

Mr Vengadasalam a/l Rengsamay Achariar

(1933)

Accession number: C15014

Track Number: C15014_0001, C15014_0002, C15014_0003, C15014_0004, C15014_0005

Duration: 02:17:06

Language/Dialect: Tamil

Track: C15014_0001	Time frame: 00:00:01 - 00:10:00
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Born in India. Why his actual birth year was different from that stated on his identity card. Family background. Came to Penang when he was 13 years old. Transportation used. His first impression on Penang. Described scenes he saw in Penang.</p>	
Track: C15014_0001	Time frame: 00:10:01 - 00:20:10
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Continued describing scenes he saw in Penang. Explained how people carried their luggage. Attended a Tamil school at Penang Road for two years. Worked at his father's pawnshop after that. Mentioned that meals were provided at the shop. The reason of coming to Penang. Explained his caste and traditional occupation of that caste. Mentioned there were not many vehicles on the road in the past. His trainer at work. How he learnt jewellery making.</p>	
Track: C15014_0001	Time frame: 0:20:14 - 00:31:03
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described his learning process. Mentioned his mentor. Described his good relationship with his mentor. Backgrounds of the shop workers. Work allocation amongst the workers. Challenges in making jewelleries with diamonds. Why he liked making rings, and how he felt when making rings.</p>	
Track: C15014_0002	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:02
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>How he learnt that he had mastered the skill. Mentioned a ring that was made by him and given credit by his mentor. Types of rings. His attitude about learning. Why was it hard to make Thali Kodi. His main customers. Why his customers liked to patronize his shop. Business nature of the shop. Jewellery that was commonly bought by customers during his father's time. Mentioned different caste of people would wear different kind of "thali" (pendant).</p>	

Track: C15014_0002	Time frame: 00:10:02 - 00:20:00
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described in details about different kinds of “thali” worn by different castes of people. Described starting to work only at a “good time”. Described the ritual practiced by the customers when they came to take “thali”.</p>	
Track: C15014_0002	Time frame: 00:20:02 - 00:31:03
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Mentioned gold prices in the past and now. Described tools used in making jewelries. Difference between a hammer and a base. Space used to work in the shop. The working space setting. Described in details about instruments and materials used in making “thali”, and how to use them. Described tools and process in idol making. Mentioned different kinds of colours used in idol making.</p>	
Track: C15014_0003	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:00
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described tools and process involved in Jhumka (a type of earring) making. Differences in Jhumka earring. The making of hanging component of the earring. Described bangle making. Mentioned a ritual called “Ayudha Puja” which was the prayer to the tools. How would they spend a day called “Amavasya” (dark moon or new moon day). The most important tools for him. Places to buy materials for jewelleries making. Mentioned composition of his customers.</p>	
Track: C15014_0003	Time frame: 00:10:02 - 00:26:01
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described ways to check the gold quality. Components in adulterated gold. Described ways to check the gold quality. Introduced different types of gemstones sold at shop. Tool used to examine the stones. Would make jewellery using clean gold only and return the otherwise. His attitude at work. Described making jewelries with unique shapes. Mentioned being very careful when making “thali”. Described the reason of it. How would people handle the “thali” of someone who has passed away. How he felt when people told him that they were wearing jewellery made by him.</p>	
Track: C15014_0004	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:20
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described his working experience. In 1962, life had become difficult for goldsmiths, thus he changed his job and moved to somewhere else. Returned to Penang in 1986. Joined as a goldsmith in King Street. Stayed at his nephew’s shop with other goldsmiths. Space to work in the shop. Described how he and the other goldsmiths made their job and customers clear.</p>	

Track: C15014_0004	Time frame: 00:10:20 - 00:20:00
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described work allocation amongst his colleagues and him. Described his nephew's shop where he stayed. The use of space in the shop. Peak seasons for goldsmiths. Why they were the peak seasons. His off days. How the stone jewellerys became prevalent at one time. Left King Street and returned to his hometown, then came back and stayed at Queen Street. Other tenants in Queen Street.</p>	
Track: C15014_0004	Time frame: 00:20:20 - 00:36:50
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Mentioned coming to stay at Queen Street in 1988 or 1989. Rented only the downstairs space for work and sleep. Landlord of the Queen Street building. Monthly rent. Then moved to Acheen Street. Reason of the moving. Described usage of the Acheen Street building. Described facing difficulties at work as there was little work for him. Described differences in machine made and handmade jewellerys. Described how life had become difficult for him beginning 2007 and how he obtained help from a friend. Returned to India in 2011 but received cold treatment from his children so he came back to Penang. Tried making dosa batter for a living but it did not work out. Compared the goldsmiths' working settings in the past and now. Monthly rent at Queen Street and Acheen Street. Why had his work reduced a lot beginning 2007.</p>	
Track: C15014_0005	Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:12:09
<p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Mentioned people's impression on the Chinese goldsmiths in the past. Differences in handmade and machine made gold jewellerys. Mentioned getting a lot of income and difficulties when staying at Acheen Street. His contentment working as a goldsmith. The mental state of people who left home and came far away to work. His opinion about George Town being listed as a heritage city. Why he wanted to stay in Penang. His relation with his Muslim employer.</p>	