

Iron forged

Written by straits-mongrel Saturday, 26 December 2009 13:40

I remember his clean nails when we first shook hands that afternoon. It was firm, not vise-like, nor do I recall being gripped by calluses. He spoke in tones which never rose above the decibel of the mellow traffic outside. All this in a man who worked over 45 years in the drama of fusing the elements – fire, metal, wood, water, earth.

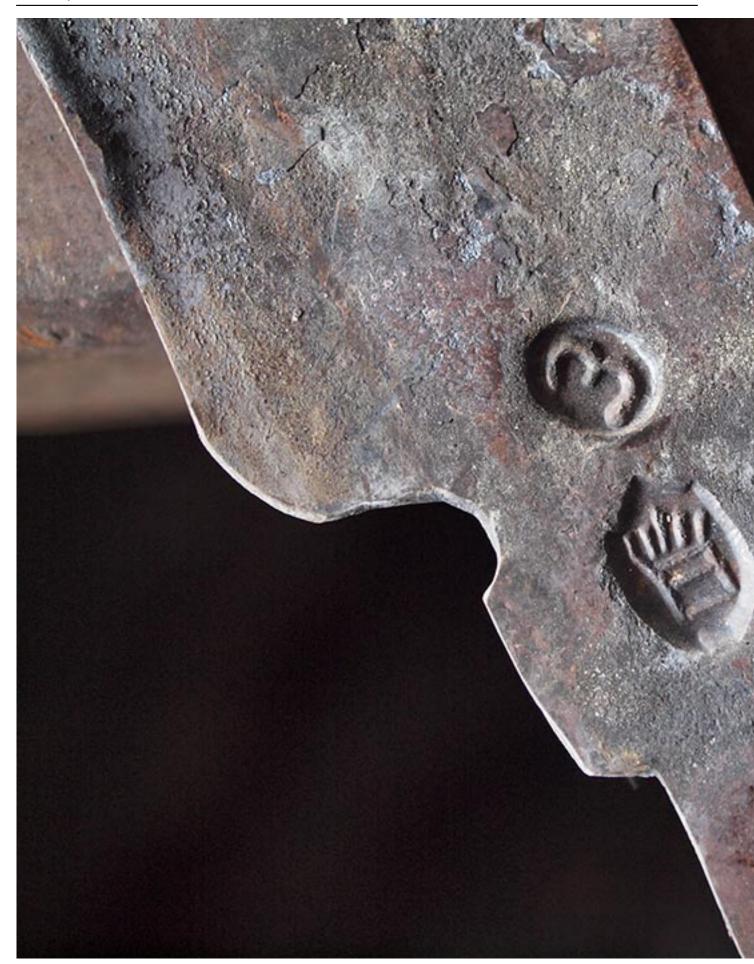
Wong Fook Woon is a <u>blacksmith</u>. One of the few left around the country who actually still do it all by hand. In fact, the 60-year-old is said to be the only one left in the deep central region of the country. He makes knives and parangs, those <u>kukri-sha</u> ped machetes

that helped clear the land for agriculture.









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