

TESIS
(Thesis)



TP00002341



Unit Rujukan & Perkhidmatan Pelanggan
Perpustakaan Tun Abdul Razak
Institut Teknologi MARA
40450 Shah Alam
Selangor Darul Ehsan

SUNGEI MELAKA

the past and present

by:
EMILDA A. NORDIN
architecture 08
89102143

FOTOSTAT TIDAK DIBENARKAN

***To you; mind of no mind, in which
the timeless way was born...***

Christopher Alexander

SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING & SURVEYING
INSTITUT TEKNOLOGI MARA

Name : *EMILDA AHMAD NORDIN*

I/C No. : *A 1784577*

I.T.M. I/C No. : *89102143*

Tutor : *En. AMPAN B. ABD. RAHMAN*

Signature :

Date :

Title : SUNGEI MELAKA : *the past and present*

This is a study on *Sungei Melaka* . The reason why this topic was chosen was because the declining of the Sungei Melaka is becoming more and more pronounced as the days go by. Therefore, based on several studies prior to this one, a summary or compilation of information is done for easier comprehension on this matter.

The scope of this study generally is on the immediate happenings to the river. Among the important aspects covered here are :

- i) The Historical Background of the river.
- ii) The Present State of the river.
- iii) Melakan Arcitecture; which discuss about the architecture of Melaka in general.
- iv) Immediate Surroundings and their Characters.
- v) Culture and Social Activities.
- vi) The proposal of Rejuvenation.

The river should be revamped and revitalised. It has potentials to attract tourists especially with its past glories as the historical background.

This study was prepared in hopes that the generations to come in Melaka will treasure the river and keep it clean. With a cleaner environment, we can help save the earth from being contaminated too much.

acknowledgement

Special credits are due to those without whom this project would be quite impossible to produce.

First and foremost, two of the greatest people in my world, my beloved parents. Thank you both for always standing by me.

Many thanks are due to my project tutor, En. Amran for your valued guidance and criticism in preparing this study.

To the person who had been my source of reference; and had supplied me with endless information and valued opinion, thanks for your time, Azmi.

My sisters; Mas for the help and Marlin for the invaluable use of the Mac SE. You guys are terrific. And also D'Jengo for guiding the tour around the river.

Lastly, to the people whom I have failed to mention. Not being mentioned does not mean you are any less important. Thank you very much.

EMILDA A. NORDIN

preface

Our kinetic environment perpetually shifting with time leaves us full of anxiety while we yearn for serenity and stability. Nostalgically, as we look back in history, time, hence change, moved more slowly, to the point where life itself seemed timeless and place secure.

The harsh, cruel truth is the existence of pollution, poisoning and contaminating the environment. Who is to blame to this situation? Human is the answer. However, it is never too late. We can put a right at the wrongs.

Architecture has the potential within itself to enhance human happiness and provide a sense of well-being. We must study life for the order within and beneath, so as to understand man's humanity beyond nature and culture. However, culture as clue is the fingerprint of man's evolving history and the offspring of his nature.

table of contents

acknowledgement

preface

introduction

0.10 Rivers

0.11 Sungei Melaka

***one* : SUNGEI MELAKA**

1.1 The Historical Background

1.2 The Present

1.3 Difference in Time

***two* : MELAKAN ARCHITECTURE**

2.1 Overall Architecture

2.2 Immediate Spaces and Character

***three* : CULTURE AND SOCIAL ACTIVITY**

3.1 Ethnic Segregation

3.11 *The Malays*

3.12 *The Chinese*

3.13 *The Indians*

3.14 *The 'Others'*

3.2 The Wonder

3.3 Daily Activities

3.31 Port Operation and Administration

3.32 Fishing

3.33 Hawkers and Vendors

3.34 Business

3.35 Beca Rides

3.36 Boat Makings

***four* : HOW IT SHOULD BE**

4.1 The Future of Melaka

4.2 Conservation

4.21 *Sungei Melaka Rejuvenation*

4.22 *Pedestrianization*

4.3 The Summary

***five* : CONCLUSION**

bibliography

introduction

introduction

0.10 Rivers

Rivers - a wide natural stream of water flowing between banks into a lake, into another wider stream, or into the sea.

Water forms 70 % of earth surface. Illiterally, we came from the waters, our bodies are largely of water and water plays a fundamental role in our psychology; it soothes the eyesight and compliments a space. We need constant access to water. Besides for drinking, water is also important in other ways, both in physical and spiritual purposes.

Rivers are natural waterways. Man discovered rivers long before there were towns and cities. No doubt we had sometimes found these rivers a nuisance because they form obstacle to reach some places. However, we must admit that river is an essential element that helps in many ways than one.

Through history of mankind, the earlier settlement was concentrated along rivers for obvious reasons. Then early villages began to grow, some of which have developed into towns.

The concentration of settlement is mostly due to the importance of water supply in life. People need water to do basic activities, for instance; drink, cook, wash and bath.

It also became as a means of transportation whereby walking for a long distance was no longer necessary when rafts were invented. Rivers also provide water for the land besides being used by local farmers for watering fields.

Rivers are a treasure but what are we doing to them now? It is unfortunate that most rivers nowadays has lost these qualities. Most are already badly polluted. The main contribution for such condition is the industry that discharge the toxic waste into the river. Many rivers are dying, becoming lifeless and smelly. Besides that, man also contribute to such state of despair.

Rubbish are thrown into rivers. Human waste are discharged directly into the river. Man has turned their backs to the rivers.

0.11 *Sungei Melaka*

Like other rivers in the world, Sungei Melaka served the people in the most essential ways. The river was the main source of water besides being the main source of transportation.

The difference between this river and others immediate to it was its use for trade and commerce. A port settlement has existed at the mouth of the Sungei Melaka for some six centuries. Its importance to South and East Asia, was most prominent at the end of the first century of its existence.

Since then its status as a port has gradually declined to near oblivion, as external and internal conditions have changed. Only very recently has there been any tangible sign as a possible revival of the port role of Melaka, and the fate of its attempt remains uncertain.

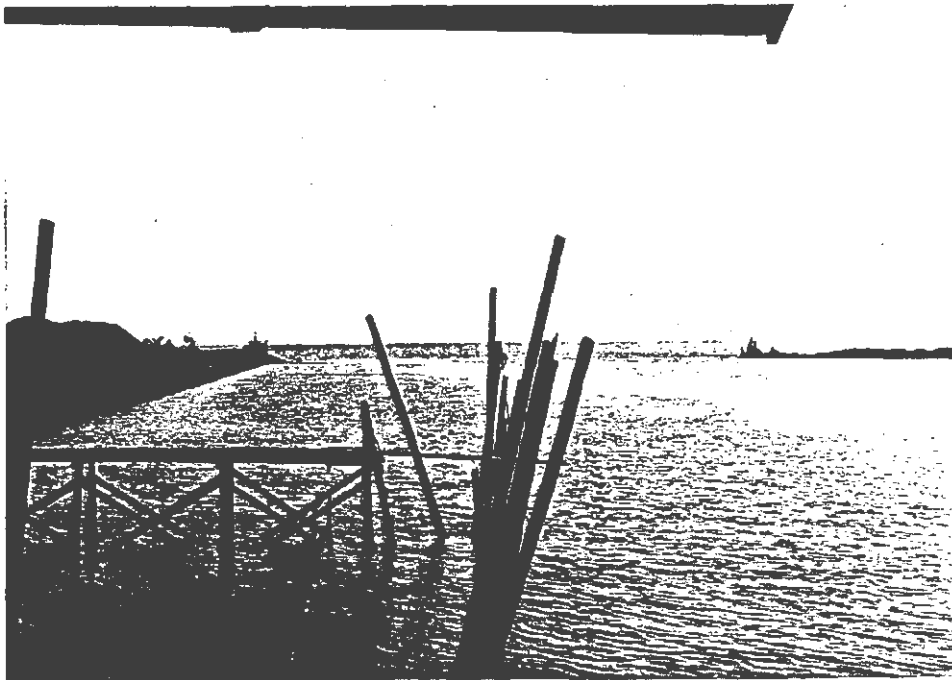
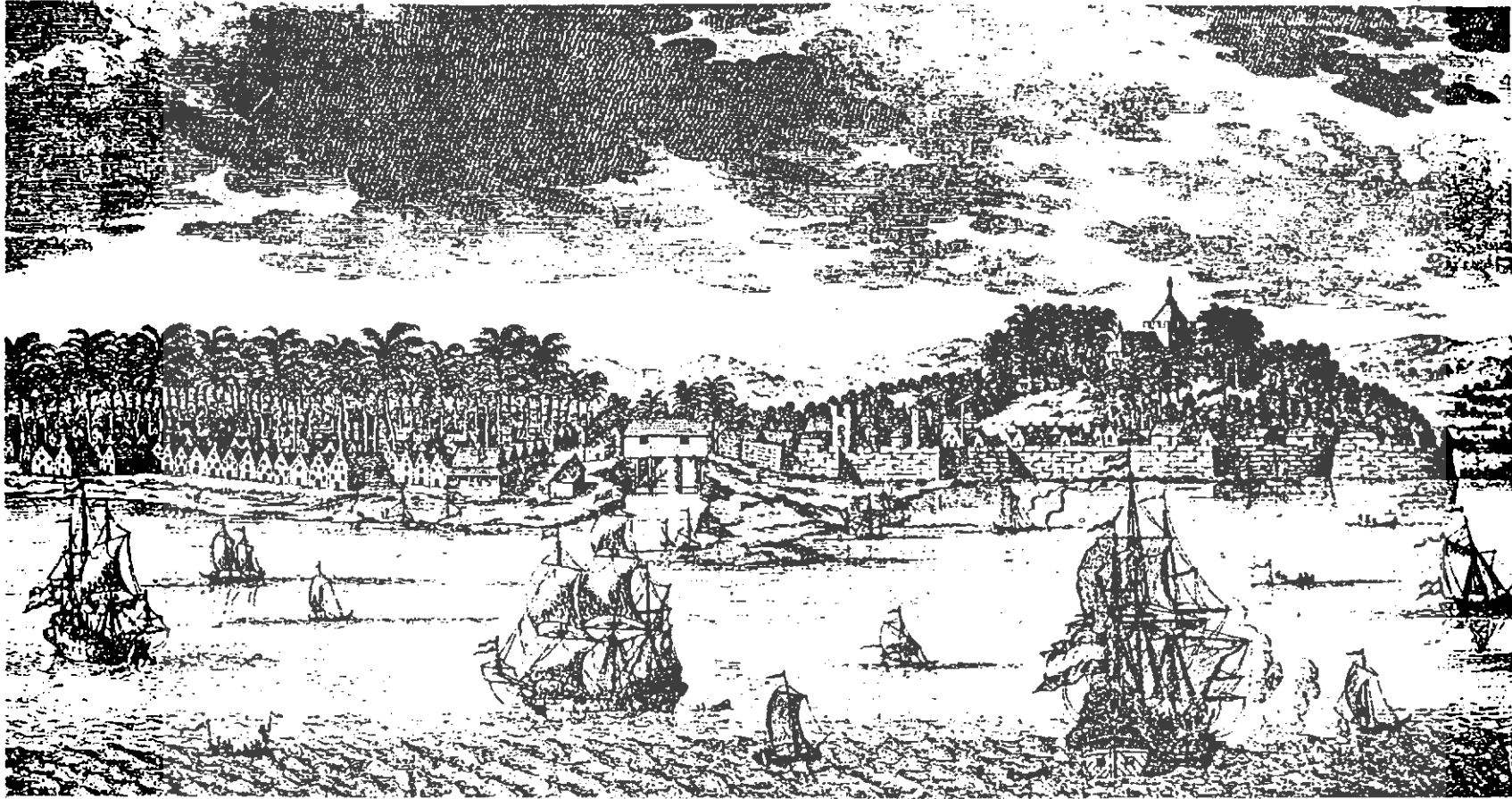


Figure 0.1 *The estuary of Sungei Melaka.*



1. Melaka in about 1720. Detail from a plate in Francis Valentijn's *Oud en nieuw Oost-Indien*, vol. 5 (Dordrecht and Amsterdam, Joannes van Braam and Gerard Onder de Linden, 1726). (Chapter 8: *Melaka under the Dutch*, plate I)

one

one : SUNGEI MELAKA

1.1 *The historical background*

About 600 years ago, the history of a new state began here. It was called Melaka, although the origin of that name seems obscure and ambiguous. In its heyday, it became a great empire stretching from Patani, in the north to Indragiri in Sumatera.

Melaka was a city that was made for merchandise; the end of monsoons and the beginning of others. Melaka is surrounded and lies in the middle, and the trade and commerce between the different nations for a thousand leagues on every hand must come to Melaka.

It is not only the monsoonal circulation that underpinned the strategic primacy of Melaka's location. The configuration of mainland and islands combined with the realities of political power to ensure that, for extended period of history, the Straits of Melaka was the critical sector of the great trade route that stretched from Western Europe to Maluku and Banda. Refer Figure 1.1a, 1.1b and 1.1c.

The estuary of Sungei Melaka was of little account except perhaps for small local vessels, and in any case was obstructed from early times by a bridge thrown across it just inside the mouth, but the sheltered roadstead afforded a safe anchorage of which Albuquerque was to claim "*...never was a ship lost there*."

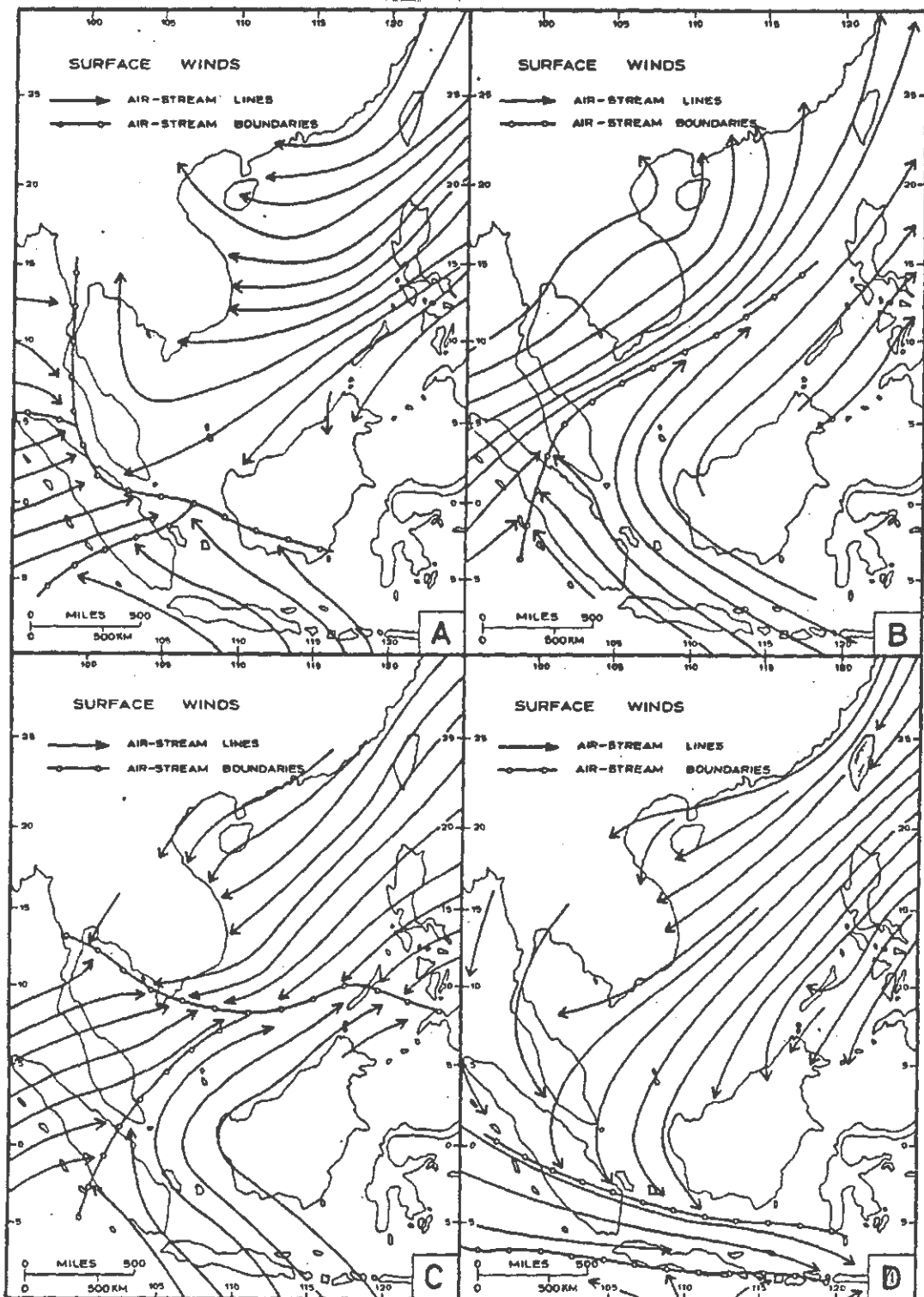


Fig. 1. Surface winds and air-stream boundaries over Southeast Asia in April (A), July (B), October (C) and January (D). From W. L. Dale, 'Wind and drift currents in the South China Sea', *The Malayan Journal of Tropical Geography*, vol. 8 (1956), pp. 11, 14, 17, and 20.

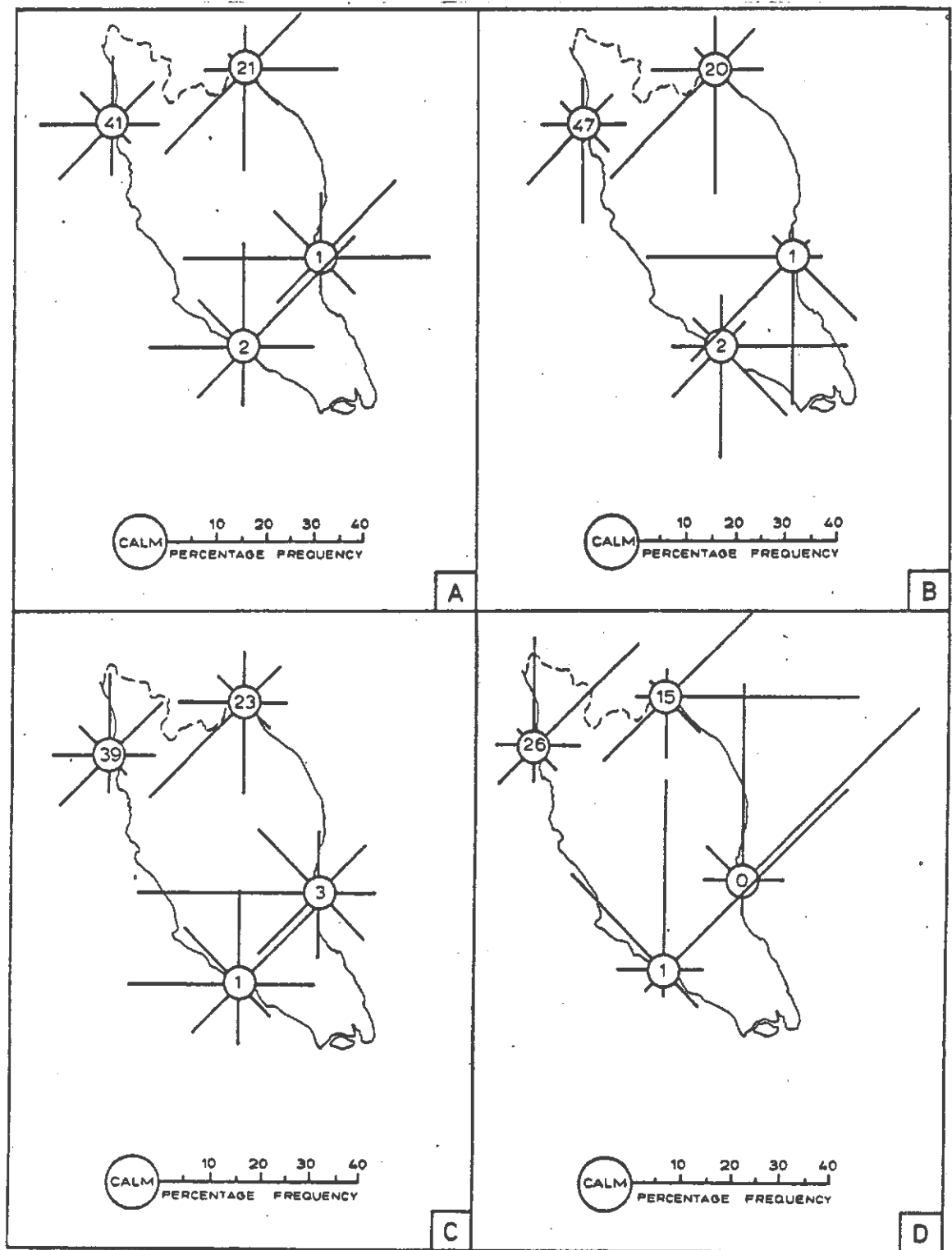
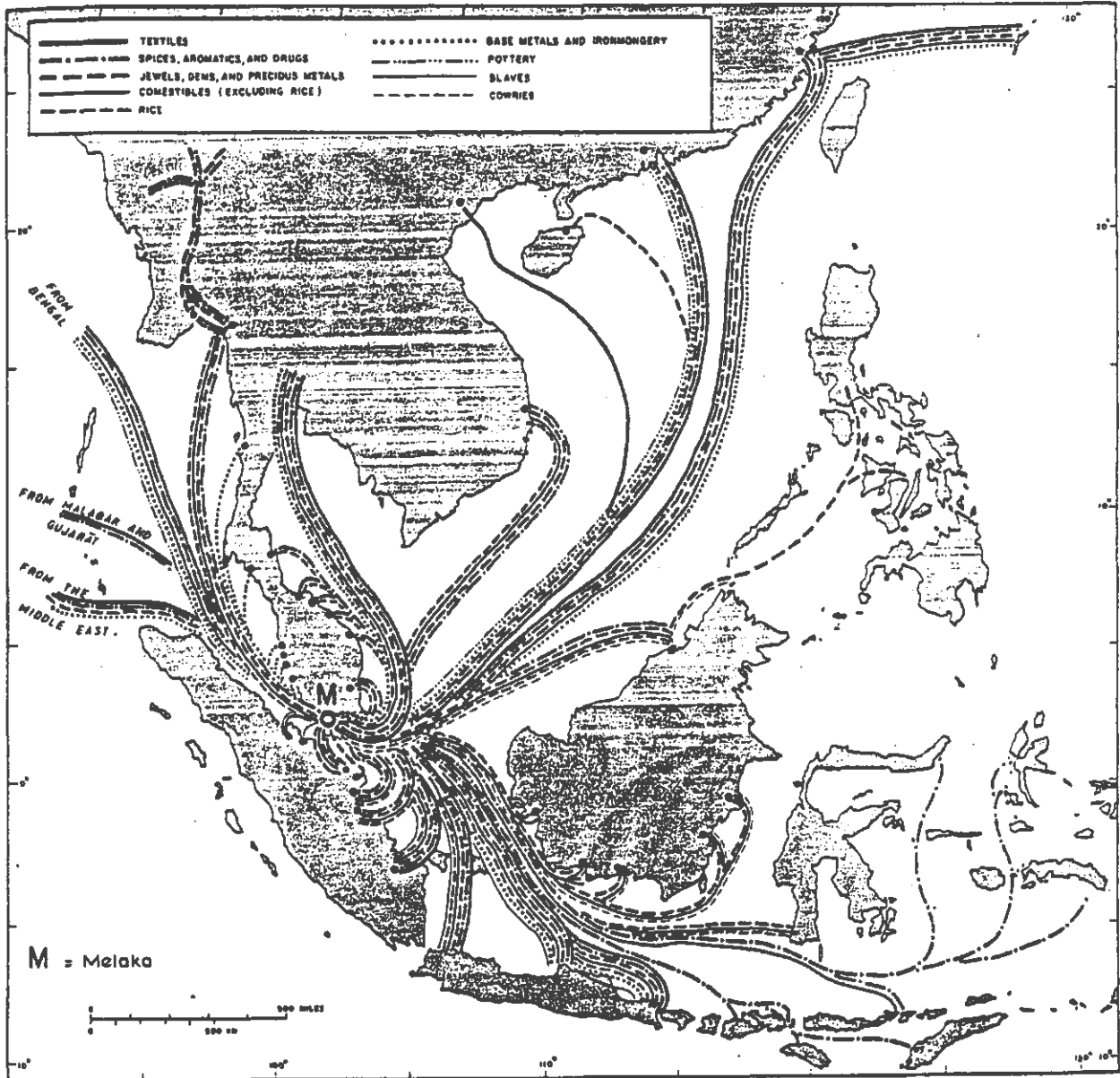


Fig. 2. Percentage frequencies of surface winds over the Malay Peninsula in April (A), July (B), October (C), and January (D). From Ooi Jin Bee, *Peninsular Malaysia* (London, Longman, 1976), pp. 37, 38, 33, and 34.

Fig. 2. Commodities shipped to Melaka towards the end of the fifteenth century. Based largely (though by no means exclusively) on information in the *Suma Oriental*.



Melaka's 'harbour' was 'one of the finest in the Indies, being navigable at all the seasons of the year, a convenience belonging scarce to any other in the Indies.' (1)

Once established, the settlement at the mouth of Sungei Melaka grew rapidly to command the trade between East and West. The pattern of commerce encouraged the establishment of a resident trading community of merchants of diverse origins. From an early date, Melaka's population included Malays (majority), Chinese, Hindus, Bengalis, Gujeratis, Arabs, Persians and Javanese. In the 15th century, the streets of Melaka was as cosmopolitan as those of any contemporary cities.

For at least the first two centuries of its existence, no other port of comparable importance capable of attracting the trade that flowed through Melaka existed anywhere in the near vicinity. The port was fortunate in its unchallenged occupation of a strategic location at a period when it could assemble for exchange goods which were in strong demand over an extensive market area.

Melaka's eminence caused other nations to envy and covet its trade, and the expanding drive of the Portuguese controlled Melaka for some 130 years, but the port's trade never again reached the importance it had attained prior to their arrival.

(1) R.G. Albion (New York, Century Co., 1929)

1.2 *The present*

Sungei Melaka divides the state into two halves. In 1985, the Melaka State Government had stretched the estuary further to the sea by reclaiming 80 acres of land giving the town a new shore line setting back the town square and the original estuary 1 km inwards where the first bridge sits linking the two land sides. It is of a very significant importance.

It bridges two trading places together and link the people and their inherent culture, religion and tradition together. The different communities on each river banks are separated by the natural barrier, which is the river but linked by bridges that became generators to motivate the interaction amongst the people.



Figure 1.2a *The banks are linked by a number of bridges.*

Let us observe what is becoming to the Sungei Melaka. It is so obvious that not many cares much of the river's well being. A rubber factory is consistently polluting the river waters (Figure 1.2b). Kampung Morten, a seemingly disorderly abodes with some kind of social order without any modern sanitary installations and sewerage treatments is also to be blamed (Figure 1.3). There are also shophouses and other buildings along the river and also drain outlets directly into the river (Figure 1.4 and 1.5).

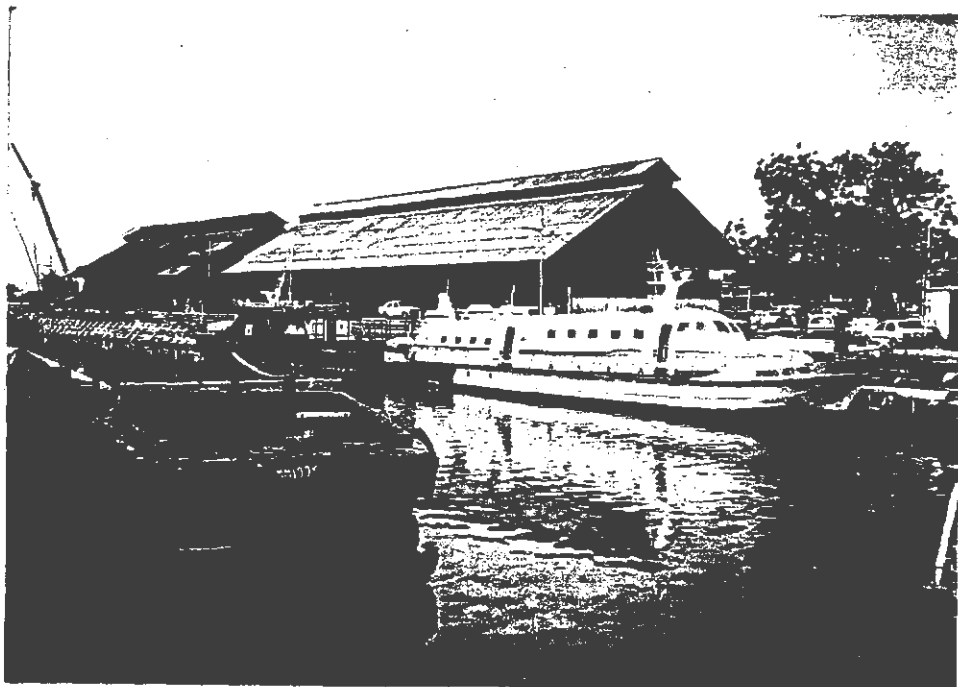


Figure 1.2b *The rubber factory*

*It is consistently polluting the river waters
by its discharged wastes.*

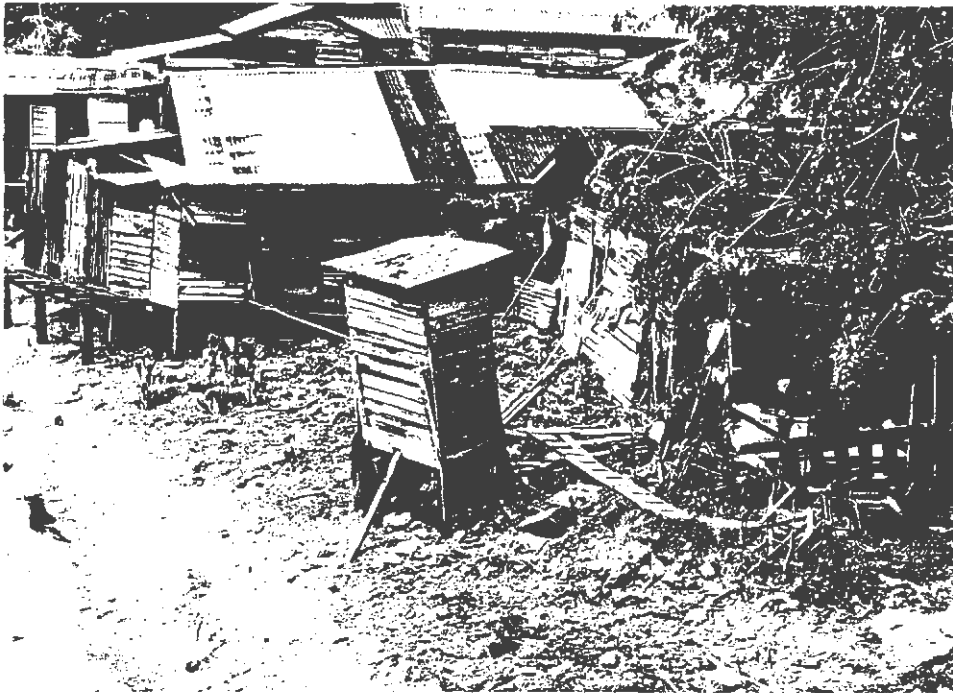


Figure 1.3 *The houses at Kampung Morten.*
No modern sanitary installations and sewerage treatments here.

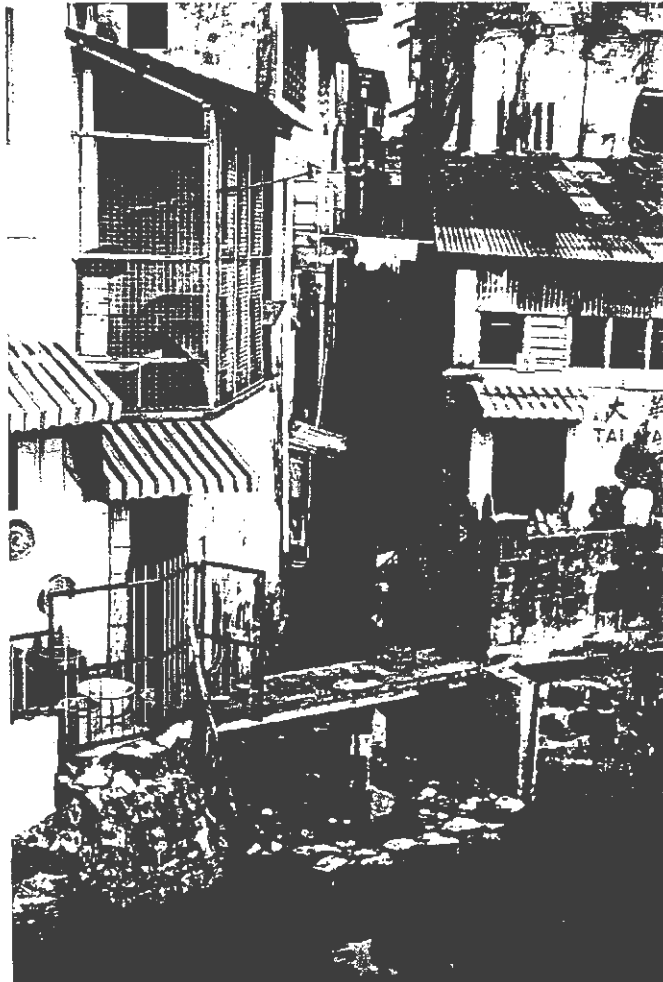


Figure1.4 *Shophouses along Sungei Melaka.*

*The narrow drains between these shophouses
discharge straight to the river.*

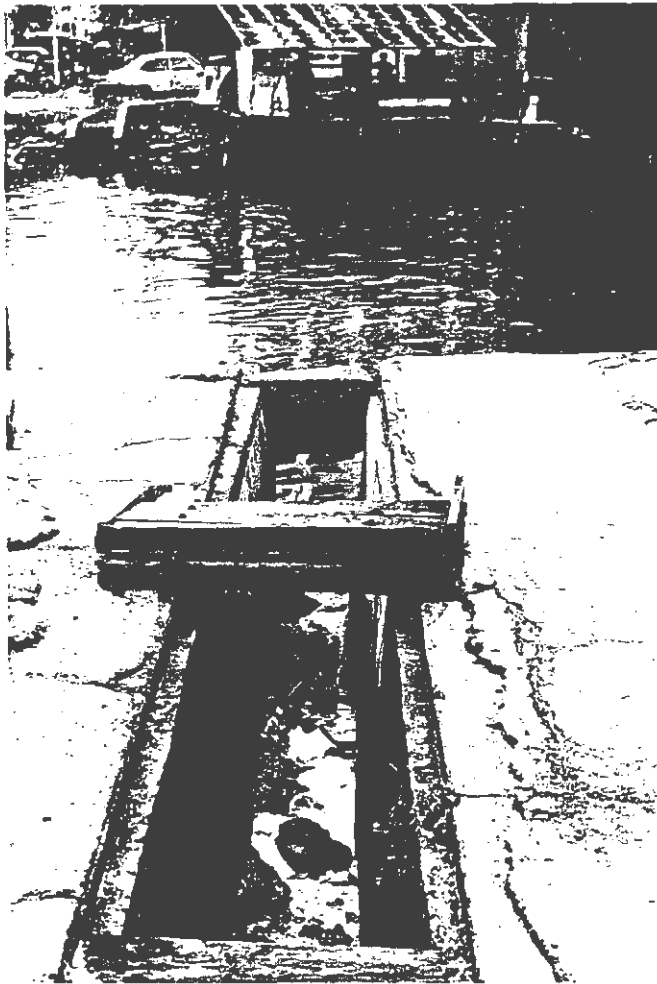


Figure 1.5 *Drain outlets.*

The drain outlets do not only cater rain water discharge but also solid wastes.