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**OBITUARY: HAJI YUSUF (PETER) HEATON (1946-2002)****Bob Reece**

There are some people whose passing causes scarcely a ripple of public interest, but whose achievements run deep. Such a person was Hj. Yusuf (Peter) Heaton who died in his house at Kampong Gersik, Kuching, on 17 April 2002 at the age of 56. A walking encyclopaedia of knowledge about Sarawak after a residence of thirty years, he joined that interesting band of *orang puteh* who were happy victims to Borneo's attractions. During all that time he returned only once to New Zealand to see his family.

## OBITUARY

by

Bob Reece



Haji Yusuf (Peter) Heaton (1946-2002)

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I first met Peter Yusuf in early 1973 when I was conducting my doctoral research on the 1946 cession of Sarawak. He was then working for the *Sarawak Tribune* as a sub-editor and leader-writer but his real interest was in Sarawak history. He generously gave me access to his carefully-written notes on the cession that he had taken from contemporary newspapers, saving me a great deal of time. Over the next twenty-five years I met him whenever I could on my visits to Kuching, usually at a *balal* restaurant in India St. that he favoured. One of our shared interests was Gerard MacBryan, Vyner Brooke's brilliant but unstable private secretary who converted to Islam and performed the *haj* in 1935.