UN A MALAY WORLD QUEST

The artistry of the Malay world has always captured the imagination of Dr Muhammad Patzi Abdul Latif, an avid collector of its artefacts, writes ninotaziz.

ABOUT 100 years ago, one could travel by sampan from Kampung Bukit Kuda in Klang right up to Suria Comtax and as far as Melaka, Sirah.

We can only imagine what the view from such a trip would have been like. Viral jungle. Sounds of the wild. Rivers so crystal-clear that you could probably see towns and villages like Besut and Pasir Kuda. Poji used to spend hours watching his grandfather build his boats. 'Norhaiza Noordin. This made him appreciate the beauty and the art of wood carving. He also admired traditional local crafts and cherished the alignment of boats that he made with his chairman in the river.

His love for history remained. However, the passion for the written word led him to a new sampan to test its worthiness number among the best. His collection quickly grew bigger: Ancient artifacts, works, textiles and manuscripts, silverware, are of the highest quality and have been acquired an attribute it to magic. Sadly, the famed silversmiths are disappearing. But Malay manuscripts continue to be one of his favourite collections.

His daughter Zainab and then-grandson Smiling, he confides that he always yearned to see, touch and collect items that connect him to his roots in Kelantan.

In the story of Hikayat Megat Terawis, the renowned Professor Dr Harun Mat Kendi with silver top. Abdul Muati Ahmad titled the country, 'The Malayu. The culmination of the knowledge in metalwork. Perhaps among the last silversmiths in the country, 'Keris Warisan'

If you want to see the intellectual thought of the Malay people and their wisdom, read the Malay manuscripts. Then you will know how knowledgeable they are.