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MALAY STUDIES  
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A GENERAL SURVEY OF MUSLIM RELIGIOUS  
SCHOOLS IN MALAYA

Academic Exercise in Fulfillment  
of the Requirements of the Honours Degree  
in Malay Studies

By  
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SINGAPORE  
May, 1957.

06 JUN 1995

PERPUSTAKAN  
JABATAN PENGAJIAN MELAYU

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## INTRODUCTION

### A. Purpose

Every year hundreds of Malay boys and girls complete their studies in the religious schools throughout Malaya. The purpose of this study is to discover what kind of institutions these religious schools are, what their teaching methods are and the actual subjects taught to the students.

### B. Scope

The scope of the survey has been inevitably limited by the time and financial resources available. Though aware of these limitations, the writer made every effort to make this study as comprehensive as possible. Moreover, very little research has been done in this field, and therefore written sources available for study are meagre. Within these limitations, the writer has attempted to compile an account, though necessarily based on only a few localities, which will, he hopes, be not untypical of Malaya as a whole. It has been his aim to present the information which he has collected factually and without comment.

### C. Method

The survey was begun in September, 1956, and was carried out in two stages: three weeks in September dealing with the Malay States on the East Coast, and three weeks in December dealing with the States and Settlements on the West Coast. Johore and Singapore were covered in the course of the university term.

The time limit set and the areas involved made it necessary to use questionnaires<sup>1</sup>, especially for those places which are not

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<sup>1</sup> The questionnaire is attached hereto as Appendix XL.

easily accessible. As usual, the sending of questionnaires was not as effective as personal interviews. Four sets of questionnaires were used: one for Presidents of Religious Departments, one for Principals of Religious Schools, one for Ordinary Teachers and one for Students.

In every State, except Negri Sembilan and Johore, the first person to be interviewed was the President of the Religious Department, who then introduced the writer to the Registrar of Religious Schools or to the Inspector of Religious Schools, from whom information was obtained. Accompanied by these officials or with their permission, the writer made visits to various representative types of schools found in each particular State. The principals, a few teachers and students from these schools were also interviewed and, wherever possible, questionnaires were filled in on the spot. Where it was not possible to visit all the schools, questionnaires were sent either through the Religious Departments or direct to the schools concerned.

Other sources include my own experience and interest both as a graduate of a government religious school in Johore and as a participant in various students' conferences dealing with the problems of "Sekolah Ra'ayat", the collective term given to all private Muslim religious schools in Malaya.

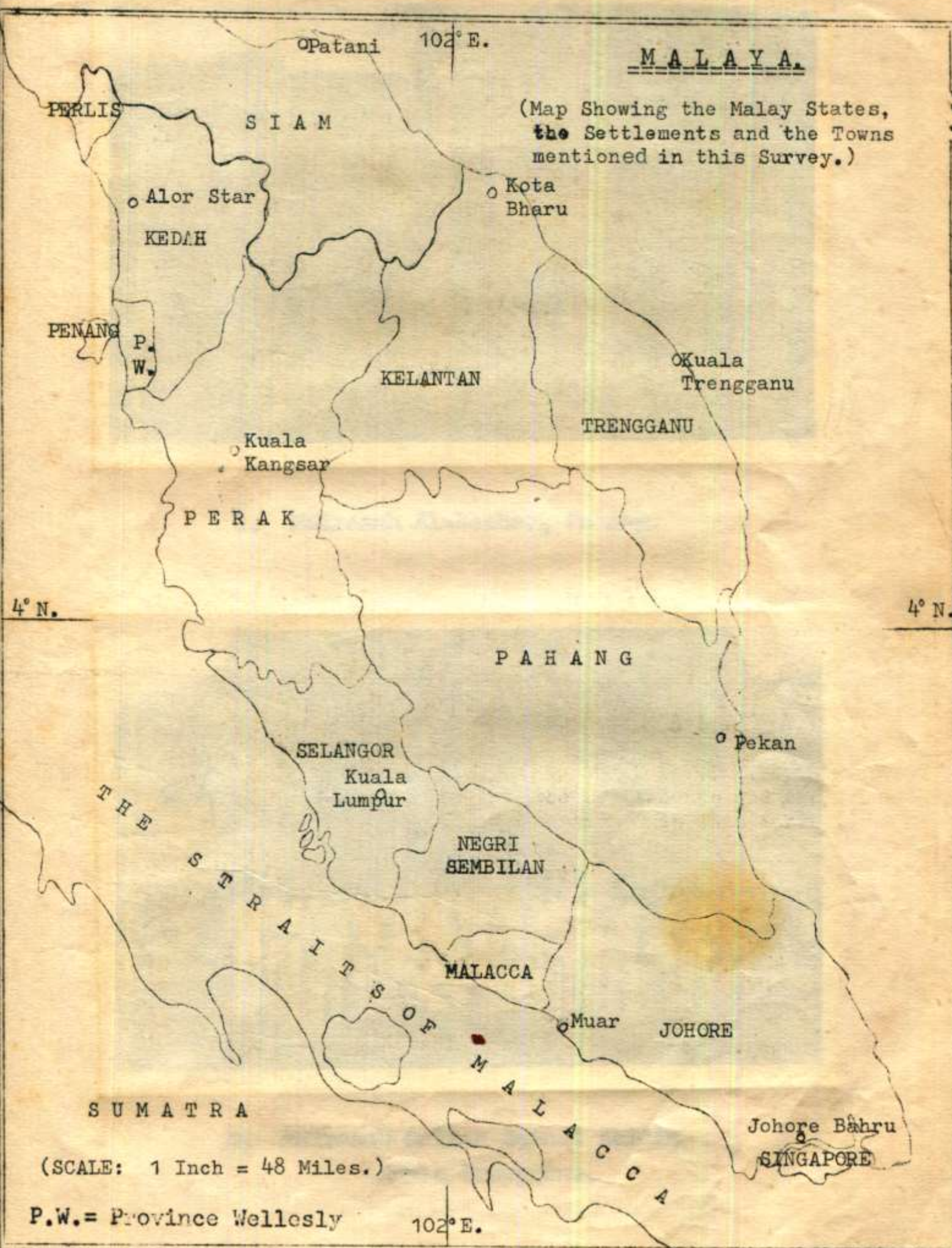
For purposes of comparison and providing historical perspective I have referred to various published sources listed in the bibliography appended hereto.



APPENDIX XII.

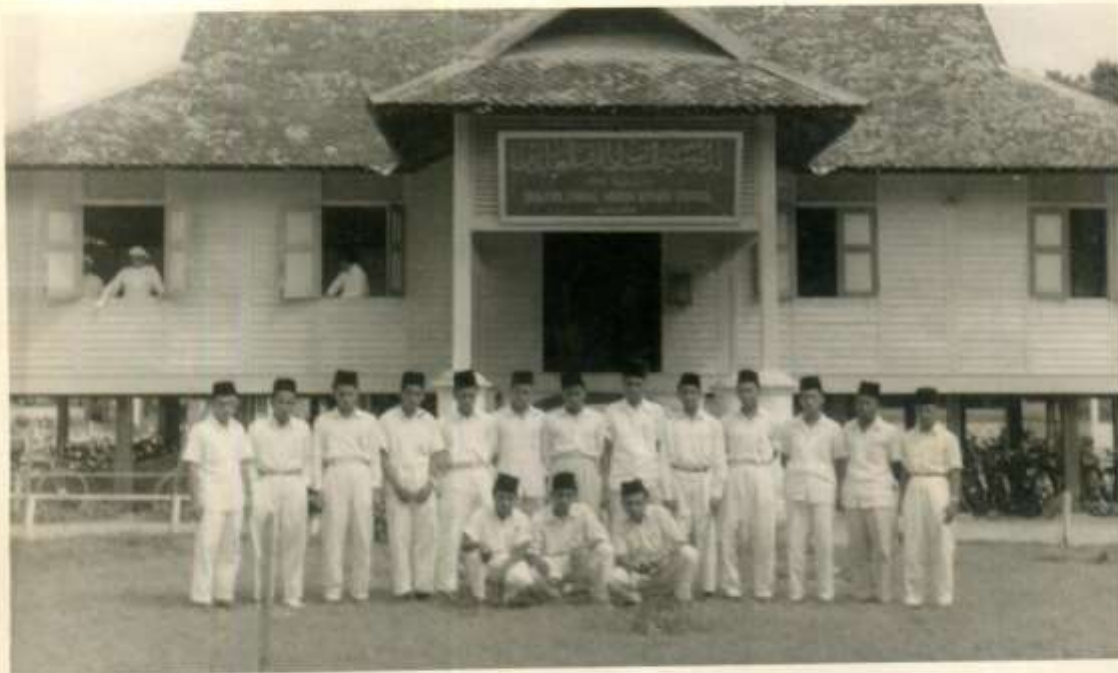
MALAYA.

(Map Showing the Malay States,  
the Settlements and the Towns  
mentioned in this Survey.)





1. Madrasah Al-Mashor, Penang.



2. Madrasah Sultan Zainal Abidin  
Kuala Trengganu.



3. Madrasah Al-'Alawiah, Perlis.



4. Senior Students Of Madrasah Idrisiah,  
Kuala Kangsar.  
(With Their Headmaster and Form Teacher).



5. Classroom - Madrasah Idrisiah



6. Classroom - Madrasah Sultan Zainal Abidin



7. Teachers Of Madrasah Sultan Zainal Abidin



8. Classroom - Madrasah Khairiah, K. Trenggani.



9. Classroom - Madrasah An-Nain lil Barat, K. Bharu.



10. Teachers Of Madrasah An-Nain lil Barat.



13. A Pondok In Perlis



14. Inside A Pondok In Kuala Trengganu



15. The Meeting Place For Pondok Students or  
Tempat Berjumaah.  
Kota Bharu.