

## **S. Q. Wong Private Archives (1888-1980), Politician/Entrepreneur**

The S.Q. Wong Private Archives consists of documents of Johore Bahru's Town Planning, events leading to Singapore Traction Company's (STC) strike in 1955, Union's request for wage increase for STC's daily rated workers as well as newspaper clippings on biography and photographs.

S. Q. Wong (or Wong Siew Qui) was a well-known personality in Malaysia and Singapore, a pioneer lawyer, a successful businessman and a community leader. He was the son of Wong Ah Fook, the immigrant carpenter who built palaces for the Sultan of Johor.

S. Q. Wong was born in Singapore on 23 October 1888. He studied at Raffles Institution and later went to Middle Temple (Cambridge University) to study law. He was called to the British Bar in 1910. He later returned to Guangdong China as the Supreme Court Judge. Owing to the uncertainty of the political situation in China, he returned to Singapore to practise law. In 1915, he set up Cooper & Wong Partners but in 1918, he gave up his law practice, and went into business. Despite being a legal consultant to many wealthy businessmen, he still managed to find time for social community work.

His public offices included his appointment as a member of the Johor Council of State and Commissioner. As a member of both the Singapore Municipal Commission and the Johor Council of State, he was a valuable link between the two bodies.

He advocated for Chinese street names to be displayed in Chinese characters on road signs.