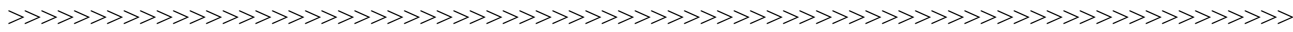




Friday, October 4 <sup>th</sup> (preceded by EGM)	City Hall Lecture	<b>People and Government in Early Colonial Hong Kong</b>
Friday, October 18 <sup>th</sup>	City Hall Lecture	<b>Up In Smoke: Offerings for the Ancestors</b>
Chinese New Year 2003	Overseas Visit	<b>Eastern Bhutan</b>



**City Hall Lecture** **Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September**

**The Development of Cemeteries in Hong Kong: 1841 - 1941**

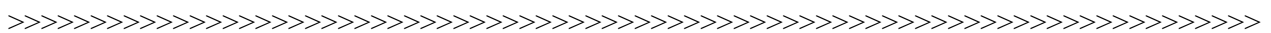
**Speaker:** Tim Ko  
**Time:** 6:15 p.m.  
**Venue:** Extension Activities Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall High Block, Central  
**Cost:** The lecture is free and open to the public  
**Booking:** No booking is required

The early years in Hong Kong held one distressing aspect for the British troops and the civilian population alike - endemic diseases and death. Hong Kong's first cemetery was established even before the Opium War was formally brought to an end. By the 1850s, the consolidation of Hong Kong as a trading centre had attracted traders of various backgrounds, creating the need for their own special cemeteries.

As cremation was not popular with the Chinese population - at least before the Second World War - burial was the standard form of disposing of the dead. A large number of cemeteries designated for the Chinese have been established since the 1870s. However, by 1941, with rapid urban expansion, these cemeteries had largely been cleared and most had disappeared without a trace.

The talk will be illustrated with slides.

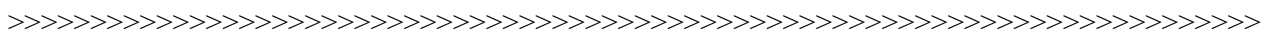
Mr. Tim Ko is a Council Member of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society and a keen local history reader. He has conducted numerous studies and has written several books in the Chinese language on local history. Tim is co-author with Jason Wordie of *Ruins of War* about the World War II battlefield sites in Hong Kong.



**Overseas Visit** **Friday 27th Sept. - Wed 2nd Oct. 2002**

**Visit to Angkor Wat and Saigon**

**This tour is now fully subscribed.**



**City Hall Lecture** **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October**

**People and Government in Early Colonial Hong Kong**

**Speaker:** Christopher Munn  
**Time:** 6:15 p.m.  
**Venue:** Extension Activities Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall High Block, Central, Hong Kong

**Cost:** The lecture is free and open to the public.  
**Booking:** No booking is required.

"There is an absolute abyss between the governors and the governed," observed Hong Kong's fourth Governor, Sir John Bowring, in 1858. "We rule them in ignorance, and they submit in blindness." The reality was never quite so simple. Early British Hong Kong was a city troubled by crime and war, divided by race, and periodically rocked by controversy. Through a succession of experiments in government, early British officials sought ways of managing a politically complex Chinese population who, though essential to Hong Kong's success, seemed intractable to traditional colonial methods. The uneasy solutions that emerged combined heavy policing of the lower classes and shaky collaboration with a burgeoning Chinese merchant elite.

In this talk, Christopher Munn will explore some of the themes - and the personalities - in the relations between people and government in early Hong Kong. He will pay particular attention to the development of the criminal justice system, which was widely seen at the time as the cornerstone of government in the colony.

Christopher Munn served as an Administrative Officer in the Hong Kong Government between 1980 and 1992. After a short break in the mid-nineties to take a PhD at the University of Toronto, he returned to Hong Kong, where he now lives and works.

Christopher Munn's book *Anglo-China: Chinese People and British Rule in Hong Kong, 1841-1880* was recently published by Curzon Press. For full details of his book, see Publications by RAS members under RAS Business in the following section.



**City Hall Lecture**

**Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> October**

**Up In Smoke: Offerings for the Ancestors**

**Speaker:** Dr. Janet Lee Scott  
**Time:** 6:15 p.m.  
**Venue:** Extension Activities Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall High Block, Central, Hong Kong  
**Cost:** The lecture is free and open to the public.  
**Booking:** No booking is required.

One of the most vibrant aspects of life in contemporary Hong Kong is the celebration of traditional Chinese culture, a celebration which has gained greater significance as Hong Kong residents reassert the importance of such tradition to modern life and contemporary identity. One aspect of this process involves an appreciation of the traditional material culture of everyday life, of which an especially significant category is the repertoire of ritual paper offerings accompanying the ritual events, both public and private, of each year. Paper offerings are burned to gods, ghosts, and ancestors, with the aims of expressing gratitude, alleviating the misery of neglected souls, and caring for the deceased; aims reflecting traditional cultural and social values still quite significant in this modern society. This discussion will concern the paper offerings for the honorable dead, the ancestors. It will consider the ideological basis for the giving of offerings, the objects themselves, and how such a custom has survived in this modern metropolis of Hong Kong. The discussion will be illustrated with numerous examples of paper offerings currently available in Hong Kong.

Dr. Janet Lee Scott is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at Hong Kong Baptist University. She took a PhD in anthropology from Cornell University and has been teaching in Hong Kong since 1980. She is currently a Council Member of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, and a History Advisor (Ethnography) to the Leisure and Cultural Service Department.

## ***RAS BUSINESS***

### **Extraordinary General Meeting to be held at 6 p.m. on Friday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the Extension Activities Room, 8/F, City Hall High Block (prior to the lecture) to vote on the following amendments to our constitution:-

1. **Addition of New Category of Membership: Honorary Institutional Membership.**
2. **Alteration of Permissible Date for Annual General Meeting.**

Two papers, giving full details of these proposed amendments, are included in an attachment to this newsletter. Members of the Society are urged to attend this Extraordinary General Meeting and to be seated by 6 p.m. as the meeting will start promptly.

### **Views on Annual General Meeting**

Council would welcome Members' comments on the Society's Annual General Meetings. At the Annual General Meeting of the Society held at the end of March this year, only 61 Members attended, out of a total Membership resident in Hong Kong of 492 (12%). This is, clearly, a very small percentage of the Membership. Council hopes that Members will write in to the President, Dr. Patrick Hase, or else telephone him (2658-6529, before 12th July or after 28th August), or E-mail him (at [pphase@hkusua.hku.hk](mailto:pphase@hkusua.hku.hk)) with their views. In particular, Council would welcome comments as to why Members chose not to attend the AGM.

Council is aware that one problem is the coincidence of the AGM date with the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens Tournament. An amendment to the Society's Constitution is being recommended, to allow the Society to hold its AGMs in early April as well as late March, so that, for the future, the weekend of the Sevens can be avoided, as well as the weekend of Easter. This apart, Council would welcome comments on the venue, format, notice arrangements, and any other factors which led members to choose not to attend the AGM this year.

Comments, please, by the end of October 2002.

### **Can you help us set up a Subscription Service for RAS Journals and Publications?**

It is one of Council's expressed aims to expand the distribution of our Journals and Publications to Universities and Libraries both in Hong Kong and overseas. Unfortunately this is hindered by the lack of a proper Subscription System to facilitate the ordering and dispatch of our publications to interested parties. If you have a working knowledge of the type of system we would need and would be willing to volunteer your time to help us set it up, and to quantify the workload involved, please contact our Assistant Secretary Mary Painter on 2813 7500 or Email to [membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk). This would be a most worthwhile cause as it would help enormously in promoting the Society to universities and libraries worldwide. We would like to have a system up and running by the end of this year if possible.

## **The British Empire and Commonwealth Museum at Bristol, U.K.**

The permanent galleries of this new museum will be opened on 26<sup>th</sup> September, and this will be followed by a Royal opening in October. They are looking for members. If you're interested browse their web site [www.empiremuseum.co.uk](http://www.empiremuseum.co.uk). The address is: Clock Tower Yard, Temple Meads, Bristol B51 6QH, U.K.

### **An enquiry**

We have had an enquiry from Britain about an incident which took place in Canton during the run-up to the Sun Yat Sen Revolution. In those days cadet officers were sent there to learn Cantonese (indeed this practice continued until shortly after the Second World War). A group of government cadets was sent there in 1910. It appears that during 'rebellious mutterings' some of the cadets were accosted by 'over-zealous' Chinese officials. One of the cadets then pulled out his revolver and shot an official. Oral history has it that Samuel Burnside Boyd McElderry (who served with the Colonial Service in Hong Kong up until 1929), one of the Hong Kong cadet officers, with his 'calm diplomacy', was able to calm the situation and talk the group out of the scrape. While little is known about this incident it probably occurred in May, or at the latest June, 1911. If anyone can throw any light on it please contact Dr Dan Waters on (T) 2858 1858 or [benefit@netvigator.com](mailto:benefit@netvigator.com)

### **The late Eric Byron Cumine, OBE, JP**

With the passing of Eric Cumine, another link with the past disappeared. Eric joined the RASHKB in 1960, thus becoming a founding member of our reconstituted Branch. He attended RAS meetings in the 1960s and 1970s when we used to meet at the Hong Kong Club and in the old Beaconsfield House. He usually sat near the back and was fond of adding his two penn'orth to what the speaker had said. His knowledge of local history was quite profound. He seemed to know everyone and a bit about everything.

He was born in 1905 in Shanghai and, with a Scottish father, was fiercely proud of his Eurasian heritage. He spoke English, Shanghainese and Cantonese fluently. He trained as an architect in London and built up a large practice after World War Two with studios situated in Causeway Bay. As a result, his monuments are sited all over the Territory. Like Eric himself, many are colourful. They include among them the Lisboa Hotel in Macau.

Among his many accomplishments he rode as an amateur jockey. He also wrote, although his books today are out of print. His last book, *Hong Kong Ways and Byways, A Miscellany of Trivia*, can be borrowed from libraries. It's an interesting read.

The last years of his life were spent in London, where he suffered from ill health. He died there on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2002 after a long and eventful life.

### **Special Historical Pictures of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century 3/F Museum of Art, Tsim Sha Tsui**

Have you seen this fine exhibition yet? It consists of a display of about 60 paintings of the scenery and lifestyle enjoyed by people in Hong Kong, Macau and Guangzhou up to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It's well worth a visit.

### **GPO exhibition**

Have you seen the exhibition at the west end of the ground floor of the General Post Office? It consists of old post boxes and equipment as well as stamps. It's well worth a look when you are in Central. You may remember, up to the Handover, there were a few old pillar boxes still standing in Hong Kong. For instance a red, Victorian post box stood not far from the junction of Robinson Road and Old Peak Road, in Mid-Levels.

## **Publications by RAS Members**

### ***Voices from the Past: Hong Kong 1842-1918***

Hong Kong University Press have recently published this book, the contents of which were selected and annotated by RASHKB Honorary Member Dr. Solomon Bard.

Through excerpts from the earliest English language newspapers in Hong Kong, accompanied by Solomon Bard's insightful comments, *Voices From the Past* provides unique glimpses into Hong Kong's history. Richly illustrated with interesting photographs, chiefly from the Hong Kong Museum of History's photographic library, the pages bring Hong Kong's colonial past vividly to life.

The newspaper excerpts, in chronological order, are faithful to the original text, reproducing its quaint prose and spelling and even occasional errors. Focusing mainly on Hong Kong, the excerpts also touch on Macao, mainland China and the rest of the world. They reflect the changes over the years in language, style of writing, even in humour. Of special interest are the public's responses to the many inventions which today we take for granted, such as electric lighting, the motor car, or the first attempts at flying. Most importantly, they reveal the gradual changes in Hong Kong's colonial attitudes as these slowly adjust to the new contemporary values and social and political changes. Cost: HK\$250.00. Available from all major bookshops in Hong Kong or order at a discount on HKUP web site [www.hkupress.org](http://www.hkupress.org).

### ***Anglo-China: Chinese People and British Rule in Hong Kong 1841-1880***

Curzon Press Limited have recently published this book, written by RASHKB member Christopher Munn, who will give a lecture to us on 4<sup>th</sup> October at City Hall. For its earliest promoters, Hong Kong was an island 'bespread with palaces, a beautiful and well ordered city, a miracle of British enterprise and dormant power' at the edge of a crumbling Chinese Empire. This 'capital of Anglo-China', as some of them called it, was a place where Chinese and Europeans could freely exchange goods and ideas under a benevolent and progressive British rule. Nineteenth-century Hong Kong was all of that. But it was also a struggling frontier settlement, troubled by crime and war, divided by race, and periodically rocked by controversy. Through a succession of experiments in government, early British officials sought ways of managing a politically complex Chinese population who, though essential to Hong Kong's economic success, seemed intractable to traditional colonial methods. The uneasy solutions that emerged combined heavy policing of the lower classes and shaky collaboration with a burgeoning Chinese merchant elite. *Anglo-China* traces the development of colonial rule in early British Hong Kong. Drawing on a variety of hitherto neglected sources, the book also explores how the daily practice of government affected the lives of people in the region – and how they in turn sought to shape colonial rule. Available from all major bookshops in Hong Kong. Price: HK\$360.00.

### ***Lights and Shadows of a Macao Life: The Journal of Harriett Low, Travelling Spinster, 1829-1834***

This new book, which will be of interest to members, is published by Bear Creek Books and edited by Nan P Hodges and Arthur W. Hummel. Harriett Low was a young American woman who lived in Macao from 1829 to 1833, while her uncle was working for an American trading firm in Canton, as a companion to his wife in Macao. Harriett kept a daily journal during this time and the absorbing nine volumes, with her own title, have survived. Since 1944 they have been in the Library of Congress and have at last been reproduced into a complete edition with extensive notes. They tell the story of her long sea journey to Macao and her arrival there in September 1829. After her uncle's death in Cape Town, she and her aunt continued their long voyage home via England. Harriett's descriptions of life in Macao are particularly interesting, in what were to be the last years of the East India Company's monopoly of the China trade. She mixed in an international society of people going to and coming from Canton and was very well read. The book gives a fascinating insight into the life and times of Macao. Available at Bookazine, price HK\$250 (parts I and II).

## News of the RAS Volunteers from Bill Greaves

All Volunteers are invited to attend the annual ceremony for the Hong Kong Heritage Awards presentation on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August at 4:00 p.m. at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Level 4. Official invitations are being sent out to those on the AMO mailing list (if you would like to be on the list for future events, please fax your details to AMO at 2721 6216).

The RASHKB Volunteers are a group of RAS members with a knowledge or interest in local history, architectural heritage and building conservation, who assist the Antiquities and Monuments Office on an unpaid, voluntary basis in identifying, researching and recording historical buildings, and providing feedback on restored buildings and heritage trails. Activities include Saturday morning field trips to old buildings and occasionally archaeological sites with AMO staff, which usually take place on a monthly basis. If you are interested in joining the Volunteers, please complete the application form on page 11 of this newsletter, and return it to the RASHKB, GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong.

### Programme for remainder of year 2002:

It is proposed to revise the format of Volunteers' visits a little, in view of changing requirements from the Antiquities & Monuments Office. They do not now need to be notified of buildings with heritage potential as their territory-wide survey of all pre-1940 buildings has been completed and analyzed. Instead, Bill suggests revisiting some well-known sites and buildings in order to give an "expert-visitor's" opinion of their present state and what improvements we recommend – we can fill-in a standard questionnaire while on-site. Hopefully this will result in us not having to provide any further input during the remainder of the month.

First visit suggested (in September) is to:

Ping Shan Heritage Trail – to check out the proposed new additions, (including the Ching Dynasty, Tat Tak Community Hall, unfortunately in a very poor state of repair and flooded; a little-known Tin Hau Temple damaged by fire, the new and huge Ping Shan KCR Station and the now vacant former Ping Shan Police Station (ex-Police Dog Unit). We can provide some suggestions (hopefully constructive), on how to make the trail more visitor-friendly and interesting. A firm itinerary will follow when arrangements have been made with AMO.

Other suggested sites to visit this year are:

Lung Yeuk Tau Heritage Trail  
Sun Yat Sen Trail  
Tai Fu Tai Mansion  
Peak Heritage Trail

### Ongoing Projects:

Haw Boon Par Private Garden (next to former Tiger Balm) is now being handled by the HK Gardening Society, for details contact [hkgardeningociety@hotmail.com](mailto:hkgardeningociety@hotmail.com) (attn: Lynn Sinclair). At the last joint visit the Volunteers were rather overwhelmed by the knowledge displayed by HKGS – for example, they knew the Latin names of the plants! We acknowledge our limitations and will make a strategic withdrawal.

Spitfire Hangar – Site for its re-erection still being sought; "Kai Tak Corner" now looks doubtful as it is earmarked by government for an Open Space.

For Info: The old 1920's Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club clubhouse in Oil Street (part of the old Government Stores) has now been fully repaired and is occupied by AMO as an archaeological store (after fitting-out it is to be an archaeological resource centre and opened to the public).

## ***OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS***

### **Textile Society of Hong Kong**

Dr. Janet Lee Scott, Associate Professor at the Dept. of Sociology, Hong Kong Baptist University and Hon. Activities Co-ordinator of the RASHKB, will give a talk at 6:30 pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August at the Helena May Institute entitled *Chinese Paper Costumes*. Janet will talk about the intricate paper dolls made as replicas of the genuine items and offered to the gods, ghosts and ancestors by worshippers. Enquiries: 2301 2215 or email [cheung\\_edith@hotmail.com](mailto:cheung_edith@hotmail.com).

### **Joint Royal Golden Jubilee Garden Party**

RASHKB members will be invited to this special party, planned for the late Autumn in Hong Kong, and organized by the Royal Over-Seas League and the Oxford and Cambridge Society, preliminary details of which were given in our June newsletter. As we go to print, a final date has not been confirmed. However, to ensure you receive an invitation in due course, you can register your interest with the ROSL Publicity Officer on [publicity@rosl.org.hk](mailto:publicity@rosl.org.hk) or you can send your name and full postal address to The Hon. Secretary, ROSL, P.O. Box 9954, GPO Hong Kong.

### **University of Hong Kong Museum and Art Gallery**

They have a new website at [www.hku.hk/hkumag](http://www.hku.hk/hkumag). An exhibition of the famous calligraphy of the *Heart Sutra* by Professor Jao Tsung-I will be held from 16<sup>th</sup> August until 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2002. Each character of this monumental calligraphic masterpiece measures approximately 50 cm in height and it occupies the entire T T Tsui Gallery. The *Heart Sutra* is regarded as the summation of the Buddha's wisdom and has been chanted daily throughout East Asia by clerics and lay people for over a thousand years.

The museum is open from 9:30 am to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. Closed on public holidays. Admission free.

### **The Siam Society, Bangkok**

The Siam Society, in conjunction with the United States Embassy in Bangkok, are giving a presentation of *American Historic Textiles* by textile artist Sigrid Piroch on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2002, at 1:30 p.m. The program focuses on early American handweaving and includes the history and heritage of this art form. The Siam Society have a new publication *Thai Culture in Transition*, the collected writings of William J. Klausner (4<sup>th</sup> edition – revised edition). The book is mainly concerned with cultural transition and transformation. For further information contact the Siam Society on (662) 661 6470-7 or Email [info@siam-society.org](mailto:info@siam-society.org) or visit their web site [www.siam-society.org](http://www.siam-society.org).

### **Interesting Web Site**

[www.shawcollection.com](http://www.shawcollection.com) is an interesting web site, which features Thai ceramics and other artifacts from South-east Asia and England. John Shaw, author of this web site, is a member of the Siam Society in Bangkok.

### **For Sale : 1997 Handover Commemorative British Notes**

1997 Handover Commemorative uncut British Five Pound Notes issued by the Bank of England. Mint condition. Certificate of Authentication. 35 notes sheet HK\$10,000. 12 notes sheet HK\$4,500. Enquiries tel : 2891 8664.

**For information about joining the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, please tel/fax the Assistant Secretary on 2813 7500 or Email [membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk).**