



# Singapore Heritage Collection

HAND-PAINTED METAL FIGURINES OF  
CHARACTERS AND SCENES FROM EARLY SINGAPORE



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## A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR COLLECTION

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Miniature Stories is a Singapore-based company that designs and produces figurines about Singapore's history and way of life. We started off with the Singapore Army range, and later expanded into the Singapore Heritage Series.

Singapore's history spans more than two centuries. However, the 1950s to 1970s, which covers the period just before and after Singapore's Independence, is an era especially close to Singaporeans' hearts. Many of these individuals personally lived through these years and witnessed this milestone in our nation's history. It was a period of rapid change in Singapore, both economically and socially.

In a short period of time, many Singaporeans moved from communal *Kampung* style village communities to government-built HDB Flats. Many trades also became obsolete, and others were moved off the streets to designated areas. Buildings were constructed, and mobile street vendors and hawkers were moved to shopping centres.

Though all this change spelled progress for us as a nation, it also meant that the landscape of Singapore was forever changed. As a result, many memories of the old way of life in Singapore are held fondly and reminisced till this day.

Our miniatures serve as a way to remember the past, and for the young to visualise what life was like back then.

For this reason, we pay special attention to ensure the accuracy of each figurine. Each character and design is carefully researched from various sources, such as the National Archives, as well as through conversations with people who lived during that period.

The experience of creating this collection was deeply satisfying and meaningful for us, and we hope that it serves as an enjoyable and nostalgic display piece in your home.

*Caleb and Terra*

Co-Founders of Miniature Stories



# INTRODUCTION

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The history of Singapore began during the 14th - 15th Century, when Sang Nila Utama, a Sumatran prince, established the island as a trading settlement. Fast forward in time to 1819, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles arrived from Britain, negotiated a treaty with existing rulers, and established the British colony of Singapore.

Singapore flourished and grew as a colonial port linking Singapore's trade to both the region and Europe. Economic opportunities attracted waves of migrants who flocked to the newly-opened port, turning Singapore into a cosmopolitan town.



The fall of Singapore in World War II marked the end of colonialism in the region. After the war, self-governance began, and the country gained independence on 9th August 1965.

Now, step back in time with us and relive the memories of early Singapore through our collection of **Singapore Heritage Figurines**. We begin with pieces that depict Singapore from the 1950s to 1970s, capturing aspects of their way of life, and reflecting Singapore's cultural and ethnic diversity through different trades and festivities. The collection also portrays the hard working and self-sacrificing spirit of our early pioneers who forged the way for Singapore's success. Our collection will be ongoing, as we continue to depict scenes from other time periods as well.





## A MELTING POT OF CULTURES

Right from the early days, Singapore was already a multicultural society, with immigrants journeying from all over Asia to live and work here. They were usually dressed in the traditional clothes of their homeland, which reflected their respective ethnicities.



**Chinese Woman  
in Samfoo and  
Little Girl**

Product Code: SH007

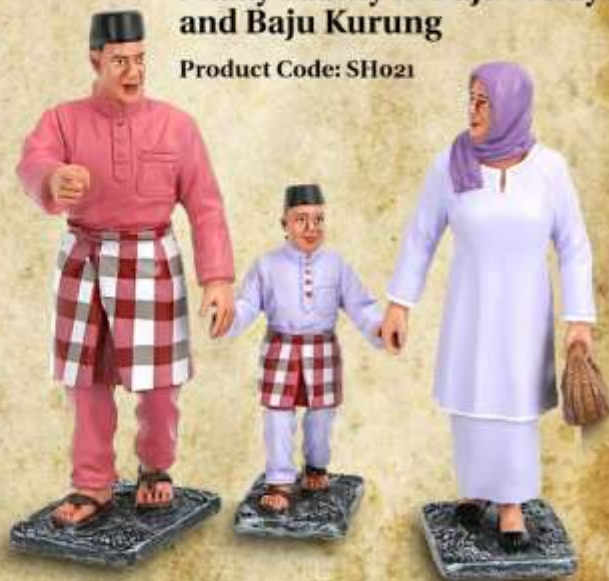
**Malay Family in Baju Melayu  
and Baju Kurung**

Product Code: SH021



**Indian  
Lady in  
Saree**

Product Code:  
SH020





## DIFFERENT SKILLS FROM DIFFERENT LANDS

Along with their unique customs, the immigrants also brought different skills and trades from their native lands, and used them to make a living here. Many of them would ply their trade on the streets, in wet markets, even in alleyways and the five-foot ways beneath shophouses.



**Majie and Little Boy**

Product Code: SH011

**Vegetable Seller with  
Baskets of Produce**

Product Code: SH019



**Chettiar  
Moneylender  
with Pettagam**

Product Code: SH023



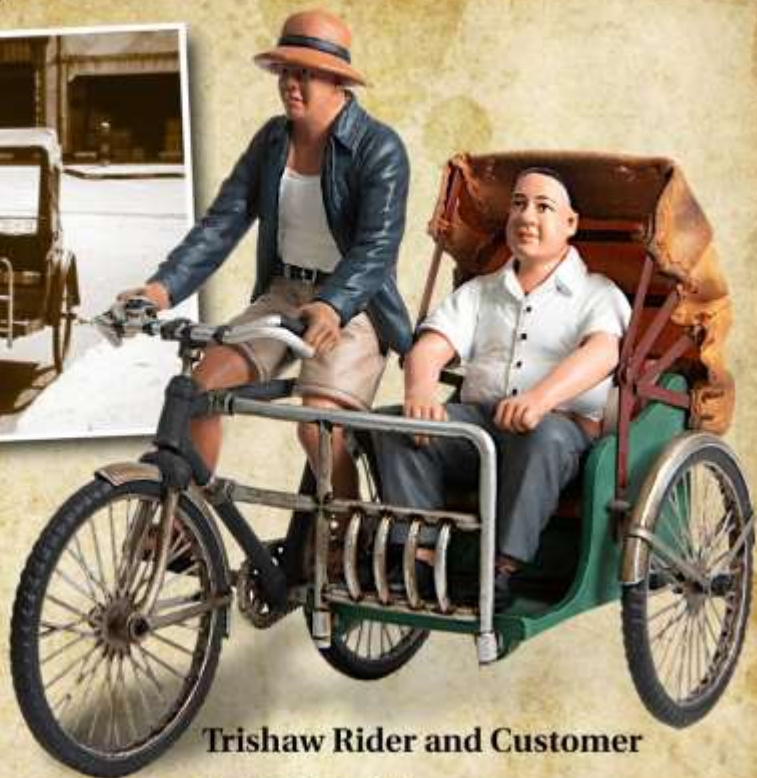
**Chinese Fortune Teller  
and Customer  
with Altar**

Product Code: SH010

Altar is imprinted with  
Chinese characters and filled  
with fortune telling  
paraphernalia







## Trishaw Rider and Customer

Product Code: SH012

Hand-Painted Solid Metal Alloy  
with real cloth

Features: Trishaw hood folds up and down;  
handlebars can rotate; figurines removable





# BUILDING A COUNTRY, BRICK BY BRICK

Life was not very comfortable back then. Jobs were often physically demanding and living conditions were poor. Still, people worked very hard to make an honest living and to provide for their families. Many of them worked long, tiring days and spent little on themselves in order to send money across the shores to their families back home.

## Samsui Woman Clearing Soil; Carrying Bricks; Eating Lunch (Left to Right)

SH002; SH001; SH003



## Sikh Watchman with Charpoy Bed

Product Code SH022



## Man on Smoke Break

Product Code: SA040



## (Left) 1st Generation Singapore Army Soldier

Product Code: SA016

## (Right) 1950s Police Officer

Product Code: SH015



## 1950S CHINATOWN & SHOPHOUSES

Chinatown was a bustling place in those days - always busy, always full of exciting sights and sounds. Shophouses lined the streets, serving as both home and place of business for merchants and their families. Vendors and hawkers set up shop along the corridors downstairs (also known as the five-foot way), whilst families huddled together in close living quarters in the upper floors.







## Singapore Heritage Shophouse - Yellow and White Designs

Product Code: SHB001-Y and SHB001-W

Hand-Painted Resin with metal parts

Features: Battery-operated LED lanterns and interior lights; upper room and five-foot way below allows for display of figurines; removable clothing poles; intricate details replicated from real-life



LED lanterns & bulbs  
light up the interior



Yellow Shophouse features a pair of male  
and female dragon motifs



White Shophouse features an intricate  
flower motif





With the shophouses as a backdrop, the characters bring the scene to life, recreating the Chinatown of old



Shophouses combine seamlessly to form a continuous row



**Shophouse Residents  
Lowering Basket on a Rope**

Product Code: SH039

Comes with basket on a string  
with bowl and chopsticks





## A TIME OF SIMPLE PLEASURES

Life was simpler back then. Children derived joy in modest ways - like playing a game of "Five Stones", "Catching / Tag", hopscotch with friends, or eating a refreshingly cold ice ball after school.



### CHIJ\* Girls Playing Five Stones

Product Code: SH018

\*Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus School



### Ice Ball Vendor and Stall

Product Code: SH013

Comes with removable ice shaver, ice block and clamp, syrup container, kerosene lamp; individual drink bottles and carton imprinted with decals







### Satay Customer Eating at Table

Product Code: SH006



### Satay Seller with Stall

Product Code: SH005



### Kacang Puteh Seller with Stall

Product Code: SH004



*Satay* is a local delicacy that's still eaten today! Originating in Indonesia & Malaysia, it's a dish of marinated meat skewered on thin sticks, barbecued over a charcoal fire and eaten with a peanut sauce dip.

## FOOD AND MEMORY

They say the mere smell or taste of certain types of food can evoke deep memories of places, and even events in one's life. Eating *satay* whilst crouching on a low chair, or tucking in to *char kway teow* with *see hum* (cockles) and duck eggs - these are memories and tastes that one can never forget.

### Family Having Dinner

Product Code: SH041



### Char Kway Teow Hawker with Stall

Product Code: SH031



Comes with tricycle, stall, & 19 pieces of individually crafted miniature ingredients and utensils



## THE KING OF FRUITS

Love it or hate it, all Singaporeans are familiar with durian - the thorny fruit with its pungent smell, bold flavour and creamy flesh. Sitting together as a family and digging in to durian is an activity that has endured through the generations. Many of us look back on it with fond memories.



### Durian Stall Set

Product Code: SH032

Comes with durian stall, weighing scale, mangosteens, seller, customer, father and son, and loose durian shells





Before large shopping centres and store chains sprung up, people used to buy their clothes, shoes and household items from community shopkeepers who knew them by name. Services were more personalised, and people got to know their barbers, tailors, and other shop keepers. In return, they became familiar with their customers' preferences.



### Street Barber and Customer

Product Code: SH008

Rotatable customer's seat and assortment of barber's tools



### Tailor and Customer

Product Code: SH017

Tailor comes with die-cut spectacles, shelf and mannequin



### Seamstress with Singer Sewing Machine

Product Code: SH038







## Clog Maker and Store

Product Code: SH016

Comes with shelves, loose clogs and paint buckets

## Brush and Sundries Peddler

Product Code: SH030

Comes with tricycle, stall, & more than 50 pieces of individually crafted miniature wares & items



## Letter Writer & Customer

Product Code: SH042







## Live Chicken Seller

Product Code: SH014

Chicken cage opens and closes; comes with 5 individual chickens



## DRIED COCKROACHES, ANYONE?

When people were unwell or injured, many of them relied on traditional forms of medication.

The medicine men who peddled their services were excellent showmen. Some of them even demonstrated the effectiveness of their ointments by pouring boiling water on their bare skin!



## Medicine Man / Koh Yok Man with Stall

Product Code: SH009

Comes with table, stools, stall tools & signage with Chinese decals





## DEATH BEFORE DISHONOUR

Our Singapore Heritage collection includes a figure of Lt. Adnan Saidi. He is a national war hero of Singapore, as well as Malaysia, where he was born. During World War II, he was posted to Singapore to fight the invading Japanese. There, Lt. Adnan was entrusted with the defence of Pasir Panjang Ridge - a critical position for British supplies and key installations. Though outnumbered, undersupplied, and with no hope of reinforcements, Lt. Adnan was able to rally his 42-man platoon for one last stand, in what has since become known as the "Battle of Opium Hill."

From 13 - 14 February 1942, they fiercely held off the 13,000-strong Japanese troops amidst heavy shelling and relentless assault. Lt. Adnan and his men refused to yield and fought to their deaths, even taking to hand-to-hand combat when their ammunition ran out. At the end of the battle, Lt. Adnan was brutally tortured and killed by the Japanese, who took their anger out on him after the losses he caused them.

Today, the heroism and bravery of Lt. Adnan Saidi and his men live on in a museum called "**Reflections at Bukit Chandu**," where a war memorial plaque stands in their honour.



**Lt. Adnan Saidi**

Product Code:  
SH037



## TRADITIONAL MALAY WEDDING

Nothing livens up the neighbourhood like a Malay wedding. They are festive and grand events that bring together family, friends, and even neighbours - particularly back in the old days of Singapore when people lived in *kampongs*. In those days, it was not uncommon for a typical Malay wedding to last for up to seven days.







### Umbrella Bearer

Product Code:  
Yellow - SH028A  
Red - SH028B

Detachable umbrella  
with real thread tassels



### Bride and Groom

Product Code:  
SH029

Intricate gold decals that  
depict sonket - an embroidered  
material traditionally worn as  
the wedding outfits



### Children Carrying Bunga Manggar

Product Code: SH027

Detachable *bunga manggar*  
made of sparkly and bendable  
tinsel



### Entourage Pairs

Product Code:  
Mustard & Light Brown - SH024A  
Green & Brown - SH024B

### Kompang Drummers

Product Code:  
White & Lime Green - SH026A  
Red & Mustard - SH026B



### Silat Performer

Product Code: SH025





## LORE & TRADITION

According to ancient Chinese legend, a huge beast named *Nian* would appear on the eve of every Lunar New Year to destroy the farmers' crops and animals. In order to scare *Nian* away, villagers made a lion model out of bamboo and cloth, and loudly beat their pots and pans. The beast was chased away, and this birthed the tradition of performing Lion Dance during Chinese New Year for good luck and prosperity.



**Musicians**

Product Code: SH034



**Lion Dancers**

Product Code:  
Red - SH033R  
Black - SH033B



**Big Head Buddha**

Product Code: SH035



**Boys Playing with Firecrackers**

Product Code: SH036





## CHINESE OPERA TROUPE

### THE GREAT SEAL OF THE SIX KINGDOMS - 六国大封相

Chinese opera was introduced by Chinese immigrants in the late 19th century. Performed on makeshift stages, these operas were often sponsored by temples and clans, and staged for free public viewing for entertainment and at religious festivals in honour of deities.

"The Great Seal of the Six Kingdoms" is a Cantonese opera that tells the story of how the renowned politician, Su Qin, lobbied the six states to adopt the Vertical Alliance strategy and unite against the State of Qin.



**Generals** Product Code: SH043



**Dancer**  
Product Code: SH044



**Musicians - Trio**  
Product Code: SH046

**Musicians - Percussion**  
Product Code: SH047



**STAGE MODEL  
COMING SOON!**

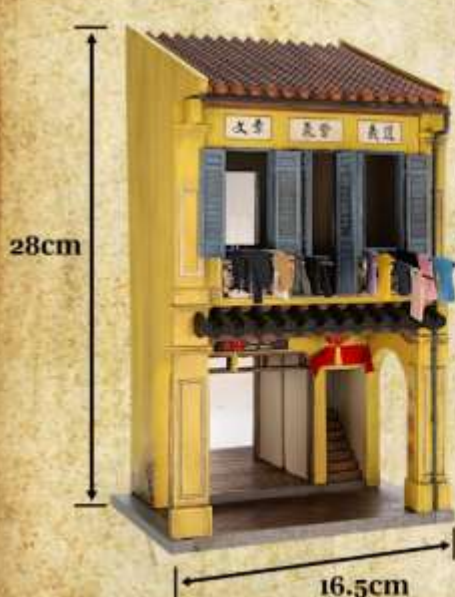


**Horse Riders** Product Code: SH045



## SCALE, SIZE & PACKAGING

Our figurines are **made of metal and individually hand-painted**. These unique keepsakes were made to last, and will provide joy and nostalgia for a long time. They are in 1/26 scale - small enough to display in a scene without taking up too much space, but large enough to show different details that are true-to-life. Use the measurements on this page as a guide for the size of other pieces in the collection.





Each figurine comes in a printed box with protective foam that secures the pieces for safe transportation. Each design is produced in limited numbers, so a card insert with serial number and character / building description is included as well.





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