

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

HONG KONG BRANCH

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NEWSLETTER

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20th October, 2001

Council members

Dr. Patrick Hase, President	Mr. Robert Nield, Hon. Treasurer & Vice President
Dr. Elizabeth Sinn, Vice President	Rev. Carl Smith, Hon. Vice President
Mr. Peter Stuckey, Acting Hon. Secretary	Miss Julia Chan, Hon. Librarian
Mrs. Valery Garrett, Hon. Activities Co-ordinator	Dr. Peter Halliday, Hon. Editor of Journals
Mrs. May Holdsworth, Member	Mr. Timothy Ko, Member
Dr. Janet Lee Scott, Member	Dr. Joseph Ting, Member
Mr. Jason Wordie, Member	Mr. Robert Horsnell, Co-opted Member
Dr. Michael Lau, Co-opted Member	Dr. Dan Waters, Immediate Past President

On Saturday, 18th August members were privileged to enjoy a special pre-opening tour of the wonderful new permanent exhibition "The Hong Kong Story" at the Museum of History. Dr. Joseph Ting, Chief Curator of the museum and his colleagues led us through the eight sections of the exhibition, from The Natural Environment and Prehistoric Hong Kong through to the Modern Metropolis and the Return to China. We were interested to learn the history of the making of each section of this unique exhibition, which covers 7,000 sq. meters of area. Comprising eight galleries on two floors, the exhibition introduces local cultural heritage and outlines the 400 million years of the history of Hong Kong. Through the display of over 4,000 exhibits and with the use of 750 graphic panels, many dioramas and multimedia programmes, the Hong Kong Story outlines the natural environment, folk culture and historical development of Hong Kong in a life-like manner. If you haven't already been to see it, we recommend you do so now!

William Shang enlightened members at City Hall on Friday August 31st with his talk on *Images of China: Imagination and Reality as seen in William Alexander's drawings*. His talk was illustrated with slides to compare and contrast the unfinished or draft/studies of drawings with the finished watercolours. China in the 18th century was largely a closed world until the drawings of William Alexander were published. Many of these drawings were later copied or formed the basis of the work of other western artists in China. The record of Alexander's impressions preserved in watercolours and prints thus provides an essential document for understanding pre-modern China.

Carl Smith introduced William Shang and informed us that William spent twelve years at Toyo Bunko Research Department (Morrison Collection), where he updated their catalogue of prints/drawings/watercolours and old photos, first published in 1924. The result of this work is being published by the Toyo Bunko Library Department with illustrations, from 1999 through 2002.

On Saturday 15th September a group of members enjoyed a guided tour of the new Central Library in Causeway Bay, organized by RAS Librarian Julia Chan. We were given a talk on the facilities on offer at the new library (it has extensive facilities including a toy library for children) and were then taken to see the RAS Collection and also the Rare Book Room. It was very gratifying to see how well the RAS Library is now being housed, and especially to note the copious space for expansion available for it. Members with books suitable for donation to the RAS Library should rest assured that they will be housed suitably in the new Library!

We saw a special display of the Hoi Pa Collection, a rare collection of books which had once been the library of the village schoolmaster and elder, and which our President Dr. Patrick Hase had stumbled across by accident in a village house some years ago. The books covered all aspects of village life in that period including school and medical books. Dr. Hase explained the history of the collection and how it has been archived at the Library. It was noted that the Central Library had prepared a fine Index to the RAS Library, and it is to be hoped that copies of this can be made available to Members in due course.

On Saturday 22nd September 24 lucky members were privileged to attend a viewing at the home of RAS Council member Valery Garrett of two private collections, one being Valery's collection of traditional Chinese dress and the other RAS Life member Chris Hall's rare textile collection. We were given information about the background to each piece and its historical context and enjoyed sharing in the pleasure of admiring such beautiful items. One member wrote to say it had been "one of the most interesting afternoons she had spent in Hong Kong".

A group of 16 Members spent the long weekend of September 28th to October 3rd on a most enjoyable visit to Korea. The aim of the trip was to visit sites related to the first (Silla) and last (Yi) royal dynasties of Korea.

In Seoul, on the 29th September, the group accordingly visited the splendid Kyongbokkung Palace, the Grand Palace of the Yi dynasty. Members were particularly struck by the grandeur of the State Banqueting Hall (Kyonghoeru), and the elegance of the royal offices and library buildings. From here we went (after a good Korean lunch) to the Changdokkung Palace, also known as the Secret Garden Palace. Here Members all fell in love with the elegance of the Palace, with its buildings dotted around amid the huge wooded park which forms the grounds. The tiny pavilions nestled under trees and alongside pools and streams made a particularly fine impression. Finally, the group visited the spectacular Yi Clan Grand Ancestral Temple (the Chongmyo), with its austere and exceptionally attractive buildings, once again set in the middle of a huge wooded park. In the evening, the group had the great pleasure of entertaining the President and some Councillors of the Korea Branch of the RAS to dinner at a very fine Korean Restaurant; all those on the trip hope that the opportunity will come for a reciprocal gesture to be made to the Korea Branch here in Hong Kong at some date.

On Sunday 30th we aimed to drive to Kyongju, the ancient capital of Korea in the south. This is usually a 5½ hour drive, but we had failed to notice that this was the busiest weekend of the year in Korea, the weekend when everyone goes on holiday. Non-stop traffic-jams made the journey

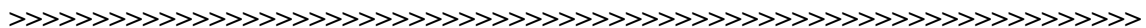
last 9 hours! Luckily, the weather was non-stop heavy rain that day (all the other days were very fine), so we did not lose much sight-seeing time! We did manage to visit the National Museum in Kyongju for the last hour and a half of the day - a spectacular place, full of relics from archaeological excavations in Kyongju.

Monday 31st saw the party visiting Silla dynasty sites around Kyongju, especially the Pulguksa Monastery in the hills behind the town, and the superb Sokkuram Grotto high on the mountainside above it, with its magnificent view over forested mountains, interspersed with deep, narrow, rice-filled valleys, and eventually out over the sun-sparkling Eastern Sea. Everyone on the tour found both sites to be far more beautiful than expected. In the afternoon (after another fine Korean lunch) we visited a number of the minor Silla sites.

To avoid the risk of another 9 hour drive back from Kyongju, we left there at 5.30 am, which did the trick, as we arrived back at Suwon, near Seoul, by 11. There we visited the Korean Folk Village, with its dozens of lovingly rebuilt traditional Yi dynasty farmhouses from all over Korea. Most are still "inhabited", with many traditional crafts being practised. In the centre of the Village about half the group watched a fascinating display of traditional folk dance and acrobatics in an arena prepared for the purpose. The Village was half empty when we arrived, but full to the brim by the time we left (at 1.15, for yet another fine Korean lunch), with a queue of 2 miles of cars trying to get in to the car-park, so the 5.30 start was very much justified! In the afternoon we visited another World Heritage site, the walls, bastions, and gates of Suwon City (the Yi dynasty Palaces and shrines in Seoul, and the Pulguksa Monastery and the Sokkuram Grotto are also World Heritage Sites) - again, most Members found these spectacular remains well worth the visit.

And so back to Hong Kong on 3rd October, tired but happy, and with many of the Members vowing to return for a less time-constrained visit in the future.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES



Friday, 26 th October	City Hall Lecture	Macao's St. Paul façade
Saturday, 10 th November	Local Visit	Boat trip to see the dolphins
Friday, 16 th November	Local Event	Talk by James Hayes and dinner
Friday, 7 th December	City Hall Lecture	Talk by Dr. Dan Waters on Hong Kong in the 1950s and 1960s
Saturday, 8 th December	Local Event	Lectures to mark 60th anniversary of Fall of Hong Kong
Chinese New Year 2002	Overseas Visit	10-day visit to Bhutan
Easter 2002	Overseas Visit	Visit to Xian to see the recently discovered Nestorian temple

Macao’s St. Paul façade: a Retable-Façade?

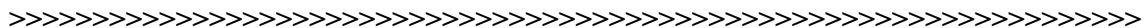
- Speaker :** César Guillen-Nuñez
- Time :** 6:15 p.m.
- Venue :** Extension Activities Room, 8th Floor, City Hall High Block, Edinburgh Place, Central
- Cost :** The lecture is free and open to the public.
- Booking :** No booking is required.

This talk discusses the similarity of the façade of the Jesuit Church of Madre de Deus, Macao (better known to tourists as the Ruins of St. Paul), to a type of Mannerist and Baroque structure which modern art-historians have given the name of “retable-façade”. These kinds of façades appeared in Spain and Portugal during the above mentioned periods. Their modern term reflects the fact that they bear a striking resemblance to contemporary altarpieces or retables.

Partly adapted from his carefully researched thesis on the subject, César Guillen-Nuñez further brings out the uniqueness of the St. Paul’s façade by comparing its shape and iconographic programme to a classic structure of this kind in Galicia, Spain. He carries his arguments further by a stylistic comparison to contemporary façades in Velha Goa and other settlements in India where the Portuguese built religious and other architecture. Such a novel interpretation of the façade of Madre de Deus would further explain why the participation of local Chinese and Japanese artists became so important for the Jesuits’ proselytising methods in seventeenth-century Macao. The talk will be illustrated with colour slides.

César Guillen-Nuñez, is an art historian who has for many years studied the phenomenon of the retable-façade in Portugal, Spain and Latin America, with leading world scholars on the subject. He studied the Colonial Baroque Art of Latin America and Portugal at the University of Pennsylvania in 1973, where he was awarded an MA in art history. He more recently completed his M.Phil. thesis, also in the history of art, at University College London.

He arrived in Hong Kong in the 1970s. After a spell as a teacher of Western art history at the Art & Design courses of the University of Hong Kong (Extra-Mural Department), he joined the Hong Kong Museum of Art. In 1980 he moved to the Luís de Camões Museum of Macao. In both museums he was responsible for the China Trade and Contemporary Art collections and exhibitions. In 1995 he became guest curator of art exhibitions for the Government of Macao and is currently an independent scholar and author of books and articles on art and culture.



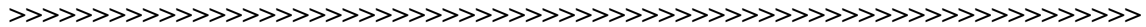
Boat trip to see the pink dolphins with Dr. Lindsay Porter

We have been fortunate to arrange a trip to see the pink dolphins near Chep Lap Kok led by Dr. Lindsay Porter. Originally from Glasgow, Lindsay has been studying the dolphins in Hong Kong for the past eight years, and four years ago she was awarded a PhD from the University of Hong Kong for her thesis on the taxonomy, ecology and management of Hong Kong’s pink dolphin population. Before settling in Hong Kong, where she is associated with the University of Hong

Kong and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature Hong Kong (WWFHK), she spent ten years studying marine mammals in Asia and the Atlantic Ocean.

Meeting place and time : 1:30 p.m. sharp outside the turnstiles at Tung Chung MTR Station, Lantau Island. (Allow 30 minutes from the time of boarding the train in Central on the Tung Chung MTR line located under the Airport Railway Station). There will be a short walk to board the boat. We will return to Tung Chung MTR station at approx. 5 p.m.

Cost : \$150 members, \$200 guests



Dinner and talk

Friday, 16th November

Talk by James Hayes followed by dinner at FCC

We are delighted that ex President of the RASHKB Dr. James Hayes will be visiting Hong Kong in November and has agreed to talk to us about his new book “South China Village Culture”. The talk will be followed by dinner.

The true essence of China is rooted in its villages. The traditional village culture of South China, as elsewhere in the country, is a microcosm of the nation’s greater society and philosophy, both ancient and modern. *South China Village Culture* focuses on Hong Kong and Shenzhen—originally part of the same county—and the rich heritage of shared doctrines and beliefs, regional social and economic practices, and the well-ordered local organization that have all helped make this region the success it is today.

Beautifully written, accessible, and entertaining, *South China Village Culture* offers a clear, concise overview of the world of lineage, self-management and customary law, ancestor worship, geomancy, Confucianism, Daoism, the status of women, and the multitude of interwoven forces that make up life in China at the village level. The author writes with obvious affection and respect for the village people and their culture; his depth of understanding and perception makes this book a joy to read, and provides a fund of invaluable information for the general reader, as well as for those with a more specialized interest in China, both historical and contemporary.

James Hayes was for many years a District Officer in the rural areas of Hong Kong, and is author of numerous books and articles on the history and society of the region. This is his third book for OUP (Hong Kong/China).

Dr. Hayes has been a member of the Society almost from its beginning, was editor of the RAS Journal from 1966-1980, and President of the Society between 1983-1990. He is an honorary research fellow at the Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong.

Venue : Hughes Room, Foreign Correspondents’ Club, 2 Lower Albert Road, Central.

Time : Starting at 6:15 p.m.

Cost : Members \$275 per head, Non-members \$350 per head, to include 1 standard drink.

Hong Kong in the 1950s and 1960s : Reminiscences by Dr. Dan Waters

Speaker : Dr. Dan Waters, Immediate Past President, RASHKB
Time: 6:15 p.m.
Venue: Extension Activities Room, 8/F, City Hall High Block, Edinburgh Place, Central
Cost: The lecture is free and open to the public
Booking: No booking is required.

We are delighted that our Immediate Past President, Dr. Dan Waters, has agreed to talk to us about Hong Kong as he knew it in the 1950s and 1960s.

Not so long after Winston Churchill proclaimed, 'I have not become the King's first minister in order to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire', Dan Waters joined Her Majesty's Colonial Service. The journey to Hong Kong took 31 days on a P & O passenger ship with a high standard of luxury. It was said one could enjoy a curry lunch every day of the voyage and the Indian Curry cook would not repeat himself once.

Life in 1950s Hong Kong was very colonial with military parades around the streets of Kowloon and garden parties on the lawn at Government House on the Queen's Birthday. With a mass exodus of refugees from China the Hong Kong population was up to 2 ½ million and, on a shift basis, some people slept three to a bunk. In the winter of 1954/55 it seemed the refrain, "*Whatever will be, will be*", was literally being played almost everywhere.

The 1960s was a very eventful decade and, as one senior civil servant phrased it, it was 'one damn thing after another'. They included pestilence, bad typhoons, severe water rationing, heavy rainstorms, runs on banks and riots.

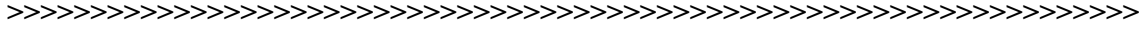
This talk, illustrated with slides, will give you a glimpse of the British Crown Colony as it was during those two formative decades. For the few who remember the 1950s and 1960s it is hoped it will awaken memories.

Dan Waters was born in 1920 and brought up in a world where scenes of the British Empire were commonly pictured on bottles, tins and other household products. He served in the Eight Army as a Desert Rat during World War Two and in Italy, including taking part in the invasions of Salerno and Anzio.

In 1946, he returned to work in the family construction firm established by his great-grandfather in 1853. Much of the work was on ancient buildings such as churches and old houses. But the wanderlust was still there and, after an interview at the Colonial Office in early 1954, Waters sold the business as a going concern and set sail for Hong Kong. He served in the Government Education Department until going on leave pending retirement in 1980.

Dan joined the RASHKB in the mid 1960s. He has contributed many articles to our Journals about local history, culture and customs. He took over from President David Gilkes in 1996 and stepped down as President at our AGM in 2001.

He has written books on a variety of subjects ranging from the management of building contracts, understanding technical English, education, and his last book, *Faces of Hong Kong*.



Local Visit

Saturday 8th December

Fall of Hong Kong – 60th Anniversary Lecture and Video/Slide Presentation

The 8th December 2001 marks one of Hong Kong's most significant and least remembered anniversaries - that of the Japanese invasion in 1941. In this presentation we will explore something of what went before the Japanese invasion - a surprisingly little-understood period in Hong Kong's past - and chart some lasting effects of the war-years that had discernable echoes for decades afterwards.

The presentation will be divided into two parts. Jason Wordie will speak about his ongoing research on the HKVDC VAD nurses, which will be illustrated with some photographs recently acquired from a private collection, and use this group as a focus for detailing various other little-known aspects of the wartime period in Hong Kong that require still further exploration and research - while there is still time. Tim Ko will give a slide/video presentation on the Battle of Hong Kong and the subsequent occupation period. Both the slides and video to be shown are largely new materials recently acquired in Japan and England. These important visual records will provide a new and valuable insight into wartime Hong Kong.

The sixtieth anniversary of the invasion and fall of Hong Kong is an "ignored" date in this year's official calendar - in stark contrast to the forthcoming events surrounding the fall of Singapore in February. Some of the lesser-understood reasons for this striking omission will be explored in the lecture.

Date: Saturday, 8th December

Speakers: Jason Wordie and Tim Ko

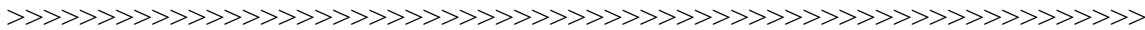
Time: 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Venue: Lecture Room, Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, Shau Kei Wan

Cost: \$60 for members / \$100 non-member

Meeting Place & Time:

- (1) Main entrance at the Museum of Coastal Defence at 1:50 p.m. for those who prefer to make their own way to the Museum
- (2) B2 Exit, Shau Kei Wan MTR Station at 1:30 p.m. for those who prefer to go to the Museum with a group.



Overseas Visit

08-19 February 2002

Visit to the Kingdom of Bhutan

This visit, scheduled over the lunar New Year break from the evening of 08 February to the evening of Tuesday 19 February, will introduce members to the history and cultural life of western and central parts of the high mountainous Kingdom of Bhutan in the eastern Himalayas

(population: 638,000). Members will also gain a good insight into the traditional way of life and contemporary circumstances of the people who live outside the capital (Thimphu), which we will deliberately visit only towards the end of the tour. Although this is a relatively expensive visit, the total costs will not exceed HK\$23,000 for members (non-members, including non-members' spouses, should pay HK\$23,700), plus HK\$1450 Single Supplement, as required. Visiting Bhutan is never easy, and this is a not-to-be-lost opportunity to visit it in the company of acknowledged experts on the country and its lifestyles.

With regard to costing, please note: (a) the airfare costs alone comprise almost half of the total; (b) while a shorter visit is possible, there are timetable constraints (Druk-Air, Bhutan's carrier, flies only three times a week to Bangkok), the in-country itinerary would have to be severely curtailed, and airfares would be a significantly higher proportion of the total cost; and (c) the proposed arrangement is being offered net of commission and at lower off-season rates (on-season cost with standard commission would be an additional HK\$6160 per person).

Please note that at this time the above costs are approximate, but will not exceed the amount stated. The final amount due will depend largely on confirmed airfares at the time of the visit (Druk-Air has already increased airfares out of Bangkok by 9% recently, and is projecting a further 10-15% increase from 01 January 2002). The visit costs include airfares, a full-day excursion outside Bangkok by special arrangement with The Siam Society, hotel accommodation in Bangkok and breakfast on Saturday 09 February (but not breakfast on 10 February due to early departure, and not dinners for Friday 08 and Saturday 09 February, which will be for members' own account), transport to/from airport, exit fees and taxes in Hong Kong and Bangkok, visa fees and exit fees in Bhutan, all accommodation, transport, and set meals in Bhutan for nine nights, as well as full guide services in Bhutan.

The final costing will be set not later than 15 December 2001, and members wishing to participate in this visit will be asked to pay the balance due not later than 31 December 2001. Meanwhile, initial deposits to hold members' places on this visit are calculated to cover Druk-Air's **maximum** costs, which must be fully pre-paid to confirmed reservations. **No refund of initial deposits can be made for withdrawal for whatever reason after 31 December 2001.**

Proposed draft itinerary for Bhutan visit (subject to detailed confirmation in the December Newsletter):

The group will leave Hong Kong on the evening of Friday 08 February by Thai International (exact details to be confirmed), and will spend two nights in Bangkok in order to make an early connection on Sunday 10 February (see below). We will travel by bus to the Windsor Hotel (Sukhumvit Soi 20): dinner will be for members' account (there are many small restaurants around the hotel). On Saturday 09 February, after early breakfast, we will go by bus to the compound of the Siam Society in Soi Asoke, and after light refreshments will depart by 0730. We will travel in comfortable air-conditioned bus and in the company of Siam Society officials to see some very interesting historical sights in Saraburi, and walk in the pleasant Sam Lan National Park, before returning to Bangkok by 6.30pm. Dinner will be for members' account.

Sunday 10 February: 4am wake-up call; 4.30am, travel by bus to airport for 5 am check-in with Druk-Air. Depart 0650 KB125 for Paro; flight time 4hr 40 min (via Kolkata); breakfast served on board. On arrival at Paro (elevation 2200m/7200ft) at 1030 BST, complete customs and immigration checks; met by representatives of Etho-Metho Treks and Travels Limited (Bhutan's premier travel agency, responsible for all in-country arrangements). We will first visit the National Museum of Bhutan (housed in the Ta Dzong, former watchtower overlooking Paro's

RAS BUSINESS

Dan Waters' book "*Faces of Hong Kong : An Old Hand's Reflections*"

Several members have mentioned they have had difficulty in getting hold of copies of Dan's book. It is available at Page One in Times Square, Causeway Bay. Any difficulty, please contact Dan on 2858 1858.

British Empire and Commonwealth Museum in Bristol, U.K.

Our President, Dr. Patrick Hase and other Council members met with Dr. Katherine Prior on her recent visit to Hong Kong. Dr. Prior is historical adviser to the new museum, which is due to open its first permanent galleries next year. She is busy planning the displays for these galleries and at present has about 22 displays in progress, covering a vast range of imperial and Commonwealth history from c. 1490 to the present day. The extensive Museum Collections will include Paper Archives, Crown Agents Railway Archive, Photographic Archive, Artefacts, Moving Images and Oral History. The BECM is a registered educational charity dedicated to storing, conserving, documenting and interpreting material culture associated with the British Empire and Commonwealth.

News of the RAS Volunteers

An update from RAS member Bill Greaves on Volunteers' recent activities. He writes:

Thanks to the members who provided contributions to the research on 45 Stubbs Road – that has helped fill in some gaps and it seems that the history of the building provides another inspiring example of a young Hong Kong couple making their fortune in spite of many trials and tribulations. Hopefully the history will be written up shortly.

The government has won a UNESCO prize for the restoration of King Law Ka Sut in Tai Po Gau Hui – RAS members went along to the opening ceremony earlier in the year to add their support and partake of the basin meal – so all is not gloom and doom on the historic buildings front (at least not in the New Territories).

Haw Par Mansion, the family house attached to Tiger Balm Gardens, is now in government ownership and I will try to arrange a Volunteers visit later this year. There are some superb art-deco furnishings inside as well as a lot of unaltered original decorations and 1930's stained glass windows. The small formal garden at the rear also has potential for restoration. I understand that the future use of the building has not yet been finally decided, except that it is to be opened to the public in about two years' time after refurbishment is completed.

Former Spitfire Hangar – this huge steel structure has been "rediscovered" in a recently cleared squatter village in Diamond Hill and its fate will shortly be decided, as it is in the way of a proposed housing development. A Volunteers' visit will hopefully be arranged in Nov/Dec when your expert views on the subject will be appreciated please.

If you are interested in helping the Volunteers, please contact Bill Greaves on 9802 8240 or E-mail to: greaves@asiaonline.net.

News from our “Friends” in the U.K.

For those members who may be in the U.K. in the near future, the Friends of the RASHKB have the following programme planned, to which you are warmly invited:-

Saturday, 1st December: Illustrated lecture on 'The Chinese Labour Corps in the First World War' by Brian Fawcett. To be held at 2.30 pm at SOAS, Brunei Gallery, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1. Lunch beforehand at 12 noon at Sheng's Tea House, 68 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EF. All welcome.

The following dates are provisional and are in the process of planning; further information will be circulated later:

Saturday, 16th February 2002: Chinese New Year Lunch

22nd-26th April 2002: Weekend visiting Cornish gardens with Asian connections, including the Eden Project.

Saturday, 25th May 2002: AGM

Request for photographs of past activities from members

If you have checked out our web site recently, you will have noticed we have several photographs taken on past RAS visits in our photo gallery. However, our web designer Moody Tang would like some more photographs of past activities to add to it. Photographs and scanned images of RAS visits or activities within the last ten years with a short description would be much appreciated. If anyone has any old photographs that would be suitable, these would be very welcome. These will, of course, be returned in due course. If you have any contributions, please post them to Moody Tang, P.O. Box 506, Shatin Central Post Office or send the scanned images through E-mail to moody_tang@I-cable.com. Moody will acknowledge your contribution on the web site. Any member sending photographs or scanned images will be deemed to have given consent for us to use them on the web site or for other RAS publications. Many thanks.
N.B. Please note Moody's P.O. Box number has changed since our June newsletter.

OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

The Hong Kong Film Archive

We can thoroughly recommend a visit to the fascinating Hong Kong Film Archive at Sai Wan Ho. Dedicated to the preservation of Hong Kong's film heritage, it collects and conserves films and artifacts, provides public access facilities and conducts a wide variety of activities that promote Hong Kong's film culture and facilitate research on the history of local cinema. The splendid new building, opened last year, houses a cinema, exhibition hall and a resource centre as well as specially controlled storage for their collection of original films, dating back to 1898. Enquiries : Hong Kong Film Archive, 50 Lei King Road, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong. Tel : 2739 2139. Email : hkfa@lcsd.gov.hk.

Orders and Medals Research Society, Hong Kong Branch

The Hong Kong Branch of the Orders & Medals Research Society is holding an exhibition of orders, decorations and medals relating to Hong Kong and China, at the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence. The exhibition opened on 1st July and is scheduled to run for about four months. The exhibition focuses on the First and Second China Wars, the Boxer Rebellion, gunboats on the rivers of China, the Second World War, awards to Hong Kong's disciplined services and the Hong Kong Volunteers, orders of the Chinese Republic, and so on.

The University Museum and Art Gallery, The University of Hong Kong

As part of the University of Hong Kong's 90th anniversary celebrations, the University Museum and Art Gallery, in conjunction with the Department of Music, HKU and the Music Research Institute, The Chinese Academy of Arts in Beijing are presenting an important exhibition, entitled "The Musical Arts of Ancient China". It is the first exhibition of its kind in China and features 123 musical instruments dating from the Neolithic period to the 20th century, from the Collection of the Music Research Institute, many of which have never been exhibited in public before. The exhibition runs until 8th January, 2002.

The Museum and Art Gallery and the Consulate General of Italy will jointly present an exhibition of paintings by one of the most respected and popular artists in Italy, Antonio Saliola, from 1 November to 6 December, 2001. On display will be almost forty of Saliola's Post-Impressionist oil paintings and serigraphs.

The "dreamscapes" in this exhibition are typical of Saliola's visions of life in the country that record a landscape without stripping it of its mystery. They also reveal unmistakably how his paintings evoke the joy and magic of childhood. Saliola recently made his first trip to China visiting the dramatic scenery of Guilin. This has inspired a series of smaller works, created especially for this, his first exhibition in Asia, portraying a uniquely Chinese landscape with an Italian sensibility.

The opening hours of the Museum are daily from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sundays. The Museum is closed on public holidays. Admission is free. All are welcome. Please contact the Museum on 2241-5513 for further details. Please visit their website for information about our other activities. www.hku.hk/hkumag

The Asia Society – *Power and Desire*

A ruler receiving his nobles, the Hindu god Rama battling the demon king Ravana, the god Krishna awaiting his beloved Radha in a forest grove—these are just some of the stories illustrated in *Power and Desire: South Asian Paintings from the San Diego Museum of Art Edwin Binney 3rd Collection*, an exhibition that will take place at the Hong Kong Museum of Art from October 19th through December 31, 2001.

The exhibition was curated and organized by the Asia Society and the San Diego Museum of Art and first opened at the Asia Society Galleries in New York in 2001. The paintings in the exhibition are all drawn from the Binney Collection, one of the finest collections of South Asian art in the United States. This is the first tour of the collection in over 25 years.

Power and Desire features approximately 70 paintings created for the rulers of South Asian courts between the 16th and 19th centuries. These kingdoms in the northern and western parts of pre-modern India were culturally diverse—some Hindu, some Muslim, some writing in Persian, others in Sanskrit or other languages. These distinctive courts developed individual styles and conventions in painting, but all were drawn to the themes of power and desire, matters that still pre-occupy us today.

The relationships between ruler and subject, lover and beloved, gods and humans, are used to organize the exhibition into three sections: *Rule and Domain*, life of the court; *Love and Longing*, earthly and divine love of mortals and gods; and *Divine Realm*, the realms of the gods. Together, the paintings reveal the cultural richness, visual brilliance, and story-telling power of Indian art while at the same time speaking to the modern sensibility on matters of status, position, love and longing, and the relationship of human beings to something greater than themselves. Although small in size, the pictures present a kaleidoscopic view of the world that is rich in both everyday detail and universal allusions.

To view two paintings from this exceptional exhibition, please go to our web site www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk/photo_gallery.htm

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Asia Society has organized a number of programmes including performances, films, lectures and discussions on South Asian art, culture, history and contemporary affairs. The exhibition is open to the public from October 19th through December 31, 2001.

The Divine Rite of Kings: Statecraft in South Asian History

Slide lecture and dinner with John Keay, author and historian

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

7:00p.m. – 10:00 p.m., Hong Kong Club, 1/F, Harcourt Suite, 1 Jackson Road

HK\$450 Asia Society members, HK\$500 Non-members (includes dinner)

HK\$150 lecture only (seats are limited)

Sounds of the Soul: An Evening of Hindustani Vocal and Instrumental Music

With Shubha Mudgal (vocals), Aneesh Pradhahn (tabla), Adrian MacNeil (sarod). Pre-concert talk by Dr. Adrian MacNeil

Co-presented with the Department of Music, University of Hong Kong

Friday, November 16, 2001

7:00- 9:20 p.m., Loke Yew Hall, University of Hong Kong.

HK\$100, HK\$50 for full-time students, senior citizens & people with disabilities. (Free seating)

For tickets and inquiries for all programs, please call the Asia Society at tel: 2103-9508/9502, email: fchim@asiasoc.org

The Hong Kong Natural History Society

Membership of the Hong Kong Natural History Society is open to anyone with an interest in the Hong Kong countryside. The Society organises monthly outings, which consist of hikes in the winter months and boat trips to the remoter islands during the summer months. In September members enjoyed a junk trip to Ping Chau and a trip on “Dolphinwatch” to see the pink dolphins. In October they will enjoy a boat trip to Kat O Chau and a visit to Mai Po Nature Reserve. Most outings take place on a Sunday and have leaders who will guide the party and point out items of

interest. Memoirs are published from time to time, which are available to members, and there is a small library of natural history books that members can access. Membership is only \$100 for a year for an individual or \$150 for a couple. Further details may be obtained by writing to the Hon. Secretary, The Hong Kong Natural History Society, GPO Box 4369, Hong Kong.

The Gender Studies Programme at the Chinese University of Hong Kong

November 7th - Cathy Potter, Associate Professor, Department of History at the university will explore the changing images of men, women and their relationships in Soviet literature, with particular emphasis on the period from 1950 to 1965.

December 5th – Sumi Kailasapathy, Lecturer, Gender Studies Programme, CUHK will talk on “Class and Gender Politics in Kerala (India) (in English).

Time : 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Venue : Room 401, Humanities Building, New Asia College, Chinese University of Hong Kong. Enquiries to Vicky Li on 2609 7679. Lunchbox can be pre-ordered.

Department of Anthropology, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Their November programme of Friday Seminars which take place at the Chinese University, Room 401, Humanities Building, New Asia College between 12:30 – 2 p.m. comprises :-

November 2nd – Chan Wing Hoi, Centre of Asian Studies, HKU will talk on “Patrilineal Bias and Feminist Remedy? Beyond Misleading Dichotomies in the Ethnography of Chinese Lineages”.

November 9th – Joseph Bosco, Department of Anthropology, CUHK will talk on “Campus Ghost Stories and the Concept of the Supernatural”.

November 16th – Pushpinder Lubana, Department of Anthropology, CUHK will talk on “Intertwined Epidemics in the Lives of Inner City Women : The Life Experience of Substance Abuse, Violence and AIDS”.

November 23rd – Zhu Jiangang, PhD Candidate, Department of Anthropology, CUHK will talk on “Shanghai Neighbourhood : Report from the Field” (in Putonghua).

The English Speaking Members’ Department of the Y.W.C.A. in Macdonnell Road have arranged their usual interesting and varied programme of events for the autumn term. For more information call 2522 4291 or Email : esmdywca@hk.super.net or go to www.esmdywca.com.

The Women’s Corona Society welcomes ladies who are new to Hong Kong as well as those who are not. They meet each Monday morning in the Mariners’ Club in TST and enjoy coffee and a chat as well as interesting speakers; they also arrange local visits and social activities. For more information call Karen Ellis on 2779 3476.

Advertising in the RAS Newsletter

In an effort to defray newsletter costs, we are accepting ads that would be of interest to RAS members. Would you like to advertise a business or a service you can provide, or do you know someone who might be interested? Our rates are very reasonable: Full Page HK\$1,150.00; 2/3 Page HK\$850.00; 1/2 Page HK\$725.00, 1/3 Page HK\$450.00. If you have a short ad and would like to pay according to the number of words in the ad, you may do so at the following rates: first 10 words: \$70.00; each additional word: \$2.50.