

To celebrate the official opening of the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (LKCNHM) at NUS, a book titled "Of Whales And Dinosaurs - The Story of Singapore's Natural History Museum" which details the history of the museum and a set of commemorative stamps were presented to guests.

The Story of Singapore's Natural History Museum

Commissioned by the LKCNHM, the book titled "Of Whales And Dinosaurs - The Story of Singapore's Natural History Museum" is authored by Dr Kevin Tan, who is an Adjunct Professor with the NUS Faculty of Law and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at NTU. The book is an institutional history of the museum and also tells the story of the frustrations, commitment and courage of the numerous individuals who battled officialdom, innovated endlessly and overcame the odds to protect Singapore's natural history heritage. Published by NUS Press, the book is available at leading bookstores at a retail price of S\$49.22 (including GST).

Commemorative Stamps

A set of commemorative stamps was developed by the Singapore Philatelic Bureau to mark the official opening of LKCNHM. The four stamps feature four iconic animals in the museum: A bird (the Black-and-Yellow Broadbill), a reptile (the Leathery Turtle), a dinosaur (a diplodocid sauropod skeleton) and an insect (Giant Hawker dragonfly). The stamps are available for sale as a stamp set (S\$3.20), Pre-cancelled First Day Cover with stamps (S\$4.05) and Presentation Pack with stamps (S\$5.00).

The broadbill was first discovered by Sir Stamford Raffles on the island in 1822, and draws attention to the fact that the museum's founder was an ardent naturalist, and that Singapore, back then, had already become an important research location. The Leathery Turtle is the largest marine reptile in the world, and the one featured in the commemorative stamp came on shore at Siglap in 1883 – it is still preserved today at the museum. The giant dinosaur is one of three original fossils on display at LKCNHM – the largest measuring an astonishing 27 metres from head to tail. The Giant Hawker is arguably one of the largest (certainly the heaviest) dragonflies in the world, and can still be found in Singapore's forests.

The LKCNHM commemorative stamps are available for sale at the museum shop, SingPost post offices, the Singapore Philatelic Museum and online at www.stampdelight.com.