

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

HONG KONG BRANCH

皇家亞洲學會香港分會
G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong



NEWSLETTER

20th October, 2002

Council members 2002-2003

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, Hon. Secretary	Miss Julia Chan, Hon. Librarian
Dr. Janet Lee Scott, Hon. Activities Co-ordinator	Dr. Peter Halliday, Hon. Editor of Journals
Mrs. Valery Garrett, Member	Mrs. May Holdsworth, Member
Mr. Tim Ko, Member	Dr. Joseph Ting, Member
Mr. Jason Wordie, Member	Mr. Robert Horsnell, Co-opted Member
Dr. Dan Waters, Immediate Past President	

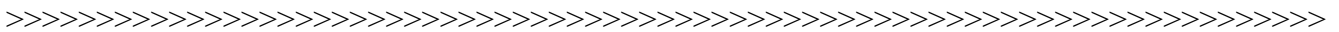
On 31st August, some 30 members and guests gathered at the Roman Catholic Cathedral on Caine Road for a visit to the Cathedral and Diocesan Archives. We were warmly welcomed by Father Dominic Chan, Vicar General and Parish Priest, and the Rev. Thomas Law, Director of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission, who noted that we were the first group to visit the Cathedral since its most recent extensive renovation. Rev. Law and Anna S. Y. Kwong, Architect and Administrator of the Diocesan Building and Development Commission, then divided the group into two for the tour. The Diocesan Archivist, The Rev. Louis Ha, showed us the Archives and explained the work of his office. Many interesting old photos and documents were on display, and we were shown one of the most important documents there, the decree from Rome establishing the Catholic mission in Hong Kong in 1841. Rev. Ha (who together with our former President, Dan Waters, had spoken to the Society on 3rd May, 2002 about Hong Kong's lighthouses) patiently answered all our questions.

In the cathedral itself, our guides gave us a very interesting and detailed history of the Cathedral, and the extensive renovations made over the years were pointed out. This interesting visit concluded with a donation from the Society to the Cathedral and then members and guests enjoyed a tasty lunch at the Kathmandu Restaurant in Old Bailey Street.

It was standing room only on 20th September when Tim Ko, a Council Member and keen local history reader, spoke to the Society at the City Hall on "The Development of Cemeteries in Hong Kong 1841-1941". Tim gave a detailed history of the development of cemeteries in Hong Kong and how they came to be established at different times and in the different areas of Hong Kong. This was followed by the showing of some 50 fascinating slides of maps and early photographs of Hong Kong's cemeteries, a few of which still remain today. Unfortunately time permitted only a few questions concerning the Chinese graves in urban Kowloon and the Japanese graves in Happy Valley. A suggestion has been put forward that, as a future outing for the Society, Tim might be persuaded to lead a tour to some of the more interesting sites.

Thirty-two members and their guests enjoyed a marvellous six-day trip to Cambodia and Vietnam between September 27th and October 2nd. The party left Hong Kong in the early morning for Saigon, and arrived at Siem Reap in mid-afternoon. We went straight from the Airport to our first scramble up steep and broken steps in fiercely hot and sweaty weather to visit Ta Keu temple, and then went on to scramble up the steep and unfriendly slope of Phnom Bakheng to view the sunset there – not a very successful scramble, either, since the day was overcast and the sunset a good deal less than spectacular (our 4 a.m. trip to Angkor Wat to view the sunrise was equally damned by overcast skies, alas!) There were a group of elephants waiting to carry people up the Bakheng hill, but unfortunately there was a long queue for them so we had no choice but to slog it out!

The next day came the pick of the visits – Angkor Wat, the Bayon, the Elephant Terrace, and Banteay Kdei. No-one who has visited Angkor Wat and the Bayon can ever forget those spectacular monuments, the vastness of Angkor Wat, and the eerie intimacy of the Bayon. Most of us managed the climb up the Angkor steps to the summit! That evening, with our excellent guides Rith and Lan, and James from our travel agents, we went to a splendid Cambodian restaurant near our excellent hotel, for a lively and convivial evening – some of us to make our acquaintance with Cambodian rice-wine, sweet, muddy, and powerful! The next day we drove out to the tiny but quite superb temple at Banteay Srei, stopping at a small village en route, and then to the "Jungle Temple" of Ta Prohm with its huge trees still growing in and around the temple-carvings. After lunch we went for a fascinating boat-ride through a floating village of fishermen (Tai O must have looked rather like it, 75 years ago) and out to the Ton Le Sap Lake, and so to a fine buffet dinner with Cambodian singers and dancers in the evening. The next day, after a morning some used to visit the Siem Reap Killing Fields and the War and Landmine Museum, and others to shop, we returned to Saigon. An evening cruise along the Saigon River and another excellent hotel! The next day we visited a few sights in Saigon, and then drove out through the interminable and soul-less suburbs of Saigon, through the countryside, to the Cao Dai Grand Temple for the Midday Rituals of that strange and esoteric cult – an utterly fascinating experience! On the way back we visited another village, and enjoyed a visit to the village tapioca factory, watching the cassava roots being delivered by ox-cart, and the tapioca being produced in conditions of basically medieval squalor. That evening we had a simple dinner of noodles, and so to bed (by then utterly exhausted!) for an early start the next morning for Hong Kong. A splendid and memorable trip!



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

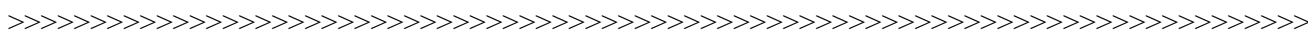
Saturday, 23 rd November	City Hall Lecture/Visit	The Appreciation of Cantonese Opera
Friday, 29 th November	City Hall Lecture	The Great Wall – Research and Impressions
Friday, 6 th December	City Hall Lecture	Heaven is High, the Emperor Far Away: Merchants and Mandarins in Old Canton
Saturday, 14 th December	Local Visit	War and Peace: Treasures of the Qin and Han Dynasties
30 th Jan – 13 th Feb, 2003	Overseas Visit	Eastern Bhutan
May 2003	Overseas Visit	Japan

Cha Duk Chang - The Appreciation of Cantonese Opera

- Speaker :** Stella Ma
- Time :** 3:30- 4:45 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 :** Booking only required for opera visit (see below)

Cantonese Opera is an integrated art form colored by artistic contributions from different subject areas. The talk will focus on the characteristics of acting and singing, accompanied by a demonstration by an amateur actress. Members of the audience will be invited to feel the art by “dancing the long sleeves.” The talk will be followed by a backstage visit in which a closer look at the costumes and make-up will be possible.

Ms Stella Ma took her M. Phil. from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, majoring in ethnomusicology, with the research area, Cantonese Opera and its percussion music. She is currently program director of the Cultural Link Centre, which has the objective of “linking cultures to cultures”. Ms Ma is also Chair of the “Cha Duk Chang” Children’s Cantonese Opera Association, scriptwriter for the first full-length Cantonese Opera for children, a member of CASH, and the producer of the first children’s CD series on Cantonese operatic music.



Local Visit

Saturday, 23rd November

**A Visit to the Ming Chi Sing Cantonese Opera Troupe
Backstage Visit and Performance of “The Sweet General”**

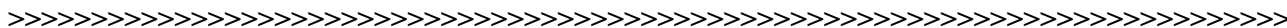
The Ming Chi Sing Cantonese Opera Troupe is one of the best-known troupes in Hong Kong. Under the direction of Mr. Lau Kam-Yiu, the troupe will be performing the opera, “The Sweet General.”

Synopsis: Yun, having learned martial arts, leaves home at an early age, dressing herself as a man as she wanders through the world helping the poor. “He” then meets a serving girl in a teahouse, who falls in love with “him”. Unable to reveal “his” true identity, the couple are eventually forced to marry. To escape, Yun reports for duty in the military, where “he” meets Lee, a gentleman “he” has long admired. The story then proceeds with further gender-confusing situations until all matters are happily resolved.

- Venue:** The Sunbeam Theatre, North Point. (Map/directions will be sent to successful applicants).
- Time:** 6:30 SHARP for backstage visit.
Members can go as individuals, or can assemble at the MTR in Central, at the top of the entrance opposite Prince’s Building, at 6:00 p.m. Those going as individuals should wait in the lobby until the entire group arrives; members should not ask to go backstage by themselves, but wait for the group.
- Cost:** \$130 per Member (no Guests). Tickets will be reserved in advance and available at the door.
- Note:** Those staying for the performance are advised to sit at the back of the auditorium, so as not to disturb the other members of the audience if they decide to leave before the end of the full performance. The cost of the ticket reflects this seating arrangement.
- Restrictions:** Participation is limited to 20 persons ONLY for this backstage visit, and open only to members of the RAS. [NOTE: there is no limitation on those attending the lecture only].

Booking: The booking form is at the end of the newsletter. Please return it to Dr. Janet Lee Scott, Department of Sociology, Hong Kong Baptist University, 224 Waterloo Road, Kowloon, not later than November 8th. Reservations will be made on a first-come basis.

Questions: Janet Lee Scott, 3411 7132 (daytime only).



City Hall Lecture

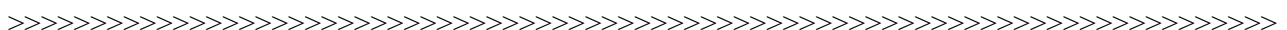
Friday, 29th November

The Great Wall – Research and Impressions

Speaker : Mr. William Lindesay
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

In 1987, William Lindesay made what China’s Xinhua News Agency described as “the most successful foreign exploration of the Great Wall,” a 2,470 kilometer solo adventure. This exploration resulted in a more profound appreciation of both the Great Wall and its surrounding landscape and in sustained research on the Great Wall in the Beijing region. In 1998, two major “Great Wall Clean Ups” were organized to focus public attention on the deterioration of the natural surroundings, and subsequent efforts have been directed to the protection of the Wall; notably, the conservation program, “Defending the Great Wall from Attack,” and the founding in 2001 of the “International Friends of the Great Wall.” The illustrated talk will take up the original walk and these recent conservation efforts.

William Lindesay, a geographer by training, was educated at Liverpool University in the U.K. He has lived in China for more than twelve years, during which he has spent, by his own estimate, “more than 700 days on the Great Wall.” He is avidly sought out for lectures on conservation and on the promotion of public awareness of the treasure which is the Great Wall.



City Hall Lecture

Friday, 6th December

Heaven is High, the Emperor Far Away: Merchants and Mandarins in Old Canton

Speaker: Mrs. Valery Garrett
Time: 6:15 p.m.
Venue: Extension Activities Room, 8th Floor, City Hall High Block, Central, Hong Kong
Cost: The lecture is free and open to the public.
Booking: No booking is required.

Close enough to Hong Kong for a long weekend, or even a quick day trip, this vibrant Chinese city has a two thousand year history just waiting to be discovered. Yet, to most visitors today, Guangzhou is seen as a place for business where joint ventures are formed, deals are struck and traffic is often at a standstill.

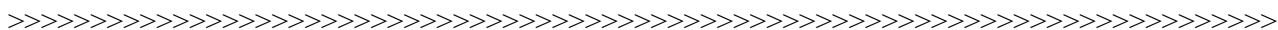
Once Canton, as it was called, was the favoured destination in all of China for travellers eager for a glimpse of this fabled city. A window on the nation, everyone who went there wrote about it, their diaries and letters extolling its charms and curiosities.

In her talk, illustrated with slides from her latest book, Valery Garrett will recount how Canton became, in its heyday, the centre of the China Trade and the wonder of the Far East. Here were the gardens that inspired the

fashion of Chinoiserie. Here China Trade paintings, carvings and fans were produced which made their way into art collections around the world. Site of the discovery of ancient Chinese treasures, and the setting for many dramatic developments in China's modern history, Canton is now one of China's most important economic centres.

Valery Garrett has been resident in Hong Kong for over twenty years, and is an acknowledged authority on Chinese dress. Her own large collection of Chinese costume was acquired by the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and exhibited in 1996.

She has had nine books published including her latest *Heaven is High, the Emperor Far Away: Merchants and Mandarins in Old Canton*, pub. Oxford University Press. Others include *Chinese Clothing: an Illustrated Guide*, pub. Oxford University Press, and *A Collector's Guide to Chinese Dress Accessories*, pub Times Editions. She is a Council Member of the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, and an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong.



Local Visit

Saturday, 14th December

War and Peace : Treasures of the Qin and Han Dynasties

This exhibition, jointly presented by the Chinese Cultural Artifacts Association and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and co-organized by the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Heritage Bureau and the Hong Kong Museum of History, will feature 100 items of invaluable artifacts from the Museum of the Terracotta Warriors and Horses of Emperor Qin Shihuang, the Shaanxi Archaeology Institute and the Shaanxi Provincial History Museum.

The exhibition will feature some recent archaeological finds from the Shihuang Mausoleum, including a stone helmet and a set of armour, as well as the legendary life-size terracotta warriors. From the Han Dynasty, highlights will include the painted naked figurines and lifelike pottery animals from the Yangling Mausoleum, a major archaeological discovery of recent years. A large proportion of the exhibits are national treasures and have never been shown in Hong Kong.

This exhibition, which reflects the culture of the formative and consolidation period when China became a unified empire, will be the largest of its kind ever held in Hong Kong.

Meeting Time and Place:

2:30 p.m. sharp, in the foyer of the Hong Kong Museum of History, 100 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon (adjacent to the Science Museum, entrance from Upper Piazza level).

Duration: The visit will last for approximately 1.5 hours.

Cost: HK\$30 for Members and \$50 for accompanied Guests. (This visit is open to Members and Accompanied Guests only).

Booking: A booking form is at the end of this newsletter. Please return it not later than 6th December.

Questions: Janet Lee Scott 3411 7132 (daytime only).



Eastern Bhutan

In response to members' expressed interest, the Society has organised a further study visit to Bhutan, this time specifically to eastern Bhutan, departing Hong Kong for Bangkok on **Thursday 30 January 2003** (probably leaving early in the afternoon: time to be confirmed) and returning to Hong Kong by Thai Airways late on the evening of **Thursday 13 February**. As some participants in the previous tour have expressed interest in travelling to the eastern region, the detailed itinerary in western Bhutan (Paro, Thimphu) will include visits to places not seen on the February 2002 study visit.

The present itinerary gives 13 nights in Bhutan. While this is a much longer absence from Hong Kong than usual for Society visits, it has not - for practical and technical reasons - been feasible to decrease the length of the tour if we are to go to the east. Costs have been kept to an absolute break-even point.

The journey to eastern Bhutan is an exceptionally varied one which is visually exciting and of considerable social and historical interest. In this most populous yet poorest region of the kingdom we will be able to observe the impact of modern development on a traditional society. Most visitors to Bhutan see only western Bhutan. A small percentage are able to visit central Bhutan up to Bumthang. Only very few travel over Bhutan's highest passes and changing mountain scenery to Mongar, Trashiyangtse (with famed Chorten Kora), Tashigang with its commanding dzong, the hilltop settlement of Radhi, Phongme, Kanglung and the also-famed mountain-top monastery of Dramitse. En route we will visit local farmhouses to learn about local ways, and we will also observe local weavers and dyers.

Members should be aware that this study tour includes extended periods of travel in comfortable mini-coaster buses through black-topped but narrow and winding mountain roads, with superb views and appropriate photo-stops and refreshments en route.

In Paro, Thimphu and Bumthang accommodation will be of good standard. However, public accommodation in eastern Bhutan is very limited. We will always be in "best available". In eastern Bhutan for six nights we will be using best-quality tented accommodation: all facilities will be provided (mattresses, clean sheets, blankets, towels, shower facilities, portable toilets, etc.), and these arrangements will offer a superior standard of comfort.

The weather should in general be excellent and temperate during the day (and ideal for outdoor photography), although quite cold at night at higher altitudes (Paro, Thimphu, Bumthang Trashiyangtse are between 5600-8600 ft and we will be there in mid-winter with probability of snow). Members should bring warm but lightweight "layered" outerwear for this. A warm scarf and headgear will also be a comfort at nights at altitude.

The itinerary will be rugged and demanding, but will provide an extraordinary and interesting experience. The size of the group is limited and booking will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Members should be prepared to tolerate some temporary inconveniences: while arrangements may not always meet expectations, members should be prepared for adventure.

The draft outline itinerary (subject to possible change) is:

Thursday 30 January 2003: travel HKG-BKK; overnight at hotel near airport.

Friday 31 January: report 0520 to check-in for flight to Paro, departing 0650. On arrival Paro, visit National Museum, and after early lunch proceed to Lobesa for overnight halt.

Saturday 01 February: Proceed Lobesa-Bumthang.

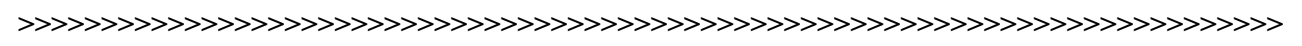
Sunday 02 February: Travel Bumthang-Mongar via Thrumgsem-la (Bhutan's highest pass); visit to the new Kurichhu hydroelectric complex.

Monday 03 February: Travel Mongar-Trashiyangtse via Kori-la.
 Tuesday 04 February: Short walk to Bomdiling to observe black-necked crane sanctuary; visit Chorten Kora; overnight Yangtse.
 Wednesday 05 February: Yangtse-Tashigang-Ramjung-Radi-Phongme; overnight Ramjung.
 Thursday 06 February: Ramjung-Tashigang-Kanglung-Dramitse
 Friday 07 February: Dramitse-Mongar
 Saturday 08 February: Mongar-Bumthang (hot lunch at Ura village).
 Sunday 09 February: In Bumthang.
 Monday 10 February: Bumthang-Lobesa
 Tuesday 11 February Lobesa-Thimphu
 Wednesday 12 February: In Thimphu and late afternoon to Paro
 Thursday 13 February: Depart 0930 to Bangkok; connect with TG607 dep 1900 for Hong Kong.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR NAME NOW if you have interest in this proposed visit, by sending an email as soon as possible to the organiser, Dr Brian Shaw, at: bcjshaw@hkucc.hku.hk , and include your **full name as in your passport**. We need a definite name list for plane bookings to/from Bangkok: individual names can be cancelled but as we draw closer to the New Year it WILL be much more difficult to add names for confirmed bookings. Due to a limit on numbers, **this visit will be available to Members only. Guests will not be permitted. Spouses of Members will not be accepted unless they are members in their own right.** An application form is included at the back of this newsletter. **Total cost per head is \$25,480.—** , including HKG-BKK-HKG and BKK-PBH-BKK air fares (of themselves almost \$9,000), exit taxes from HKG, BKK and PBH, visa fees for Bhutan; overnight hotel in Bangkok; within Bhutan, all travel, accommodation, meals, entrance fees and local guide fees are included, and these services will be consistent with the best Bhutanese standards.

There is an **additional charge** levied within Bhutan **for single accommodation** (where available and provided) of HK\$160 per night, totally HK\$2,080.

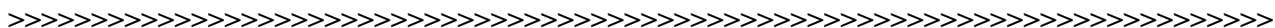
Notwithstanding the Society's rules concerning deposits (see May 2002 Newsletter), **airfares must be paid in full not later than one month before travel. Therefore please note that deposit of HK\$7500** should be made by NOON on 15 November; **balance of payment should be made by NOON on 15 December**, and that **NO REFUND OF DEPOSIT CAN BE MADE FOR WITHDRAWAL AFTER NOON on 24 DECEMBER 2002.**



Trip to Japan, May 2003
Expression of Interest

Dr Patrick Hase is proposing to lead a tour to the Kyoto area of Japan next May, The tour will be 6-8 days long, over the May 8th public holiday. It is proposed that the tour would take one full day to visit Kyoto City. Included would be the Ryoanji Temple, Kinkakuji temple, Nijo Castle Palace (the finest surviving palace building in Japan), Kiyomizudera Temple, Kodaiji Temple, and the zen gardens at Nanzenji, Konchi-in and Tenjuin Temples. Another full day tour would cover sites in and near Nara City, including Todaiji Temple (the temple of the great bronze Buddha, with the largest wooden building anywhere in the world), Kofukuji Temple, the Kasuga Taisha Shrine, the Horyuji Temple (containing what are believed to be the world's oldest wooden buildings), the National Museum, and elsewhere. A third day would take us to Himeji by Shinkansen (bullet train) to visit the superb castle there (incomparably the finest surviving Japanese castle). A fourth day would take us to the Grand Imperial Shrines at Ise (the Shrine of the Mirror of Amaterasu, which has been the prime shrine of the Imperial Family since the seventh century, and which is probably the most Japanese place anywhere in Japan!) The trip to Ise will probably also be by rail. Most of these places are World Heritage Sites.

Because of the high price of hotel rooms and services in Japan, this trip will be rather costly. At present it is expected to cost about HK\$15,000 per person, although we are looking into ways of reducing that somewhat. Before going firm with this tour, therefore, we need some indication of interest. Members who are interested in this trip are asked to send in the form at the end of the newsletter as soon as possible. If fewer than 25 people express an interest, the tour will be cancelled. Expressing an interest does not commit you to anything: if enough Members express an interest, then a firm commitment will be asked for in the next Newsletter.



RAS BUSINESS

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, held on Friday 4th October, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, Central, Hong Kong

Presiding: Dr. Patrick Hase, President.

The meeting commenced at 6:08 p.m. with a quorum of twenty members present.

Welcome by the President

The President welcomed everyone to the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to propose further changes to the Constitution.

Proposed, further amendments to the Constitution

The President introduced the paper on the Alteration of Permissible Date for the Annual General Meeting, explaining the need for the change, and stating that Council were attempting to make the minimal amount of change to the arrangements for the AGM, only changing the permissible date. This paper was then put to the vote and passed without any objections (over 40 members being present at this time).

The President then introduced the paper on The Addition of New Category of Membership: Honorary Institutional Membership, stressing that Council were seeking maximum flexibility in their arrangements, that they were eager to get the Journal into targeted libraries, and that using this new method would help towards this aim. The President stated that Council would not go overboard in appointing Hon. Institutional Members, but would appoint only where they were sure that this was in the overall interests of the Society. He also stated that, ideally, Council would proceed by way of improving our subscription system, so as to get more libraries to buy the Journal but that, at the moment, problems of finding the money to pay for a second Assistant Secretary (essential if a major revamp of the subscription system is to be put in place) made this not feasible at the present time, but that, even if we did revamp the subscription system, we would still need Hon. Institutional Members as well in some circumstances. Agreement to this new category of Membership would, therefore, give us what we needed – maximum flexibility in our arrangements, and a broad band of possibilities. When the paper was put to the vote, all except one of the Members present agreed it. His view was that the Society should only proceed by way of a revamped subscription system.

Any other business

There being no other business, the meeting came to a close at 6:23 p.m.

Privacy Policy

Members of the public from anywhere in the world who send their names, addresses, email addresses and other details to the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch for the purpose of applying for membership, can expect their information to be entered into a database of members. The database will be used as a mailing list to send out a newsletter every two months and a journal once a year and for administrative purposes consistent with the objectives of the Society. Members whose names are on the list will also be alerted by email of any events which the Society feels will be of interest to them.

Members' personal information will be kept strictly confidential. It will not be revealed to any third party without the member's agreement in advance. It will not be available for bulk mailing or marketing purposes. Members are entitled to enquire at any time about what personal data the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch holds about them, and to ensure that the data is correct and up-to-date. Any member can request his personal data to be removed from the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch's database at any time.

All enquiries about personal data should be sent to membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk or by fax to (Hong Kong) 2813 7500.

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 our 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. 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.

Interesting web site

A thoroughly researched and lively article on the RASHKB is found on the following web site of the Hong Kong Culture and Society Programme of the Centre for Asian Studies, Hong Kong University: <http://www.hku.hk/hkcsp/ccex/ehkcss01/frame.htm?mid=0&smid=4&ssmid=1>.

The author, Eve Lam, spend several months attending various RAS functions and interviewing some of our Council members to collect the material for her article.

Repulse Bay's name not a mystery

At an RAS lecture delivered by Jason Wordie, a question was raised as to how Repulse Bay got its name. Solomon Bard, in his *Voices from the Past*, and in *Red Dragon: the History of the Royal Navy in Hong Kong 1842—1997*, Editor Commodore P J Melson CBE, RN, both state that HMS Victor Emanuel served in Hong Kong waters.

Both books state the *Victor Emanuel* was originally named *Repulse*. In 1875 the *Victor Emanuel* relieved HMS *Charlotte* as the Receiving Ship. As such she served as naval accommodation and as a store depot ship in Hong Kong. Other places named after British naval vessels include Rambler Channel, Plover Cove and Hebe Haven. Any comments please contact Dr Dan Waters.

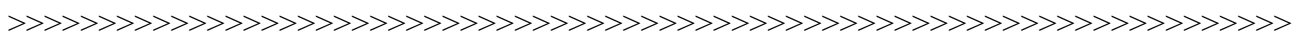
New Publications

Have you read *Heritage Trails in Urban Hong Kong*, Wan Li Book Co. Ltd. (2001)? It is an interesting book authored by RASHKB member Siu Kwok Kin together with Sham Sze. Anthony Siu served for many years on the RAS Council. He is a well-known local historian.

Another splendid book was launched recently. The author, Patricia Lim, is again an RAS member. Published by Oxford University Press, the title is *Discovering Hong Kong's Cultural Heritage, Hong Kong and Kowloon*. The book includes 19 guided walks and numerous photographs and illustrations.

Friends of the RAS Hong Kong Branch in UK

For those members returning to live in the U.K., the Friends organize lectures and visits on a regular basis throughout the U.K. For more information call 2813 7500.



OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Tiger Balm Gardens Project

Those Members who visited the Tiger Balm Gardens Mansion & Private Garden in April this year will be saddened to know that the demolition of the Public part of the Gardens has now been completed and that the condition of the Private Garden has degenerated a great deal. The redevelopment of the site of the former Public Gardens is expected to take four years. Control and management of the Mansion and Private Garden has passed to the Hong Kong Antiquities & Monuments Office who aim to preserve and later restore them after the completion of the redevelopment of the Public Garden site. Eventually AMO will open them to the public as part of Hong Kong's heritage. The AMO has invited all Members of both the Royal Asiatic Society and the Hong Kong Gardening Society to advise them on how to best conserve the Private Garden during the redevelopment period and on the ultimate plan for restoration after completion of the redevelopment.

Already several Members of the Gardening Society have done much work on photo research, a plant inventory and general garden maintenance and artefact rescue. Much needs to be done urgently to prevent further damage to the site. Not all of it requires great horticultural knowledge. If you have even a few spare hours please select from the following list, something that appeals to you and contribute:

(1) **Working Bees** - Each Friday Members are welcome to visit the Garden, roll up their sleeves and get on with the rescue work. Currently we are struggling to remove the Mikania vines and Ageratum that are engulfing the surviving plantings. We are also attempting to move all the pots from the grass areas so that these areas can be mowed regularly and more easily and so that surviving pot plants can be tended more easily. There are many other chores large and small. Any extra hands, no matter how green or black their thumbs, are welcome. If you are the first to arrive, be prepared to sign in with the security guard and show him your ID card. Contact details – please telephone Jill Matthews 2819 4324 or Karen Barretto on 2658 5305 for further details.

(2) **Photo Research** - We have now searched the Hong Kong University Library, the Hong Kong Public Library, the Public Records Office, the Antiquities & Monuments Office's own archive and the Museum of History Photo Library for photos of the Private Garden in times past. Two HKGS Members have duplicated valuable photos from their private collections. Do you have or have access to other photos which would help us to see how the Garden used to look? Even photos taken in the Public Garden with the Private Garden in the background could assist in identification of previous plantings, structures and usage. Do you know of any other archives we have missed? If so, please telephone Jill Matthews on 2819 4324.

(3) **Photo Publicity** - Our photo research is not complete. We would like to publicise this project in both the English and Chinese language media. Are you able to translate a letter to the editor seeking more photos into Chinese? Or better still, are you able to speak on Chinese language radio explaining our need to find more photos, especially of the Private Garden being used by the Aw family for parties or other events? Do you know how we can publicise this photo search in other newsletters, newspapers, radio programmes etc? If so, please telephone Jill Matthews on 2819 4324.

(4) **Plant Inventory** - Jill has now photographed all plants currently growing in the Private Garden. Karen Barretto has identified all but four or five of them. If you think you could help with the last few mystery items please telephone Karen on 2658 5305.

If you would like to be informed instantly of progress on the Tiger Balm Garden Project please email me on <jill@austlii.edu.au> and I will put you on the Gardening Society Tiger Balm Garden Project email List.

Jill Matthews - Hong Kong Gardening Society Tiger Balm Gardens Subcommittee

International Symposium by the Macau Ricci Institute

A seminar will be held on 28th and 29th November at the Pousada de Mongha in Macau. The seminar is being organized by the Macau Ricci Institute to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the death of St. Francis Xavier (1502-1552). Details can be obtained from The Macau Ricci Institute – Tel: (853) 568 274 or by Email to riccisem@macau.ctm.net, with whom delegates should register. There is also a website www.riccimac.org. Attendance at the seminar is free and there is a subsequent visit to St. John's Island being arranged for Saturday 30th November and Sunday 1st December, for which there is a charge.

Department of Anthropology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The following talks will take place at 12:30 – 2:00 pm in room 401, Humanities Building, New Asia College, Chinese University of Hong Kong:-

November 8 Tiziana Ciavardini, Honorary Research Assistant, Dept. of Anthropology, CUHK, will talk on “Christianity and Traditional Beliefs of Suku Kantu: A Case Study of Syncretism in West Kalimantan”.

November 22 Elisabeth Alles, French Centre for Research on Contemporary China, Hong Kong, will talk on “The Xinjiang Question: Is it a Religious, Ethnic or Political Problem?”

November 29 David Ip, Associate Professor, School of Social Science, the University of Queensland, will talk on “Prospects of Health Tourism Development in Hong Kong”.

Joint Royal Golden Jubilee Garden Party

The Royal Jubilee Garden Party will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 1st December, 2002 at the Indian Recreation Club. It is being organised jointly by the Royal Over-Seas League and the Oxford & Cambridge Society. There will be a Commonwealth theme and the Commonwealth Consular Corps will support it. The members of several dozen Royal, loyal, Commonwealth and associated clubs and organisations will be invited. We expect, and are awaiting confirmation (as we go to press) that two members of Britain's Royal Family will attend this Jubilee function. The Hong Kong SAR Chief Executive has also been invited. It will be a fundraiser for the Riding for the Disabled Association with great raffle prizes. Cream teas, Pimms and Champagne will be provided on the lawns of the club. To ensure you receive an invitation in due course, you can register your interest with the ROSL Publicity Officer on 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

An exhibition of oil paintings by Chinese Old Masters entitled “A New Art of the Past” will be held from 19th October to 19th January 2003. The exhibition features paintings by forty Chinese artists of the older generation, all of whom were trained in Western art before the mid 20th century. They were pioneers of a new art combining Western techniques with Chinese expression. Enquiries : Tel. 2241 5513 or go to www.hku.hk/hkumag.

The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland

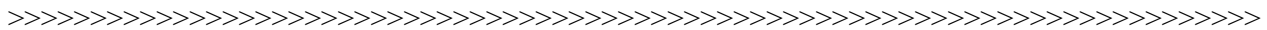
The Society, at 60 Queen’s Gardens, London W2 3AF, has a busy lecture programme which may interest members visiting London. On 14th November they present a lecture by Dr. Lucy Rosenstein of SOAS entitled *Contemporary Hindi Poetry and Modernity* and on 12th December the Paul Thieme Memorial Lecture by Professor Stanley Insler, FRAS, (Yale University) entitled *The Power of Truth*. For further information Email info@royalasiaticsociety.org or go to www.royalasiaticsociety.org.

The Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society

The Korea branch is very active with 1,000 members in Korea and 500 overseas. They have a vigorous lecture and tour programme and members going to Korea should visit their website www.RASKorea.org to view their current programme or Email info@raskorea.org.

The Siam Society, Bangkok

The Siam Society presents a lecture by Ruud Spruit entitled *Amazing Stories: Thailand and the Dutch* at their headquarters on 30th October at 7:30 p.m. The lecture traces the fascinating history of trade between Siam and the Netherlands under the Dutch East India Company, founded in 1602, whose influence spread throughout Southeast Asia over the next 150 years. The Society is also organizing a visit to ancient Khmer monuments in northeast Thailand 8th – 10th November. For more information email: info@siam-society.org or go to www.siam-society.org.



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