



The Sarawak Museum Journal

Vol. L No. 71

December 1996



ISSN: 0375-3050

E-ISSN: 3036-0188

Citation: K.P Tabrett. (1996). Book Review: "Under five flags" by R.J. Brooks. The Sarawak Museum Journal, L (71): 241-242

BOOK REVIEW

K.P Tabrett

R.J. Brooks: Under Five Flags, Pentland Press Ltd., Cambridgeshire, U.K., 1995. Price: £17.50 + p & p £2.35 (UK) or £5.50 (Overseas 2nd class airmail).

This book will fit on the shelf with others of its genre, written by well-meaning colonial administrative officers who spent much of their careers serving in the out-of-the-way areas of the Empire.

Beginning in the final 2 years of Chartered Company rule in North Borneo (now Sabah), and in a somewhat light-hearted manner, Mr. Brooks takes us through his recollected experiences as a junior government officer of that time, thence through his internment by the Japanese invaders, and then on to the British Military Administration and the Colonial Administration, ending with a somewhat sketchy chapter on the inception of Malaysia, to which is added his impressions on a subsequent return visit to Sabah from his retirement in U.K.

Mr. Brooks' greatest service has been to reiterate, at pages 230/231, the "Twenty Points", whereby Sabah ended its brief fortnight of self rule in September 1963 to form Malaysia with Malaya, Singapore and Sarawak. These Twenty Points should be required reading for all secondary school students in Sabah, and for all Government Officers within the State.