Introduction
Ian Proudfoot is a great scholar of the Islamic world of Southeast Asia. Some refer to him as the “Australian scholar of the Malay world”. His contributions to the Malay and Muslim scholarly publishing is immensely exploratory and his published works are uniquely raw and unequalled. Librarians in Malaysia and Singapore fondly equate him with the hard cover blue book entitled; “Early Malay printed books: A provisional account of materials published in the Singapore-Malaysia area up to 1920 nothing holdings in major public collection”. One of his first publications was his PhD thesis which he obtained from the Australian National University in 1977, the title being “Ahimsa and a Mahabharata Story”. His interest and competence in Asian studies emerged even as he was a student when he was awarded the University medal in Indonesian studies in 1967. In total, he has written about 7 books and more than 45 book chapters and journal articles.

Research in Malay bibliography
His main areas of research interests were: Literacy, Printing, Colonial education in nineteenth-century Muslim Southeast Asia, Classical Malay manuscript literature and philology, Early Malay divination and time-reckoning calendars, and Malay science. He is remembered for spearheading the “Malay Concordance Project” which is a corpus of pre-modern Malay written text from more than 150 sources. It has 5.7 million words, including 130,000 verses. This is now available online at: http://mcp.anu.edu.au/Q/mcp.html.

He was passionate about identifying the origin of information sources. He took pains to study and do research on William Roff’s Bibliography of Malay and Arabic periodicals in the Straits Settlements and peninsular Malay states, 1876-1941 (Proudfoot, 1985). He also unveiled the history of information sources and the registration of books and periodicals’ ordinance in this country. He analyzed thoroughly the information of publications listed in the blue books and Gazette figures from the Straits Settlements Government Gazette (SSGG) and Federated Malay States Government Gazette (FMSGG). He did research on manuscripts readership and its conversion to print format such as the “Sya’ir Hassan Masri” printed at Palembang in 1905 (Proudfoot, 1982). He attempted to trace the printing and circulation of locally published materials in Malaya during the first hundred years of printing, from 1817-1920 (Proudfoot, 1987, 1989) and also tried to locate and record Malay books published in the Malaysia-Singapore region.

Outstanding contributions
He invented “AHAD”, a computer program which can convert Islamic to AD dates and vice versa. It can be used in Microsoft Word and is freely downloadable from his web page of online resources, http://mcp.anu.edu.au/proudfoot/online.html, under the Calendars category. Other resources such as History of Indian Religion, Printing history, Classical Malay & Concordances and Malay Texts & Translations are also available. He also initiated “Takwim”, a browser-based application for converting Javanese and Malay calendars and Western calendars, including rukyah dates emulating local moon sightings.

Publications [available at the University of Malaya Library]
22. Introducing AHAD. *Kekal Abadi*, 6(4), 1987
34. Variation in a Malay folk-tale tradition. *Review of Indonesian and Malaysian Affairs*, 18, 1984, pp. 87-102

Until May 2011, two of his publications were still in press;


**Obituary**

Ian McLeod Proudfoot passed away on Friday, 23rd September 2011. He leaves behind a wife and two sons. Despite his health condition during his last days, he was untiringly working on a manuscript project for the British Library.

**References**

Various discussion lists, emails and blogs.

NOTE : The University of Malaya Library has a few extra copies of “Early Malay printed books. Kuala Lumpur: Academy of Malay Studies/ UM Library,1993” and can donate to genuine researchers.