

ANNEX – About *Singapore and the Silk Road of the Sea, 1300 – 1800*: Winner of the Inaugural NUS Singapore History Book Prize

Singapore and the Silk Road of the Sea, 1300 – 1800 was published by NUS Press with the National Museum of Singapore in 2013. Synthesising 25 years of archaeological research to reconstruct the 14th-century port of Singapore, Prof Miksic's study tells of a port where people processed raw materials, used money, and had specialised occupations. It portrays a well-organised and prosperous city with a cosmopolitan population that included residents from China, other parts of Southeast Asia, and the Indian Ocean. It highlights three important sources on Singapore's long-term history: the archaeology, the historical textual evidence, and new evidence emerging from other excavations in the region, particularly marine archaeology.

Illustrating with more than 300 maps and colour photos, Prof Miksic *had* presented the history of Singapore in the context of Asia's long-distance maritime trade in the years between 1300 and 1800. Many readers and reviewers have agreed that the publication has given a new and important understanding of Singapore's pre-colonial past. In 2015, the book was shortlisted for the International Convention of Asia Scholars Book Prize for the Best Study in the Humanities.