



Xaverian SCOUTS



A Chronicle by Scouts of St Xavier's Institution
Penang, Malaysia for the past 80 Years

THIS EBOOK *will continue to evolve and improve* its contents over the coming years as more Xaverian Scouts read it and contribute new yarns and memories of their years in uniform at SXI.

You are invited to be a contributing author – email us articles and suggest edits and corrections to what you read in this ebook. We plan to update this ebook annually.

Email your contributions and comments to:

XaverianScouts@gmail.com

This edition of *Xaverian Scouts* comprises recent contributions by Scouts at SXI, yarns by former Xaverian Scouts and articles previously published in the following booklets, school magazines and website:

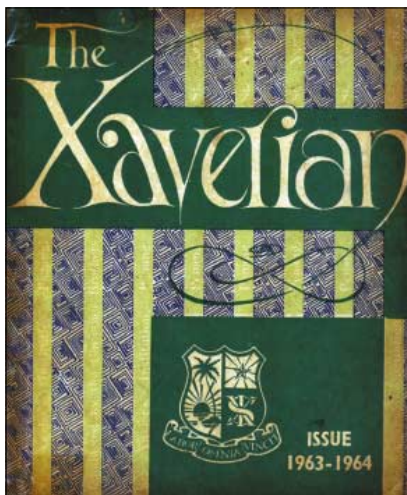
The Seventh

Edited by Kelvin Khoo

This magazine of 7GT(N) was published to chronicle the “six decades of fun, adventure and progress” stretching from 1932 to 1992.



The Xaverian 1963–65 issues



Pesta Pinang-ria '77

Edited by Rover Scout Lee Boon Pin

This booklet marked the “Festival of Joy 1977” that celebrated the 45th anniversary of Scouting at SXI.



Wikipedia



100 Years of World Scouting and 50 Years of Nationhood

The souvenir programme for the Centenary Dinner organized by the Xaverian B-P Guild.



Additional content welcomed from readers

We invite you—the reader of this Ebook—and all former Lasallian Scouts to contribute towards the completion of this chronicle of Scouting at SXI and its sister schools.

We discovered 80 years is a long history to reflect upon and to chronicle. Our efforts over the past 10 years always improved whenever a former Scouter or Scout sent us an old photograph or emailed us a story we had not known about.

This ebook lacks historical content about the Troops which have been disbanded at SXI, and at the La Salle and Assumption Schools.

Contact us if you were previously a member of 1GT(N), 6GT(N), 9GT(N) and 13GT(S.) Former Scouts of 7GT(N) are also invited to share the “history” you were a part of its making.

Email your fellow former Scouts compiling this chronicle at:

XaverianScouts@gmail.com

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Preface

On my honour

This ebook can be read in any order you like. There are seven sections which you are welcomed to download randomly as PDF files and browse. We have assembled this ebook like a large gadget at camp. We had selected solid pieces from here and there over the past decade; then gathered a bunch of reliable friends and lashed the pieces together in the best way we know how.

Older Scouts all remember the intricacies of building gadgets at Coronation and Jubilee Camps. These were the rustic furniture made from bamboo and tree branches lashed together with ropes. The making of gadgets is part skill and part torture. It begins days before camp opens when the Patrol Leaders (PLs) lead their charges up the hills and into the jungle to “chop wood”. The “wood” is brought down the hill and transported on bicycles to secret hiding spots near the campsite. If the stash is successfully hidden, it is happily retrieved at the start of the camp to become the focus of a frenzy of more chopping and knot-tying which eventually transforms them into archways, tables and chairs, shoe racks, clothes drying frames, and even the cross for a grave, as you will see somewhere in this ebook.

Xaverian Scouts is the result of a frenzy similar to building gadgets. It is the result of much searching, chopping and hauling. Then assembled by a large group of loyal friends. Like gadgets, it took a team of committed Scouters and Scouts to first harvest the memories of

Acknowledgements

This book resulted from the combined efforts of many friends and fellow Xaverians of the Scouting Movement across the world. We like to thank everyone who contributed towards this ebook.

We appreciate in particular the efforts and generosity of:

- Scout Master **John Chin Nyet Foke** and Troop Leader **Ong Jin Leong** who set the station game “Help us publish the history of Scouting at SXI” that has taken us 10 years so far to play through less than half of this quarter-century-long game.
- Mr **Peter Wong Tet Phin** for his article on Tan Sri Michael Wong Pow Nee and granting us reproduction rights to rare and valuable historic photographs and material from the Tan Sri Dato’ Wong Pow Nee Family Archive
- **Manickam Murugapan** Assistant Troop Leader (2016) and **Lee Zi Hang** Troop Leader (2016) for the opening chapter on Scouting Today which is vividly illustrated with photographs taken by: **Ahmad Mustapha Rawther, Lim Chiew Tung** and **Clement Lim Shze Yang**
- Dr **Francis Tan** who made available his excellent personal collection of Scout badges from the 1960s and his unique album of photographs taken by him at the First Malaysian Scout Jamboree and the memorabilia he collected during the event
- **Chin Mun Woh** and his creative team at **C-Square Sdn Bhd** for their expertise and many hours of painstaking efforts in scanning and pathing the badges appearing throughout this ebook.
- The editorial team, headed by Mr Kelvin Khoo of *The Seventh* which was published in 1992; many of its insightful articles are republished here
- The **Penang Scout Association** for the reproduction rights to the article on the First Malaysian Jamboree

eight decades of activities, stash them with us, and then return later to help transform them into the readable chapters of text and images you find here.

Like gadget building, this project will never be complete. We are sure there are many important events and chunks of history we have not been able to include in the book because we were not able to forage far enough into those deep recesses of the past when we were chopping wood. Although we were all required to keep logbooks very few of the books survived the passage of time for this publication to cite. The events before 1940s are the haziest in our collective memory. This is due in part to the Second World War that saw St Xavier's Institution (SXI) razed to the ground. Ex-State Commissioner Khoo Heng San remembers that SXI had the distinction "of being bombed twice," so whatever records we had of the early years ran the gauntlet of being razed twice as well.

Gadgets were systematically dismantled at the end of camps, and PLs often made sure that the wood and bamboo were hidden again in a stash for a future camp and the remaking of more gadgets. And so it is with this book. We hope that this overly ambitious attempt at lashing down history of the first eight decades will lead to a more successful attempt in the future to peg down a century of Scouting at SXI. So as we wrap-up this incomplete journey into the past we look forward to the future and urge Scouts just now sewing on their Tenderfoot badges to take the pieces making up this book and recycle them into a more complete historical anthology of the future.

We thank all our Scouters and Scouts from the past and present for their contributions to this book.

Many friends and teachers gave generously of their time and energies in this collective effort at preserving the history of Scouting at SXI for posterity. Many of you also entrusted us with your invaluable collections of badges, documents and publications.

There are too many people who have helped us for us to mention individually here. We thank you. You know who you are.

We are particularly grateful to friends who hiked that extra hill when we went out chopping wood.

We are also grateful to all who will spot errors and omissions that do exist in this edition of the ebook. Please correct us and share with us what is missing in this ebook. Just as in a badly pitched tent leaking madly during a stormy night; do remind us (with a hearty laugh) what a damp effort it was and tell us how to pitch it better the next time.

Thank you, SXI Scouts, for having done your best.

Acknowledgements

We appreciate the kindness of:

- Kandersteg **International Scout Centre** situated in the heart of the Swiss Alps for making available the content from its website <http://www.scout.org>
- The very kind **authors and photographers** whose writings and photographic images appear in the book
- **Wikipedia**, the free encyclopedia, and its contributing authors and photographers for the reproduction rights to the article and photographs of Brownsea Island at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brownsea_Island_Scout_camp



PROMISE AND LAW

All members of the Scout Movement are required to adhere to a Scout Promise and a Law reflecting, in language appropriate to the culture and civilization of each National Scout Organization and approved by the World Organization, the principles of Duty to God, Duty to others and Duty to self, and inspired by the Promise and Law conceived by the Founder of the Scout Movement in the following terms:



The Scout Promise

On my honour I promise that I will do my best;
To do my duty to God and the King;
To help other people at all times;
To obey the Scout Law.

Bernard Duffossé



The Scout Law

1. A Scout's honour is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
4. A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout.
5. A Scout is courteous.
6. A Scout is a friend to animals.
7. A Scout obeys orders of his parents, Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster without question.
8. A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.
9. A Scout is thrifty.
10. A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed.

Dear Scouts,

If you have ever seen the play 'Peter Pan' you will remember how the pirate chief was always making his dying speech because he was afraid that possibly when the time came for him to die he might not have time to get it off his chest. It is much the same with me, and so, although I am not at this moment dying, I shall be doing so one of these days and I want to send you a parting word of good-bye.

Remember, it is the last you will ever hear from me, so think it over.

I have had a most happy life and I want each one of you to have as happy a life too.

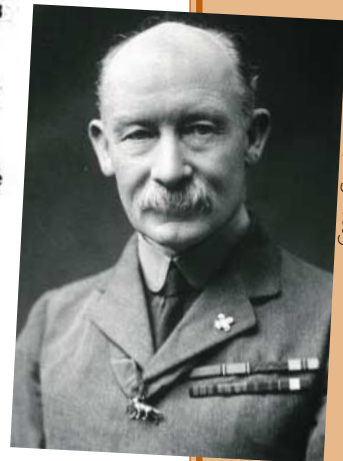
I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness doesn't come from being rich, nor merely from being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence. One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a boy, so that you can be useful and so can enjoy life when you are a man.

Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.

But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best. 'Be Prepared' in this way, to live happy and to die happy - stick to your Scout promise always - even after you have ceased to be a boy - and God help you to do it.

Your Friend,

Robert Baden-Powell



George Grantham Bain Collection

The message is undated but probably was written before 1929 because it was signed "Robert Baden-Powell" instead of "Baden-Powell of Gilwell". Lady Baden-Powell said that this letter, in an envelope addressed "to the Boy Scouts," along with other papers was always carried with them on their travels in an envelope marked "In the event of my death".