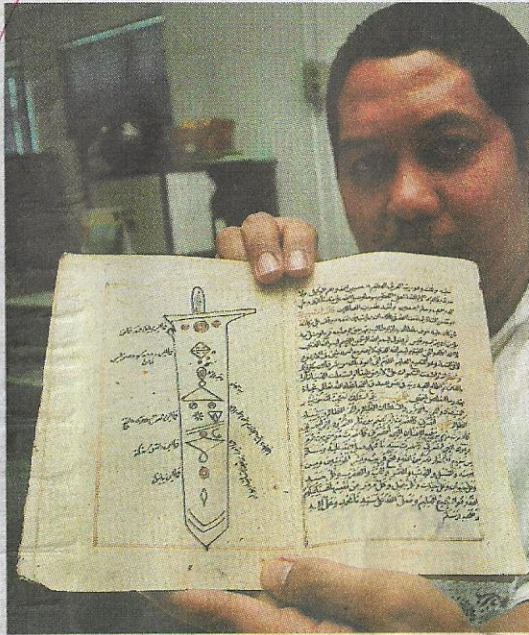


Is Perak kris the Taming Sari?

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Wan Ahmad Arshad showing the diagram of a kris, believed to be the Taming Sari, in the manuscript.

SEREMBAN: Evidence has emerged that the kris at the Istana Iskandariah Bukit Chandan, Kuala Kangsar, is indeed the fabled Taming Sari of Hang Tuah.

A manuscript, dating back more than 300 years, has been found that describes the kris in detail.

It has a diagram of a kris, labelled the Taming Sari, which resembles that in the possession of the Perak royal family.

Written below are words in Jawi which state: *Keris Hang Jebat, sebelah negeri harganya, cerita pengkarang namanya* (the kris of Hang Jebat, half a state is the price, author's story is the name).

Wan Ahmad Arshad, a collector of artifacts who found the manuscript in Terengganu three

months ago, believed it could prove that the kris was once owned by the legendary Malacca warrior.

"Going by a visual comparison, there are similarities between the Taming Sari in Perak and the keris shown in the diagram. This could prove that the keris in Perak is the actual Taming Sari."

Besides the Taming Sari, the manuscript also shows a diagram of a kris belonging to Hang Jebat, and 25 other kris.

The diagram of Hang Jebat's kris also had similar writing bearing the name of Hang Tuah's companion, who later died at his hands.

"The diagrams also show the intricate designs on the *pamor* (blade) of the Taming Sari," said

Wan Ahmad.

According to legend, Hang Tuah handed over the kris to Tun Mamat, to be given to Sultan Mahmud of Malacca after he (Hang Tuah) failed to persuade Puteri Gunung Ledang to marry the sultan.

Sultan Mahmud took the kris with him when he escaped from Malacca to Kampar in Sumatra.

Taming Sari finally found a permanent home in Perak as part of the state's royal regalia when Sultan Mahmud's son, Sultan Muzaffar Shah I, was installed as the first sultan of Perak.

Wan Ahmad said this was an exciting discovery as this is the first time a manuscript containing such diagrams has been found anywhere in the world.