

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

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20th February, 2003

Council members 2002-2003

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Dr. Dan Waters, Immediate Past President	

(see back page of newsletter for telephone numbers and Email addresses of Council members)

No stranger to RAS members, Dr. Solomon Bard was the first speaker of the New Year on Friday, 3rd January 2003. He talked about his recent book published by the University of Hong Kong Press, *“Voices from the Past: Hong Kong 1842 – 1918”*. Dr Bard was made an Honorary Member of the Society in 2002, in recognition of his many services to the Society and to the preservation of Hong Kong’s historical heritage.

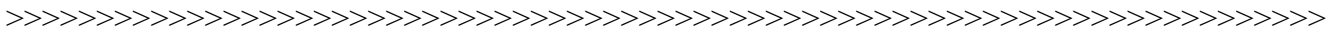
Dr. Bard’s talk was well illustrated by slides showing Hong Kong’s colonial past from early English language newspapers in Hong Kong and photographs from the Hong Kong Museum of History’s photographic library. The slides showed clearly the changes over the years in language, style and even in humour. They also revealed the gradual changes in Hong Kong’s colonial attitudes as the population adjusted to new contemporary values and social and political changes. His fascinating lecture concluded with a busy question and answer session.

Those members and guests who attended Dr. Christina Cheng’s very interesting talk, well illustrated with overhead transparencies, on Friday, 10th January 2003, will certainly have a different perspective on Macau when they next visit this Special Administrative Region. Dr. Cheng, an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong, is the author of *“Macau: A Cultural Janus”* and many articles on Macau and Hong Kong. Her talk, entitled “Macau: The Farming of Friendship”, concerned the 13 monuments and statues built by the Portuguese from 1993 to 2000. These monuments were erected to cultivate friendship between China and Portugal, but Dr. Cheng explained that she became interested in these monuments after reading frequent letters of complaint about them in Macau newspapers.

Dr. Cheng said that only one of the 13 is liked and deemed “outstanding” by the local population, that one being a huge statue of Tin Hau, the Goddess of the Sea. Unlike most of the monuments, this is the only one designed not by a Portuguese artist but by a local Chinese. Others are widely considered to be on inappropriate sites, too modern, a waste of money and sometimes even insulting to the Chinese, such as the one erected during the Year of the Dog and showing a Chinese girl sitting in a very casual manner next to a dog, an animal not held in high esteem by the Chinese. Still, despite the unpopularity of most of the monuments, Dr. Cheng believes they will be allowed to remain as historical relics now part of Macau’s history.

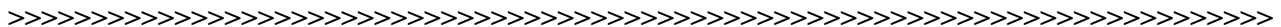
On Friday, 24th January members enjoyed an excellent video presented by Dr Lawrence Lai and Dr Daniel Ho of the Faculty of Architecture, University of Hong Kong. This 25 minute film entitled “Devil’s Peak Ruins: A Glimpse of a British Stronghold”, was produced to advance reasons to government bodies why the disused military structures on Devil’s Peak, the hill on the Kowloon side of the entrance to the harbour opposite Shauiwan and the Museum of Coastal Defence, should be protected and preserved as a valuable part of Hong Kong’s heritage. After showing the video, Dr Lai and Dr Ho answered many questions, assisted by members of the audience, about the ruins as well as about the battle of Hong Kong in 1941.

The following afternoon, 25th January, some 40 members journeyed by bus from Tsimshatsui to the cemetery below Devil’s Peak, led by Dr Lai and Dr Ho, and ably assisted by Council Member, Mr Tim Ko, author with Council Member, Mr Jason Wordie, of “*The Ruins of War: A Guide to Hong Kong’s Battlefields and Wartime Sites*”. A steep climb took the group up to the top of Devil’s Peak. Participants then spend two fascinating hours listening to the very knowledgeable guides and exploring the ruins of Gough and Pottinger Batteries and other defensive ruins. Although overcast, the weather was cool and the rain held off, providing good conditions for the visit, and a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting afternoon ensued.



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Friday, 21 st February	City Hall Lecture	Hong Kong – Growing Old
Saturday, 1 st March	Local Visit	War and Peace: Treasures of the Qin and Han Dynasties
Friday, 21 st March	AGM and Dinner	Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner
Friday, 28 th March	City Hall Lecture	The Return of the Refugee God: Wong Tai Sin in China
Saturday, 12 th April	Local Visit	Lion Rock Walk and visit to Fuk Tak Temple
7 th – 12 th May	Overseas Visit	Japan
Friday, 30 th May	City Hall Lecture	Memoirs on Eurasianness

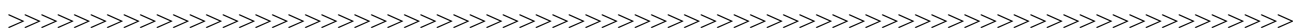


Hong Kong – Growing Old

- Speaker:** Mr. Anthony Lawrence
- 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.

Mr. Lawrence will discuss the development of Hong Kong from the end of World War II to the present, a discussion enhanced by his own reminiscences of his life here since 1960, and his intention to remain.

Anthony Lawrence has been a journalist all his working life, with the exception of World War II when he served in the armed forces as a captain in the Royal Artillery. His thirty years with the BBC included eighteen years as Foreign Correspondent in the Far East. He covered nearly all the major international stories such as the Vietnam War. He frequently visited Mainland China, of which he is an acute observer.



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.

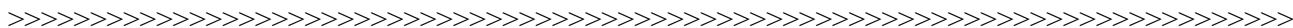
The exhibition will feature some recent archaeological finds from the Shihuang Mausoleum, including a stone helmet and a set of armour, as well as the legendary life-size terracotta warriors. From the Han Dynasty, highlights will include the painted naked figurines and lifelike pottery animals from the 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.

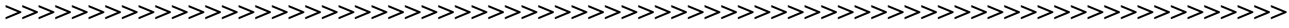
This exhibition, which reflects the culture of the formative and consolidation period when China became a unified empire, will be the largest of its kind ever held in Hong Kong.

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 in our December newsletter. Please return it not later than 22nd February.
- Questions:** Janet Lee Scott 3411 7132 (daytime only).





AGM and Annual Dinner

Friday, 21st March

Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner

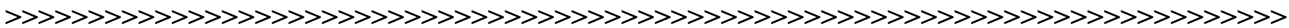
We are pleased to announce that our Annual General Meeting will take place at 6:15 p.m. on Friday 21st March at the Harcourt Suite, 1/F, Hong Kong Club, Central, followed by a sumptuous buffet dinner. We look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible. If you cannot attend our AGM, dinner will be at 7:30 for 8:00 p.m.

This is the most important event in our calendar, and an opportunity to hear about our achievements during the past year and our exciting plans for the future. Your attendance at the AGM and dinner is also a way of saying thank-you to our hard-working Council for the varied and interesting programme of talks and visits they have arranged during the past year. We do hope you will be able to join us.

The cost per person is HK\$325 for members and HK\$350 for non-members, which includes a full buffet dinner and two bottles of wine per table during dinner. Any further drinks will be at members' own expense.

Guests are welcome at the dinner but priority will be given to members. Please fill out the booking form in the attached AGM documents and return it by Friday 14th March, at the latest.

There is also a Nomination Form with these documents. This must be returned by 7th March.



City Hall Lecture

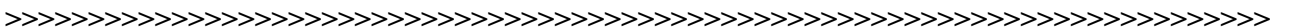
Friday, 28th March

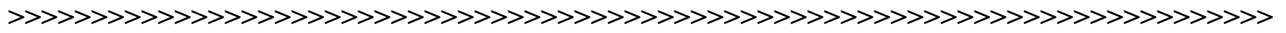
The Return of the Refugee God: Wong Tai Sin in China

- Speaker:** Dr. Graeme Lang
- Time:** 6:30 p.m. (Please note slightly later start time)
- 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.

The god 'Wong Tai Sin' was brought to Hong Kong around 1915, and eventually became Hong Kong's most popular deity. Meanwhile, his cult was crushed in China (in Guangdong and Zhejiang), and by the 1960s all of the Wong Tai Sin temples in those provinces had been destroyed. However, during the past decade, many new shrines and temples to Wong Tai Sin have reappeared in Guangdong and Zhejiang. One of these new temples has been very successful, but others are struggling. Lang and several colleagues have visited some of these sites since the mid-1980s, and all of them since the mid-1990s. In this talk, he will describe the revival of the cult of Wong Tai Sin in mainland China, and explain why some of the temples are much more successful than others.

Graeme Lang is an Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Social Studies at City University of Hong Kong. His book about Wong Tai Sin is titled *"The Rise of a Refugee God"*, by G. Lang and L. Ragvald (Oxford University Press, 1993). In addition to research in the sociology of religion, his other recent work includes articles on environmental policies in China, the 'second wife' phenomenon in southern China, and the fate of displaced manufacturing workers in Hong Kong.





Local Visit

Saturday, 12th April

Lion Rock Walk and visit to Fuk Tak Temple

The fine trails at Lion Rock had been in existence for centuries and were well-documented in the Xin'an Gazetteer. In the late 19th century, a guide book described these trails, somewhat ironically, as:

'Climbing up these really well-made roads, evidently centuries old, with not a stone started, it is difficult to carry the mind back to a time when, in this remotest corner of China, there were public works, organization, and some sort of settled government...'

The well-made stone roads here were important as they took all the traffic from Kowloon City to the north, since the old routes crossed Lion Rock and went down to the ferry pier at Yuen Chau Tsai or to the river-crossing at the Che Kung Temple, via the passes still known as Sha Tin Pass and Grasscutters' Pass.

Some of these trails have now been incorporated into Stage Five of the MacLehose Trail, which offer some superb views over Kowloon and Sha Tin Valley. Along these trails there also lie the remains of some pillboxes and military marker-stones, probably erected when the so-called 'Gindrunkers Line' was built in the late 1930s.

Starting from Sha Tin Pass, the walk will last for about three hours, passing through Lion Rock and Beacon Hill. Before heading back to Tsimshatsui, members will visit the Fuk Tak Temple at Ching Cheung Road.

The Fuk Tak Temple was originally the Earthgod of So Uk Village in Cheung Sha Wan. Since there was no temple in Cheung Sha Wan, some of the early settlers in the area along Castle Peak Road, when it was first developed in the late 1930s, particularly those of Chiu Chow origin, worshipped at this shrine. They considered that the deity of the shrine had protected them from the Japanese during the Occupation.

After the War they therefore continued to worship there. When the shrine had to be removed for further development in the post-War period, the worshippers removed it stone by stone, and had it re-erected on its present site, which was then unused hillside, through which an ancient path ran, linking Cheung Sha Wan and Sha Tin. Since then, the worshippers have built other shrines around this one, although the Earthgod remains the central deity. Of these, the most significant is the Chai Kung ("Drunken Monk") Shrine, dedicated to Chai Kung, who is much worshipped by Chiu Chow merchants.

Meeting Time and Place: Hankow Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, behind the YMCA, at 1 p.m. sharp.

The visit will last approximately five hours.

This visit is open to members and accompanied guests only but members have priority as numbers have to be limited.

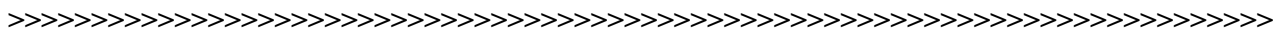
Cost: Members \$80, Accompanied Guests \$120.

Maximum number of participants: 40

Booking: There is a booking form at the end of this newsletter. Please return it by 5th April, at the latest.

Questions: Tim Ko 9181 6556

Please note that this is a strenuous walk and a good level of fitness is required.



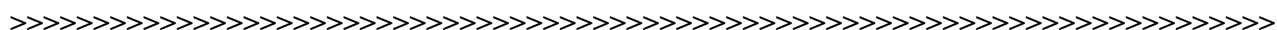
Trip to Japan, 7th to 12th May, 2003
Payment of Deposit – Deadline extended to 10th March

There are still places available on the tour to the Kyoto area of Japan in May, led by Dr. Patrick Hase, RASHKB President. The tour will take one full day to visit Kyoto City. Included will be the Ryoanji Temple, Kinkakuji Temple, Nijo Castle Palace (the finest surviving traditional palace building in Japan), Kiyomizudera Temple, Kodaiji Temple, and the Zen gardens at Nanzanji, Konchi-in, and Tenju-in Temples. Another full day tour will cover sites and around Nara City, Japan's first capital, 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 (with what are believed to be the oldest surviving wooden buildings in the world), and the National Museum. A third day will take us to Himeji, "incomparably the finest surviving castle in Japan". We will travel to Himeji by Shinkansen Bullet Train (about one hour in each direction). A fourth day will 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). We will travel to Ise by Kintetsu Railway Limited Express (about two hours in each direction). Most of these places are World Heritage Sites. On the final day there will be a free half-day available in Kyoto City for shopping (the Kyoto handicraft centre is recommended) or free site-seeing.

The cost of the trip will be \$14,500 for Members and \$15,250 for Non-Members, plus \$2,500 Single Supplement, because of the high price of hotel rooms and services in Japan. The trip will depart Hong Kong in the morning of Wednesday May 7th, (May 8th is a Public Holiday), returning in the evening of Wednesday May 12th. A fine Japanese formal dinner will be arranged during the tour. Lunches and breakfasts will be provided on each day as part of the tour cost.

There will be some walking involved, and the tour is unsuitable for persons of impaired mobility. The tour would be unsuitable for children under twelve.

Up to 35 places are available on the tour, which is open to members and non-members. We need a minimum of 20 signed-up participants for the tour to go ahead. If you would like to join what promises to be a fascinating tour, please send in a deposit of \$1,250 per head (non-refundable after 31st March, 2003) to book yourself a place on this tour, by sending in the form at the end of this Newsletter. Please ensure that these deposits are received by 8th March, 2003. If fewer than 20 deposits are received by 8th March, the tour will be cancelled. Payment for the remainder of the cost will be required by 15th April.



RAS BUSINESS

Subscription Renewal

Enclosed with your December newsletter was either a renewal form (if you are an annual member) or a confirmation form (if you are a Life member). If you wish to continue your membership of the Society, and all Life members, please kindly complete these forms and return them to us by mail or fax as soon as possible so that we can update your details in our database. If you are an annual member and do not pay by Autopay or Banker's Order, please enclose your cheque. If you have mislaid your renewal form, there is one at the end of this newsletter. Please send it to GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong with your cheque, as soon as possible. It would help our administration enormously, if you intend to renew your membership for this year, if you would do so **now**. If you do not wish to renew your subscription, please would you let us know, either by Email to membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk or phone 2813 7500.

Journal Volume 41

Our Honorary Editor of Journals Peter Halliday writes:

“I very much regret that volume 41 of the Journal will be delayed. By rights it should have been published in January, 2003. I am hoping for April, 2003. I have had a flurry of material over the last few months which has enabled me to assemble a Journal of greater variety. I appreciate that some contributors will be disappointed that their work has been held over to volume 42, but Council’s instructions are for a journal of 2-300 pages unless the circumstances are exceptional.

Proposed Contents of RASHKB Journal Volume 41

President’s Report
Friends of the HKBRAS (UK) Report
Hon. Auditor’s Report
Hon. Librarian’s Report

Articles

Norman Miners – Industrial Development in the Colonial Empire and the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa 1932
Göran Aijmer - Earth God Wine and the Meeting of the Fluttering Butterflies: Local Customs of Early Spring in Late Imperial Central China
Keith Stevens – The Popular Religion Gods of the Hainanese
Elizabeth Teather – Deathspace in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Seoul: A Review of Recent Research, 1995-2001
Anthony Hedley and Alfred Lin – The Lugard Tribute
César Guillén-Nuñez - The Façade of St. Paul’s, Macao: A Retable-Façade?
Robert Nield – Bhutan – Why Not?
Ko Tim-keung - A Review of Development of Cemeteries in Hong: 1841-1950

Notes and Queries

Keith Stevens – A Tale of Sour Grapes: Messrs. Little and Mesny and the First Steamship Through the Yangzi Gorges
Valery Garrett - Chinese Baby Carriers: A Hong Kong Tradition Now Gone
Chiu Hang Shi – Unicon Dancing in Pat Heung
Keith Stevens - A Contentious Christian Missionary in Central China, 1887
Kirsty Norman – Friends of the HKBRAS Trip to Cornwall
David Akers-Jones – Tea and Opium: Some Further Notes on Macartney’s Role
Jennifer Welch – Coincidence?
Dan Waters - Another Donation to the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society
Richard Garrett – Taipa Fort and a Nineteenth Century Cannon
Peter Halliday – More Thoughts on Han Suyin’s *A Many Splendoured Thing*: A Tribute to Ian Morrison
Rosemary Lee - The Life and Times of Captain Samuel Cornel Plant
Anon. – More on the Two Obelisks at Tai Tam

Book Reviews

Dan Waters - Long Night’s Journey into Day: Prisoners of War in Hong Kong and Japan, 1941-1945
Patrick Hase - Hong Kong Metamorphosis
Verner Bickley - Searching for Frederick and Adventures Along the Way

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

Representations by the President

During the last month, the President, on behalf of members of the Society, requested the Secretary for Home Affairs to clarify the apparent delay in erecting permanent memorials to the Canadian war-dead at the sites of the fighting against the Japanese, since it was two years since the ceremony held at the sites, when temporary memorials were put up. The Secretary for Home Affairs has since replied to the President saying that discussions have been ongoing with the Canadian Consulate as to the most appropriate form the permanent memorial should take, and that agreement is close as to what is to be done. The Society awaits further information on this issue, as and when agreement with the Consulate is reached.

Repulse Bay

To continue discussion on the naming of Repulse Bay, we have received a letter from RAS member Jon Zinke, which reads as follows:-

“I believe I instigated this debate with a letter to Editor of the SCMP which appeared on April 26, 2002. I have for a number of years been attempting to ascertain where Repulse Bay got its name. It is clear that there was no HMS Repulse that existed at that time and I think it is doubtful that the British Navy would name a bay in Hong Kong after another country's vessel. The only USS Repulse I have been able to discover is part of the "Star Fleet" from Star Trek. Although clearly not authoritative (at least to non "Trekies"), there is a history of vessels with the name "Repulse" on the website "<http://uss-repulse.starfleet.com>". It mentions two HMS Repulse, which were built in 1780 and 1940 respectively, and then the fictional Starship USS Repulse. No others are mentioned. I have been researching another angle, which I believe may hold a clue to the mystery. On Capt. Cook's first voyage to Australia in 1770, he named one of the bays he encountered "Repulse Bay". His account of this can be read in his Journal, which can be found at the following site: <http://www.jcu.edu.au/aff/history/southseas/journal/cook/17700603.html>.

Unfortunately, Cook does not give any clear explanation why he named the bay Repulse Bay, however, he appears to have been sailing through shallow uncharted waters for much of the time in the area and it may be that the British Navy, mindful of Capt. Cook's naming of the Australian Repulse Bay and the Chinese name for Repulse Bay, Tsin Shui Wan ("Shallow Bay"), made a connection.

I know there were journals written by others who sailed with Capt. Cook; however, I have not had an opportunity to review these. I would be curious to hear if any of your members believes there may be a connection between Capt. Cook's Australian Repulse Bay and Hong Kong's Repulse Bay.”

Jon Zinke (jzinke@kyl.com.hk)

New Honorary Institutional Members

In January, the Archives Office of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong and the Zhong-Ying Street Historical Museum in Sha Tau Kok were made Honorary Institutional Members of the Society.

British Pathe News

RAS member David McKellar has sent us the following interesting news:-

In a move that started as a project to save money on film storage, British Pathe has put more than 3,500 hours of its old newsreels online, creating what is says is the largest online digital news archive. The move adds fresh perspective to the debate over online digital copyright management.

Newsreels are short news films, only a few minutes long, that covered the issues of the day and screened in movie theatres before the feature film. British Pathe <http://www.britishpathe.com/> produced its last newsreel in 1970.

Unlike the “ephemeral” films in the Prelinger Archives <http://www.archive.org/movies/prelinger.php>, which can be downloaded and used freely, British Pathe newsreels are still under copyright. British copyright <http://www.patent.gov.uk/copy/indetail/ownership.htm> expires 70 years after the death of the last surviving contributor to the work. As such, Pathe has the right to charge for the use of the clips and to regulate how they may be used. Users can download low-resolution watermarked previews from Pathe’s website for free. High-resolution clips for PowerPoint-type presentations given before a limited audience can be licensed for one year for GBP50 (about US\$78); clips that will be posted on the Web are licensed for GBP100 (about US\$157). British Pathe also offers VHS and DVD newsreel compilations for GBP10 (about US\$16) per clip.

RAS Volunteers

An update from Bill Greaves and David England on aviation matters:

“Farman Biplane – The Airport Authority now propose to retain the plane for an unspecified period at the airport. They refer to their request to remove the Farman Replica as a "misunderstanding", and have subsequently told us how pleased they are to display a piece of Hong Kong Aviation history in the terminal, so much so in fact that they have requested us to consider adding more items of Hong Kong Aviation History!

On another issue, the original propellor from "Patria II", a DH9A aircraft that crash landed in a graveyard near Shum Chun en route from Portugal to Macau, has been restored to pride of place in the Club Lusitano. It seems remarkable that this aviation relic has survived since June 1924, through the Japanese occupation when anything wooden was burnt, until the rebuilding of this famous Portuguese institution. (Note the DH9A replaced the Patria I, a Bregeut bomber, after that plane crash-landed in India, resulting in the three man team to be reduced to two because the DH9A could only take two persons!)

The old RAF quarters alongside the Kwun Tong Road have been renovated and given a new lease of life by the Caritas charity. Not sure what is happening with the old RAF officers’ mess on the other side of the road - it used to be occupied by the Police Detective School but it has recently looked empty.

Spitfire Hangar – The Antiquities and Monuments Office are presently carrying out a conservation study and survey of the structure; the aim is to move the hangar later this year.

The Hong Kong Spitfire – still at Duxford Spitfire Museum in England – bodywork restored but still no engine.

Kai Tai Corner – AMO recommend retention of the Flying Club buildings.

DC3 Betsy – Still safe and sound in the Hong Kong Museum of Science.”

Any further information would be welcome. Please contact Bill Greaves (greaves@netvigator.com) or David England of the HKHAA (dengland@mtr.com.hk).

Friends of the RAS Hong Kong Branch in UK

Another exhibition entitled “*Genghis Khan – Exhibition of the Ancient Nomadic Culture of the Northern Grasslands of China*” is being held at the 2/F, Exhibition Gallery of the Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Centre in Macau. It is organised by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, Cultural Department of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and the Museum of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Situated on the northern frontier of China, Inner Mongolia boasts a long and splendid history, and serves as the cradle for ancient Chinese cultures of the northern minority groups such as the Donghu, Huns, Serbia, Khitan and Mongols. This exhibition of 120 cultural relics demonstrates the long and splendid history and culture of Inner Mongolia.

In 1260, Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, unified China and established the Yuan Dynasty. As a consequence, the exchanges in economics and culture between the east and the west became more prosperous. Four great inventions (gunpowder, paper making, printing and the compass) spread to Europe. Astronomy, the calendar system and medicine were also introduced to China. It was a period that added great contributions to the cultural exchanges of the world. Open daily 10am – 9pm. Admission MOP\$10.

Textile Society of Hong Kong

The Textile Society have a busy Spring schedule. On Wednesday 12th March at 6:30 p.m. there will be a visit to a traditional cheungsam tailor in Central, who has been making these garments since the 1960s. He will talk about the many changes in tastes and styles of the cheungsam and the traditional skills in making it that are disappearing, and will go through the different stages of making the garment.

On Wednesday March 19th at 6:30 p.m. a visit will be made to Blanc de Chine in Central, makers of quality Chinese clothing, their designs based on Chinese philosophy with emphasis on inner beauty.

On Saturday 26th April at 10:30 a.m. there will be a guided tour of the exhibition “Chinese Jade and Gold” at the Hong Kong Museum of Art. The Chinese traditionally associate jade with qualities of beauty, moral and spiritual virtue, while gold was a precious metal denoting material wealth and rank. The museum curator will discuss the displayed objects with relation to costumes, from the Neolithic period through to the end of the Qing dynasty.

On Tuesday, 29th April at 6:30 p.m. a talk entitled “Kalinga Textiles” will be given by Eric Anderson, whose collection of Kalinga textiles is one of the largest private collections and whose website is the definitive internet resource for Northern Philippine tribal art. He will show rare historical photographs of the Kalinga, describe its history, the type of textiles used, regional weaving designs, etc.

For information and booking contact Edith Cheung on 2301 2215 or Email cheung_edith@hotmail.com.

Royal Over-Seas League, Hong Kong Branch

The Royal Over-Seas League are organizing a special lunch on Thursday 27th February, to which RAS members are invited. The guest speaker will be Mr. James Keith, the U.S. Consul-General, who will speak on U.S. Foreign Policy. The venue is the American Club in Central and time is 12:20 for 12:40 p.m. For booking enquiries please contact the Hon. Secretary on 6052 1292 or 2537 5595. For more information about the lunch please go to events@rosl.org.hk. The closing date for booking is 25th February.

The Hong Kong Gardening Society

The Gardening Society have a busy schedule of activities and visits coming up. On 19th February they have a visit to members’ gardens on Lamma Island, a one-day visit to the Guangzhou Botanical Gardens on 26th February and a weekend in Macau on March 22nd/23rd. Numbers will be limited for all these visits, so members will have priority. For information about becoming a member, call their Membership Secretary on 2849 6870 or Email hkgardeningociety@hotmail.com or go to www.gardeninhongkong.com.

University of Hong Kong Museum and Art Gallery

An exhibition entitled “Monumental Visions: Sculpture by Leon Ko” will be held from 12 February to 9 March 2003, showing 36 of the local artist’s sculptures. Leon Ko (b. 1937) was exposed to and attracted to the arts from an early age and he furthered his studies at the National Arts School of Rome. During the 1950s and 1960s, he participated in the production of many Hong Kong films. Influenced by film production that is generally broad in nature, he is interested in producing works of large size. He has a passion for sculpting the human figure, in particular beautiful men and women. Affected by his western art training, his figures are often “western” in style with a traditional classical Western flavour.

“Ancient Taoist Art from Shanxi Province” will be held from 9th March to 9th June.

“Early Hong Kong Restaurants” will be held from 19th March to 8th June.

“Picturing Cathay: Maritime and Cultural Images of the China Trade” will be held from 29th March to 22nd June.

The Ancient Taoist Art and the China Trade exhibitions are to commemorate the Museum’s 50th anniversary. For further information on these exhibitions please telephone 2241 5513 or go to www.hku.hk/hkumag.

The University of Hong Kong Museum Society

The Museum Society have the following Spring events planned:

Lecture entitled “The Arts of Taoism: Concepts and Practice” given by Franciscus Verellen, Adjunct Professor, Department of Religion, The Chinese University of Hong Kong on 12th March.

Visit to the home of Pearl Lam, gallery owner and Hong Kong trend setter on 15th March.

One-day symposium “Picturing Cathay: Maritime and Cultural Images of the China Trade” with seven international experts on 29th March.

Taoist temple tour. A visit to two “koon” in the New Territories with lunch at one of the temples on 13th April.

For information on joining the Museum Society, please contact Margaret Yu on 9172 7974.

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 March 13th Prof. Michael Rogers (The Khalili Collection, London) will give an illustrated talk entitled “*Gothic and the New Style in the Ottoman Empire: an endowment deed of the Queen Mother Pertivniyal*”. On April 10th, the Wilfred Cantwell Smith (1916-2000) Memorial Lecture will feature Prof. Francis Robinson, FRAS, (Royal Holloway) talking on “*Other-worldly and this-worldly piety and the Islamic revival*”. On May 8th, Shelagh Vainker (The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford) will give an illustrated talk entitled “*Art and life in the Northern Song*”.

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 busy 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

On 1st March, 2003 the Natural History Section of the Siam Society present a seminar at their headquarters in Bangkok designed to explore ways of dealing with threats to nature conservation in the next century, entitled "*The Forest Edge: Conflict and Cooperation over Nature in Khao Yai National Park*". On 6th March a lecture will be given by a panel of three speakers entitled "*On the Eve of One Hundred Years of Belgian Diplomatic Presence in Bangkok: 1904-2004*".

For details call 02 661 6470 or Email info@siam-society.org or go to www.siam-society.org.

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