GALLERY 2



TONG MENG HUI IN SINGAPORE AND NANYANG

In the early 20th century, Dr. Sun Yat Sen chose Singapore as his overseas revolutionary base as he was attracted by its strategic location at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, advanced infrastructure, large Chinese population and the intermingling of Eastern and Western influences here. Wan Qing Yuan thus became an important command post for his revolutionary activities. This villa was where the Tong Meng Hui (Chinese Revolutionary Alliance) Singapore Branch was established. It was also the place where several influential Chinese figures and Southeast Asian revolutionaries planned, raised funds for and directed uprisings in China.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen started a newspaper to serve as the mouthpiece of the revolutionary movement, advocated the setting up of reading clubs, and organised public lectures and opera performances to generate publicity for the revolution, as well as to garner support overseas. After several branches of the Tong Meng Hui had been established in the region, he made Wan Qing Yuan the Southeast Asian headquarters of the organisation to better coordinate the planning of revolutionary activities. The Nanyang revolutionaries actively supported the revolution from behind the lines, with some

even heading to China to fight in the frontlines.

Group photograph of Dr. Sun Yat Sen and members of the Tong Meng Hui Singapore Branch at Wan Qing Yuan (late 1905)



Dr. Sun Yat Sen and members of the Tong Meng Hui Singapore Branch took this group photograph at Wan Qing Yuan several days after its establishment.

Front row, from left: Lin Gan Ting, Teo Eng Hock, Tan Chor Lam, Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Yau Lit, Lau Kam Seng and Lim Nee Soon

Back row, from left: Goh Ngo Sow, Teo Bah Tan, Zhang Ji, Chan Lui Ho, Deng Zi Yu, Wong Yew Ting and Teo Peng Kay

Reproduced with permission of National Museum of Singapore

Sun Yat Sen's Living Quarters in Wan Qing Yuan

Dr. Sun Yat Sen travelled to Singapore for a total of nine times from 1900 to 1911. Out of these nine visits, he stayed in Wan Qing Yuan on four occasions. Have you ever wondered how Dr. Sun spent his time when he was staying at Wan Qing Yuan?

Teo Eng Hock penned his recollections about Dr. Sun's stays in Wan Qing Yuan in his 1933 publication *Nanyang and the Founding of the Republic*. Look around this room, which used to be Dr. Sun's bedroom, to find out more about his daily life at Wan Qing Yuan.



Political Inclinations of the Local Chinese Community

Singapore's development as a free port in the 19th century led to the increased flow of goods and people, as well as information and ideas. The Chinese population in Singapore grew in size and economic strength. There were also many in the middle and upper classes (including the English-educated Straits Chinese and new immigrants) who were concerned about social issues and worked actively to effect change. Different political forces such as the British colonial government, the Qing government, reformist groups and revolutionary organisations all hoped to win the support of the local Chinese community.

Chinese Newspapers and the Dissemination of Ideas

Newspapers were an important publicity channel for both the revolutionaries and reformists. They published newspapers such as *Chong Shing Yit Pao* and *The Union Times*, to serve as their propaganda mouthpieces and to garner the support of the local Chinese.

Dr. Sun Yat Sen and His Revolutionary Comrades

Following the establishment of the Tong Meng Hui Singapore Branch, other branches were also formed successively in the region. Revolutionaries from Southeast Asia, China, Hong Kong, and Japan worked with Dr. Sun Yat Sen at Wan Qing Yuan to plot uprisings against the Qing government. The Chaozhou Huanggang Uprising of 1907 (May 1907), Zhennanguan Uprising in Guangxi (December 1907) and the Hekou Uprising in Yunnan (April 1908) were planned and directed from Wan Qing Yuan.

Embroidery with images of flags designed by Dr. Sun Yat Sen (circa 1906)

During Dr. Sun Yat Sen's sojourn at Wan Qing Yuan in 1906, he held discussions with local Tong Meng Hui members regarding a representative flag design for their party. He created four designs based on the "White Sun in Blue Sky" emblem of the Xing Zhong Hui. One of them was to become the "Blue Sky, White Sun, and Red Earth" design that would be adopted by the Nationalist government as its national flag after 1928. Tan Sok Jee, the wife of Teo Eng Hock, embroidered the four flags and the Liberty Bell with the Chinese words which mean "Long Live the People" at the base. Dr. Sun frequently took the time to admire this embroidery hung in Wan Qing Yuan. The original embroidery was destroyed during World War II and this replica was reproduced based on the image published in Teo Eng Hock's memoir.



Reproduced by Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall

Record on Tong Meng Hui Singapore Branch by Lim Nee Soon (1928)

This book, which recorded the activities of the revolutionaries in Singapore, was compiled by Lim Nee Soon in 1928.

Reproduced with permission of Xiamen University Library

Enlightening the Masses and Advocating Revolutionary Ideals

One important role played by the Tong Meng Hui Singapore Branch (later the Southeast Asian headquarters of the Tong Meng Hui) was to advocate revolutionary ideals through various means and garner support from the overseas Chinese. These activities included publishing newspapers and books, establishing reading clubs, staging opera performances and organising public lectures.

単 民国 一 同 志 先 生 年 余 総 紀		馬利 職山 副職 教授 約 約 約 約 約 約 約 約 約 約 約 約 約	作切 霍輝: 稲 方亭: 錄淡文:	竹秋氏 愛羅雷調 張李周王 是漢之間	税 伯 先 吉 清 24 18 法 安 平 第 次 陳 蔡 平 1 子 於 赤 南 雪	5林許林擁擁武計署子) 前柏鏡順式計署子) 今荒軒秋鮮烈同秋姿3 計丘陳張囊陳劉陳怒3 【開信請数芸波長古。	5 夢哭七猿な心幹!!! 総裁之間に田原族変」 株字孫郎柯葉葉虚智!	增金子子表水素 医碧瑜编照照着
		有薪漏運下,資貯萬利聯款, 上以面別頭釘時,北級機概縣 門 別 部 山 湯	電輝: 11 加力率: 錄演文:	愛媛 医 留 張 李 周 王 是 漢 之 同	建酸速度+ 那就腺囊中 子外脉菌量	> 並軒秋鮮烈目秋姿。 > 主陳要葉陳劉陳怒。	2. 魏之昭如田阜鼓燮) 兵李孫郎何葉葉虛留(庭芽瑜编照稿4 附质植物建始的
		・ 育町高明路収・ 町町 一部 山 部町 一部 山 部町 一部 山 部町 一部 山 部町 一部 山 二部 一部	稲 力学: 錄送文:	報 字 周 王 是 漢 之 同	那沈康泰(子录詠南)	注除根葉陳劉陳怒(6.李瑀题柯葉葉盧 留	附资植场建造土
- + 人 +		・ 育町高明路収・ 町町 一部	錄演文	是漢之間	子祭詠南景			
同志光生 調 来 ※ 総		1 载 约 沿	錄演文	是漢之間	子祭詠南景			
80		1 载 约 沿						
80		1 载 约 沿	1		課館商会社	#虎游士仁生苔生饱。		
80		1 载 约 沿					A REAL AND A REAL AND A	Ab an Be (2 10 1 3
80			-	何何遵六	石牌线数系	¥方朝安王符沈価何3	以 市学院院员中打工	as at ser in man
		育康政之, 及	1 40.1	仲庸子郎		日頃雲仁士愛暖婆子#	8子玉夷文-子用竹	武輝 资格消费
		之,藏山	103	英基础站	10 M IS 10 3	E轉於前先開劳史因目		65 1K 23 18 18 19 19
2								
H			111	联联关系	英周拉头 演	· 播中华水华丘滨村主		武王枫福案 章
将沈林許直接	國並何本朝	魚本日四	14.1	电信息记	11 # 2 3 1	· 完整续景思器计内系	长 前志福尤尤之杀灭	影寸個版作示!
德教裕子高粱	【肥具心骚七	川方 一時		相天實關	建切底容]	11時仁仁雲羽雕松成3	F波罩充缩就攀航版:	享并初支西坡 :
九腿成麟向扶	正有田花鄉	111						
		寬同 古楊	3	胡沈陳隆	新林郊林市	》丘陵林許周林鄭黃 雪	资率率何昌蘇部黨俱	正符課俱王記
趙辛李丘祥朝	林林头林并	日秋 #A	1 1	平文文箱	急裕 芳》	化调喜文集就希取清明	教型政治子演術儀景:	续天服很金得;
余 淡 苷 纖 巻 古	f 長天娥子 柏	一一 二	收	用光俊会	大成金布制	自义决度德语法三流的	11 徐溪霸夷忠宗仲忠。	文一期宋靖经;
生卵仁類華語	往住成赛资料							
		山陸る初	H	举论王 E	王淵陳作用	皮資陽余王符列余丘 3	國童汪蘇許醫業吳李	余余吴头洪隆
梁政事资的	5 操头李隆胡	「「「「「「「」」」 「「」」 「」」 「」」 「」」 「」」 「」」 「」		(B) 37	满升书 第1	8.延柳天黄夷国音樂6	使竹聲腳驗說心全容	低果灶芋选;
北樹子仁 8	2. 九市航台国	7 7 . R	-	煤龍音沃	北田田田	1F充雪中光光凝察信,	人酒普新算被查然荣	新成葵安蚕 夏
编纸集曲三	三 棋堂 仁 语 封	即有						
		米市市					化腺腺鞘腺符期王符	旅游监察旅行
	1 A A	調査		建铁天麦	·荣雪尼芬;	化纳膏资量段 立犯	子 金寄检袋少雕日	游型線科子亦1
	a	1 0 ×	- ●	基生一日	宋谱信乐和	自光動性品油電磁明:	学奖夺嘉江華榆延明	梅谢朋谊感艺
	總李李丘符及 余汤時仁願奉告 梁和子仁足 如此常所三	植李李丘谷辉神杨头林养 全活著重要有長天墩子有 化柳仁酮单位点成與多杆 提择本保超厚头李纯道 无聊子仁双无传统行其		人能気が多くは、2010年2月3日、1000年年、1000年、1000年年、1000年年、1000年年、1000年年、1000年年、1000年年、1000年	人能成果的分数温暖的高速。 :	人能或解消性或使用用加速。 有一次的。 大能力的。 和学校的一次的。 在一次的 在一次的。 在一次的 在一次的 在一次的 在一次的 在一次的 在一次的 在一次的 在一次的	人能或解消性或使用用液体。 和 中心 中心 小 小 小 小 小 小 小 小 小 小 小 小 小 小 小 小 小	人 配 節 4 以 起 回 加 通 四 通 四 通 四 元 四 元 四 元 四 元 四 元 四 元 四 元 四

Facade of Lai Chun Yuen (date unknown)

At the beginning of the 20th century, illiteracy rates were fairly high among the Nanyang Chinese. Public speeches and dramas were therefore more effective in communicating revolutionary ideologies to them. Hence, several local Tong Meng Hui members formed drama troupes and performed in Malaya and the Dutch East Indies to spread their revolutionary ideals through operas. The troupes were very popular with the local audiences. Lai Chun Yuen in Chinatown was one of the performance venues.



Reproduced with permission of National Museum of Singapore

THE MARTYRS AS THEY BADE THEIR FINAL FAREWELL

In this space, you will find a small collection of poignant letters written by members of the Tong Meng Hui and revolutionaries who had participated in the Guangzhou Huanghuagang Uprising of 1911 and other uprisings. They include Lin Jue Min's *Letter to My Wife*, Fang Sheng Dong's *Letter to Father*, and also the final words of Nanyang revolutionaries such as Lao Pei, Li Bing Hui and Wen Sheng Cai. These men had joined the frontlines of the revolution knowing that they would pay the ultimate price— their own lives. Like moths drawn to a flame, they set off on a mission of no return, sacrificing their lives for a cause that they believed in.