

Dr. Ivan Polunin (1920-2010), medical doctor, naturalist and cinematographer

The late Dr. Ivan Polunin (1920-2010) graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from Oxford University. He arrived in Penang in 1948 and later worked at Kuala Lumpur General Hospital. He then joined the Department of Social Medicine and Public Health in the University of Malaya (before it became the Department of Community, Occupational and Family Medicine of the University of Singapore, now the National University of Singapore) from 1952 to 1980. Between 1953 and 1973, he was also commissioned by the BBC to produce documentary films, such as a film on *Jong* sailing in 1960, *Magic in the Hills* on the hill tribes of Malaya in 1973, and television series, including *Adventure*, *Travellers Tales* and *People of Many Lands*.

On 14 December 2012, the Polunin family donated approximately 2,000 pages of manuscripts and published writings to the ISEAS Library for the benefit of future researchers. The Collection contains Dr. Polunin's original research notes and publications during his appointment as a medical lecturer with the University, in countries such as the Philippines, Singapore and Malaysia, from the 1950s to the 1970s.

The ISEAS Library is pleased to announce that starting April selective papers from the collection of the late Dr Ivan Polunin deposited by his family have been digitised and are now available for reference at the Library. More materials will be digitised and progressively released over the next few months.

Topics covered in the papers include: Misc Correspondences, Research and lecture notes during his tenure at Social Medicine & Public Health; University of Malaya (now known as National University of Singapore; studies on diseases (epidemiology), studies on plants, animals and environs, eg. fireflies, mudskippers, mangrove swamps, filming works (1950s-1970s), his publications and readings & references materials he collected.

Interested users can visit the Library to consult them.

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