A well known Malay proverb says that tigers die leaving their stripes behind and that men die leaving their names behind. The name of Professor Michael G. Swift is household to at least two generations of Malay scholarship. One of these scholars is Professor Clive Kessler of the University of New South Wales who thought it appropriate to honour his former teacher by dedicating a gift of books in his memory. In his own words, Professor Kessler said that it was indeed an honour "dari seorang murid kepada gurunya".

At a small presentation ceremony in the Library on 15 July 1993 attended by academic staff of the Department of Malay Studies and Library staff, Professor Kessler presented to the University of Malaya the honorarium he received for his services as external examiner to the Department of Malay Studies, University of Malaya. Dr. Haji Mohd. Taib Osman, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Malaya, received the gift on behalf of the University.

This sum of money will be used to acquire books relevant to Malay studies. The books, with gift plates dedicating them to the memory of the late Professor Michael G. Swift, will eventually be kept at the Za'ba Memorial Library.