

## **Speech by Mr Ronney Tan Koon Siang, President, Genealogy Society Singapore at the Donation of ZUPUs and other Heritage Materials on Sunday, 10 August 2025 at 3 pm at the Possibility Room, Level 5, National Library Building**

Ms Catherine Lau, Deputy Chief Executive,  
Ms Alicia Yeo, Director, National Library,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

GSS is pleased today to officially donate 11 books, comprising Chinese ZUPUS and other publications to the National Library Board (NLB).

On behalf of Genealogy Society Singapore, I wish to thank you for making time to come to this afternoon's event.

Founded in 2012 by Mr Ng Yew Kang, Emeritus President, GSS continues to work together with NLB on various initiatives to promote the practice of genealogy amongst fellow Singaporeans of all races.

GSS is honoured to be a strategic partner with NLB since its founding 13 years ago.

GSS and NLB had been encouraged by the interest from hundreds of participants at our jointly organised public talks and workshops in the past 13 years, including the 'Family History Writing Competition' in 2015.

As part of the MOU, GSS pledged to help enrich NLB's Genealogy Collection by appealing to the public to donate their ZUPUS to the National Library for permanent preservation. GSS noted that many Singapore families discard their ZUPUS inherited from their ancestors. These documents contain valuable information of their family lineage written in classical or semi-classical Chinese which the current owners could not understand. By discarding these valuable documents, they are severing themselves and their descendants from their roots. By donating them to NLB, their descendants will be able to trace their roots from the collection in the National Library.

GSS has made several donations of ZUPUs to NLB before. We will continue to appeal to the public to donate any unwanted but valuable family lineage books

(ZUPUS) and heritage materials to NLB for permanent collection. NLB is the pre-eminent organization to collect, conserve and preserve historical and heritage materials relating to Singapore. These are then made accessible to scholars, researchers and the general public, both in and outside Singapore.

**The List of books for donation are as follows:**

1. 鼎新堡李氏族譜 Lǐ shì zú pǔ (donor Mr Steven Lee)
2. 瓊州甘氏族譜 gān shì zú pǔ (this a set of 16 books. Donor is Mr Nolan Kam Chuan Hui)
3. 占富家譜 Zhàn fù jiā pǔ (Donor is Mr Lim Cheun Shiong)
4. 黃氏族譜 Huáng shì zú pǔ (Donor is Mr Ng Sze Kai)
5. **Our Heritage. Through the passage of Time.** (Donor is Ms Santie Gunasekara)
6. **Sleeping on Canvas by Heng Jee See** (Author is in Canada. He is being represented by his brother, Mr Henry Heng)
7. **Mum's Favourite Recipes.** (Author and Donor is Gerard Chai).
8. **The House of Tan Hiok Nee** (Donor is Suzanne Ng Hui Hiang, a descendant of Tan Hiok Nee)
9. **Memoirs of a Towkay's daughter** (Donor is Tan Jiak Huang, a descendant of Tan Hiok Nee)
10. 龍門陳氏南門宗譜 Lóngmén chén shì nán mén zōng pǔ (Donor is Tan Gek Kwee)

11. 杨氏族谱 yáng shì zúpǔ (Donar is Yong Seng Kong, former Treasurer of GSS) This book is in PDF soft copy format.

GSS is also in discussions with the Overseas Chinese History Museum in Quanzhou City 泉州华侨历史博物馆, Fujian Province, China, to bring its family history collection of Singaporeans whose ancestors hailed from Quanzhou to exhibit them here. We hope the exhibition can be held next year. If this can materialise, we will jointly organise it with NLB, The PRC Embassy and the Quanzhou clan associations in Singapore. There are many Singaporeans whose ancestors hailed from Quanzhou. We hope the Quanzhou Overseas Chinese History Museum could donate the materials to NLB after the exhibition. Finally, I would like to thank all of you again for attending this ceremony.

If you have Zhupus which you do not wish to keep, remember to donate them to the National Library Board through GSS.

Mr Ronney Tan,  
President,  
Genealogy Society Singapore