SIRI PAKEJAN MAKLUMAT BANGUNAN BERSEJARAH:

CARCOSA SERI NEGARA

BAHAGIAN PAKAR MAKLUMAT
PERPUSTAKAAN NEGARA MALAYSIA
KERATAN AKHBAR
Carcosa Seri Negara is now considered to be a fine restaurant with a hotel attached, rather than a hotel with a fine restaurant, writes JAMES HIPKISS.

Almost anyone with an interest in fine dining and history will be familiar with Carcosa Seri Negara in Kuala Lumpur.

Originally built in 1904 as the residence of the British representative to the Malay States the building, both in terms of its location and architecture, has a sense of presence and grandeur with its large lofty ceiling rooms and tall windows overlooking the well-manicured gardens outside.

In more recent years it has become a boutique hotel, with a fine restaurant. However its fortunes have ebbed and flowed over the years, depending on the companies that have managed it.

Currently under the management of GHM Hotels, Carcosa Seri Negara appears to have good fortune smiling upon it again.

It has been refurbished and renovated and the restaurant and rooms have never looked more elegant. It was revealed to me that the establishment is now considered to be a fine restaurant with a hotel attached to it, rather than a hotel which happens to have a fine restaurant.

As one enters the lobby, the feeling of traditional luxury asserts itself. All the materials and furnishings have been carefully selected, and the colours and styles perfectly matched.

And what of the restaurant and food? I think one should refer to it as the dining room rather than the restaurant. It gives one a feeling of walking into the dining room of a stately mansion rather than that of a hotel.

The room oozes a sense of hushed sophistication, and sets the tone for fine dining. However as many connoisseurs of fine food have discovered, an elegant dining room does not guarantee good cuisine. A brief conversation with the chef leads one to the conclusion that Carcosa's dining room is indeed a place for fine dining.

French chef Laurent Colin presides over a kitchen that creates the most beautiful traditional French cuisine. Colin is an award-winning chef who learnt his art in some of the best restaurants in France.

Talking with him makes one aware of how he has fine tuned French cuisine to suit local tastes. Much of French haute cuisine, especially from the Burgundy region, tends to use a lot of butter and cream, which in a tropical climate can make the food a little heavy.

Colin reduces the amount of butter and cream in his dishes and tries where ever possible to use lighter ingredients such as olive oil. He also favours dishes which are lighter, more Mediterranean or southern French in style. Having also worked in Saudi Arabia for four years as an executive chef in charge of preparing fine food for royal banquets, he has mastered the art of European gourmet food that is on par with those at any five-star restaurant in KL in elegant and sophisticated surroundings.

Carcosa Seri Negara offers historical sense of splendour

Historical sense of splendour

Carcosa Seri Negara was originally built in 1904 as the residence of the British representative to the Malay States.

COLONIAL FLAVOUR: Relax by the lounge

GRAND: Carcosa Seri Negara was originally built in 1904 as the residence of the British representative to the Malay States.

REFINED ELEGANCE: The interiors as defined by Jaya Ibrahim, renowned design maven
producing European dishes with an authentic flavour, but without the use of any pork products. Not an easy task as the kitchen of Carcosa Seri Negara is certified halal.

The menu that Colin produces has two sides to it. There is a small à la carte menu, which changes infrequently and is set to disappear completely after August. Then there are set menus which change on a weekly basis according to the availability of fresh ingredients, much of which are imported weekly from France and other parts of Europe.

The weekly lunchtime menu is available as a two course at RM80 or a three course at RM110. Other offerings include the six-course Découvert menu at RM245 and the eight-to 10-course Degustation menu at RM295.

There is a carte des rires carefully selected to complement the food, and priced between RM160 and RM2,500 per bottle. As a dish is placed in front of one, Laurent's visual artistry is immediately apparent.

Both the chou blanc à la queue de boeuf, sauce au Porto et romarin, purée de topinambou au foie gras (oxtail wrapped in cabbage leaf and accompanied by sauce that can only be described as luxuriously decadent) and the grosses crevettes à la tapenade de truffle noire, purée de pomme de terre a la ciboulette (jumbo shrimps with a black truffle tapenade on a bed of potato puree with chives) looked like works of art.

The prawns were very fresh, succulent and not overcooked as is often the case, and the black truffle tapenade, which complemented them perfectly, was a delight. I shall not forget the asparagus soup either. Made from fresh white asparagus and chervil coulis, it again served to emphasize the culinary skills of the chef, with its velvety texture and creamy subtle flavour.

Carcosa Seri Negara offers European gourmet food that is on par with those at any five-star restaurant in KL in elegant and sophisticated surroundings.

For details, call 03-2295-0888.
SUMBER
JURNAL
Kuala Lumpur

When Kuala Lumpur became the administrative capital of Selangor in 1880, the most senior official present was the Resident, for whom the Klang Residency (built 1877) was re-erected. As with the other ‘Protected states’, when the governor made a visit he stayed at the Residency. The situation changed however in 1896, when the creation of a post of Resident-General FMS (later Chief Secretary) interposed an official who, though not governor, required a large official residence. Swettenham, the first holder (1896-99) of the post was not a man to hide his light under a bushel. The construction of the new house took time, and meanwhile, for a year or two while the new house was being built, Swettenham, who was often away, had the use of a house which was later retrospectively known as ‘Old Carcosa’.

The site of the R-G’s new house was on high ground overlooking the Lake Gardens. Some twenty four acres of sloping land was excised from the Lake Gardens to become the private grounds of the new official mansion. Four acres were developed as gardens and the remainder became ‘open park land where sambhur deer could be seen amidst the bushes.’ The ground floor of the interior was planned to accommodate major social gatherings. There were ‘large and open reception rooms, running one off the other’ and so capable of use for a single large function. Upstairs there were seven main

41 SSD 18 February 1889 on the south wing evoked a CO minute referring to the earlier expenditure on the north wing. The repairs of 1949 appear to have come close to complete rebuilding, and only a few pillars now remain of the 19th century house. The name ‘Bel Retiro’ seems to have come into more general use after the major works of the 1890’s. E.g. see A Wright and H A Cartwright, Twentieth Century Impressions of British Malaya. London, Lloyds Publishing, 1908, p.252 (‘a Government house called “Bel Retiro”’) and Guillemand quoted at Note 21.


43 In a report (Selangor Journal 5, p.69, 1896) of a dance given by Swettenham on 5 November, 1896, his residence (ie ‘Old Carcosa’) is described as a two-storey house with a large central room on each floor, and a porch/verandah in front. It was in the Lake Gardens and near the Lake Club. It was probably one of a number of quarters built for senior officers which reverted to that use when Swettenham moved to the new Carcosa. For some years after 1945 it was the Kuala Lumpur residence of HH the Yang di Pertuan Besar, Negri Sembilan. R Hawley, ‘Carcosa - an Outline of its History,’ MIH. See also H S Barlow, Swettenham, Kuala Lumpur, Southdene, 1995, p.460, on ‘Old Carcosa’ in Swettenham’s time. It is likely that it was the house known as 2 Clifford Road until its demolition, after 1957, to clear the site for the National Monument.
bedrooms, each with its own stretch of verandah, and a ‘main breakfast verandah’ over
the porch, with a private sitting room and study. The outbuildings included stables, and
there were several tennis courts.44

The Public Works Department was fully extended at the time with a large
programme of government offices in the ‘neo-saracenic’ style. Swettenham may have
decided that this was not a suitable style for a domestic dwelling, however large, and so
the building contract was let to a private firm, Nicholas and Walsh, who may well have
undertaken the design which was a conventional colonial mansion on an unusually large
scale.45

If he felt frustrated by the lack of architectural pretensions, Swettenham was able
to compensate by the choice of a name for the new mansion. ‘Residency’ or
‘Government House’ would have been inappropriate; Swettenham perplexed his official
world by adopting the name ‘Carcosa’.46 When, forty years later, he publicly confirmed
what had long been suspected, it was found that Swettenham, who had considerable
ambitions to secure recognition as a literary man (in the 1890’s he had contributed to
fashionable journals associated with Oscar Wilde and Aubrey Beardsley), had been
making a poetic allusion.

To celebrate the opening of the new mansion in August 1898 there was a lavish
fancy dress ball.47 Swettenham himself was now in the full flood tide of his career and
soon moved on to the governorship in Singapore.48 The less mannered senior officials
who followed him in the control of the FMS government did not change the name -
‘Federal House’ would have fallen rather flat. So Carcosa it remains.49

It might have been expected that, in designing such a spacious house, a separate
wing or suite of rooms would have been included for the exclusive use of the high
commissioner (governor) when he came to Kuala Lumpur. However it did not suit

44 Hawley and Barlow. loc.cit. Lady Hawley, the wife of a UK High Commissioner, lived in Carcosa for
several years from 1977, and her affectionate and informative history of the house provides many
interesting details.

45 Inevitably A C Norman, PWD Government Architect, included Carcosa in the list of buildings for whose
design he made vague and often unjustified claims. See J M Gullick, ‘Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad,
JMBRAS 65(1), 1992, and A Ghafar Ahmad, ‘A C A Norman’, JMBRAS 70(1), 1997. As the work was
contracted out in this case any such claims are particularly suspect.

46 Swettenham himself, in a letter to the monthly magazine, British Malaya, in May 1936, eventually laid the
mystery to rest. Barlow, Swettenham, pp 479-480, quotes the verses from which ‘Carcosa’ is taken, noting
Swettenham’s fascination with ‘the macabre and the supernatural.’

47 Barlow, loc.cit., gives some interesting details of the guests and their costumes. Sultan Sulaiman of
Selangor was not among the three Asian guests, but he may have been in mourning for his grandfather, and
predecessor, who had died a few months before.

48 He was in occupation from early 1898 to October 1900. F A Swettenham, Footprints ill
Malaya. London,
Hutchinson, 1942, p.124. When he returned to Malaya in 1901 it was to act (later substantive) as Governor
in Singapore.

49 At most times until 1942 the R-G (later CS FMS) occupied Carcosa as his official quarters, and the British
Resident, Selangor, lived in the Residency. In the late 1930’s a reorganisation of the FMS downgraded the
senior administrator from CS to Federal Secretary, junior to the Residents, including Selangor, and there
was a ‘swap’. In the period 1946-1957 Carcosa was the official residence of the CS MU/FoM. In the
euphoria of 1957 the government made over Carcosa to HMG as the official residence of its (diplomat)
High Commissioner. The two governments later agreed that such an arrangement was no longer
appropriate, and in 1986 Carcosa reverted to the Malaysian government. As the European lifestyle changed,
stables became garages, rooms were air-conditioned and en-suite bathrooms with modern plumbing
installed. Little change was made to the main structure.
Carcosa (Courtesy of Badan Warisan Malaysia)
Swettenham to recognise in this fashion that he was subject to external control. When he became governor in 1901 he sang from a different hymn sheet, but by then it was too late to give architectural recognition to gubernatorial interventions in the FMS. There was of course ample space in 'Carcosa' for the accommodation of the high commissioner and his suite. For some years this arrangement worked more smoothly than might have been expected.

In 1904 however Swettenham was succeeded in Singapore by Anderson (1904-1910), who was minded to cut down to size the Resident-General and limit his authority. To demonstrate the change (and incidentally to bear witness to the significance of official residences in the power structure) Anderson decided that Carcosa should become the exclusive preserve of the high commissioner, and that the R-G (now restyled chief secretary FMS) should be accommodated in a smaller, but substantial, new house to be built in the Lake Gardens alongside Carcosa.

The price of rubber had fallen since 1910; the pastures were no longer so green in the construction industry. The contractors for the new residence went bankrupt, and the project eventually took three years (1910-1913) to complete. By that time new protagonists were in the field. Anderson had been recalled to London in 1910, and the new high commissioner was Young (1911-1920) who was content to leave the administration of the FMS in the hands of a new CS, E L (later Sir Edward) Brockman (1912-1920). Brockman was an old hand and by temperament 'the strongest head of the FMS government since Swettenham.' Brockman argued that, as his duties required him to work and give official entertainments throughout the year in Kuala Lumpur (and the facilities of Carcosa had been provided with that in view) it was appropriate that the CS FMS should continue in occupation of Carcosa, leaving the new house for the high commissioner during his comparatively brief visits. Young agreed to this.

Initially the new house for the high commissioner was called 'Government House', but it was soon realised that this term was inappropriate in a nominally

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50 E Thio, British Policy in the Malay Peninsula 1880-1910. Singapore, University of Malaya Press, 1969, Part 2. Ironically, it was William Taylor who had been transferred from CS SS to be R-G FMS (1905-1910) on Anderson's recommendation who thwarted Anderson's plans. Taylor was the only holder of his post who lacked previous service in the Malay states; he had been transferred from Ceylon and professed to regard Malay states as equivalent in constitutional status to the administrative provinces of Ceylon. Anderson proposed that the high commissioner should preside over an Administrative Council of the FMS Rulers and Residents, Thio op.cit., pp.195 and 198, but the Colonial Office vetoed this part of his programme as a duplication of the new Federal Legislative Council. Anderson, and after him Guillemand (1920-1927) then made Kuala Kangsar a key point in necessary contact with the FMS Rulers, for whom the Sultan of Perak acted - informally - as spokesman in their time. Hence King's House and King's Pavilion were nodal points in the new structure.

51 SSD 27 July 1910. Anderson eased Taylor into retirement (to become head of the FMS Information Agency in London) but was himself recalled to become PUS at the CO in 1910.


54 SSD 5 February 1913. Thio, op.cit., p.221. Young was by no means an inactive high commissioner, but he left the FMS and SS to go their own way under able administrators (Brockman and R J Wilkinson), and concerned himself more with the problems incidental to the transfer of the northern UMS from Siamese to British 'suzerainty'.
independent Malay state, and so it became - between the wars - King’s House, since the high commissioner represented the British Crown in its relationship (by treaty) with the Malay ruler.\textsuperscript{55}
SUMBER MAJALAH
The one house in Malaya that could be said to reflect the constitutional changes in the Federation in the past half-century is Carcosa, now the home of the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom.

Since it was built 61 years ago, it has been occupied by a succession of top Malayan Civil Servants whose titles before the war ranged from Resident-General to Chief Secretary down to a Federal Secretary who gave way to the British Resident of Selangor.

During the Japanese occupation, Carcosa became the home of a general and later a senior officers' mess. When the British Military Administration took over, Carcosa accepted the continuation of its career as a senior officers' mess, and then welcomed the return of the Chief Secretary. It resumed its place in the order of precedence as the home of the chief executive officer.

The first Malayan Civil Servant to call it home was the legendary Sir Frank Swettenham, who ended his career as Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner for the Malay States.

The last M.C.S. occupant was Sir David Watherston who retired a fortnight after he had witnessed the solemn ceremony that changed the Federation of Malaya into an independent State.

What a wealth of history there was in the years between these two men—the one watching the emergence of mediaeval Malay States from anarchy to ordered democratic development and the other helping to implement with the maximum of smoothness the constitutional processes that led to independence.

Carcosa stands on a ridge a mile out of the Federal Capital and overlooks a panorama that begins from the well-ordered roads and paths and man-fashioned lake of the botanical gardens just below and extends to the ragged outline of the main range. This is not, by the way, the grandest view in Kuala Lumpur. "The Residency," home of the Prime Minister, has perhaps a better one and the hilltop homes of some of Malaya's tin and rubber magnates vie closely for the honour.

But before the turn of the century, when life was more gracious and standards were measured by great houses and sweeping lawns, the designers of Carcosa, in the M.C.S. and the P.W.D., chose good high ground—which later proved a few feet higher than its nearest neighbour, King's House, built eight years later.

King's House was aloof and isolated in those far-off days. Traditional home of the High Commissioner of the Federated Malay States, it welcomed him at least four times a year when he left Government House, Singapore, for official tours "up-country."

Because the Resident-General was the chief executive officer of the High Commissioner in the F.M.S. they built him a great house with high ceilings, a bathroom to each bedroom, lounges, a dining room, and a billiard room which in these modern...
days has seen a sight at which some of the old-timers might have been astonished — that of graceful Malay women handling billiard cues with hilarious delight.

Those spacious days...you signed a visitor’s book and you were invited to dinner, pahits, receptions or garden parties — in strict accordance with a nice gradation of social and public importance. After dinner, you drank the King’s health in port.

But why the name “Carcosa”?

Mysterious word and name which you will not find in any anthology or dictionary.

The men, and the women, who have come to Malaya since the war have been just as curious about the origin of “Carcosa” as pre-war Malayans.

Many theories were advanced long after Swettenham’s departure. One was somewhat ribald. The suggestion was that the name was an adaptation of a Dutch-Malay word applied to a mean structure which need not be specified here.

Someone else put forward a more credible explanation: the name was a combination of “karkun,” secretary, chief of the scribes, and “ka-as” or “kasa,” the first one, the chief one. But then, these Malay words were familiar only in what was then the Netherlands Indies.

In desperation, an appeal went out to Sir Frank Swettenham, living in
vigorously retirement (the drew a pension for more than 40 years) in England. Would he please relieve the curiosity?

He lived up to expectations. However, before lifting the veil for the benefit of the modern Malayan, it should be said that Swettenham had literary leanings. He read just as much as he wrote. He was described as popular with the intelligentsia of the Nineties who included Balfour, Curzon, George Wyndham, and Margot Asquith.

He was also an Englishman with an Englishman's inherent desire to give his castle, however mean it might be, a name. Beyond England, didn't Frederick the Great call his home, "Sans Souci," and, coming very much later, "torre," was not the residence of the Dutch Governor-General in the Indies christened "Blumenau?"

Swettenham found the unusual name he was looking for in a book called "The King in Yellow." (Its author, alas, is not known). In it were verses, two of which ran:

Strange is the night where black stars rise,
And twin moons circle in the skies,
But stranger still is.

Lost Carcosa

Song of my soul, my voice is dead,
Die then, unseen, as tears unshed fill thy and the land.

Lost Carcosa

Swettenham said he did not call the Resident-General's dwelling "Government House" because it did not seem an appropriate name in Protected States. He did not give it a Malay name because it was to be the residence of a British officer.

"So I took a book name as has often been done before," he said, adding, "The simple truth may spoil a number of excellent stories."

But Swettenham could not explain Carcosa. He imagined it was "the castle of the 'King in Yellow,' but the book explains nothing about either the place or its occupant."

He came to the conclusion that the word had probably been "created by the author's fancy though it looks like a combination of the Italian words cara and casa and would mean desirable dwelling" as indeed, I found it.

Speaking then in 1930, he noted the curious fact that the name had become a "propitious" one—because by then, the house had lost its name and had thus become "Lost Carcosa."

Which indeed was the case. A constitutional change had reduced the standing of the "Chief Secretary. Instead of being first after the High Commissioner in order of precedence, he came after the four British Residents.

As "Federal Secretary," he was merely the High Commissioner's agent and mouthpiece and no longer principal officer equal in rank or even superior in rank to the Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements.

As he had a lower standing, the Federal Secretary's salary was cut and he lost Carcosa and the name died when it became the home of the British Resident who called it quite unadorningly, "Selangor Residen-

The Federal Secretary went to live at the old Residency, which is today the Prime Minister's house, but its occupant was never in the mood to
find another name. As a resident of the day remarked. "It was rather difficult to think of a suitable title," but the wits found an outlet for their imagination through a strange coincidence.

The first Federal Secretary was Mr. C. D. Alcane, an Irishman. He had been promoted from Controller of Labour to Chief Secretary. When he was demoted to Federal Secretary, he also suffered a loss of emolument of $90 a month.

So what more apt name when he moved to the Residency than "Irishman's Rite." After all, it also stood on a wonderful hilltop.

Thus Carcosa lapsed into memory, but with head unbowed, for some of the greatest names in Malayan history had been among its occupants. There was Sir William Taylor, irreverently known as "Ikan Kring," who, they say, kept a tight grip on the country's budget and would sanction no expenditure that did not return a good dividend.

There was the able Sir George Maxwell, still living, who thrived on a working day of 15 hours and knew the country inside out. And — well, it is a good list.

One species regretted the fade-out of Carcosa. They were the satirical versifiers among the Malayan Civil Service. Carcosa had provided them with a tantalising but frustrating game because it did not rhyme readily. For them the age had not arrived which produced such a useful last-word for cynics as "bull-doser."

Through the years of the Japanese occupation and the months of the British military administration, Carcosa rang to the boots of senior officers. Its floors and rafters must have sighed for those "good old days," when its stables were full of whinnying horses and the park below redolent with blooms and bushes among which could be spied sambar deer.

* * *

WHEN the civil government was resumed on April 1, 1946, it was not April Fool's Day for Carcosa for then it raised its head again. It became once more the home of the Chief Secretary, and a new individual named British Adviser went back to the Residency.

The first occupant was Sir Alec Newbould, and even though the furni-

ture and furnishing were utilitarian and not quite what they are today, Carcosa came into its own again and lent itself handsomely to gay parties and billiards fives and dogs and horses.

Its occupants since then have been Sir Moroboe de Tofoo, Sir Donald MacGillivray, who after two years, moved down a few feet lower into King's House, and finally Sir David Waterston. He closed the chapter of Carcosa's pre-independence history by acting as host to the Duke of Gloucester, who came as representative of Her Majesty the Queen to present the constitutional instruments of freedom to the Prime Minister of Malaya.

And, as a salute to the friendship with Great Britain, the new Government presented Carcosa to Britain to be used by her as the home of her High Commissioner.

So Carcosa, by this magnificent gesture, will not "Die thou, unsung, as tears unshed shall dry and die in Lost Carcosa."
Potong lidah sendiri
ms 28

Cinta Suci
Diana dicemuh
ms 22

AH
bersama saya
makan
SUNNI
AMAI yang tidak tahu bahawa Taman Tasik Perdana, Kuala Lumpur dan Bukit Carcosa merupakan momen percintaan seorang Residen British yang bernama Sir Frank Swettenham dan isterinya Sydney Swettenham sewaktu kedua-dua mereka berada di Malaya di zaman penjajahan.

Hal yang demikian telah disahkan oleh sarjana sejarah tanah air Prof. Datuk Khoo Kay
beliau baru-baru ini.

Profesor itu menjelaskan Swettenham telah membina kediaman di Bukit Carcosa sebagai lambang kasih dan sayangnya terhadap isteri yang amat dicintai yang disifatkananya 'berkorban jiwa dan raga demi suami tercinta'.

Kediaman di Bukit Carcosa itu dianggap sebagai mahligai kecintaannya yang tidak bertepi terhadap Sydney. Malah Tasik Perdana juga telah diberi nama Sydney Lake, sempena nama isterinya.

Pada suatu petang ketika sedang berpimpin tangan menghirup kedamaian di tasik berkepan, Swettenham membesikkan ke telinga Sydney:

"Sydneyku sayang, alangkah indahnya tasik ini," jelas Swettenham.


Swettenham pula terlalu sub dengan kerja-kerjanya. Mau-nya yang mendalam terhadap ehwal orang-orang Melayu hingga mengabaikan Sydney wanita yang sangat dicintai isterinya.

Ketika kesepi, Sydney sering membesuk semula ke percintaan ketika mereka mula tiba di Tanah Melayu. Malah tempat yang sering dirujuk junginya ialah Sydney Lake, situlah tempat mereka mengasih kasih asmara.

Namun bayang-bayang seolah-olah direnggut juga hidupnya. Dia banyak menahan perasaan di pinggiran tasik. Selepas puas dia akan pergi sewaktu senja menjalma.

Begitu kehidupan sehari-hari sehingga kehidupan fikirannya mula terganggu sering meracau sendiri. Nanya ketidakadilan hur
Mastika Oktober 1997


Keberanian Swettenham juga sukar ditandingi pegawai Inggeris lain. Dia sanggup menjelajah Negeri-negeri Melayu sehingga ke kawasan pedalaman. Semasa


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menjelajah Pahang misalnya, dia terpaksa mengikuti jalan darat dari Perak ke Hulu Pahang sebelum berakhir dan berperahu menghilir Sungai Pahang.

Dalam perjalanan yang jauh dan memenatkan itu Swettenham akhirnya sampai ke Kuala Lipis, Sega di Raub, Pulau Tawar dan Kuala Kerau sebelum menghilir ke Pekan menemui Sultan Ahmad.

Semasa di Kuala Lipis, Swettenham begitu tertarik hati melihat kesi-bukan pasar tempat berjualan beli di suatu tempat bernama Penjom berhampirean Kuala Lipis.

Di Penjom, Swettenham mendapat barangan yang dijual adalah barangan makanan dan keperluan harian dengan harga yang murah serta harganya cuma seringgit.

"Harga minyak tanah satu tin seringgit, tembakau sekati harganya seringgit, garam enam gantang dijual seringgit, candu seketul bulat juga seringgit manakala beras yang paling baik sebanyak 12 gantang juga berharga seringgit," demikian Swettenham mencatatkan pengalaman dalam buku catatan.

Swettenham kemudian menghilir dari Kuala Lipis ke Sega, Raub dan seterusnya Pulau Tawar. Semasa singgah Pulau Tawar Swettenham rima sebagai sahabat bai Gajah iaitu ayah kepada Pahlawan, Mat Kilau.


Jelas Prof. Khoo, apab British mula campur tan Swettenham dihantar menembantu Residen Britis
Dari sudut dia, bukan daripada sudut saya.”

Swettenham banyak memainkan peranan membangunkan negeri Melayu yang pada masa itu tiada memiliki apa-apa infrastruktur termasuk membina jalan kereta api. Antaranya jalan kereta api dari Gemas ke Johor Bahru.

“Dia paling rapat dengan Sultan Selangor, Sultan Abdul Samad. Dia puji Sultan Abdul Samad. Pada masa yang sama Sultan Abdul Samad juga puji Swettenham,” kata Prof. Khoo.

Sultan Abdul Samad berkata: “Swettenham ini orang yang pandai, kata-katanya selalu manis.”

Swettenham pula berkata: “Sultan Abdul Samad juga cerdik dan pintar.”

Semasa perang saudara berlaku di Selangor, Sultan Abdul Samad tidak memihak kepada mana-mana kumpulan antara kumpulan Raja Mahadi dan Tengku Kudin.

“Bila orang-orang Raja Mahadi dan Tengku Kudin datang dan cerita sesuatu kepada Sultan Abdul Samad, Sultan Abdul Samad berkata: “Benar, benar!”

Swettenham yang hairan dengan sikap sultan kemudian bertanya kepada Sultan Abdul Samad kenapa dua-dua pihak yang bertanya dijawab benar tanpa menyalahkan mana-mana pihak.

Sultan Abdul Samad berkata kepada Swettenham: “Benar itu dari sudut dia, bukan daripada sudut saya.”

Swettenham banyak memainkan peranan membangunkan negeri Melayu yang pada masa itu tiada memiliki apa-apa infrastruktur termasuk membina jalan kereta api. Antaranya jalan kereta api dari Gemas ke Johor Bahru.

“Dia pegawai pertama naik pangkat dari pegawai tadbir muda hingga menjadi Residen, Residen Jeneral dan Gabenor merangkap Pesuruhjaya Tinggi British.

Pada tahun 1901 Sir Frank Swettenham diangkat menjadi Gabenor Negeri-negeri Selat dan Pesuruhjaya Tinggi Negeri-negeri Melayu Bersekutu menggantikan Sir Charles Mitchell.
