characteristics, 1992.



Boat Quay was a Teochew settlement.



Chinatown, where most of the residents were Cantonese.



Hokien Street was mainly occupied by Hokkiens.



Hylam Street was mainly occupied by Hainanese.

The Formation of the Chinese Communities in Singapore

19 - early 20 century

- ❑ Merchant without Empire**
- ❑ Social structure:**
 - kinship, dialect groups, clan associations**
 - Occupational-link**
- ❑ Religion: binding force among newcomers**
- ❑ From sojourners to settlers: After WWII**

Four Pillars of the Chinese Communities

- ❑ Huiguan: clan and native place associations
- ❑ Chinese Schools:
- ❑ Chinese newspapers:
- ❑ Chinese Temple:



China—Nanyang Overseas Chinese Communities

Traditional four social classes

(士农工商)

- Scholar
- Farmer
- Artisan
- merchant hierarchy

□ Practical needs of the migrants:

- Chinese custom, death, worship and festival
- Job
- Education

□ Functions (Social welfare):

- Ancestral worship and worship of Gods
- Observance of Seasonal Festivals
- Helping Destitute members
- Legalization of marriage and promotion of education

Overseas

(商士农工)

- Scholar
- Farmer
- Artisan
- Merchant

Community leaders:
Economic, social and cultural capital

Biographical study approach

1. Family Background and Early Life: Siblings and Kinship Networks
2. Education and Intellectual Formation
3. Business Career and Economic Contributions
4. Roles in Chinese Community: Business Organisation, Religious Leadership and Cultural Responsibilities/Contributions
5. Legacy and Historical Significance

Some reflections:

- How did family and migration shape his worldview and opportunities?
- How did kinship networks support or amplify his economic and social mobility?
- How did historical events influence his choices?
- How did he use institutions to extend personal influence?
- Why did his actions matter beyond his lifetime?

James David Barber's active-passive theory (1972)

Character: How they view themselves (e.g., self-esteem).

Worldview: Their primary, politically relevant beliefs, including their conceptions of social causality, human nature, and the central moral conflicts of their time.

Style: How they act in the office—speaking, interacting with officials, and managing the workload.

The Three Forms of Capital (Bourdieu)

Economic Capital: Refers directly to command over economic resources, such as money, assets, and property. It is immediately convertible into money and crucial for acquiring other types of capital.

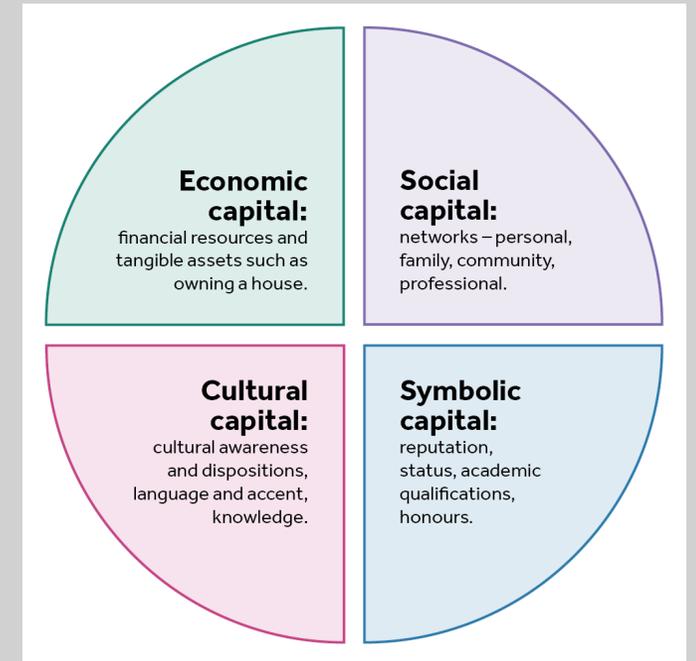
Social Capital: Comprises the resources available through social networks and relationships, including memberships in groups, professional connections, and "connections" or "favors". These networks are often based on mutual recognition and can be converted into economic capital.

Cultural Capital: Includes non-financial social assets that promote social mobility, such as education, cultural knowledge, and skills. It exists in three forms:

Embodied: Personal dispositions, knowledge, and skills acquired through socialization (e.g., accent, mannerisms).

Objectified: Physical cultural goods (e.g., books, art, tools).

Institutionalized: Formal recognition of cultural capital, such as educational qualifications or academic credentials.



Available sources?

- Archival records: UK, NAS, Arkib Negara Malaysia, KMT, Japan etc
- NewspaperSG: local English and Chinese newspapers
- Academic research papers:
- Commemorative magazine articles on LCS:
- Publications:
- Oral histories and memoirs:
- Photographs:

Reference:	HO 334/270/7271
Description:	Naturalisation Certificate: Choon Seng Lee. From China. Resident in Singapore. Certificate O7271 issued 17 June 1952.
Date:	1952 June 17
Held by:	The National Archives, Kew

Lee Choon Seng: Family background

Mr. Lee Choon Seng (李俊承, 1888-1966), was a prominent businessman, philanthropist and Hokkien community leader in Singapore.

Lee Choon Seng was born in Yong Chun County, Fuji Province, China (中国福建省永春县五里街仰贤村)

At the age of 7, he received a good education since childhood (私塾)。

Diligent and studious, good at observation, serious in doing things, paying attention to integrity.

Journey to Nanyang

At the age of 17, he came to Negeri Sembilan, Malaya and got involved as a wholesaler in provisions following in his father's (Mr. Lee Lip Chai) footsteps.

He then went to Singapore to expand the family business, founding several companies such as Thye Hin 太兴 Pte. Co. Ltd, Eng Hin 永兴 Company, Thye Hong 泰丰 Biscuit Co. Ltd, Thye Ann Investment Co. Ltd., Popular Aerated Water and also got involved as a rubber planter.

Over the time, he became a successful businessman and community leader in Singapore.

Roles in Chinese Community

Lee also held leadership roles in various Chinese community organisations:

- United Chinese Library Vice Chairman (1926-1927)
- President of Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce (1931-1932)
- President of Ee Hoe Hean Club (1935)
- President of Singapore Buddhist Federation (1949-1952)
- Managing Director of Ho Hong Bank (1931)
- Vice-Chairman (1938-1964) of OCBC
- Managing Director of OCBC during the Japanese Occupation (1943-1945)
- Chairman of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited (1965-1966).
- Member of the Nanyang University Council but resigned in 1964 due to old age.

A banker

Chinese banking landscape in Singapore:

- 1903-1914: Kwong Yik Banking Company Limited
- 1906: Sze Hai Tong Banking & Insurance Company Limited
- 1912: Chinese Commercial Bank
- 1917: Ho Hong Bank
- 1919: Oversea-Chinese Bank
- (1932 to form the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation)
- 1920: Lee Wah Bank
- 1935: UOB

LCS and SCCCI (1931-1933)

- The President of the Chamber is the leader of the organisation.
- He represents the Chamber and is responsible for consolidating the various opinions of the Council Members, for making decisions, and for supervising and implementing the decisions made by the Council, and must be accountable to all members at the Annual General Meetings.

Who can be elected as the Chamber's President?

- He has to possess the characteristics of a leader of the community, namely talent, wisdom, acumen and eminence.
- In other words, the President should be morally upright, have business acumen, give back to society, and have good economic and social standing.

LCS and SCCC (1933-1933)

李俊承

Lee Choon Seng



第十八届
(1931-1933年)
会长

The 18th President
of the Chamber
(1931-1933)

李俊承(1888-1966年),福建永春人,华商银行创办人。

会长任内成立“星洲华侨救济中国惨灾筹赈会”,亦召开特大讨论“外侨居留条例案”。

1937年,李俊承联合本地华商购置晚晴园,最后将产权交由总商会管理,使新加坡的历史遗产得以保存。此别墅曾是孙中山故居。

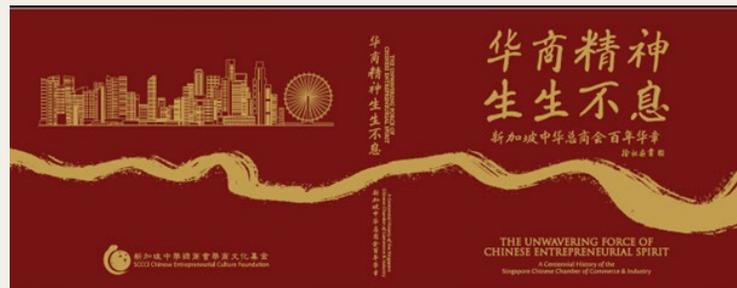
李俊承于1935年荣获海峡殖民地总督颁赐勋章,他也担任永春会馆主席、陇西李氏总会会长、怡和轩主席、同德书报社社长等职务。

Lee Choon Seng (1888-1966) came from Yongchun, Fujian province. He was the founder of the Chinese Commercial Bank Limited.

During his tenure as President, he established the China Relief Fund for Disasters Committee and held a special discussion on the Aliens Ordinance.

In 1937, Lee Choon Seng, together with other Chinese merchants, jointly bought over the Sun Yat Sen Villa and handed the property rights to the Chamber, preserving Singapore's history and heritage. This villa was Sun Yat Sen's former residence.

In 1935, the Governor of the Straits Settlements conferred a medal to him. He also served as the Chairman of the Eng Choon Hway Kuan, President of the Singapore Lee Clan Association, Chairman of the Ee Hoe Hean Club and President of the United Chinese Library.



LCS and SCCCI (1931-1933)

中華民國二十年三月十日星期二開第十八屆第一次董事會議紀事錄

地點 本會議事廳

時間 下午四時

出席者

李俊承 林秉祥 楊繼文 吳勝鵬 李金賜 李振殿 陳贊朋
蔡嘉種 林茂已 林慶年 黃有淵 曾紀宸 蔡克諧 李書前
告假者

楊書典 謝天福 林金殿 蔡多華 陳源泉

缺席者

胡文虎 葉玉堆 陳煦士 羅承德 黃兆珪 盧浩川 苗芹生
周瑞麟 林樹森 藍偉烈 陳開國 夏臨尹 林世魁 湯湘霖
主席 李俊承君 紀錄 林清承

報告事項

在未討論之先蔡君克諧取得主席同意起云前屆兩會長連任為

席以此鉅費未便代表本會承認最後解決由該航業公司函
請當地政府邦助如未獲允即請本會邦助倘本會亦仍未許
所請則該航業公司開會討論

四副會長楊繼文起云本會前總理廖正興先生於前日在屬
仙遊廖君平日對於本會勞績甚偉應如何表示請眾討論

主席起云廖君正興不特為本會前屆總理且為本會發起創辦人
本會叠次舉辦籌賑廖君廉不踴躍贊助賢勞卓著殊堪欽佩
今聞逝世實應深致哀悼以誌不忘

決議附依例敬送輓軸外會長會董全體定日齊赴喪家公奠並推
諫文泐碑致送藉留紀念

議畢散會已七句鐘

李俊承
楊繼文

Economic aspect: jobs (The Great Depression of 1929)

討論事項

一、討論前期保留案

林氏已起云本席於五個月前函致本會建議由本會呈請當地政府創辦大工廠

安插失業工人一事蒙本會前屆董事會議決議交由委員會審查并予保留
以便今日提出討論竇深感謝市况惡劣生計困難失業衆多狀殊有憫本席
於此實具有兩種感想一因當地政府限制華工入口之後來者日少去者日
多其差率甚鉅二因鑑於一九二九年及一九二五年之工價昂貴若一旦市情翻
轉再開工荒一般商人不免仍受工資之苦所擬呈請創辦之大工廠按地
一千畝凡失業無依者任其到廠別其技能授以工作日給傭金二角以為代價
為失業方面計可以暫維生活為政府方面計地方當得安寧他日若有機會
亦可任彼自謀生路是否有當請俟公決

蔡君克諧起云林君已注意失業工人代謀安插實屬可敬然其所云工
人出口日多若於清如或翻轉無虞僱工價必貴此層建議未免僅為資
本家通惠我僑南來謀生其意斷非注意於日受二角之傭金而失業之
亦多有親朋戚友可予援助設或政府給地千畝任彼傭工自行耕種豈不較佳
目前急務莫如賑所感受之痛苦與向所未見之杉板業(指浮羅勿蘭呢

閣決議通過

三、討論李會董金賜來函稱援助小販問題經華人參事局議決請當地政府
組織委員會本會亦應催促政府早日實現案

李金賜起云援助小販一案在前日華人參事局台開常會時於此案經林
秉祥先生盡量發表且查一九二四年曾有決議請當地政組立委員會延
至今亦尚未成立故該參事局前日決議請仍再催申請本席以本會對此
問題經查援助擬應同時致函政府催促以冀委員會得能早日實現
曾紀宸附議李振殿主張由李金賜主稿李金賜請改由英文組主任
蔡克諧主稿決議一併通過

Humanity support to China

三、陳總領事未函商請本會月借一千元以維領館經費案
當此國家多難之秋領館經費政府未暇顧及致形支絀然照未函

一、討論籌賑救濟中國死傷難民案

主席起立報告開會後即由坐辦宣讀新嘉坡華僑大會委員
會陳主席覆函及同德書報社來函畢

經眾討論僉以外患迫逼禍及腹心無辜小民死亡枕藉國脈垂
危有如累卵我人遠居海外分屬國民天職所在未敢坐視全體
一致決議

一、由本會負責進行

二、定名為新嘉坡中華總商會籌賑中國難民委員會

三、邀請社團各公會各分局各會館各熱心家於本月四日(星期四)

下午七時推派代表一人在本會內參加討論進行辦法

贊成通過

On Education & Culture: Hua Chong High

致廣東暨南學校函一件介紹該校舊生余民魂繼續肄業由 五月十三日

致上海軍事新聞社函一件覆稱「抗日戰史」本會未能代售請交託此間各書局由 四月十六日
致廣東航空學校函一件介紹謝英輝投考肄業請予優待收錄由 五月

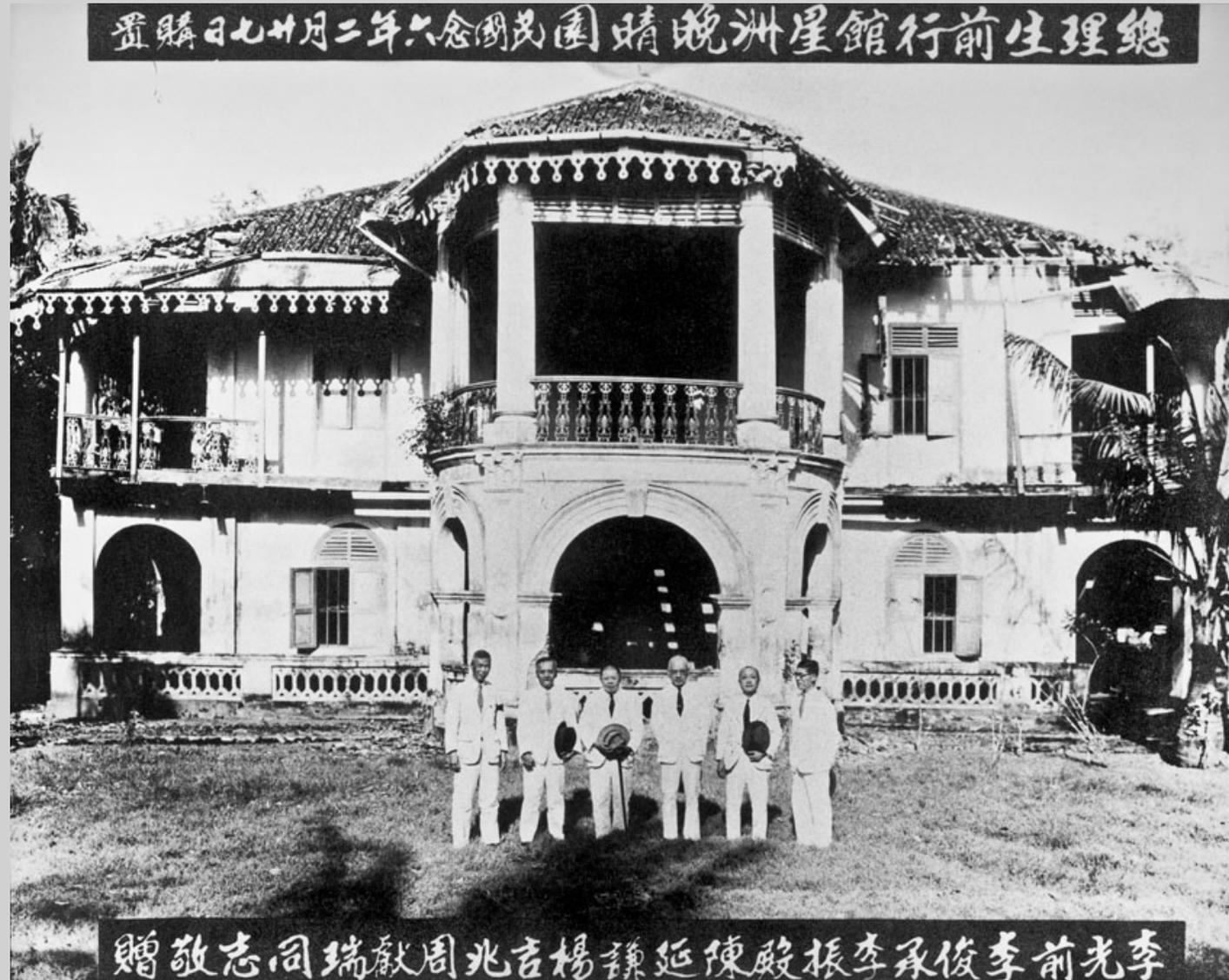
致廣東廣州執信學校函一件介紹本坡南洋女子中學生徐杏欽「華益號徐日裳之女」肄業該校請予收錄由 五月廿日

決議通過
二、主席李俊承提議本會所欠華僑中學月捐現無款可
以應付擬將鄙人前所認之特別捐二千四百元全數交出將此
款先行撥付其餘候本會有款時即行續撥

- 21 March 1919
- 1928-1929
- 1932

The significance of HCH

LCS and Wan Qing Yuan:1937

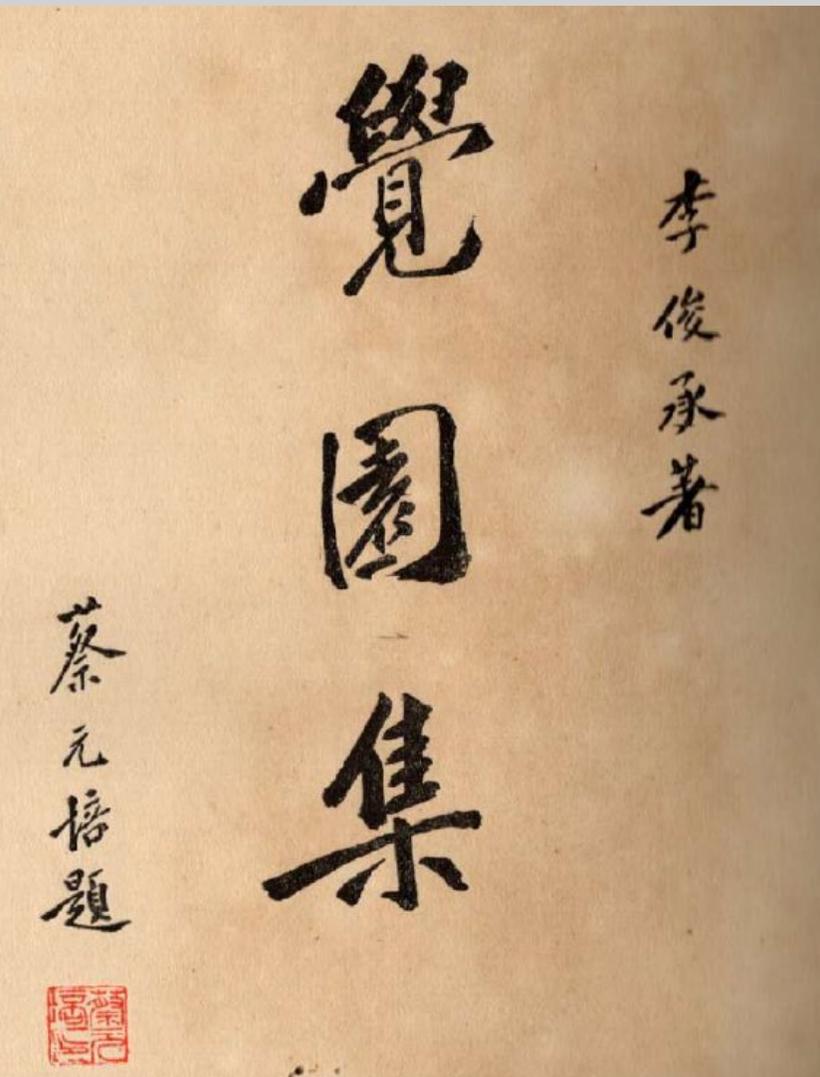


LCS and Wan Qing Yuan:



▲ Painter Xu Bei Hong's sketch of Tan Ean Kiam and Lee Choon Seng, drawn in 1939.

LCS and his poetry collection



覺園圖

濱海林園暑氣微，
優游鷗鷺共忘機。
風來水面翻層浪，
鳥宿枝頭弄夕暉。
往事已隨春夢杳，
閑情怕見落花飛。
心中無限滄桑感，
掃淨唯憑一塵揮。

- The foreword strongly reflects Lee Choon Seng's Buddhist worldview, especially the unity of poetry, meditation, and moral self-cultivation.
- As for myself, though my life has been filled with responsibilities and external affairs, I have still tried to preserve a measure of inward calm. Even amid danger and hardship, I have been able to steady myself, and this, I believe, is no small debt owed to meditation and poetry.

Modern – Traditional culture



星洲立法院
受章攝影
鳳諾傳明詔，
躬逢禮遇優。
褒章頒法院，
佳話徧星洲。
才拙嗟何補，
名高轉自愁。
何當閑事了，
載筆紀新猷。



歸道圖
夜靜松風響，
悠悠太古音。
澄思通物理，
妙悟契真心。
吾道憑誰寄，
浮生奈老侵。
山堂塵境寂，
孤月伴微吟。

The Singapore Buddhist Lodge 新加坡佛教居士林

It was founded in 1934, funded by 100 philanthropists (including LCS)

It is one of the oldest charities in Singapore, to promote Buddhist education, charitable work (free meals, TCM, professional counselling and advisory services)



17-19 Kim Yam Road

Singapore Buddhist Federation 新加坡佛教总会

On 31 July 1949, LCS invited leaders from Buddhist temples in Singapore to discuss the formation of a federation to unite the Buddhist community.

At the inaugural meeting of the SBF on 12 February 1950 at the Singapore Buddhist Lodge, Lee highlighted five guiding objectives of the SBF —

to promote world peace, propagate the Dharma, expand Buddhist education (Maha Bodhi School/ Manjusri Secondary School), carry out welfare activities, and improve the quality of the Sangha.



59 Lor 24A Geylang

佛教總會昨舉行複選會 李俊承蟬聯主席 將廣播佛學與世界和平

星洲日報 (Sin Chew Jit Poh), 5 March 1952, Page 6

佛教總會昨舉行複選會 李俊承蟬聯主席 將廣播佛學與世界和平

本坡佛教總會，自成立以來，對於佛學，力為提倡。該會除主辦菩提學校外，復應廣播電台之邀請，於每月農曆之初一日十五日在該電台廣播佛學。前次之廣播為「佛學與教育」，「佛學與青年」。本月十日（即農曆十五日），該會廣播題目為「佛學與世界和平」，由宏法部宣傳小組委員會主講。該會於昨日舉行第二屆複選會議，主席李俊承，記錄鄧永千，首由主席宣佈開會理由，繼進行複選，（一）推舉張淑源為監票，黃雅山為唱票，會志遠為記票，選結果，計主席由李俊承居士蟬聯，宏船法師為副主席，總務部莊不唐，宏法部廣洽法師，教育部林師萬，（以上皆連任），財政部張淑源，慈善部鄭古悅，交際部楊添壽，文事部黃西京，各部正主任概由常務委員兼任。並訂本月二十三日（星期日）上午十時舉行新舊職員交卸就職典禮，並召集第一次委員會，推舉各部副主任及幹事與秘書處負責人。至於監察會複選事，因是日出席人數，不足法定，由主席宣佈委託秘書與各監察委員接洽，再訂期複選云。

Poh Ern Shih Singapore 新加坡九华山报恩寺

Established in 1954 by LCS, Poh Ern Shih started off as a modest, single storey temple, and was one of the few Chinese Mahayana temples in Singapore dedicated to the Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva.

The Buddhist temple was built as a memorial to those who lost their lives during the Battle of Pasir Panjang in 1942, villagers as well as Allied and Japanese soldiers. The temple's first abbot, Sumangalo, an American Theravadin monk, was the first Westerner to be appointed abbot of a Buddhist temple in Singapore.

<https://www.pohernshih.sg/>



9 Chwee Chian Road

Crossing boundaries:

- Geographically: China – British Malay
- Different businesses:
- East and West:
- Good relationship with the British government, China and local Chinese community.
- In 1938, Lee Choon Seng made donation to restore a Chinese Temple in Sarnath, India (built in Tang Dynasty): China and India diplomatic ties
- Lived through various eras: Political identity shifting
Qing – Republican – British colonial – Japanese occupation – self governance – Merger – SG independence

MALAYAN CHINESE GIVES INDIAN TEMPLE

The Straits Times, 10 February 1939

MALAYAN CHINESE GIVES INDIAN TEMPLE

THE first Chinese temple to be built by a Chinese in India, a Buddhist structure at Benares, is being built by the generosity of a Malayan Chinese, Mr. Lee Choon Seng. The cost of the building, Rs. 60,000, was given by Mr. Lee as a result of a talk he had with a priest passing through Singapore.

Conclusion: Prosperity with purpose

1. A businessman who saw wealth as responsibility, and gave back to society
2. Beyond a banker: Architect behind OCBC
3. Trusted across dialect and political lines
4. The Confucian merchant-scholar ideal
5. A bridge between commerce, culture (文商关系), humanity and compassion

Conclusion: LCS' legacy

- **A model of values-driven success: making money with a moral compass.**

He treated wealth as a responsibility, not an entitlement—an idea that resonates strongly with younger Singaporeans who care about purpose, ethics, and social impact.

- **Early example of social entrepreneurship**

Long before the term existed, Lee practised what we now call **social entrepreneurship**.

He reinvested business success into education, religious institutions, welfare, and community building.

For young people interested in sustainability, NGOs, or mission-driven work, his life shows that business and social good don't have to be opposites.

- **A bridge-builder in a divided world**

Lee moved comfortably across **commerce, culture, religion, and politics**, and earned trust across dialect groups and institutions.

In today's diverse society, his ability to build consensus and cooperation offers a powerful lesson in leadership.

- **A humane response to trauma and conflict**

His founding of **Poh Ern Shih** after the Japanese Occupation

focused on gratitude, remembrance, and reconciliation rather than anger

speaks directly to modern conversations about healing, mental resilience, and post-conflict memory.

This approach feels especially relevant to younger generations navigating global uncertainty.

- **A reminder of Singapore's early pioneers**

A community leader who shaped civil society from the ground up.

His story helps younger Singaporeans see that nation-building also came from merchants, volunteers, and cultural leaders

\$32,000 FOR RAID RELIEF

The Straits Budget, 9 January 1941, Page 18

\$32,000 FOR RAID RELIEF

Chinese Effort In Singapore

THE handsome amount of \$32,000 has been contributed to the Lord Mayor of London's Air Raid Relief Fund as a result of the special effort made by the China Relief Fund Committee of Singapore on Dec. 7.

This sum was made up of the gross proceeds of the sales of entertainment tickets, flowers and flags, and monetary contributions. Entertainment tickets produced \$15,670, and flowers and flags \$12,257, while money gifts totalled \$3,983 and a contribution of \$339 came from China Relief Fund Committee of Lembing.

Mr. Lee Choon Seng, acting chairman of the China Relief Fund Committee of Singapore, forwarded the total sum to the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, to be transmitted to the Chartered Bank for the account of the Lord Mayor's Fund.

Acknowledging receipt, the Secretary for Chinese Affairs informed Mr. Lee Choon Seng that the correspondence had been forwarded to the Colonial Secretary for his perusal, and added:



Mr. Lee Choon Seng, acting chairman of the committee which organised the collection of \$32,000 from Chinese in Singapore for air raid relief in London.

Appeal To Make Vesak Day Holiday

Malaya Tribune, 2 May 1950, Page 8

An appeal to the Government, on behalf of the Buddhist community of Singapore, for a public holiday on Vesak day, was made by Mr. Lee Choon Seng at the public meeting of Buddhists held at the Victoria Memorial Hall yesterday in celebration of the Vesak, the birthday of Lord Buddha 2,500 years ago.

The meeting was attended by Buddhists of various communities and was addressed by Ven. Fa Fang, Ven. M. M. Mhaweera Thera, Ven. Sek Hong Choon, Mr. Lee Choon Seng and Mr. M. Saravanamuttu, the Ceylon Commissioner in Malaya.

The Vesak day was observed at the Outram Road Buddhist temple last night with "Buddha Pooja" when hundreds of Sinhalese and Chinese Buddhist men, women and children offered their prayers. There was the usual offering of flowers, chanting of Sutras and Buddhist hymns.

\$10,000 GIFT TO VARSITY FUND

The Straits Times, 16 July 1949, Page 1

\$10,000 GIFT TO VARSITY FUND

THE University of Malaya Endowment Fund yesterday received a donation of \$10,000 from Mr. Lee Choon Seng, of Singapore. The Fund now totals more than \$350,000—\$147,761.64 has already been received and another \$206,000 has been promised.

星李俊承慨捐泛馬永春聯會獎學金五千元

南洋商報 (Nanyang Siang Pau), 21 October 1960, Page 11

星李俊承慨捐泛馬永春聯會獎學金五千元

吉隆坡訊：泛馬永春聯會獎學金委員會主席李延禧，昨接獲星李俊承君慨捐獎學金五千元。該會于昨日下午，特由主席李延禧致函謝。

Leading S'ore banker Lee dies at 82

The Straits Times, 6 June 1966, Page 5

Leading S'pore banker Lee dies at 82



SINGAPORE, Sun. — Mr. Lee Choon Seng, chairman of the board of directors of the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, died here early this morning at his Pasir Panjang Road home. He was 82.

He took over the chairmanship from Dato Lee Kong Chian on his retirement.

A well-known banker, Mr. Lee was also chairman and director of several companies. He was a member of the Nanyang University Council, but resigned

in 1964 due to old age.

Mr. Lee was an active member of the Singapore Buddhist Federation and a former president.

He leaves two wives, six sons, nine daughters, five sons-in-law, six daughters-in-law, 31 grand children and 11 great-grand children.

His eldest son, Mr. Lee Gee Chong, Singapore's "Biscuit King," was kidnapped and murdered in 1960.

The funeral will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday. The cortege will leave his home at 163 Pasir Panjang Road for the Whitley Road cemetery.

覺園詩存

作者：李俊承

和无悶兄見懷元韻

未劫將成讖 哀時盡付詩 十年抱冷戰 一夕挺雄姿
非有安邊策 難攻敵手棋 三軍防突擊 制勝在偏師

二

傅老生花筆 文章燦色絲 吟懷流水澹 風韻古人期
才大心偏細 名高跡自隨 從來明哲士 去住本如痴

和无悶兄

世態年年異 風雲踏雨京 三軍同下令 萬里賦長征
原于新威力 飛彈決死生 若教成大戰 地圻與天崩

二

五字神來筆 無絃發妙音 因之澄俗慮 用以証禪心
芳草隨人遠 清詞寄意深 何時重把臂 沽酒快同斟

和振夏兄寄興元韻

乾坤正氣已銷沉 世事紛紛古又今 老去未能忘結習 詩來更喜得知音
亂離甘載猶看劍 感慨千秋欲碎琴 劫後家山頻入夢 旅愁都付短長吟

又

開卷春風出樹聲 遠山回綠水為平 焚香三讀離諸相 覓海深藏是一情
生佛燈前文字暖 謫仙林下肺肝清 桃源花上如瓊月 自有千秋萬古明

又

福興年增詩亦然 五言渾厚七言圓 湖音屢自獅洲播 妙句早從鶴嶼傳
春到覺園生意滿 靈通禪苑俗塵蠲 平章風月今餘幾 久信青蓮是謫仙

寄贈覺園

余承堯

寶鏡寅清自省躬 溫文敦重雅流風 無偏無黨無隨激 有守有為有淡沖
松柏山中看獨秀 烟霞世外見交融 薺莊前穆雲光下 玉面方瞳難老翁

二

潤屋潤身蓋一州 慈能果勇險能謀 萬端網紀拈花笑 百道根源坐石修
冠歲暗香梅有格 拂雲高節竹無求 碧山紅樹窮幽處 玉版談禪可自由

三

道貴丘園日載中 綠陰杖下翠橫空 萬方因慮情懷切 十首豪吟詩律工
墳典老耽連存讀 修禪壯副治家衷 平生意念言方軌 如月光圓出灑穹

張幼詩

- Academia
- Commerce
- Literary Arts
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- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts

Thank you!

Q & A



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Programme: LCS
Date: 11 Feb 2026
Time: 2pm

Thank You!

For more enquiries, reach out to us.



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askalib@nus.edu.sg