



## Kaneko Mitsuharu, Journey to Malay and East India

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*Journey to Malay and East India* is a travelogue of Kaneko Mitsuharu's travels to Singapore, the Malay Peninsula, Java, and Sumatra between the years 1928 and 1932. Chapters of this book consist of eight regions including "Sembrong River," "Batu Pahat," "Pengerang," among others. The nature and the people of these areas are described in great detail, especially the rubber plantation in Johor and the Ishihara mine in Sri Medan.

The landscape of Southeast Asia in the early Showa era differed greatly from the modern developed landscape as we see it today. However, the nature and the people are described with a vivid sense of realism, which enables us to feel their presence. In the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Java, which were under the control of England and the Netherlands, plantation and mine development led to the active migration of Chinese and other peoples. This migration has influenced the ethnic compositions and cultures of these areas, which are prevalent to this day. The accounts of the Japanese people living in these regions during a turbulent time in history should be of great interest to the readers. This is a highly recommended book for anyone interested in Southeast Asia.



### Source:

- Kaneko Mitsuharu, *Journey to Malay and East India* (Tokyo: Chuko Bunko, 2004)

### Related Links

- Yasuda Yasukichi, "Hiroichiro Ishihara and the Stable Supply of Iron Ore," *Japanese Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* Vol.18 No.3, 1998, pp.476-487  
<https://repository.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/dspace/bitstream/2433/56028/1/KJ0000133610.pdf>
- Blown away by Western tradition and civilization, Kaneko Mitsuharu continued to face himself <https://books.bunshun.jp/articles/-/3042>
- The sceneries in Sato Yuji's eyes—from the morning market of Batu Pahat, Malaysia, to the former Japanese Club <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0maGUqtDUK4>