

THE KOTAL ROUTE SKETCHES, Royal Society Kinabalu Expedition 1964

Book Launch 19th April 2011 by Mr Chu Chee Kuen

These original field sketches by Prof Edred John Henry Corner, F.R.S. have been supplemented by text and photographs by Dr Ravi Mandalam.

Mr John Corner, his son, was present to tell a little of how this book came to be. He was left a suitcase containing papers, amongst which were the sketches his father had made during this second expedition to Mt Kinabalu (the first was in 1961).

Prof Corner was the foremost Tropical Biologist of his day and was passionate about science, conservation and classical music. His botanical and geographical writings, of which there are many, with more still being found, are understandable to the non specialist. His name has also been given to several species of plants.

It was the Western sector of the mountain which had been explored in the , and Prof. Corner was certain that the Eastern sector would yield a wealth of data, so he set off and gave names to some features viz: Rhino Horn, North Peak, Echoing Rocks, Lion Rock and Gully Peak. His way to the summit was blocked by the Pinnacles, which proved impassable, but his Dusun climbing companion, Kotal bin Bondial, found a way round them to reach King George Peak. Much of this area is still unexplored and the Pinnacles remain a formidable obstacle today.

Mr Chu Chee Kuen, who generously sponsored the printing costs, was invited to officially launch the book. Mr John Corner is 2nd from the right.

