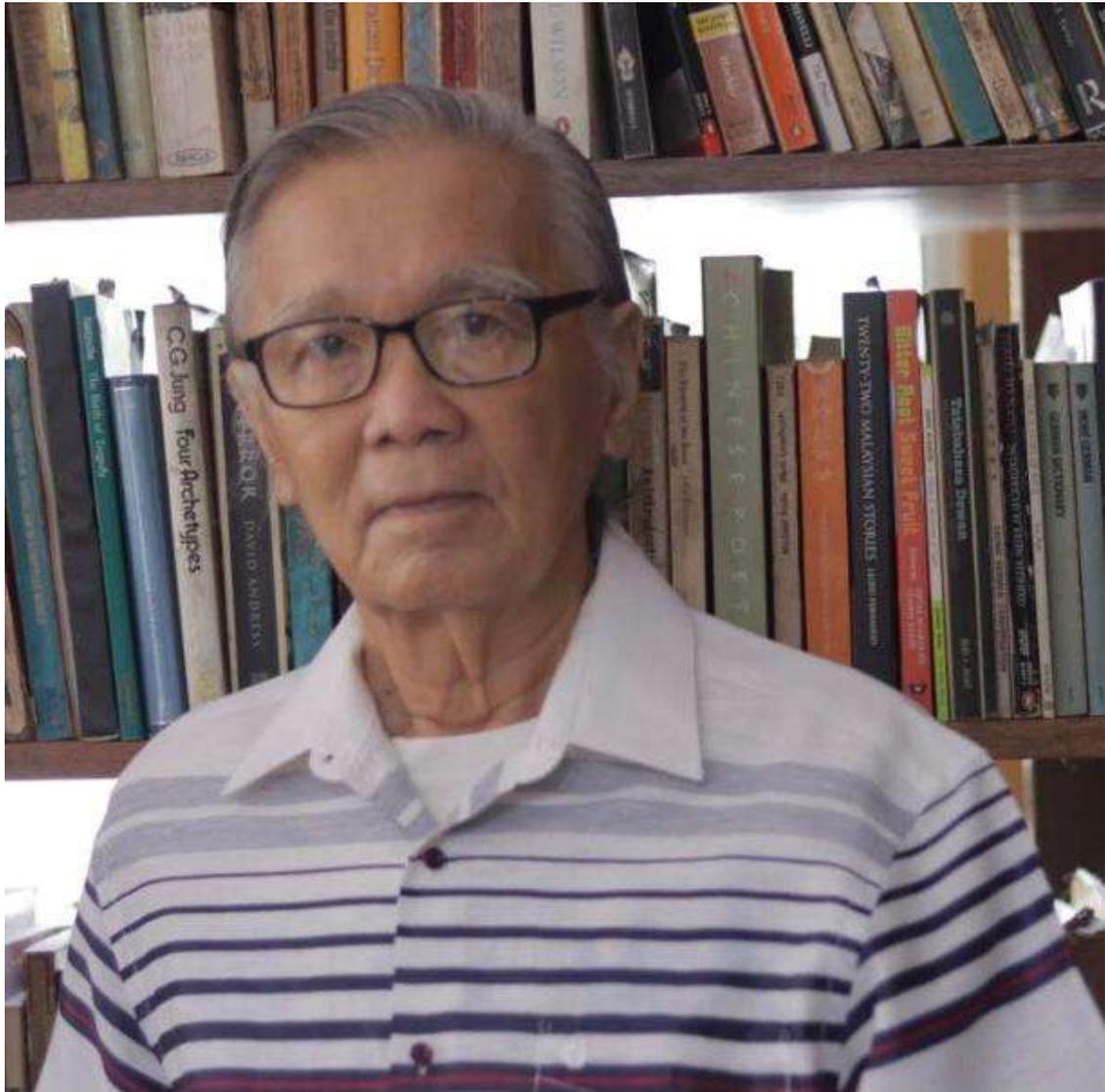


A Special Feature on Wong Phui Nam



Introduction to the Special Feature on Wong Phui Nam

The Editors

The December 2021 issue of *Men Matters Online Journal (MMOJ)* celebrates Wong Phui Nam (b. 1935), the eminent Malaysian poet, whose oeuvre in English spans over six decades. This issue of *MMOJ* includes four previously unpublished poems by Wong and a reworked play, *Anike*, which was first published by Maya Press in 2006.

The first part of this special section presents Wong Phui Nam's introduction to his most celebrated work, *How the Hills Are Distant* (1968, Tenggara). This is followed by Alan Durant's essay, which was first published in Wong's *Ways of Exile* (1993, Skoob Books). Durant examines Wong's poems from the first decade, in the light of Wong's final sentence in his 1968 introduction of *How the Hills Are Distant*. The third text in this section is an essay by Wong himself, which was also published in *Ways of Exile* (1993). It articulates his views on Malaysian poetry in English. The final article in this section is by the late KS Maniam – the introduction to Wong's anthology *An Acre of Day's Glass* (2006, Maya Press). It provides an insightful overview of Wong's poems, from *How the Hills Are Distant* (1968) to *Against the Wilderness* (2000). These are important texts from books which are presently out of print, now made easily accessible to contemporary readers.

The second part of this special section consists of tributes to Wong Phui Nam. It starts off with a young Singaporean writer, Daryl Lim Wei Jie, who became acquainted with Wong while editing his collection of poems *The Hidden Papyrus of Hen-Tani* (2019, Blublack Productions). The following two tributes are from Wong's peers and fellow poets – Shirley Geok-lin Lim and Edwin Thumboo.