



Benjamin Sheares and his favourite and closest sibling, younger sister Alice, circa 1920s.

Source: Sheares Family.



King Edward VII College of Medicine—Professors and Graduates, March 1929.

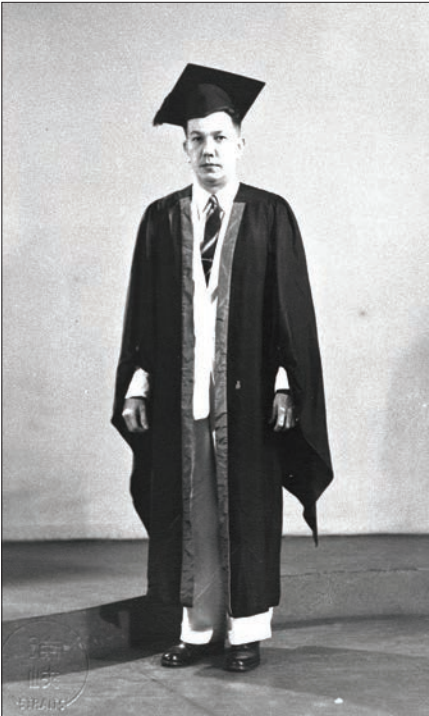
Standing: E.S. Monteiro, B.H. Sheares, N. Amad, R.G. Gunatilika, Lim Eng Cheang, B. Chew, A.W. Moriera.

Sitting: Mr B.M. Johns, Professor of Clinical Surgery; Dr Young, Professor of Bacteriology; Mr K. Black, Professor of Surgery; Mr Kay Mouat, Professor of Physiology; Dr R.B. Hawes, Professor of Medicine; Dr J.S. Webster, Professor of Radiology.

Source: Sheares Family.



Studio photo of Dr Benjamin Sheares and Mrs Sheares, nee Yeo Seh Geok.
Date: circa 1939, the year that Sheares married Madam Yeo.
Source: Benjamin Sheares Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Studio photograph of Dr Benjamin Henry Sheares in graduation gown.
Date: 1940s
Source: Benjamin Sheares Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.

n's Gas ts Will Glitter

of streets provided lamps will be resumed on September 1, stated W. H. Wada, chief of the Engineering Bureau of the Syonan Government, in an interview with the Times yesterday.

Wada revealed that on Sept. 1, lights will augment the street lighting facilities of the centre and residential areas of the city will be used principally at junctions and the main

arteries. He stated that Singapore's lighting depended to a great extent on that during the local phase of the war after East Asia war many gas standards were damaged.

Authorities were desirous of re-estimating the city's lighting system as soon as possible but there was a shortage of that period and this prevented the production of sufficient quantities for street lighting.

However, there is a large stock of coal now and moreover the reduction in street traffic after dark has been lifted. In this connection he stated that quite a number of the road blocks to date were due to a lack of proper street lights.

Dr. Wada said that plans for the revival of the gas lighting throughout

WELCOMED BY VILLAGERS



Top: Syonan's two Travelling Dispensaries and, below, Dr. Sheares and Nurse Kaval attending patients.

Syonan's Travelling Dispensaries 'A Boon To Rural Dwellers'

PENETRATING into the remotest areas of rural Syonan,

Shipowners Help To Res. Waterborn Trade In Mala

SHIPOWNERS who have already registered their vessels are advised to do so immediately in the resumption of maintenance of normal trade conditions in Syonan and Malaya generally.

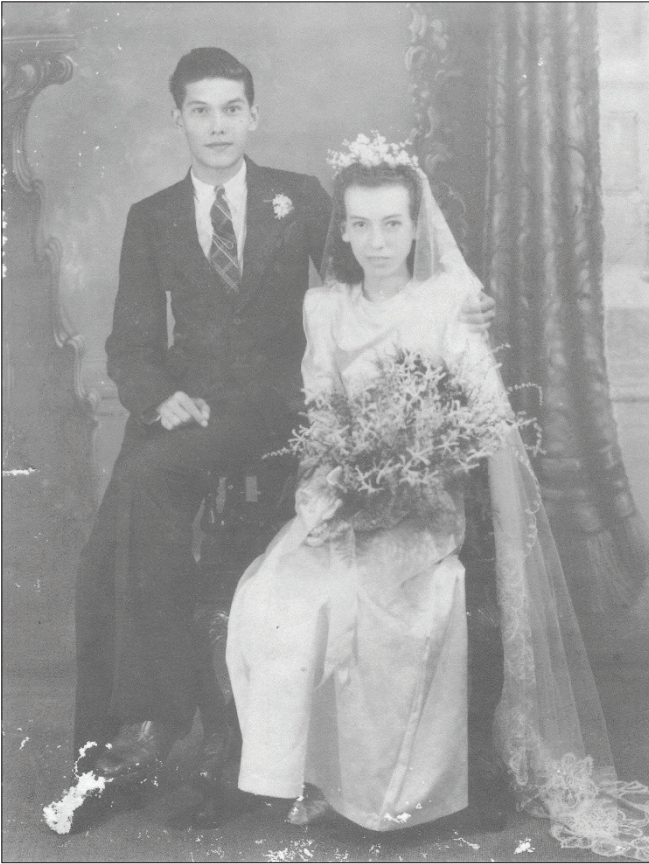
In an interview with Mr. K. Toyoda, Deputy-Mayor, Syonan, Tokubetsu-chi, recently, a Syonan Times reporter was told that the best protection shipowners could now was to get their ships or vessels registered. He declared that there is no question of the ships or vessels being commandeered by the authorities.

Shipowners or those owning vessels in the neighbouring islands are informed that when coming to Syonan for registration, they should...

Dr Sheares featured in treatment of rural dwellers through travelling dispensaries.

Extract from the *Shonan Times* (*Syonan Shimbun*), 29 August 1942, p. 4.

Source: untraced, picture reproduced through courtesy of National Library Board.



Sheares' younger brother Emile who wedded Clarice Simmonds in 1942 at the Cathedral of the Good Shepard in Victoria Street. He died over a year later after being mowed down by a Japanese truck. Clarice later remarried and left for England while their child Maurice was looked after by Sheares' mother and himself in Singapore.

Source: Sheares Family.



Tsukasa Osugi, the Japanese officer who brought a carton of milk daily to Sheares' infant nephew Maurice, after feeling guilty over the accident that killed Emile Sheares in 1943. Osugi left this picture with the family but efforts by Maurice to trace Osugi after the war failed.

Source: Sheares Family.



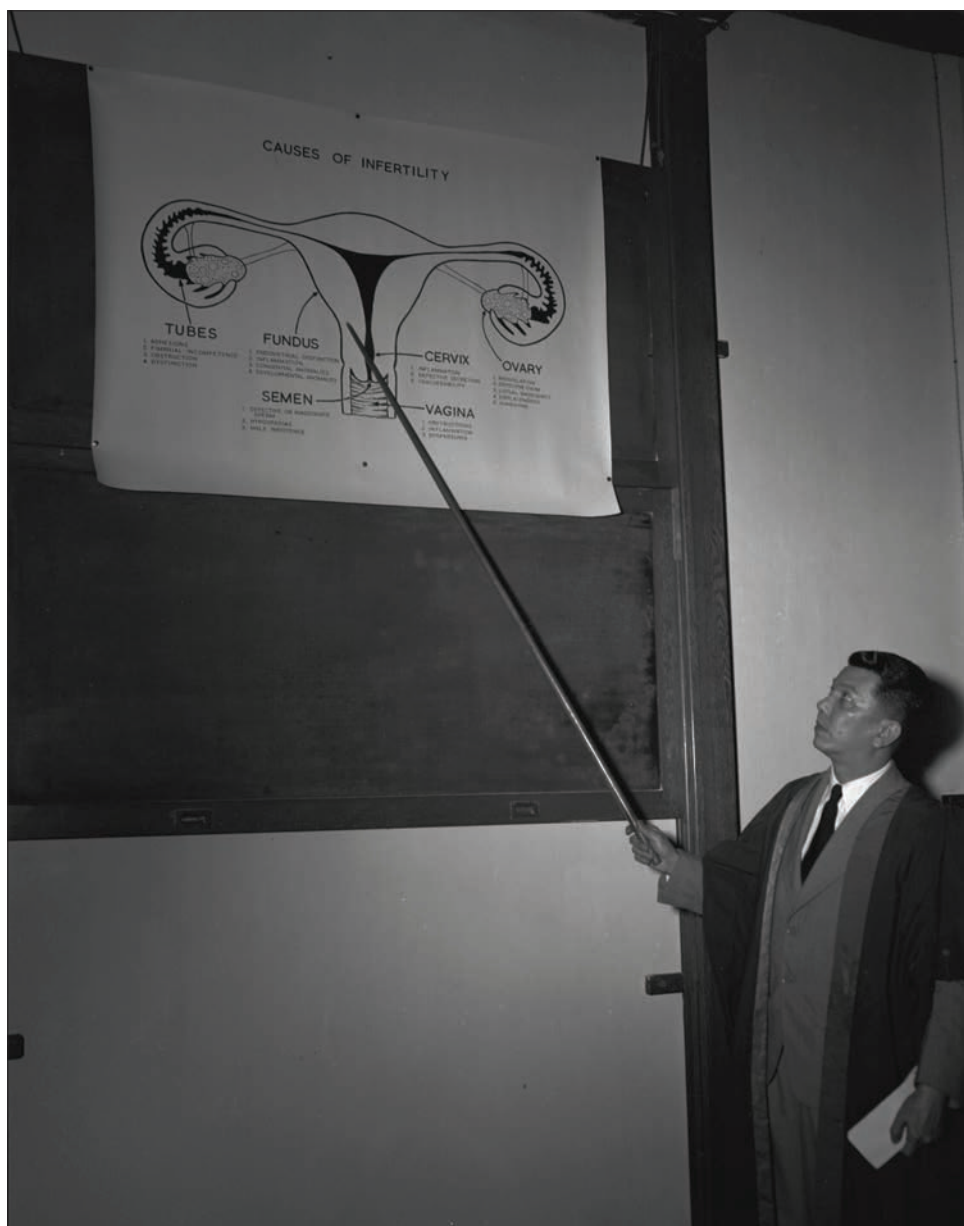
KKH staff in front of the old wing of KKH in 1948. Seated fourth from left is Dr A.C. Sinha; sixth from left is Dr Benjamin Sheares; and fifth from right is Professor J.S. English.

Source: KK Women's and Children's Hospital: Celebrating a Century of Leadership in Maternity Care 1924–2024 (KK Women's and Children's Hospital, 2024). Courtesy of Professor Tan Kok Hian.



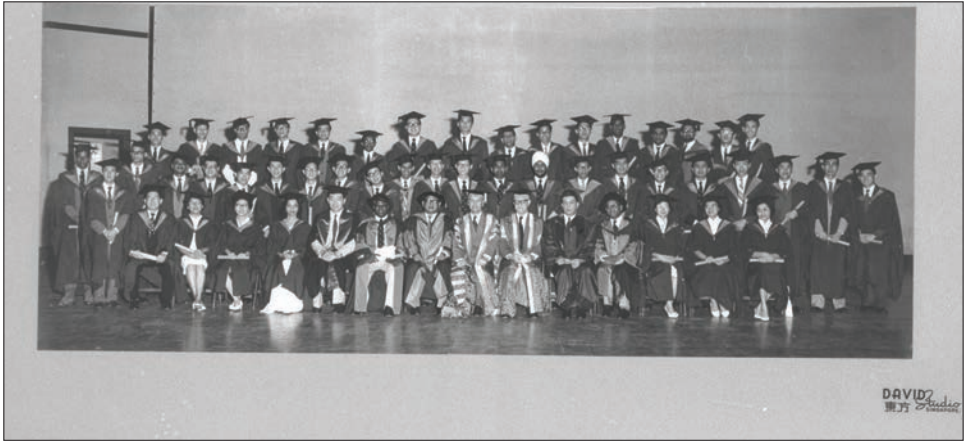
Dr Benjamin Sheares with nurses and staff at Kandang Kerbau Hospital, 1950.

Source: David Ng Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Dr Benjamin Sheares giving a lecture at the University of Malaya in 1951.

Source: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission.



Group photograph of medical graduates with Professor Benjamin Sheares (seated fifth from right).

Date: 1951

Source: David Ng Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Dr Benjamin Sheares in his office at KKH, circa 1950s.

Source: Benjamin Henry Sheares Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Dr Benjamin Sheares, Mrs Sheares with their children Constance, Edwin and Joseph.
Date: circa 1950s
Source: Sheares Family.



Family party at the residence of Dr Benjamin Sheares, at the top floor of KKH, circa 1951.
Source: Sheares Family.



Oil painting of Professor Benjamin Sheares (circa early 1960s) by Roy Glanville.
Source: Sheares Family.



Oil painting of Mrs Seh Geok Sheares (circa 1961) by Roy Glanville.
Source: Sheares Family.



The house in Dorset Road that Sheares built for his mother in 1964.
Source: Sheares Family.



Sheares' mother Lillian Gomes at Sheares' Holt Road home in August 1961.
Source: Sheares Family.



Participants at the opening of a family planning seminar jointly sponsored by the Singapore Family Planning Board and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (Southeast Asia & Oceania Region), held at the lecture theatre of Kandang Kerbau Hospital. Dr Benjamin Sheares is seated fifth from left of the first row.

Date: 14/01/1967

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Swearing-in ceremony of Dr Benjamin Sheares as President at the Istana. The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice Wee Chong Jin (second from right) in the presence of Speaker of Parliament Dr Yeoh Ghim Seng (third from right) and Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

Date: 02/01/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Cabinet ministers and their spouses, and other guests at the swearing-in ceremony of President Benjamin Sheares at the Istana.

Date: 02/01/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Some two weeks into Benjamin Sheares' first term as President, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was held in Singapore from 14 to 22 January 1971. Several Heads of Government attending CHOGM visited the Istana to call on President Benjamin Sheares. They included Australian Prime Minister John Gorton (left) and his wife Mrs Bettina Gorton (right).

Date: 13/01/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Another leader attending CHOGM who called on President Sheares at the Istana was Archbishop Makarios, President of Cyprus.

Date: 13/01/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares hosted a reception at the Istana for delegates attending CHOGM. They included Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (above shaking hands with the President).
Date: 14/01/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Group photograph of Commonwealth Heads of Delegation attending CHOGM. Seated eighth from right is Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. CHOGM was the first major event Sheares hosted as President.
Date: 14/01/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



First Lady Mrs Benjamin Sheares hosted a luncheon party at the Istana for the wives of the Commonwealth Heads of Government attending CHOGM.

Date: 18/01/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Mrs Benjamin Sheares (centre) was formally appointed as the new patron of the Singapore Girl Guides Association by its President Mrs Tan Boon Teik at Guide House. All of them were dressed in simple sleeveless cheongsam.

Date: circa 1971.

Source: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission.



President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares hosted a lunch in honour of Republican Governor of California Ronald Reagan and his wife at the Istana. Picture shows Mrs Nancy Reagan shaking hands with Mrs Lee Kuan Yew while President and Mrs Sheares look on. Ronald Reagan came as special emissary to Asia for President Richard Nixon.

Date: 12/10/1971

Source: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission.



Mrs Benjamin Sheares receiving a bouquet of flowers from two children from Children's Aid Society during the opening of its new home at Clementi Road.

Date: 09/03/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares walking with Queen Elizabeth II as she arrives at East Lagoon, Singapore for a State Visit. Behind them are Prince Philip and Mrs Sheares.

Date: 18/02/1972

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip and Princess Anne being greeted by President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares upon arrival at the Istana to attend the State Banquet.

Date: 18/02/1972

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares, arrives at the Istana to attend the banquet for the British royalties.

Date: 18/02/1972

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



(From left) Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, Queen Elizabeth II, President Benjamin Sheares, Princess Anne, Mrs Sheares, Prince Philip and Mrs Lee, on board the Royal Yacht Britannia during dinner hosted by the Queen during her visit to Singapore.

Date: 20/02/1972

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares touring Bridgestone tyre factory during his visit to Jurong Industrial Estate as part of a familiarisation tour. With him on the tour are Minister of State for Finance Tang See Chim (second right) and Chairman of Jurong Town Corporation Woon Wah Siang (holding paper).
Date: 23/02/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



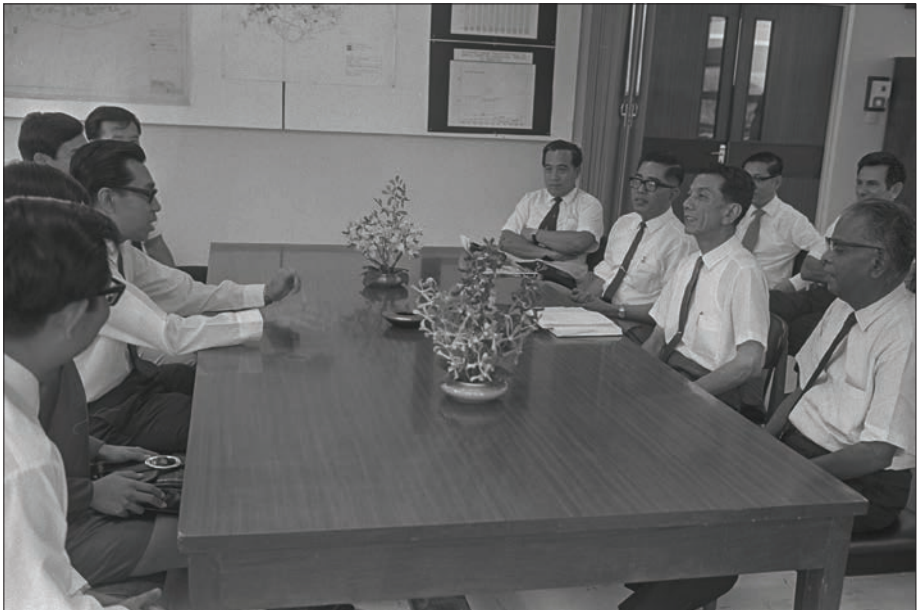
President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares at a factory as part of a familiarisation tour of industries.
Date: 20/05/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares at a factory as part of a familiarisation tour of industries.
Date: 21/05/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares visiting Primary Production Department's Sembawang Experimental Station as part of his familiarisation tour of the Ministry of National Development.

Date: 04/06/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares greeting Hong Kong film stars Wang Yu and Miss Nora Miao Ker Hsiu at the Istana to attend tea party for guests of the All-Star Variety Show.

Date: 28/02/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Group photograph of President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares with guests of the All-Star Variety Show during the tea party he hosted at the Istana.

Date: 28/02/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Mrs Sheares greeting Mrs Soenarso, wife of the Indonesian Ambassador, during morning coffee session in connection with the inaugural meeting for the 19th annual International Bazaar for the Blind at the Istana. Looking on is President Benjamin Sheares.

Date: 15/03/1971

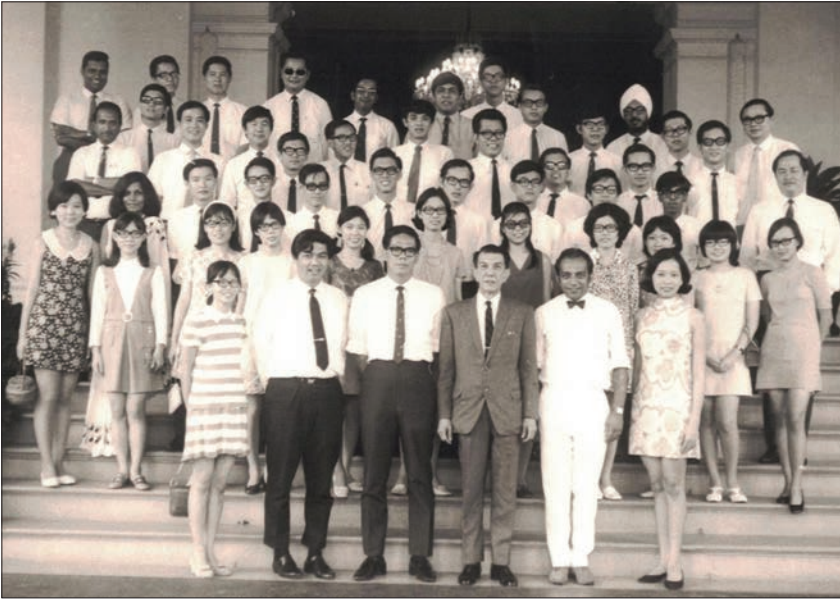
Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President of the Singapore Automobile Association Milton Tan, driving President Benjamin Sheares around the 3.2-mile Sembawang Hills circuit to mark the opening of the Singapore Grand Prix 1971.

Date: 08/04/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Sheares gave a tea party to staff and students of KKH at the Istana. In the front row with President Sheares are (from left) Mr T.H. Lean, Dr Kwa Soon Bee (Medical Director KKH) and Professor S.S. Ratnam.

Date: 06/05/1971

Source: *KK Women's and Children's Hospital: Celebrating a Century of Leadership in Maternity Care 1924–2024* (KK Women's and Children's Hospital, 2024), p. 190. Courtesy of Professor Tan Kok Hian.



President Benjamin Sheares presenting an award to a scout during his visit to the scouts' campfire at Sarimbun Scout camp, off Lim Chu Kang Road.

Date: 17/04/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares, New Zealand Labour Party leader and Chairman of the Socialist International Norman Kirk (to the left of President Sheares) and his wife Mrs Ruth Kirk (to the right of President Sheares) at the Istana.

Date: 19/05/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares meet pre-university students participating in a seminar on “Communism and Democracy” at the Istana. One of the students famously said it was the second time she was meeting him. The first time was when he delivered her as an obstetrician and gynaecologist in his earlier years.

Date: 27/04/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares speaking at the annual dinner of Old Rafflesians' Association held at the grounds of Raffles Institution in Bras Basah Road.

Date: 05/06/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares (fourth from left), Mrs Sheares (right), Francis Thomas (left), Tan Cheng Siang (fifth from left) and other guests at the annual dinner of the Old Rafflesians' Association (ORA). It was the last time the ORA held the event at the school grounds at Bras Basah Road as the 148-year-old school was relocated to Grange Road in the following year.

Date: 05/06/1971

Source: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission.



President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares visiting Singapore Polytechnic as part of their three-day familiarisation tour of schools and institutes of higher learning.

Date: 22/07/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares meets Khmer students at the Singapore Polytechnic during his three-day familiarisation tour of schools and institutes of higher learning.

Date: 22/07/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares inspecting uniformed groups at a welcoming ceremony during his visit to the National Junior College at Linden Drive. The visit was part of a three-day familiarisation tour that included the Teachers' Training College at Paterson Road and the Singapore Polytechnic.
Date: 22/07/1971

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares reviewing the National Day Parade 1972 at the Padang, with Cabinet ministers and guests on the steps of City Hall.

Date: 09/08/1972

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares inspecting the Guard-of-Honour at the National Day Parade 1972 at the Padang.

Date: 09/08/1972

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



First Lady Mrs Sheares distributing *angpows* during the Goodwood chain of hotel's annual Chinese New Year party for 700 underprivileged children from 17 homes at Ming Palace Restaurant in Hotel Malaysia.

Date: 10/02/1973

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



A signature activity of the President is the annual presentation of National Day Awards to the key recipients. Here President Benjamin Sheares confers the Pingat Pentadbiran Awam (The Public Administration Medal (Gold)) 1972, on Mr Arumugam Vijiaratnam, Director (Engineering Services) Port of Singapore Authority.

Date: 03/05/1973

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Cabinet ministers in the audience during the 1973 National Day awards investiture ceremony presided over by President Benjamin Sheares at the Singapore Conference Hall. Prime Minister Lee is flanked by First Lady Mrs Benjamin Sheares and his wife, Madam Kwa Geok Choo.

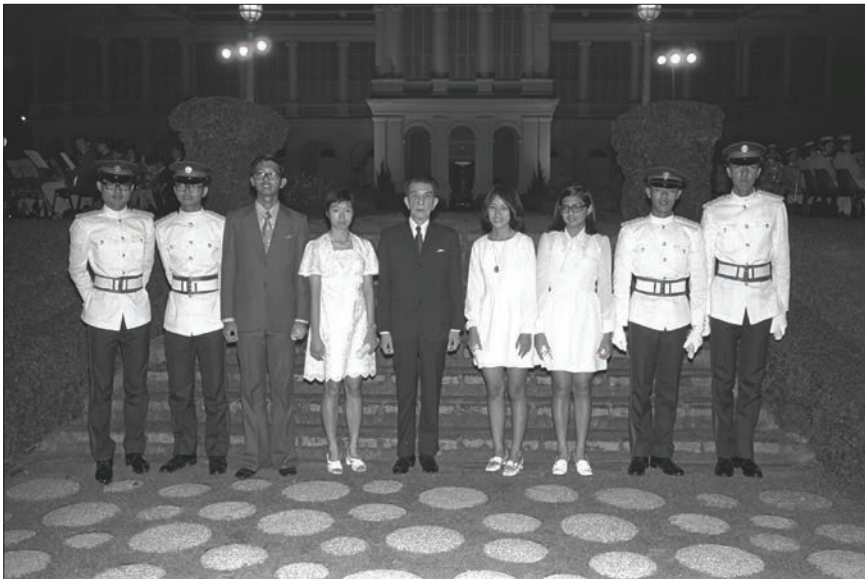
Date: 03/05/1973

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares talking with Apollo-17 mission commander Captain Eugene A. Cernan (left) and command module pilot Captain Ronald E. Evans (right) during a courtesy call at the Istana.
Date: 23/06/1973

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Group photograph of President Benjamin Sheares with the 1973 President's scholars: (from left) Lim Hng Kiang (Raffles Institution), Lim Teik Hock (St Andrew's), Chan Seng Onn (St Joseph's Institution), Lee Wei Ling (Raffles Institution), Lee Bee Wah and Yap Hui Kim (National Junior College), George Yeo and Teo Chee Hean (St Joseph's Institution) during the scholarship award presentation ceremony at the Istana.

Date: 01/07/1973

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares speaking to Lieutenant Lee Hsien Loong, a 1971 President's Scholar, at the reception during award presentation ceremony for the 1973 President's Scholars held at the Istana.

Date: 01/07/1973

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares officiates at the University of Singapore Convocation Ceremony at the National Theatre.

Date: 04/08/1973

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares arriving on stage for the opening of the eighth Singapore-Malaysia Congress of Medicine at the Regional English Language Centre, Orange Grove Road.

Date: 26/07/1973

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner of St John Ambulance Brigade Tan Bian Kim, reviewing contingents during the annual general inspection of the Brigade at Jalan Besar Stadium.

Date: 26/08/1973

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares receiving a gift from President of the Boys' Brigade Tan Hoay Gie during the 90th anniversary dinner of the Boys' Brigade at Apollo Hotel.

Date: 27/10/1973

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak calls on President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares at the Istana during his three-day official visit to Singapore.

Date: 14/11/1973

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



First Lady Mrs Sheares speaking with guests at the annual dinner of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Singapore, Mandarin Hotel.

Date: 15/03/1974

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares with newly appointed honorary aides-de-camp following the appointment ceremony in the Istana.

Date: 09/04/1974

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares (Singapore's Chief Scout) going through a receiving line upon arrival for the opening of the 9th Asia-Pacific Scout Conference at Singapore Conference Hall. With him are the Chief Commissioner of the Scout Association of Singapore, Soh Teow Seng (hidden behind President) and Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Scout committee, Major-General Dr Abdul Azis Saleh (extreme right).

Date: 05/06/1974

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares, as patron of St John Ambulance Brigade, arriving at Jalan Besar Stadium to attend the annual general inspection of the brigade.

Date: 07/07/1974

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares touring the medical trade exhibition held in conjunction with the fourth Asian and Australasian Congress of Anaesthesiologists at the Conference Hall in Shenton Way. On the right is Dr George Tay, a consultant anaesthetist at Outram Hospital and chairman of the organising committee of the event.

Date: 22/09/1974

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President and Mrs Suharto of Indonesia, President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares and Prime Minister and Mrs Lee Kuan Yew in conversation during the state banquet hosted by President Sheares at the Istana for the Indonesian President who is on a three-day state visit to Singapore.

Date: 29/08/1974

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Suharto of Indonesia presenting a large wooden carving from Central Java to President Benjamin Sheares during the courtesy call on his Singaporean counterpart at the Istana.

Date: 29/08/1974

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares, Patron of the College of General Practitioners, speaking at the College's dinner at the Alumni Medical Centre.

Date: 19/01/1975

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Among the recipients of the 1974 National Day awards was then Director of Security and Intelligence division of the Ministry of Defence S.R. Nathan who received the Meritorious Service Medal (Pingat Jasa Gemilang), the highest honour given in 1974, from President Benjamin Sheares at the investiture ceremony held at the Singapore Conference Hall. Mr Nathan later served as the sixth President of Singapore from 1999 to 2011.

Date: 10/01/1975

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares is greeted upon his arrival during the annual Hindu Thaipusam festival at Chettiar's Temple, Tank Road.

Date: 27/01/1975

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares talking with Acting President and Speaker of Parliament Dr Yeoh Ghim Seng (third from right) and Minister for Science and Technology Dr Lee Chiaw Meng (fourth from right) upon his return from London after receiving the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM). Also present are First Lady (second from right) and his daughter Constance Sheares (far left). President Sheares is the first Head of State to be awarded the distinction since the RSM's founding in 1907.

Date: 19/07/1975

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and First Lady Imelda Marcos at the Istana.

Date: 27/01/1976

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Vice-President of the United States Nelson Rockefeller and Mrs Margaretta Rockefeller calling on President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares at the Istana.

Date: 28/03/1976

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares was guest-of-honour at a tea party held by the Muslim Missionary Society of Singapore to mark Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

Date: 06/04/1977

Source: The Straits Times © SPH Media Limited. Reprinted with permission.



President Benjamin Sheares (right) in conversation with the People's Republic of China Senior Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping when Deng calls on him at the Istana during his three-day visit to Singapore as part of a three-day tour of Southeast Asia that included Thailand and Malaysia.

Date: 13/11/1978

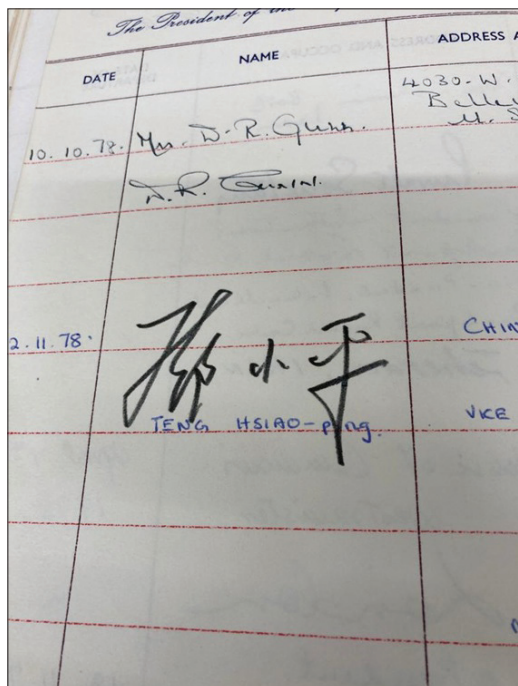
Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



The Visitors' Book at the Istana is a treasure trove of signatures from VIPs all over the world who call on the President. Above shows Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Abdul Razak signing the Visitors' Book.

Date: 18/01/1971

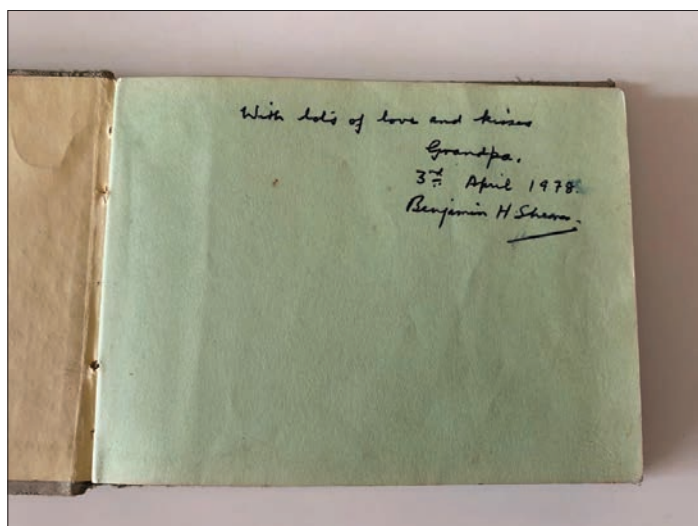
Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Signature of China's Senior Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-Ping (Deng Xiaoping) in the Visitors' Book at the Istana when called on President Benjamin Sheares.

Date: 12/11/1978

Source: Istana Collection, Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore. Picture by the author.



From autograph book of Caroline Sheares, granddaughter of President Benjamin Sheares, showing his signature.

Date: 03/04/1978

Source: Sheares Family.



President Benjamin Sheares (right) at a discussion with KKH staff (second from right onwards), Dr Maurine Tsakok, Professor Yvonne Salmon and Dr Ng Kwok Choy at KKH.

Date: circa November 1978.

Source: Tan KH and Tay EH, eds., *The History of Obstetrics & Gynaecology in Singapore* (Obstetrical & Gynaecological Society of Singapore and the National Heritage Board, 2003). Courtesy of Professor Tan Kok Hian.



President Benjamin Sheares visits Tengah Air Base.

Date: 27/02/1979

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares is escorted by President of Majlis Ugama Islam (MUIS) Haji Buang Siraj and Acting Minister for Social Affairs Dr Ahmad Mattar (behind President Sheares) upon his arrival for the tea party to celebrate Prophet Muhammad’s birthday at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel.
Date: 09/02/1980

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Arrival of President Benjamin Sheares at the National Day Parade 1980 at the National Stadium. It was to be his last National Day Parade attendance.
Date: 09/08/1980

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



National Day Reception at the Istana 1980: Minister for Foreign Affairs S Dhanabalan and his wife greeting President and Mrs Benjamin Sheares on arrival.

Date: 10/08/1980

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, being welcomed by President Benjamin Sheares and Second Deputy Prime Minister (Foreign Affairs) S. Rajaratnam, on arrival at the airport.

Date: 18/09/1980

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



President Benjamin Sheares at the opening of the 1st Session of the 5th Parliament in 1981. It was to be his last address to Parliament. He passed away some 100 days later.

Date: 03/02/1981

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.



Parliament assembled to hear the address of President Benjamin Sheares at the 1st Session of the 5th Parliament.

Date: 03/02/1981

Source: Ministry of Information and the Arts Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.

Thousands line streets as President Sheares makes his final journey across the island he loved so well

THE LAST FAREWELL



PRIME Minister Lee Kuan Yew throwing a handful of earth, as a final mark of respect, into the pit where President Sheares' coffin lies. A grieving Mrs Sheares (seated extreme left) looks on as some members of her family burst into tears. — Picture by Mak Kian Seng

Moving but dignified ceremony

PRESIDENT Sheares yesterday made his final journey across this island he loved so well as thousands lined the streets to bid him their last goodbye.

His body was taken in a State Funeral procession from the Istana to its final resting place in Kranji State Cemetery, where a moving but dignified burial service was held.

His grieving widow, frail and weak from four days of mourning, had to be helped by her children during the Singapore services.

Throughout she sat stock still in a chair a few metres beside her husband's grave and tried very hard to control her sobs.

The grave of the President, who had died at the age of 73 on Tuesday, was in a corner of a 0.8 hectare lush green lawn fringed by a hedge on one side and full-grown trees all round.

Some 200 metres diagonally across the lawn was the grave of Singapore's first President Yusof Ishak, who died in 1970.

THE President's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Joseph Shuman, and her four daughters riding in prayer.

By PHILIP LEE and IRENE NGOO

and other dignitaries had arrived at the Istana to pay their last respects and sign the condolence book.

Among them were President Suharto of Indonesia, Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda and Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

The Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues and their wives were also at the Istana, where the body of President Sheares lay in state for the second and

Crowd falls silent

Long before the funeral procession began, thousands of Singaporeans had started to gather along the route of the

As the Presidential casket, resting on a gun carriage and accompanied by the President's family, Lance Guards and contingents from the army, navy, air force and police, moved out of the

Istana at about 4 p.m. a hush fell on the crowd.

The cortege moved slowly along Orchard Road and into Selegie Road, along which members of the armed forces and uniformed youth groups had lined shoulder to shoulder to pay tribute.

As the procession moved on into the suburbs from Bukit Timah Road into Upper Bukit Timah Road and Bukit Panjang the crowd thinned somewhat but in many sectors rows of old wooden shophouses flew the Singapore flag at half-mast as a mark of respect.

The 15-minute funeral march from the gate of the Kranji State Cemetery to the burial ground, specially reserved for the highest in the land, was a

In the vanguard were the contingents from the armed forces and behind the caquet, which was draped with the state flag, the well-dressed, but

In slow, measured steps they marched as the military band struck

The casket of polished brass was

* SEE BACK PAGE COLUMN 1

The
President
and I...

By
A 31-YEAR-OLD
SON OF SINGAPORE

● **THIS** report was written by *Seattle Times* journalist. He fell spoke for his generation of flingers, rears, hence his request for this line. He would rather we did not give his name. But he deserves to be named. He is **RICHARD LEM**.

MY BROTHER called me on Tuesday night. He said: "The President is dead. The football match has been canceled." I was a teacher — not about the match, but about the President.

Earlier in the day, when I went down to the New Nation office to see some colleagues for lunch, I saw them preparing the Page One of the planned special edition.

The President is on the brink of death," one of the sub-editors said. "It's anytime now."

That was the first time I knew about President B. H. Sherears' condition. He had gone into a coma four days ago on Friday, but I had not heard anything about it.

Posters on road

Later in the afternoon, in a taxi, I saw the New Nation posters, bordered in black,

"The President is dead," they announced.

I tried to get hold of a copy of the late edition in the Textile Centre in Jalan Sultan, where I had gone for an assignment, but there was no New Nation available.

So in the night when I told my brother that yes, I knew, it was only about the President's death — and precious little else.

• SEE PAGE 11, COLUMN 1

The rest of the news

Hussein says it: I'm resigning

WOMEN ROLL: Put — Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Hussein Oni said today he was not standing for the 1984 Malaysian general election. He would step down from office after the party elections late next month.

- SPECIAL reports by Link Tong Hui and M. G. G. Poon: Pages 18 and 19
- THE LEADER who shares the spotlight - by Link Tong Hui: Page 2

Have fun!

Icap is dead

Airline sources told the Straits Times today that Australia's new air firm was keen to do

• [View Back Cover](#)



Grave of President Benjamin Sheares at Kranji State Cemetery.

Date: 2024

Source: Koh Tin Fook.



Bronze bust of President Benjamin Sheares at Sheares Hall, National University of Singapore. (Left to right: Master of Sheares Hall, Associate Professor Lawrence Chia; Dr Joseph Sheares; President S.R. Nathan; and President NUS, Professor Shih Choon Fong).

The inscription below the bust of President Benjamin Sheares reads:

“As a man and a citizen he had those qualities which present in men of outstanding ability make them even greater – humility, a courteous disposition, a sense of public duty and that unfailing kindness of heart”

— Words inscribed by sculptor Chern Lian Shan

Date: circa 2001

Source: Sheares Family.



This sleeveless mid-calf length cheongsam belonged to Mrs Benjamin Sheares. Fabrics with geometric patterns that created optical illusions were extremely popular in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Source: Collection of the National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board. Gift of Dr Joseph Sheares, Mr Edwin Sheares and Ms Constance Sheares.