

'The Singapore Straits in the Latter Middle Ages and Early Modern Period (c.13th to 17th Centuries)' by Peter Borschberg *Journal of Asian History*

In this article, Peter Borschberg (Department of History) examines a broad array of primary sources, including diaries, letters, official reports and cartography to reconstruct the different ways in which the Singapore Straits have been represented in both Asian and European language materials. The following fundamental questions have crystallized: Historically, what were the different interpretations of the toponym Singapura? Did the medieval city and polity lend its name to the Straits or was it the other way round? How did medieval and early modern European, Arabic and Chinese sources envision the geographic setting of the Straits? Were these waterways always navigable for blue-water shipping during the middle ages and the early modern period? Why was the ruler of Singapura known as the "Lord of the Strait"? What do these different materials reveal about the region's ancient inhabitants, the orang laut? The reader will find that this article has adduced many hitherto unknown materials, questioned deeply-entrenched assumptions, and unearthed some exciting new perspectives.

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