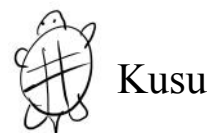


A Descriptive Bibliography
of the Works of

Arthur Yap



Arthur Yap

Arthur Yap Chioh Hiong (simplified Chinese: 叶纬雄; traditional Chinese: 葉緯雄; pinyin: Yè Wěi Xióng; 1943 – 19 June 2006) was a Singaporean poet, writer and painter. His main poetry collections are *only lines* (1971), *commonplace* (1977), *down the line* (1980), and *man snake apple & other poems* (1986), of which selections were published in *The Space of City Trees: Selected Poems* (2000). He also held a number of solo exhibitions for his paintings, including *Lyricisms* (1973).

The following is a descriptive bibliography of Yap's work. It strives to be comprehensive, although its completeness cannot be guaranteed. The inclusion of photographs of book and periodical covers etc. is for the purposes of education and documentation, and falls under fair use.

The following abbreviations will be used in the list below:

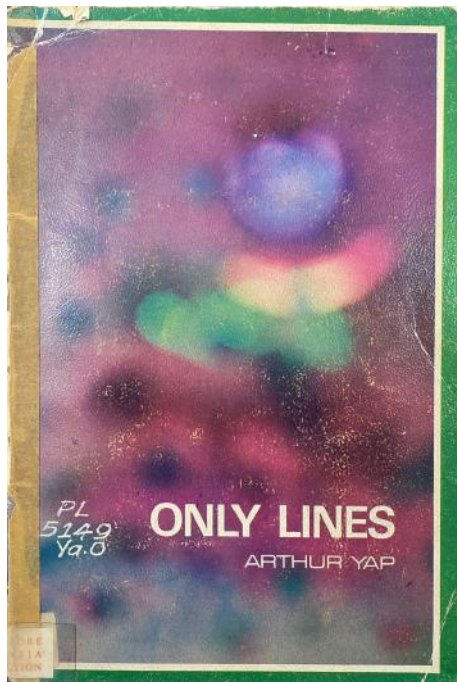
NLB — National Library Board

NUS — National University of Singapore



A curated display featuring Arthur Yap's work, at the NLB Central Library (2026).

Poetry (Collections)



Book cover. Photo of a copy held at the NUS Central Library.

only lines

Date: 1971.

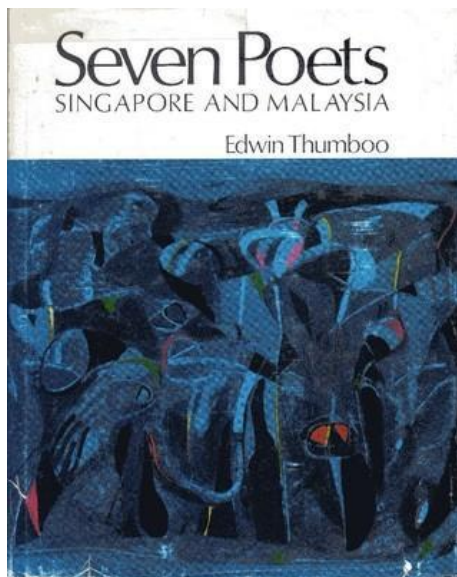
Publisher: Federal Publications [Singapore].¹

Description: 44 pages; 21 cm; paperback. Yap's first published collection of poems, some of which first appeared in the periodicals *Focus*, *Poetry Singapore*, *Tumasek Supplement*, *Poet* (India) and the anthologies *New Voices of the Commonwealth* and *The Flowering Tree*.¹ This volume clinched the National Book Development Council of Singapore (NBDCS)'s 1976 English book award for the category of poetry.²

Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/1277367>

Call number: 828.99 YAP [NLB].

PL5149 Ya.O [NUS Central Library].



Book cover. Photo of a copy in Kusu's personal collection.

Seven Poets: Singapore and Malaysia

Date: 1973.

Publisher: Singapore University Press [Singapore].³

ISBN 13: 9780821404843 / ISBN10: 0821404849.

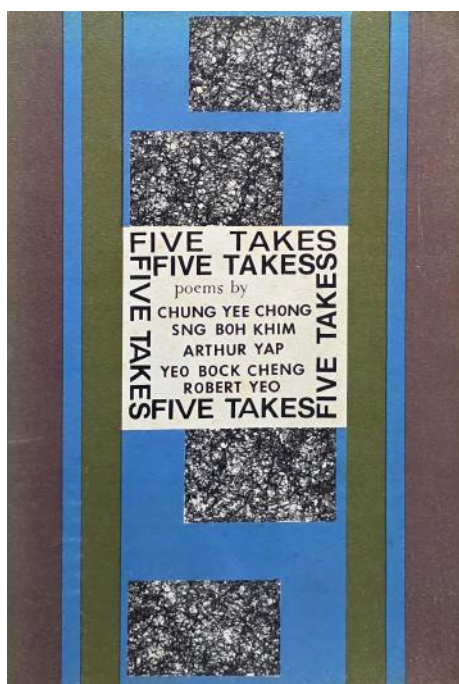
Description: xx, 226 pages; 20 cm; paperback. An anthology of poems by seven authors living in Singapore and Malaysia. Editor: Edwin Thumboo; Contributors: Ee Tiang Hong, Wong Phui Nam, Goh Poh Seng, Wong May, Muhammad Haji Salleh, and Lee Tzu Pheng.³

Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/1615607>

Call number: 828.99 THU;

828.99 THU -[ET] [NLB].

PL5147.1 Thu [NUS Central Library].



Book cover. Photo of a copy in Kusu's personal collection.

Five Takes: Poems

Date: 1974.

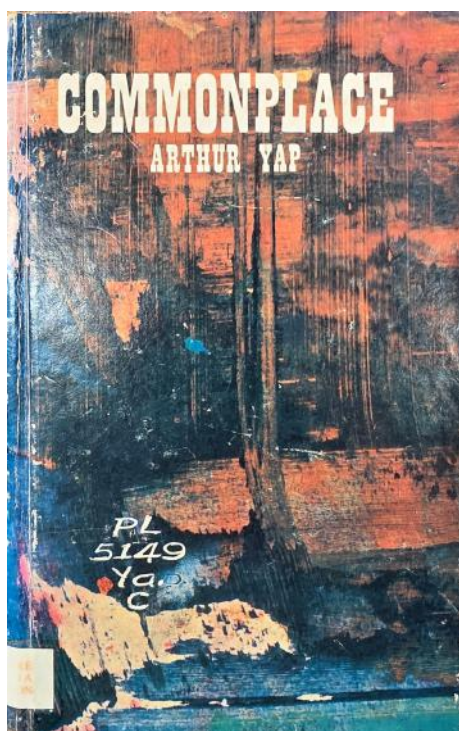
Publisher: University of Singapore Society [Singapore].⁴

Description: 116 pages; 23 cm; paperback. A collaborative poetry anthology featuring works by five notable pioneer English-language poets from Singapore: Chung Yee Chong, Sng Boh Khim, Arthur Yap, Yeo Bock Cheng, and Robert Yeo.⁴

Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/2522945>

Call number: 828.995957 FIV [NLB].

PL5147.1 Fiv [NUS Central Library].



Book cover. Photo of a copy held at the NUS Central Library.

commonplace

Date: 1977.

Publisher: Heinemann Educational Books (Asia) [Singapore].⁵

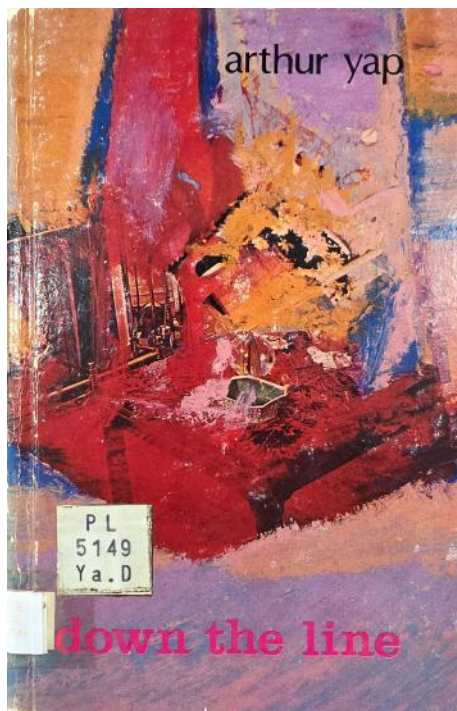
Description: xiii, 66 pages; 19 cm; paperback. Part of the *Writing in Asia* series. Foreword by Ee Tiang Hong. Contains forty-five poems, with a series of twelve black and white abstract paintings (acrylics on canvas) by Yap.⁵

Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/4515680>

Call number: 828.995957 YAP;

828.995957 YAP -[ET] [NLB].

PL5149 Ya.C [NUS Central Library].



Book cover. Photo of a copy held at the NUS Central Library.

down the line

Date: 1980.

Publisher: Heinemann Educational Books (Asia) [Singapore].⁶

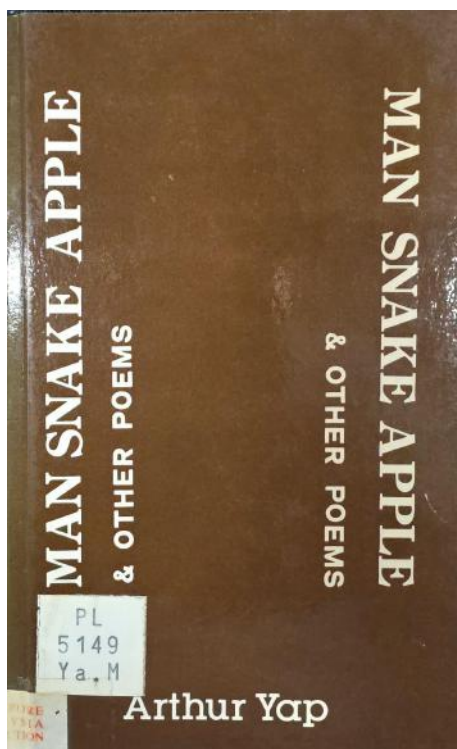
ISBN 13: 9789971640026 / ISBN 10: 9971640023.

Description: 58 pages; 18 cm; paperback. Part of the *Writing in Asia* series.⁶ In 1982, it received the NBDCS award for poetry in English.⁷

Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/8185250>

Call number: 828.995957 YAP [NLB].

PL5149 Ya.D [NUS Central Library].



Book cover. Photo of a copy held at the NUS Central Library.

man snake apple & other poems

Date: 1986.

Publisher: Heinemann Asia [Singapore].⁸

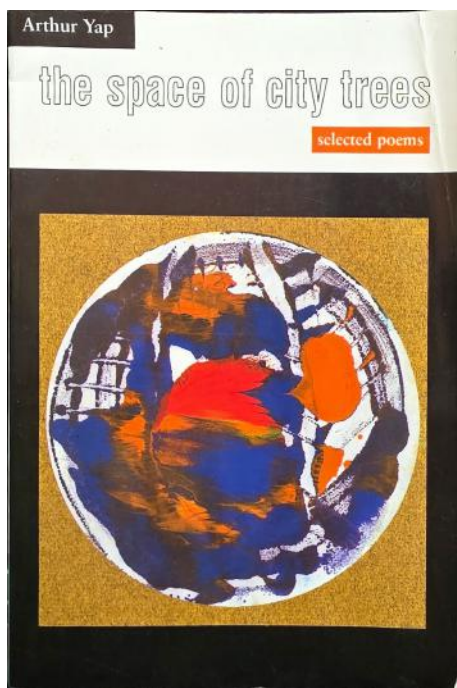
ISBN 13: 9789971641085 / ISBN 10: 9971641089.

Description: 48 pages; 18 cm. In 1989, it received the NBDCS award for poetry in English.⁹

Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/15376427>

Call number: S821 YAP [NLB].

PL5149 Ya.M [NUS Central Library].



Book cover. Photo of a copy in Kusu's personal collection.

the space of city trees: selected poems

Date: 1999, 2000.

Publisher: Skoob Books Ltd. [London, UK].¹⁰

ISBN 13: 9781871438390 / ISBN 10: 187143839X.

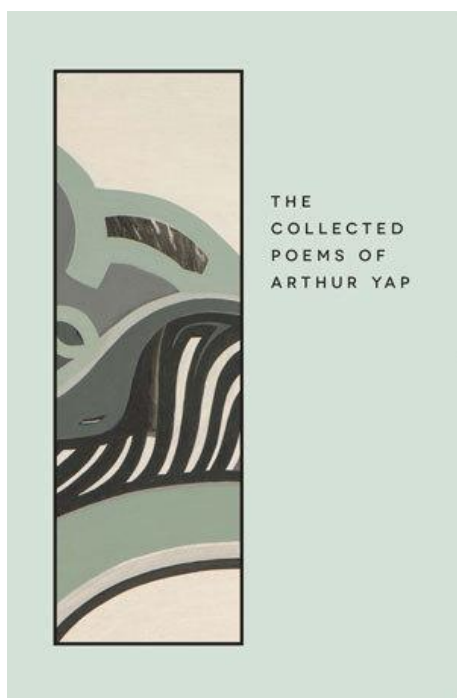
Description: xxii, 147 pages; 21 cm. Features selected poems from Arthur Yap's books *only lines*, *commonplace*, *down the line* and *man snake apple & other poems*, as well as the anthology *Five Takes*.¹⁰

Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/42912260>
(1999 ed.)

<https://search.worldcat.org/title/265445290>
(2000 ed.)

Call number: S821 YAP [NLB].

PL5149 Ya.S [NUS Central Library].



Book cover. Photo from NUS Press.

The Collected Poems of Arthur Yap

Date: 2013.

Singapore: NUS Press [Singapore].¹¹

ISBN 13: 9789971696535 / ISBN 10: 9971696533.

Description: xix, 249 pages; 22cm. Advertised as a collection of "every published poem" by Arthur Yap, presented in reverse chronological order (newest to oldest). Writer of introduction: Irving Goh.¹¹

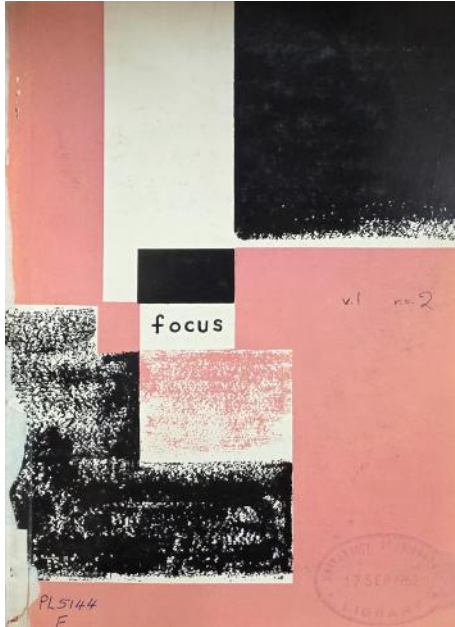
Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/807039032>

Call number: S821 YAP [NLB].

PL5149 Yap.Co 2013

[NUS Central Library].

Poetry (Uncollected)



Cover of *Focus*, Volume 1, Number 2.
Photo of a copy held at the NUS Central Library.

‘Fishing Shack’

Date: 1962.

Publisher: University of Singapore [Singapore].

Description: In *Focus*, Volume 1, Number 2: pp. 21–22. The cover of this number was also designed by Arthur Yap.

Call number: 828.995957 F [year]1961-76 [NLB].
PL5144 F [NUS Central Library].



Cover of *Focus*, Volume 2, Number 1.
Photo of a copy held at the NUS Central Library.

‘Beggars All’

Date: 1962.

Publisher: University of Singapore [Singapore].

Description: In *Focus*, Volume 2, Number 1: p. 2.

Call number: 828.995957 F [year]1961-76 [NLB].
PL5144 F [NUS Central Library].

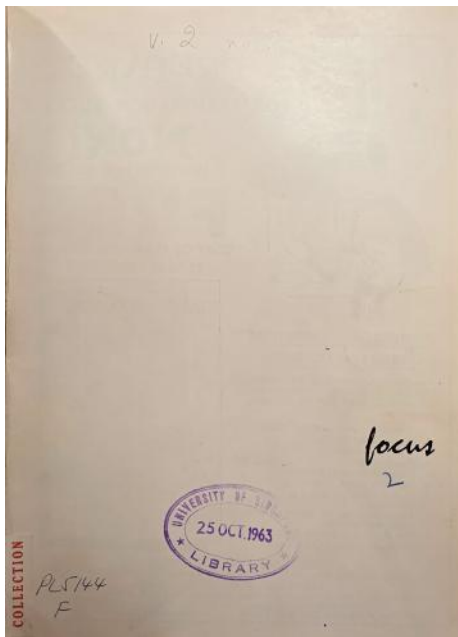
‘Heaven and Earth’

Date: 1962.

Publisher: University of Singapore [Singapore].

Description: In *Focus*, Volume 2, Number 1: p. 6.

Call number: 828.995957 F [year]1961-76 [NLB].
PL5144 F [NUS Central Library].



Cover of *Focus*, Volume 2, Number 2.
Photo of a copy held at the NUS Central Library.

‘A Thought’

Date: 1963.

Publisher: University of Singapore [Singapore].

Description: In *Focus*, Volume 2, Number 2: p. 5.

Call number: 828.995957 F [year]1961-76 [NLB].
PL5144 F [NUS Central Library].

‘Vicious Circle’

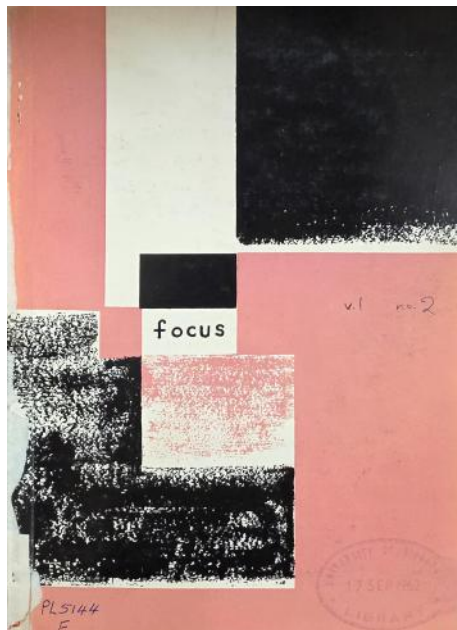
Date: 1963.

Publisher: University of Singapore [Singapore].

Description: In *Focus*, Volume 2, Number 2: pp. 16–17. Later revised into the poem ‘A Vicious Circle’, published in *down the line*.

Call number: 828.995957 F [year]1961-76 [NLB].
PL5144 F [NUS Central Library].

Fiction



Cover of *Focus*, Volume 1, Number 2.
Photo of a copy held at the NUS Central Library.

‘The Lady of the Lake’

Date: 1962.

Publisher: University of Singapore [Singapore].

Description: In *Focus*, Volume 1, Number 2: pp. 11–12. The cover of this number was also designed by Arthur Yap.

Call number: 828.995957 F [year]1961-76 [NLB].
PL5144 F [NUS Central Library].



Cover of *Focus*, Volume 2, Number 1.
Photo of a copy held at the NUS Central Library.

‘Noon at Five O’Clock’

Date: 1962.

Publisher: University of Singapore [Singapore].

Description: In *Focus*, Volume 2, Number 1: pp. 31–33.

Call number: 828.995957 F [year]1961-76 [NLB].
PL5144 F [NUS Central Library].

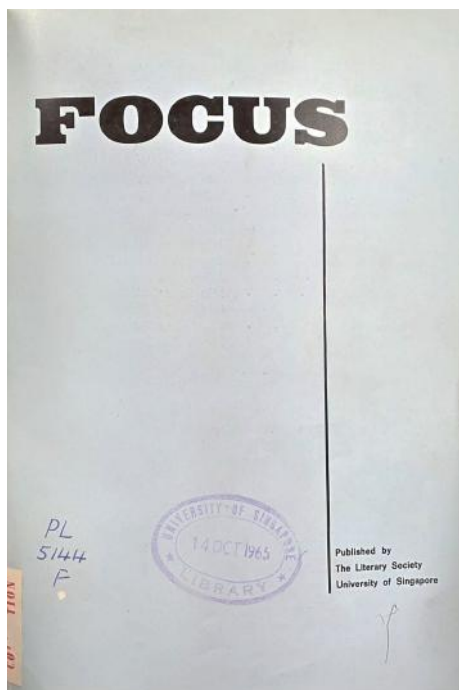
‘A 5-Year Plan’

Date: 1962.

Publisher: University of Singapore [Singapore].

Description: In *Focus*, Volume 2, Number 1: pp. 19–20.

Call number: 828.995957 F [year]1961-76 [NLB].
PL5144 F [NUS Central Library].



Cover of *Focus*, Volume 4, Number 1. Photo of a copy held at the NUS Central Library.

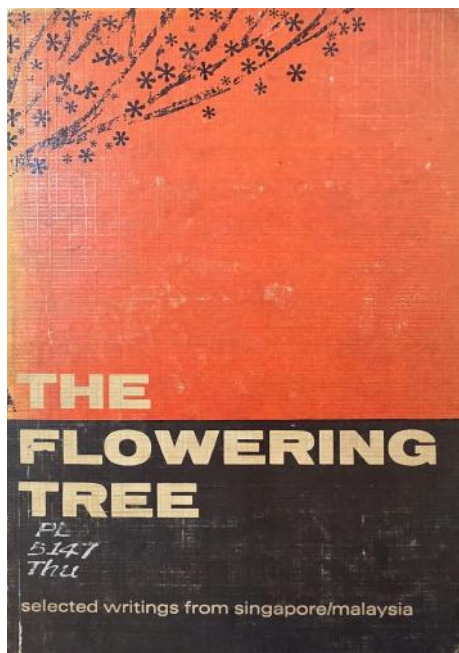
‘A Silly Little Story’

Date: 1964.

Publisher: University of Singapore [Singapore].

Description: In *Focus*, Volume 4, Number 1: pp. 15–16.

Call number: 828.995957 F [year]1961-76 [NLB].
PL5144 F [NUS Central Library].



Book cover of *The Flowering Tree*. Photo of a copy held at the NUS Central Library.

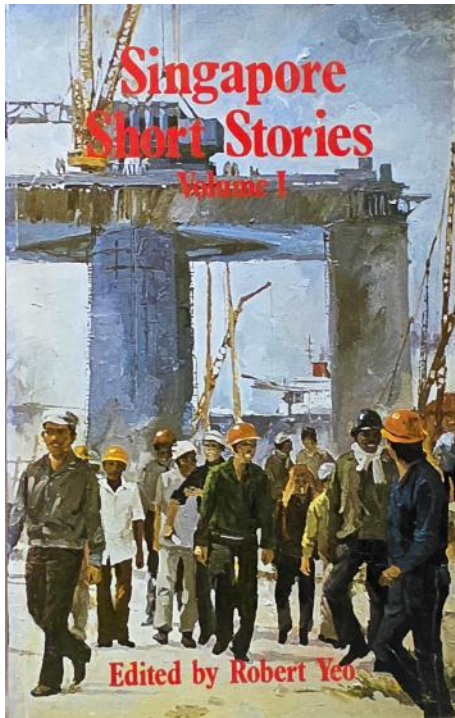
‘Soo Meng’

Date: 1970.

Publisher: Educational Publications Bureau [Singapore].

Description: In Edwin Thumboo (Ed.), *The Flowering Tree: Selected Writings from Singapore/Malaysia*.

Call number: 828.99 THU [NLB].
PL5147 Thu [NUS Central Library].



Book cover of *Singapore Short Stories, Volume I*. Photo from Kusu's personal collection.

'The Effect of a Good Dinner'

'None the Wiser'

'The Story of a Mask'

Date: 1978 (Two-volume ed.);

1989, 2000 (Single-volume ed.).

Publisher: Heinemann Asia [Singapore]

(1978, 1989 eds.);

Pearson Education Asia [Singapore]

(2000 ed.).

Description: These three stories first appeared in Robert Yeo (Ed.), *Singapore Short Stories, Volume I*, of two volumes, which was part of Heinemann's *Writing in Asia* series. This book and *Volume II* were later republished in a single book, *Singapore Short Stories* in 1989. It was again republished by Pearson Education Asia in 2000, as part of the *Longman Literature in Asia* series.

Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/4638720>

(1978 ed.).

<https://search.worldcat.org/title/22608942>

(1989 ed.).

<https://search.worldcat.org/title/297033117>

(2000 ed.).

Call number: 828.995957 SIN;

828.995957 SIN [v.]1;

828.995957 SIN -[ET] [v.]1 [NLB].

PL5147.3 Yeo v0001 [NUS Central Library].

(1978 ed., Volume 1)

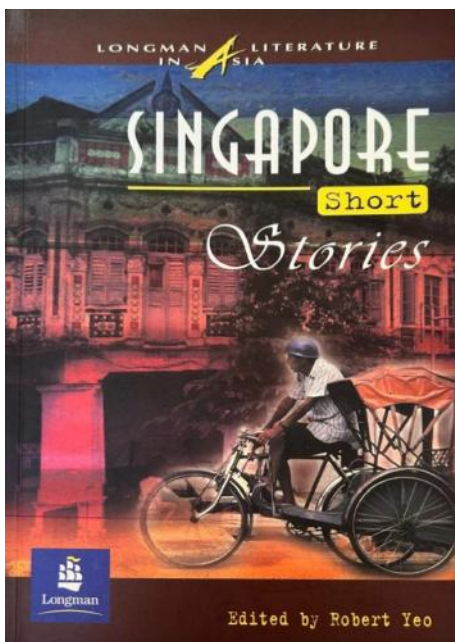
S823 SIN [NLB].

PL5147.3 Sin [NUS Central Library].

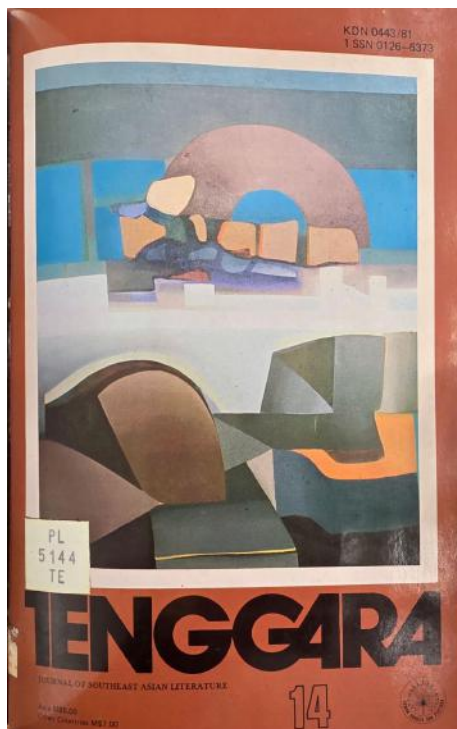
(1989 ed.)

PL5147.3 Sin 2000 [NUS Central Library].

(2000 ed.)



Book cover of *Singapore Short Stories* (2000 ed.). Photo from Kusu's personal collection.



Cover of *Tenggara*, 14. Photo of copy held in NUS Central Library.

**‘A Beginning and a Middle Without an Ending’
(1982 version)**

Date: 1982.

Publisher: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka [Malaysia].

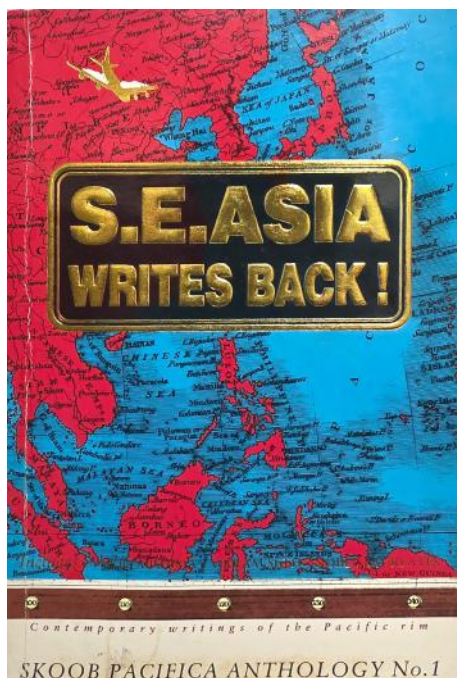
Description: In *Tenggara: Journal of Southeast Asian Literature*, 14, pp. 17–20. Later revised and republished in 1993 in *S.E. Asia Writes Back!*

Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/794806080>

Call number: 805 TI [issue]1982, [v.]14 [NLB].

PL5144 TE no0011-no0015 80-82

[NUS Central Library].



Book cover of *S.E. Asia Writes Back!*
Photo of copy in Kusu’s personal collection.

**‘A Beginning and a Middle Without an Ending’
(1993 revised version)**

Date: 1993.

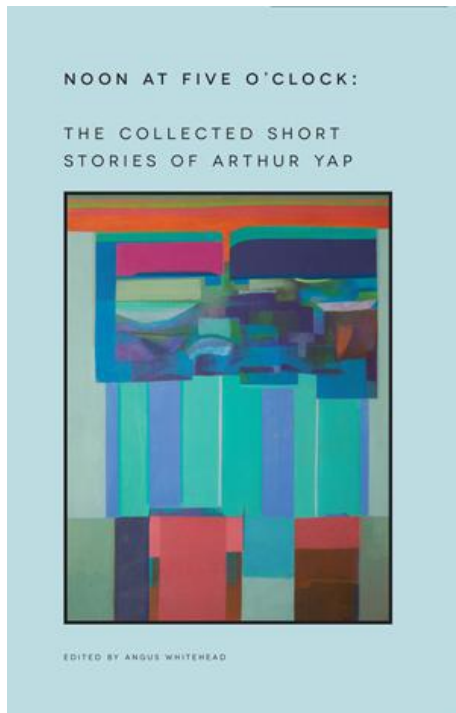
Publisher: Skoob Books [London, UK].

Description: In *S.E. Asia Writes Back! Contemporary Writings of the Pacific Rim (Skoob Pacifica Anthology, No. 1)*. Revised from the original 1982 version published in *Tenggara*, 14.

Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/31027955>

Call number: 809.8959 SOU [NLB].

PL5147.3 Sea [NUS Central Library].



Book cover. Photo from NUS Press.

Noon at Five o'Clock: The Collected Short Stories of Arthur Yap

Date: 2013, 2014.

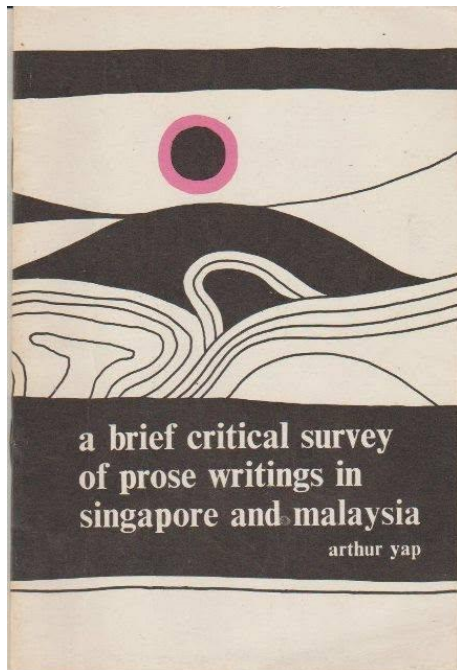
Publisher: NUS Press [Singapore].

ISBN 13: 9789971697914 / ISBN 10: 9971697912.

Description: xxi, 89 pages; 22 cm. The first combined publication of Arthur Yap's short stories. Editor: Angus Whitehead. Contributors: Rajeev Shridhar Patke, Shirley Lim. Includes the works: 'Noon at Five O'Clock', 'A 5-Year Plan', 'A Silly Little Story', 'Soo Meng', 'The Effect of a Good Dinner', 'None the Wiser', 'The Story of a Mask' and 'A Beginning and a Middle Without an Ending'.

Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/1062199981>

Non-Fiction



Book cover. Photo from The Penang Bookshelf.

A Brief Critical Survey of Prose Writings in Singapore and Malaysia.

Date: 1971.

Publisher: Educational Publications Bureau [Singapore].

Description: iii, 36 pages; 21 cm. A survey of disparate writings about Malaya and Singapore in the English language from the late 19th to mid-20th centuries. It includes primarily reviews of fiction, but also includes nonfiction works.

Record:

<https://search.worldcat.org/title/225964878>

Call Number: 828.99 YAP [NLB].

PL5145 Yap [NUS Central Library].



Book cover (1st ed.). Photo from *The Straits Times*, via NewspaperSG.

English Grammar and Usage

Date: 1981 (1st ed.); 1993 (2nd ed.); 1998 (3rd ed.).

Publisher: Federal Publications [Singapore].

ISBN 13: 9789971414498

/ ISBN 10: 997141449X (1st ed.).

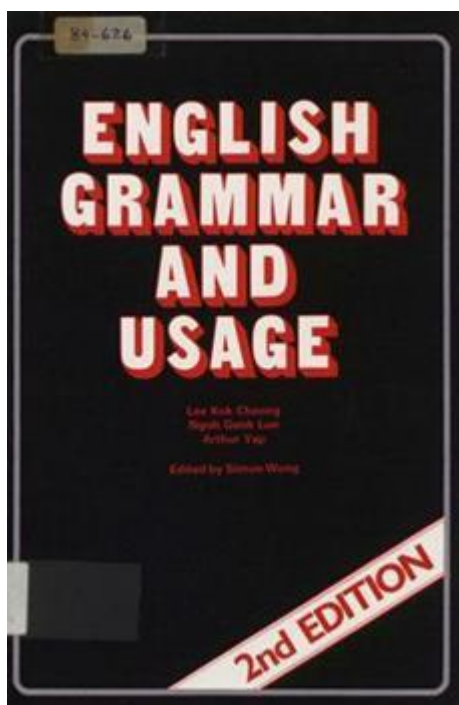
ISBN 13: 9789810120030, 9789971414481,
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/ ISBN 10: 9810120036, 9971414481,
997141449X (2nd ed.).

ISBN 13: 9789810124076

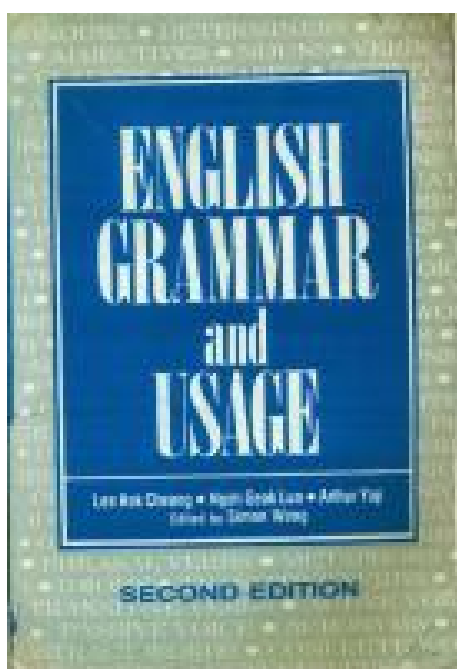
/ ISBN 10: 9810124074 (3rd ed.).

Description: viii, 232 pages; 23 cm (1st & 2nd ed.).
viii, 311 pages; 23 cm (3rd ed.). A comprehensive reference work, thoroughly revised and enlarged from an earlier publication: *A Course in English Grammar & Usage* (Singapore Teachers' Union, 1977).
Authors: Lee Kok Cheong, Ngoh Geok Lun, Arthur Yap; Editor: Simon Wong; Artist: Ngoh Geok Lun.

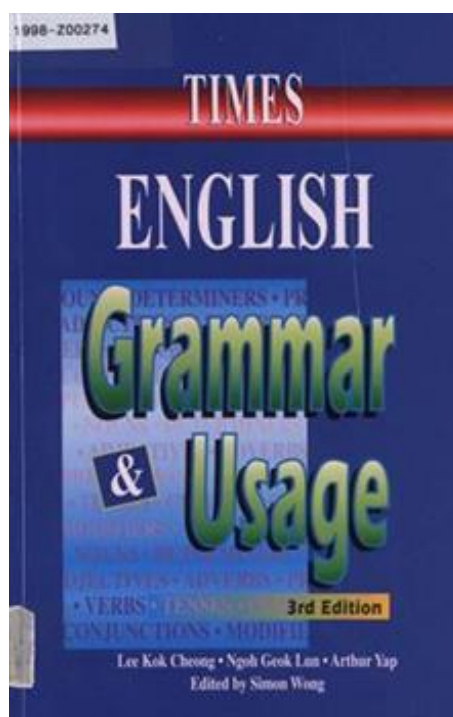


Book cover (2nd ed.). Photo from National Library Board Singapore.

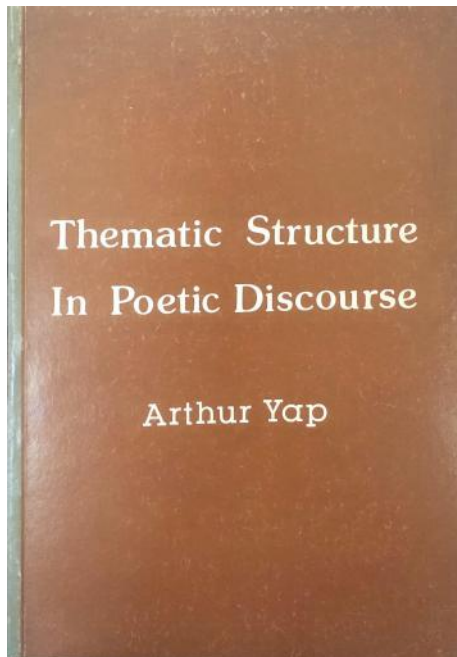
Record: <https://search.worldcat.org/title/226036678>
 (1st ed.)
<https://search.worldcat.org/title/959513407>
 (2nd ed.)
<https://search.worldcat.org/title/60491103>
 (3rd ed.)
 Call number: 428.2 LEE [NLB].



Book cover (2nd ed.). Photo from National Library Board Singapore.



Book cover (3rd ed.). Photo from National Library Board Singapore.



Book cover. Photo of a copy in Kusu's personal collection.

Thematic Structure in Poetic Discourse

Date: 1987.

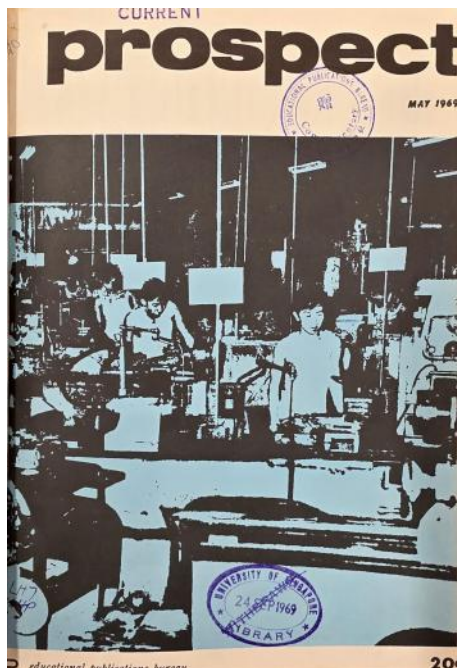
Publisher: Copinter Publishing [Singapore].

ISBN 13: 9789971984038 / ISBN 10: 9971984032.

Description: 220 pages; 21 cm. The study was an attempt at surveying various approaches to the topic of theme structure, made by a number of schools of linguistics. It was also aimed at applying concepts to the analysis of poetry and describing a framework for identifying and tracing themes in poetry.

Call number: 808.1 YAP -[ET] [NLB].

PN1042 Yap [NUS Central Library].



Cover of *Prospect* vol. 1, no. 1. Photo of copy held at the NUS Central Library.

‘Fiction: Singapore and Malaysia 1’

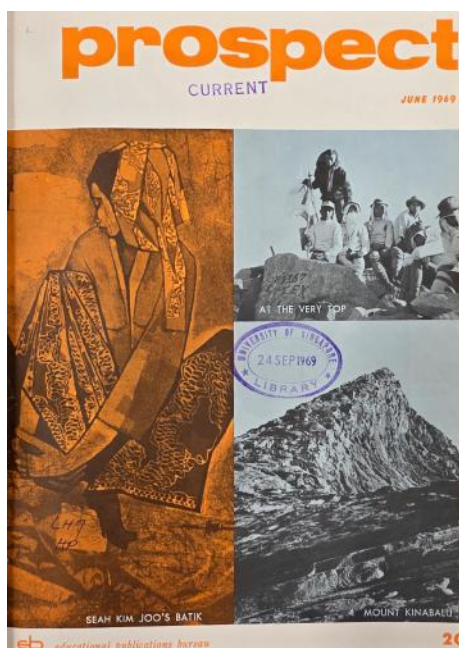
Date: 1969, May.

Publisher: National Library Board [Singapore].

Description: In Robert Yeo, Yeoh Beng Cheow (Eds.), *Prospect* Volume 1, Number 1: pp. 20–24. Magazine created by Educational Publications Bureau, Ministry of Education.

Call number: v. 1 n. 1 1/5/1969 [NLB].

LH7 HP [NUS Central Library].



Cover of *Prospect* vol. 1, no. 2. Photo of copy held at the NUS Central Library.

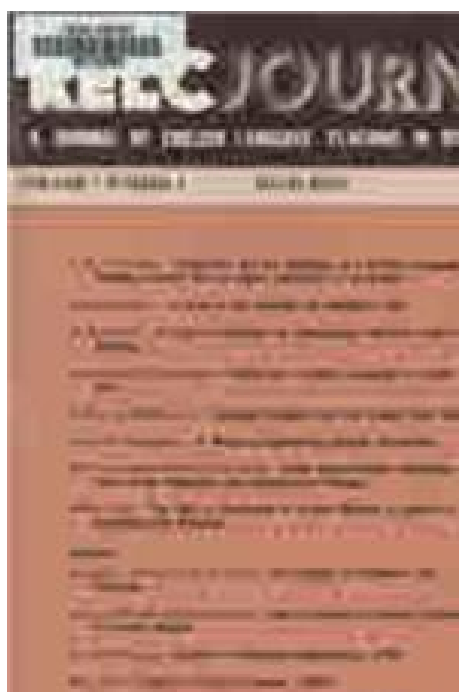
‘Fiction: Singapore and Malaysia 2’

Date: 1969, June.

Publisher: National Library Board [Singapore].

Description: In *Prospect* Volume 1, Number 2: pp. 20–21.

Call number: v. 1 n. 2 1/6/1969 [NLB].
LH7 HP [NUS Central Library].



Cover of *RELC Journal* vol. 7, no. 1. Photo from National Library Board Singapore.

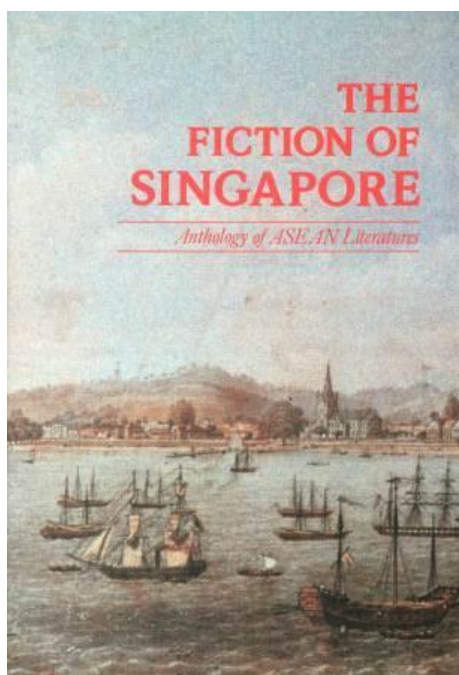
‘The use of vernacular in fiction written in English in Singapore and Malaysia’

Date: 1976, June.

Publisher: Educational Publications Bureau [Singapore].

Description: In *RELC Journal*, Volume 7, Number 1: pp. 64–71.

Call number: V. 7 N. 1. Jun-76 [NLB].
PE1068 Asi.RJ [NUS Central Library].



Book cover of *Fiction of Singapore*.
Photo from ASEAN.

‘English fiction’

Date: 1993.

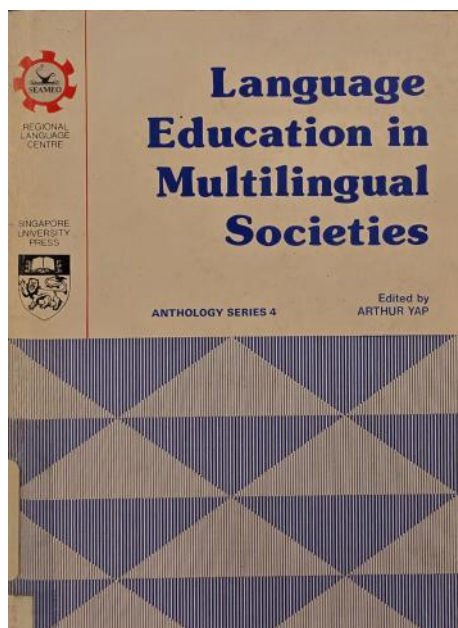
Publisher: UniPress [Singapore].

Description: In (Edwin Thumboo Ed.) *The Fiction of Singapore*: pp. 765–770. Written by Arthur Yap and Dudley De Souza.

Call number: S823.008 FIC [NLB].

PL5147.3 Fic [NUS Central Library].

Editorial



Book cover of *Language Education in Multilingual Societies*. Photo of copy held at the NUS Central Library.

Language Education in Multilingual Societies: Selected Papers from the RELC Seminar on Language Education in Multilingual Societies, Its Challenges and Potentials, Singapore, 18–22 April 1977

Date: 1978.

Publisher: Singapore University Press for SEAMEO Regional Language Centre [Singapore].

Description: xix, 174 pages; 21 cm. Edited by Arthur Yap. The fourth book of the SEAMEO Regional Language Centre anthology series.

Call number: 301.21 REG [NLB].

LC201.7 Asi.R [NUS Central Library].

Notes

- ¹ Yap (1971).
- ² John (1976).
- ³ Thumboo (1973).
- ⁴ Chung et al. (1974).
- ⁵ Yap (1977).
- ⁶ Yap (1980).
- ⁷ Pates (1985).
- ⁸ Yap (1986).
- ⁹ “Let’s turn to reading” (1988).
- ¹⁰ Yap (1999).

References

Publications by Arthur Yap or featuring his work

- Yap, A. (1962). Fishing Shack. *Focus*, 1(2), 21–22.
- . (1962). Beggars All. *Focus*, 2(1), 2.
- . (1962). *Heaven and Earth*, 2(1), 6.
- . (1962). *A Thought*, 2(2), 5.
- . (1962). *Vicious Circle*, 2(2), 16–17.
- Yap, A. (1971). *only lines*. Federal Publications.
- . (1977). *commonplace*. Heinemann Educational Books (Asia).
- . (1980). *down the line*. Heinemann Educational Books (Asia).
- . (1986). *man snake apple & other poems*. Heinemann Asia.
- . (1999). *the space of city trees: selected poems*. Skoob Books Ltd.
- . (2013). *The Collected Poems of Arthur Yap*. NUS Press.
- . (2014). *Noon at Five O’Clock: The Short Stories of Arthur Yap*. (A. Whitehead, Ed.). NUS Press.
- Chung, Y. C., Sng, B. K., Yap, A., Yeo, B. C., & Yeo, R. (1974). *Five Takes: Poems*. University of Singapore Society.
- Thumboo, E. (Ed.). (1973). *Seven Poets: Singapore and Malaysia*. Singapore University Press.
- . (1976). *The Second Tongue: An Anthology of Poetry from Malaysia and Singapore*. Heinemann Educational Books (Asia).

Other sources

- John, A. (1976, September 1). Winning feelings. *The Straits Times*, 1. Retrieved July 18, 2026 from NewspaperSG.
<https://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/newspapers/digitised/page/straitstimes19820901-1.1.41>
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