

sub-editor. He served in World War II and joined *The Observer* as an assistant to the chief Paris correspondent in 1949. In 1954, he was posted to Saigon to cover the Indo-Chinese conflict and in 1956, he moved to Singapore as chief Far East correspondent of *The Observer*, a post he held until 1981.

Bloodworth wrote five books on the region: *The Chinese Looking Glass* (1967); *An Eye For the Dragon* (1970); *The Messiah and the Mandarins* (1982); *Reporter's Notebook* (1988); and *The Tiger and the Trojan Horse* (1986). He also co-wrote three books with his wife, Liang Ching Ping, herself a noted radio commentator and journalist: *Heirs Apparent* (1973); *The Chinese Machiavelli* (1976); and *I Married A Barbarian* (2000). Bloodworth was also responsible for editing the first volume of Lee Kuan Yew's memoirs, *The Singapore Story* (2000). He wrote five works of fiction, including *Any Number Can Play* (1972) and its sequel, *The Clients of Omega* (1975); *Have a Nice Day* (1992); and *Trapdoor* (1980).

Blundell, Sir Edmund (dates unknown) Colonial official. Prior to his appointment as governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir Edmund Augustus Blundell had served variously as commissioner of Tenasserim (1833–43), resident councillor of Malacca (1847–49) and resident councillor of Penang (1849–55). He had been expected to succeed SAMUEL GEORGE BONHAM as governor of the Straits Settlements in 1843 due to his familiarity with the local languages and customs as well as his keen interest in agriculture. However, the EAST INDIA COMPANY decided to appoint Colonel WILLIAM BUTTERWORTH instead.

Blundell succeeded Butterworth as governor in 1855. During his governorship he attempted to introduce port dues on shipping to increase revenue but the merchants opposed this decision as contrary to the principles on which the colony was established. In 1854, twelve consecutive days of violence, sparked by a dispute between the Hokkiens and Teochews, had seriously disrupted trade in Singapore. In view of the fragile security situation, Blundell decided to pass the Police Force Act of 1856 to vest full police powers upon the security forces then in existence, paving the way for uniforms to be introduced. However there were difficulties in enforcing the new Police Act which resulted in further riots. The press played up the negative publicity, and he was extremely unpopular by the end of his term.

Blythe, Wilfred Lawson (1896–1975) Colonial official. Wilfred Lawson Blythe was educated at the universities of Liverpool and Grenoble. He served in World War I and joined the Malayan Civil Service in 1921. From 1922 to 1924, he studied Chinese in Canton (present-day Guangdong). Between 1926 and 1936,

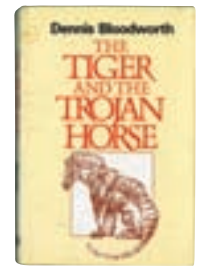
Blythe served as Protector of Chinese (see CHINESE PROTECTORATE.) in various parts of Malaya. Other important positions he held included deputy president, Penang Municipality (1936–37; 1939–40) and deputy controller of labour (Chinese) (1941–42). He served with the Army during World War II, and was interned during the Japanese Occupation (1942–45). After the war, Blythe was appointed secretary for Chinese affairs for the Federation of Malaya (1946–48). He returned to Singapore in 1948 to become president of the Municipal Commission. In 1950 he was appointed colonial secretary of Singapore, a post he held until his retirement in 1953. He wrote in that year *Historical Sketch of Chinese Labour in Malaya*, and in 1969 a classic study entitled *Secret Societies in Malaya*.

BNP Paribas Bank. The French bank BNP Paribas Singapore is one of a number of foreign banks licenced in Singapore as a Qualifying Full Bank, a status it acquired in October 1999 following the liberalization of the local BANKING sector. The banking group's presence in Singapore began in 1968 when BNP (Banque Nationale de Paris) established a representative bank. BNP acquired Paribas in 1999 and the merged group has since become the biggest bank in the Eurozone by market capitalization, employing some 120,000

people in 85 countries. The BNP Paribas operation in Singapore is its regional hub for corporate, investment and private banking, and oversees a team of more than 1,100 professionals in the region. It is located at Collyer Quay.

Board of Architects Statutory board. Under the MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, the Board administers the Architects Act 1991, which sets out provisions for the registration of architects, the regulation of architectural qualifications, the practice of architecture by registered individuals and the supply of architectural services by corporations.

Board of Commissioners of Currency Singapore The Board of Commissioners of Currency Singapore (BCCS) was established in 1967 to continue with the 'currency board' system that had operated since colonial times. This is a regime where domestic notes and coins were fully convertible to a foreign currency at a fixed exchange rate, and also fully backed by foreign assets or gold. However, with the collapse of the Bretton-Woods system in 1973, the subsequent floating of the Singapore dollar and the repeal of the convertibility of domestic currency notes and coins into gold and other foreign currencies on demand in 1982, the role of



Dennis Bloodworth: *The Tiger and the Trojan Horse* (1986) deals with the People's Action Party and the Communist United Front.



Wilfred Lawson Blythe



Boat Quay Developed in the early 1820s as a public quay, the area was originally a swampy bank reclaimed with earth taken from a small hill at modern-day RAFFLES PLACE. Before the opening of New Harbour (Keppel Harbour) in the 1850s, Boat Quay and CLARKE QUAY, further up-river, were the main port areas on the banks of the SINGAPORE RIVER. The name Boat Quay originally referred to both banks of the Singapore River: North Boat Quay abutted River Valley Road, and South Boat Quay was closer to the old Ellenborough Market. GODOWNS, warehouses, and shophouses were built all along both North and South Boat Quay. Shophouses dominated the mid-river section along the two quays. The area was gazetted for conservation in 1989.

During the 1990s, the Urban Redevelopment Authority began transforming the area. Shophouses were sold, refurbished and adapted for reuse. Today, Boat Quay is the name of the southern quay. It is now a pedestrian-only strip bustling with restaurants, pubs, cafés, clubs, fast-food outlets and coffee shops.



Boat Quay: (clockwise from top left) coolies at work; working riverfront around 1900; still crowded with bumboats in the 1960s; a centre for restaurants and entertainment today.