

## ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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20<sup>th</sup> April, 2003

### 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	

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

On Valentine's Day, 14<sup>th</sup> February, some 50 members and guests attended a fascinating talk at City Hall by Dr Elizabeth Sinn, Vice President of our Society and Associate Professor and Deputy Director of the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong. Dr Sinn's talk was entitled "Ultimate Return: The Transshipment of Emigrants' Bones and Hong Kong's Role in the Chinese Diaspora". When Chinese went abroad to seek their fortunes in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, there were four ways for them to return to China, something almost all of them intended to do: alive, embalmed, as bones or in "spirit boxes" (when the bones could not be located). Dr Sinn pointed out the vital role Hong Kong played in this process, including the founding of societies in San Francisco and Hong Kong to handle the complicated arrangements. The practice of sending bones back to China for burial ceased after 1950, and, ironically, today bones are sent from China and Hong Kong to such places as Canada and Australia, e.g. the bones of grandparents and parents to be interned with immigrant families, reflecting the changing concept of "home" and the acceptance of permanent burial outside China. Following her most interesting talk, Dr Sinn led a lively question and answer session.

On Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, a near capacity audience enjoyed an interesting talk given by an "old friend" of the Society, ninety year old Mr. Anthony Lawrence, veteran journalist and long-time resident of Hong Kong. His talk was entitled "Hong Kong – Growing Old", based upon his life as a journalist and specifically his thirty years with the BBC, including eighteen years as Foreign Correspondent in the Far East.

Mr. Lawrence said that he has looked upon Hong Kong as "home" for some forty years and has given up the thought of returning to his place of birth, England. In 1960, he came to Hong Kong and immediately was caught up in reporting the food crisis in China and subsequently witnessed so many important events including the effects on Hong Kong of the Cultural Revolution of 1966, the arrival and impact of Sir Murray MacLehose, the first Governor from the Foreign Office and not the Colonial Office, the beginnings of the ICAC under Jack Cater, and the founding in 1975 of the Hong Kong Observers, when local people began to speak up about life in Hong Kong. Mr. Lawrence, when speaking of Hong Kong's future, sees it as not being easy, as the ways of doing business are so different here from over the border. When asked if he is pessimistic, Mr. Lawrence replied that he worries that people see a lot of unfairness today, e.g. with benefits being cut for the elderly and needy, but he still thinks Hong Kong's potential is good. Many questions were asked by the audience and skillfully handled by Mr. Lawrence.

On Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 35 members and guests were treated to a guided tour of the special exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of History entitled "War and Peace: Treasures of the Qin and Han Dynasties". Over 100 items of invaluable artifacts were brought here from the Museums and Archaeological Institute in Xi'an, most of which are national treasures and have never been shown before in Hong Kong.







Our Honorary Treasurer and Vice-President will shortly be reporting on the state of our finances, and I do not want to steal his thunder here, and wish only to say that, as of today, the Society's finances are in a generally satisfactory state, and disclose no cause for alarm. I would, however, like to draw to your attention one or two points relating to the finances.

The first is that the annual subscriptions from Members, which, apart from the small amount of interest earned from our savings, is our sole routine income, does not bring us in enough income to cover our routine expenses.

These routine expenses, as of today, are the costs of printing and distributing the *Journal*, the costs of printing and distributing the *Newsletter*, the salary of our Assistant Secretary, the office expenses of the Society and other minor expenses of a similar character. Our non-routine expenses are mostly the costs of activities mounted as part of our Visits and Tours programme. We are in consequence obliged to set the charge we make for each such activity at a level which not only covers all the direct costs of the activity, but which also allows us to make a small contribution to our general, routine, income, to reflect the indirect subsidy which the activity would otherwise get from our general income. Thus, no visit or tour could be mounted if the *Newsletter* did not advertise it, nor could the *Newsletter* be issued if we did not have an Assistant Secretary to prepare it. We believe that it is reasonable to expect the charge for the activity to meet these indirect expenses. This is not always feasible, however.

I confess that I remain a little concerned about the state of our routine income and expenditure figures. I would feel happier if our routine income could meet our routine expenses. The Council has decided not to seek an increase in the annual subscription rates during 2004-2005, but I feel I must say that I do not believe that this situation can continue indefinitely.

The second point I would like to make is to point out that we have been urging Members for some years now to switch to Autopay for the renewal of their annual subscriptions. About half the Membership has now switched to Autopay. Those of the Members who have not switched cause the Society a great deal of work, however. We have to do an annual check, Member by Member, to see whether the sum due has been paid or not, whether any Standing Instruction has been re-figured to the current subscription rates or not, and so on, and to send out reminders and so forth. As of today's date, for instance, no less than 161 of our Annual Members not paying by Autopay have still not yet completed payment for this year, whereas all the Autopay Annual Members have, and 18 have still not reconfigured their Standing Instructions to meet the present-day subscription rates, even though these were put in place a good few years ago. Our expenses are, in other words, significantly greater for those Members who are not on Autopay than they are for those who have made the switch.

Bearing in mind the fact that our routine income does not meet our routine expenses, Council feels that the Society cannot afford any longer to allow this situation, by which those Members on Autopay are, effectively, subsidising those who are not, to continue. I will, therefore, shortly be proposing for Members' agreement that, as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004, any ordinary member resident in Hong Kong who pays by any method other than Autopay, will be required to pay a supplement of \$50 on his or her annual subscription, to reflect the considerably enhanced expenditure incurred by the Society on those Members. This supplement will have to be paid before that Member receives his or her *Journal* for the year in question. I must stress that this supplement will only be charged on those Members who have still not made the switch to Autopay by 1<sup>st</sup> April next year. It is my very real hope that all those who have yet to make the switch will do so before then: they have plenty of time to do it! If Members agree to this proposal, the next *Newsletter* will include instructions for making the switch to Autopay to help those Members who wish to make the switch before the supplement comes into effect.

A little later in this Report, I shall be speaking about the accumulated savings the Society has gathered over the last 40 years, and will be making recommendations to Members as to the use to which these should, in the opinion of Council, be put.

#### The Lecture, Visit, and Tour Programmes

For many Members, the lectures, visits, and tours arranged by the Society are what they are most interested in of the activities of the Society. During the year, our Honorary Activities Co-ordinator, Mrs Valery Garrett, retired from this position, and it was taken up by Dr Janet Scott. I am glad to say that Valery has remained on

the Council, where the Society will still be able to have access to her valuable advice. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Valery for her many years of help with the activities programmes, and to thank Janet as well for taking up the job – which is a very heavy and burdensome one.

During the year the Society mounted a very full activities programme. Details are included in the Appendices to this Report. Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 we mounted 17 lectures, including one joint lecture. During the same period we ran 9 local visits and three overseas tours. This compares with 15 lectures, 8 local visits, and two overseas tours during the previous year. During this last year, we mounted a lecture once every 18 days of our year, and had a local visit once every 37 days. I consider this activities programme to be extremely satisfactory.

I do not wish to draw attention to any individual lectures or visits here, but I would like to stress two general points. The first is the range and variety of the programme. Both Valery and Janet are to be congratulated on producing a programme with "something for everyone" on it. I have no doubt that this excellent programme will continue for the future. I would, however, remind Members that if they have suggestions for future activities, they should let us know: it is always useful to get such ideas from Members!

I would also like to draw attention to something which I consider one of the particular strengths of the Society, and that is our practice of mounting connected lectures and tours. Five times during the year we had a lecture followed (usually on the next day) by a visit. This allows Members to get a more in-depth understanding of the matter under consideration. I have no doubt that this special practice is a source of great strength to the Society, and would hope to see more of the same sort of connected lectures and visits for the future.

#### Work Initiatives

Last year I identified certain areas of the Society's work where I felt that initiatives were desirable to improve the services offered to Members and to the Society of Hong Kong at large, and I would like here to indicate how far we have got with these initiatives during the past year.

#### Scholarship Fund

The first of these initiatives arose from a desire, which has long been felt by Council, to undertake a more emphatic role in the encouragement of scholarship in the field of Hong Kong Studies. We have long wished to undertake a more charitable role in this field. Action could only be begun, however, after we had achieved formal recognition of our status as a Charity by the Inland Revenue Department, which was completed about a year ago. Since then we have been very active in attempting to conclude a scheme by which our wishes could be met. I had hoped that this work would have been completed by today, so that I could present to Members a complete scheme for agreement, but, unfortunately, for various reasons, we have not quite got to that stage as yet. Jason Wordie has been the main force behind this work, and he will make a special report to Members on the present position shortly.

What we want to do is to set up a Foundation, or Capital, Fund, the income from which can be used to fund scholarship in the field of Hong Kong studies.

The Fund would be detached from the Society's other accounts, and would be set up as an autonomous entity, with clear rules for disbursement and control under the oversight of a separate Management Board which would be formed from Members of Council and others. I hope that this Board can be set up within the next month. I hope to take the Chair of this Board for the initial year of its operation. The Management Board would be responsible for the financial management of the Fund (for which the Board would require professional financial advice), for the consideration of proposals for grants and for making such grants, for ensuring the quality of any work produced as the result of any grant so made, for ensuring that Council is properly kept in the picture as to the activities of the Fund (Council would retain the responsibility for setting policy for the Board), and for producing an Annual Report on the work of the Fund for presentation to the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Each year, the income from the Foundation Fund would be transferred to a Current Account from which disbursements could be made. Once the Fund has been set up, this Annual General Meeting would thereafter receive and approve the annual accounts of the Fund as well as those of the Society's general funds. We are still considering a name for the Fund: one possibility under consideration is to name it "The Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride Memorial Fund", in memory of our founding Vice-President, who was later our Second President, as well as Hong Kong University's longest-serving Vice-Chancellor.

We would like to issue grants from the Fund to enable books in English on Hong Kong Studies to be published which could otherwise not get published because of their lack of commercial viability. We have come to an interim agreement with Hong Kong University Press such that, if and when the Fund is formally established, they would publish a series of English-language books possibly to be called "The Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series" with cash assistance from the Society for each volume. A vetting committee, under the oversight of the Management Board, would ensure that the academic standard of any book so published was high. We have already identified a number of works, which could possibly be funded as part of such a series. We are also looking into the possibility that the Fund would be able to make smaller grants to assist with research into Hong Kong Studies: this possibility requires further consideration. We are still considering the detailed rules by which such a Fund would be operated. Our aim is get enough money into the fund so that one or two books and perhaps one or two smaller grants could be made each year. Annual disbursements from the Fund of perhaps \$75,000, is the sort of level of cash transaction we are currently hoping for.

We have been actively seeking donations for this Fund, and are close to achieving some considerable success in this, although details cannot yet be disclosed. We will, as soon as the Fund is formally established, draw this to Members' attention: should any Member, or other well-wisher, wish to make any donation to the Fund this would, I can assure you, be very gratefully received! In fact, the Council has already received some donations which they are ear-marking for the Fund and which will be transferred to the Fund when it is formally in existence: the most significant of these is a donation of \$1,000 given by Dr Solomon Bard as a gesture of appreciation to the Society for having made him an Honorary Life Member of the Society, and which I would like to take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging. It is my hope that the Society will eventually manage to get about a Million dollars set aside in this Foundation Fund.

However, the Council is of the view that the Society cannot seek donations for the Fund from well-wishers in the Community at large unless it makes a substantial donation to it itself. Over the more than 40 years of the Society's existence, our generally conservative and careful financial management has led to a significant cash balance having grown up. At present this balance consists of assets worth about \$690,000. This compares with the Society's current annual routine expenditure of about \$290,000. Council considers that even the most prudent of financial regimes would not require more than twelve months of our average routine expenditure being held as a balance in cash. I shall, therefore, shortly be proposing for your consideration that the Society transfer \$350,000 of our accumulated reserves into the Foundation Fund as soon as it is formally established, to provide the initial balance for the Fund. I shall also be recommending that a further sum of \$50,000 be transferred at the same time from our current cash savings to the Current Account of the Fund, to allow disbursements to take place within the first year or two of the Fund's operations.

I must stress that it is our intention, except for the \$50,000 to be ear-marked for expenditure within the first one or two years, to spend only the income from this Fund. We do not intend to eat into the capital of the Foundation Fund, but to spend only the income derived from the interest on it. Any money, other than the \$50,000 ear-marked for expenditure, so transferred to the Fund by the Society would thus not be "lost". The sum would remain, untouched, as a capital sum. Should at some later date the Society decide to cancel the Fund and to withdraw from the sponsoring of scholarship, the sum to be transferred could then be transferred back into the Society's regular accounts, although I must say I hope that this would never happen!

I hope to be able, within the next month or two, to announce to Members that the Fund has been formally established, and to put before Members the detailed rules which will be used to control the Fund and disbursements from it. Keep an eye open for further news in the *Newsletter*! When all the details are finalised, it is likely that an Extraordinary General Meeting will be required to get Members' formal agreement to them: keep this in view!

### Improved Relationships with other Branches, and Extended Availability of the Journal in Libraries around the World

The second of the major new work initiatives announced by me last year arose from a desire to improve our filial and fraternal relationships with the Parent Society in London, and with other Branch and Associated Societies in Asia, and to increase the number of places around the world where full sets of our *Journal* are available to scholars.

Members will have seen, in the Newsletter, a growing amount of information about the activities of a number of these other Societies, information reaching us as a direct result of the improved communications we have been seeking. I am glad to say that we have been able to get into improved communication in particular with three of the Branch Societies in India, that is, those in Madras (the Madras Literary Society), Bombay (the Asiatic Society of Bombay), and Calcutta (the Asiatic Society of Calcutta), and with those in Colombo (The Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka), Kuala Lumpur (the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society), and Seoul (the Royal Asiatic Society, Korea Branch). All these Societies have agreed to welcome our Members to any of the events they mount, and we in turn have been very happy to offer Members of these Societies temporarily visiting Hong Kong access to our activities on the same terms as our own Members. We have also improved our contacts with the Siam Society, in Bangkok, and, again, we are now offering their Members access to our events on the same terms as our own Members. We have also been in regular communication with the Parent Society in London. We have not been able to contact the Branch Society in Tokyo as yet, and any Member able to help us in this respect should contact me.

As part of our drive to improve relationships with these other Branch and Associated Societies we have agreed to donate sets of our *Journal* to the Madras, Bombay, and Bangkok Societies, in return for sets of their *Journals*, which will be placed in our Library. Exchange arrangements with the Parent Branch in London, and with the Korea, Calcutta, Malaysia, and Ceylon Branches are also in place. We have also recently agreed an exchange arrangement with the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities in Stockholm, Sweden.

Following the agreement of Members at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2002, that the Society should have a new category of Member, that is Honorary Institutional Member, we have agreed in the subsequent months to make the Shanghai Library; the Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan Archives; the Zhong-ying Street Historical Museum, Sha Tau Kok (Shenzhen); the National Library, Bhutan; the British Empire Museum, Bristol, England; and the Instituto Cultural of Macau Honorary Institutional Members of the Society. In each case this has been followed by sending a complete set of our *Journals* to the institution in question. As a result of this initiative, the number of Institutional Members of the Society has increased during the year from 9 to 21. We are continuing to keep this development in the front of our minds, and more new Honorary Institutional Members are likely to be approved during this next year. We hope in particular to agree arrangements which will allow us to get sets of our *Journal* into libraries in Peking and Canton. We are also currently looking into ways to increase the number of University Libraries with sets of the *Journal*, in Europe, America, and East Asia, and I hope to be able to give a full report on this next year.

We have also agreed with the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of the Hong Kong Government to improve the holdings of the *Journal* in the Public Library Service of Hong Kong. We found when we investigated the issue, that there were eight sets of the *Journal* in the Public Library Service in Hong Kong, but that not even one of the sets was complete, and several were missing up to half the volumes. All the missing volumes have now been replaced at the Society's expense, and agreement with the Libraries Service reached so that every major public library now has a complete set. There are two sets in our library within the Central Library at Causeway Bay, and a third set in the public Reference Library of the Central Library, and sets in all the Regional Libraries (City Hall, Kowloon, Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun).

The daughter of one of our Members who died recently has returned his set of the *Journals* to us as a donation, together with a large number of the Hong Kong Government Annual Reports. This very welcome and generous donation has allowed us to prepare another set of *Journals* which will, in due course, be donated to another library in Hong Kong. We are currently looking at possible sites for this set, in the context of an investigation into the holdings of the *Journal* in the libraries of Hong Kong's tertiary institutions, and in other scholarly libraries here. I hope to be able to make a further report on this issue next year.

### Structured Membership Drive

Last year I also announced an initiative to seek to encourage Membership among selected target groups, particularly students of our tertiary institutions, and among staff of scholarly institutions in Hong Kong. We were also hoping to encourage Membership from among those Members of the Hong Kong Anthropological Society not already Members of our Society.

Unfortunately, little further has been achieved on this issue. Discussions with the Hong Kong Anthropological Society foundered on questions of confidentiality and privacy. I hope to be able to report better progress on this issue next year.

## The Library of the Society

Our Honorary Librarian, Miss Julia Chan, will be reporting separately on the present position with regard to the library. I would like here merely to repeat what I said last year, that the move of the library to its new and permanent location in the Central Library at Causeway Bay was an opportunity to us to make a number of new departures and to introduce a number of new initiatives with regard to the library. A good deal of work on this has been undertaken over the year, and, although a great deal more still needs to be done, I expect to see a number of exciting new developments introduced during this next year.

Among the new developments most likely are a new and far more sophisticated Index to the holdings of our library. We hope to be able to offer this to Members who would like to buy it during the year. Another new development, which unfortunately has been plagued with continuous problems with the contractors undertaking the work on behalf of the Hong Kong University Library, is the introduction of an on-line website-format Table of Contents of the *Journal*, including the full text of selected articles where copyright permission from the author for this to be done has been received. I am happy to say that this work has now been completed, and Members can now access this web-site: details are in the Honorary Librarian's Report.

We are also deeply involved in a programme to put onto CDs the lectures given to the Society over the last decade or so. These will be held in the library as a permanent record. Alongside them we hope to have a CD copy of a number of important documentaries produced over the last decade or so by RTHK, so that these important programmes can be accessed more easily by the public. The work of putting all this material onto CD and entered into the library is likely to take some time, but I hope that most of the work will be complete by this time next year. Keep your eyes on the *Newsletter* for information on these developments as they are achieved!

The Society has been successful over the last year in attracting donations to the library of a significant number of important books on Hong Kong and the Far East. I would like to recommend this to you. Should any of you have books no longer of interest, please consider donating them to us. The executors of several recently deceased Members have chosen to donate some of their holdings of books on Hong Kong: this is also a practice which I would like to recommend to you all! Members should bear in mind that the library would be particularly interested in donations of books which may be seen as "out-of-date" but which would nevertheless have a historical interest - commercial reports, Government papers and so forth would certainly be of interest to us!

### *Friends of the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong, in the United Kingdom*

Members are, I am sure, well aware of the existence of the Friends in the United Kingdom. This useful body allows Members moving from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom to continue their interests in the culture and history of the Hong Kong area, as well as providing a social venue where they can continue to meet up with old friends who, like them, have moved from Hong Kong to the United Kingdom. I and my predecessors have, in the last several Annual General Meetings, urged all Members leaving Hong Kong for the United Kingdom to join the Friends, and I do so again now. As to what the Friends do, I will shortly read an Annual Report on their activities sent to us by the Chairman of the Friends, Mr David Gilkes.

### *Conclusion*

I would like to conclude this Report by thanking all Members of the Society in general, and all Members of Council in particular, for their support of the Society during this past year, and for their friendliness and helpfulness to me personally at all times. I would also like to thank our friends at the Antiquities and Monuments Office, the Public Records Office, and elsewhere, for their support and assistance.

To end this report, however, I would like to pay a special tribute to the Rev. Carl Smith, our Honorary Vice-President. His contribution to the history of Hong Kong is immense. His articles illuminate nineteenth century Hong Kong in a way no other historian has managed. He has been a guide, mentor, and friend to two generations of local scholars. I am personally greatly honoured by having Carl as my friend and advisor, and I am very happy to have this opportunity of expressing my indebtedness to him on any number of matters. Carl has been a stalwart supporter of the Society since the early 1970s. He is the longest surviving Member of Council, having served as a Councillor for over 25 years, under five Presidents, for many years as Vice-

President. He asked to retire from Council a couple of years ago, but Council was extremely unwilling to let him go, and created a new post of Honorary Vice-President for him, so that he could continue to serve but without holding down any post. Now, alas, his new responsibilities in Macau make it impossible for him to attend Council on a regular basis, and he has indicated that he feels he must now step down, and I have, very reluctantly, agreed. However, it is open to Council to invite anyone it sees fit to attend Council, and Council has agreed to extend a long-term invitation to Carl to attend Council whenever he is free and available to do so, and we will continue to send him copies of all our papers. I sincerely hope we will thus continue to receive his advice regularly, even if he is not able to attend every meeting. However, Council feels that this is an inadequate expression of our gratitude to Carl for his services both to the cause of scholarship in Hong Kong, and to the Society in particular, and we have decided to make him an Honorary Life Member of the Society, as being the most public statement available to us of our esteem and regards. Thank you, Carl!

## APPENDIX

### Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch

#### Activities for 2002/2003

Date	Lectures
<b>2002</b>	
<b>April 12</b>	<b>Dr Patrick H. Hase</b> on <i>Some Smaller Market Towns of the New Territories</i>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Dr Dan Waters &amp; Fr Louis Ha</b> on <i>Hong Kong's Lighthouses and the Men who Manned Them</i>
<b>June 7</b>	<b>Dr Ian Nish</b> on <i>Anglo-Japanese Relations in the Twentieth Century (Joint Lecture)</i>
<b>June 7</b>	<b>Dr Lindsay Porter</b> on <i>The Pink Dolphins of Hong Kong.</i>
<b>June 14</b>	<b>Jason Wordie</b> on <i>Streets: Exploring Hong Kong Island</i>
<b>August 10</b>	<b>Dr Martin Palmer</b> on <i>Da Qin – An Imperial Christian Site of the Tang Dynasty</i> (with a visit to the exhibition on this subject)
<b>September 20</b>	<b>Tim Ko</b> on <i>The Development of Cemeteries in Hong Kong: 1841-1941</i>
<b>October 4</b>	<b>Dr. Christopher Munn</b> on <i>People and Government in Early Colonial Hong Kong</i>
<b>October 18</b>	<b>Dr Janet Lee Scott</b> on <i>Up in Smoke: Offerings for the Ancestors</i>
<b>November 23</b>	<b>Stella Ma</b> on <i>Cha Duk Chang: The Appreciation of Chinese Opera</i>
<b>November 29</b>	<b>William Lindesay</b> on <i>The Great Wall: Research and Impressions</i>
<b>December 6</b>	<b>Valery Garrett</b> on <i>Heaven is High, the Emperor Far Away: Merchants and Mandarins in Old Canton</i>
<b>2003</b>	
<b>January 3</b>	<b>Dr Solomon Bard</b> on <i>Voices from the Past: Hong Kong 1842-1918</i>
<b>January 10</b>	<b>Dr Christina Miu Bing Cheng</b> on <i>Macau: The Farming of Friendship</i>
<b>January 24</b>	<b>Dr Lawrence Lai &amp; Dr Daniel Ho</b> on <i>Devil's Peak Ruins: A Glimpse of a British Stronghold</i>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>Dr Elizabeth Sinn</b> on <i>Ultimate Return: Transshipment of Chinese Migrants Bones to the Native Village and Hong Kong's Role in the Chinese Diaspora</i>
<b>February 21</b>	<b>Anthony Lawrence</b> on <i>Hong Kong: Growing Old</i>
<b>March 28 (now rescheduled to June 27, 2003)</b>	<b>Dr Graeme Lang</b> on <i>The Return of the Refugee God: Wong Tai Sin in China</i>

Date	Local Visits
<b>2002</b>	
<b>April 13</b>	<i>Ha Tsuen Market Town, Deep Bay</i> , led by <b>Dr Patrick H. Hase</b> (see also Lecture Programme)

<b>May 4</b>	<i>Waglan Island Lighthouse</i> , led by <b>Dr Dan Waters &amp; Tim Ko</b> (see also Lecture Programme)
<b>May 18</b>	<i>Pak Sha O in Sai Kung Country Park</i> , led by <b>May Holdsworth &amp; Dr Patrick H. Hase</b>
<b>June 1</b>	<i>Ha Tsuen Market Town, Deep Bay</i> , led by <b>Dr Patrick H. Hase</b> (Repeat Visit)
<b>August 10</b>	<i>Fung Ping Shan Museum</i> , to visit the <i>Da Qin – An Imperial Christian Site of the Tang Dynasty Exhibition</i> led by <b>Dr Martin Palmer</b> (see also Lecture Programme)
<b>August 31</b>	<i>Roman Catholic Cathedral and Archives</i> , led by <b>Anna Kwong &amp; Fr Louis Ha</b>
<b>November 23</b>	<i>Visit to Ming Chi Sing Cantonese Opera Troupe: Backstage Visit, "The Sweet General"</i> , led by <b>Stella Ma</b> (see also Lecture Programme)
<b>2003</b>	
<b>January 25</b>	<i>Devil's Peak Fort</i> , led by <b>Lawrence Lai</b> , assisted by <b>Tim Ko</b> (see also Lecture Programme)
<b>March 1</b>	<i>Hong Kong Museum of History</i> , to visit the <i>"War and Peace: Treasures of the Qin and Han Dynasties" Exhibition</i> , led by <b>Dr Joseph Ting</b>

	<b>Overseas Visits</b>
<b>Date</b>	
<b>2002</b>	
<b>March 28- April 2</b>	<i>Xi'an</i> , led by <b>Dr Joseph Ting</b>
<b>September 28- October 1</b>	<i>Angkor Wat, Cambodia &amp; Saigon, Vietnam</i> , led by <b>Dr Patrick H. Hase</b>
<b>2003</b>	
<b>January 30- February 13</b>	<i>Eastern Bhutan</i> , led by <b>Dr Brian Shaw</b>

Dr. Patrick H. Hase  
President

## **Resolution**

### **Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch**

#### **Annual General Meeting of the Society March 21<sup>st</sup> 2003**

At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, held at the Hong Kong Club, on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2003, the following Resolution was adopted:

#### **Resolved:**

That, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004, any annual Member or Family Member paying an annual subscription by any method of payment other than by Autopay, and resident in Hong Kong, shall be required to pay an annual Supplement to the annual Subscription of Hong Kong Dollars 50 (HK\$50), and that any such Member paying an annual Subscription by any method of payment other than by Autopay shall not receive the *Journal* for that year until his full subscription plus the Supplement has been received.

The Society shall, however, before the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004, draw to the attention of all such Members resident in Hong Kong who are currently paying an annual Subscription by a method other than by Autopay the implications of this, and will give such Members every assistance to switch their payment method to Autopay.

Patrick H. Hase  
President  
March 2003

## **Resolution**

### **Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch**

#### **Annual General Meeting of the Society March 21<sup>st</sup> 2003**

At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, held at the Hong Kong Club, on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2003, the following Resolution was adopted:

#### **Resolved:**

That the Society should, at the earliest opportunity, formally establish a Scholarship Fund, as a separate legal entity separate from the general funds of the Society, to allow the Society to make grants and disburse money for the purpose of sponsoring research in the field of Hong Kong studies, and of assisting publication of books in this field, subject to the Rules for the control and disbursement of such a Fund being agreed by Members, those Rules to include provision for the establishment of a Management Board to oversee the Fund, and for the Annual General Meeting of the Society to see and agree the audited accounts of the Fund year by year.

That the Hon. Treasurer of the Society be appointed Hon. Treasurer of the Scholarship Fund as well as Hon. Treasurer of the Society.

That the Society should, for the future, keep a cash reserve approximately equal to one year's routine expenditure, as assessed by the Hon. Treasurer of the Society.

That the present cash reserves of the Society being approximately HK\$400,000 greater than one year's routine expenditure, HK\$350,000 should be transferred from the general funds of the Society as soon as a Scholarship Fund has been formally and separately established into a Foundation Fund, so that the income



It has been the normal practice of the Hong Kong Public Libraries to record subject talks conducted at their venue. Prior consent would be sought from the speakers to record these tapes. For legal protection, Council Members agreed that RAS speakers should also be requested to sign the same form for RAS lectures. In order to better preserve the content, it was decided that tapes of RAS speakers would be digitized, if permission is granted. The Hong Kong Central Library has kindly offered, free of charge, to digitize these tapes, since they are produced by the Library. The digitized version will be mounted on the Multimedia Information System, available for convenient access in the larger Public Libraries via the System. RAS Library will also be given one audio CD for each of the tapes digitized, for borrowing or archival purpose.

Hong Kong Central Library has also sent us a list of past recordings of all the RAS lectures held at City Hall Library, 78 in total, dating back to 1988. Since none of our speakers had been asked to give their consent to record their talks before, and it would not be feasible to seek retroactive consent, it was agreed that while these tapes will be digitized for preservation purpose, the CDs will be placed in the RAS Collection in Rare Book Room, available for use in the Library but not for loan. The audio tapes will also be stored in the Rare Book Room, serving as back-ups.

Another digitization project that will be undertaken by RAS is a collection of old RTHK radio programmes related to the history of Asia and Hong Kong. Due to limited resources, these tapes will probably not be digitized by RTHK. In order to preserve the culture and heritage of Asia, Council members expressed interest and investigation will be made on rights of digitization and usage.

Access to Hong Kong University's project: Hong Kong Journals Online (<http://sunzi.lib.hku.hk/hkj/main.jsp>) has been delayed for some time due to problems with the contractors responsible for the digitization process. The *Journal of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* was one of the first titles selected to be digitized for the project and we are pleased to advise that it is finally ready for access. As advertised in the Society's Newsletter in December 2002, premier release to the online version, providing table of contents plus selected full text with the authors' consent, has been given to RASHKB members. The Hong Kong Journals Online database will be officially open to the public when more content is available in the database. Members who wish to release copyright of their articles for mounting on the Web may notify the Society. We already have a member from Australia granting permission to digitize his articles after searching on the database.

Concerning usage of the RAS Collection, as compared to last year, reference enquiries had dropped by 22%. This could be due to the fact that members are now more familiar with the New Library. The pleasant environment and splendid facilities have attracted an increasing number of users. Books being consulted were increased by 33%, number of borrowers by 133%, and number of books loaned out by 294%. Presently, no overdue is recorded, except for the five old outstanding items that could not be traced any more.

As reported by the Hong Kong Central Library, usage of the RAS Library for the period from 1 March 2002 to 28 February 2003 was as follows:

<b>Library Usage</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>	<b>2002/2003</b>
No. of reference enquiries	230	179
No. of books consulted	306	408
No. of borrowers	12	28
No. of books loaned out	17	67

I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the Hong Kong Central Library for their great assistance during the year and for providing a fine home with well-equipped facilities for our Collection.

Ms. Julia Chan  
Hon. Librarian  
1 March 2003

**ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY**

## HONG KONG BRANCH LIBRARY

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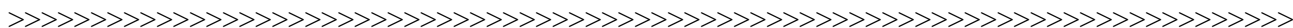
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**New Journals**

The Bulletin of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities.

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**2002 Annual Report of the Friends of the Hong Kong Royal Asiatic Society (UK)**

This is the Friends’ fifth annual report since the inauguration in 1998, and is therefore a cause for celebration. Members may recall that it was with some trepidation that a few past members in Hong Kong circulated known members living in the United Kingdom whether they would be interested in forming a Friends Association as an offshoot of the Royal Asiatic Society in Hong Kong. The response was very encouraging and around 75 to 80 people responded positively, most of whom are still members; indeed since then new members who were living in Hong Kong have also joined, and numbers continue to increase slowly.

A great deal of the success of this is due to the encouragement the Friends received and continue to receive from Hong Kong. Visits by members to Hong Kong are warmly received, and in the United Kingdom we welcome any members, particularly if they are able and willing to participate in our activities or give a talk. In the last year we have received Dr Dan Waters past President, Dr Patrick Hase President, Dr Elizabeth Sinn Vice President; members may recall that in the previous year we have also had a talk by Mr. Anthony Lawrence.

One of the great strengths of the Royal Asiatic Society is the publication of the Annual Journal, and the Friends would like to pay tribute to Dr Peter Halliday, who has been the Editor for ten years. The Friends are always pleased to receive the journal, which continues to reach a high academic standard (it is noted that the forthcoming journal has six contributions from the Friends) and is well received by United Kingdom education institutions. It is hoped that Friends’ contributions will increase in future, since this is an effective way of improving the link between the two organisations.

A report would not be complete without paying tribute to those on the Friends’ Committee, particularly to Mrs Rosemary Lee and Mrs Anita Wilson, Events Organisers. Other active members are Mr Paul Bolding (Secretary), Mr Roger Chandler (Treasurer), Mrs Kirsty Norman, Mr Keith Stevens and Mr David Mahoney. The latter will be retiring this year and we would like to thank him for his past support and particularly for last year’s Annual General Meeting Lecture.

The Friends normally meet once a quarter in London on a Saturday at the School of Oriental Studies. There is a Chinese lunch gathering followed by a lecture. Once a year there could be a week-end away. In the last year Friends started its programme (April 2002) by a very successful week to Cornwall, when around 25 members visited the well known Gardens (Caerhayes, Trewithen, Pine Lodge, Heligan and the Eden Project) with particular reference to the Asian connection; a very sincere thanks to Mrs Penny Byrne who co-ordinated this.

The programme continued with a very well informed lecture by Mr David Mahoney on “Awards to Britons in China”. David has been collecting medals for some 50 years, some of which he brought to the meeting; the lecture was illustrated with slides which showed the extent of the awards systems to Britons who served in China in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

In September 2002 the Friends were fortunate to benefit from a visit to the United Kingdom by Dr Elizabeth Sinn, who gave a talk “The Ultimate Return: Transshipment of Chinese Migrants’ Bones to the Native Village and Hong Kong’s Role in the Chinese Diaspora”. This was a fascinating insight into the methods and

motives as to why the Chinese living in America transported bones of relatives and friends back to China in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

More recently, (February 2003) the Friends held their Annual Chinese New Year lunch at the Joy King Lau Chinese Restaurant in Leicester Street, London. Around 50 members attended to welcome in the Year of the Ram, of whom six were new members.

For the future the Friends are looking forward to the Annual General Meeting (17<sup>th</sup> May 2003), when Dr Frances Wood, Curator of Chinese Collections at the British Library will be the speaker on "Marco Polo". Later in the year it is hoped to arrange an away visit to Bath (China Artefacts and Porcelain Museum) and Bristol (British Empire and Commonwealth Museum). If any members in Hong Kong are in the United Kingdom we hope you will be able to join us.

Finally, the Friends convey its very best wishes to all members of the Society in Hong Kong for your Annual General Meeting; we look forward to a year of future expansion and interaction.

March 2003

David Gilkes (Chairman)

## **RAS Microgrant and Publication Assistance Scheme**

### Aims of Microgrant and Publication Assistance Scheme

- To further the stated aims of the Society by actively encouraging and promoting the work of scholars and researchers working with limited resources in Hong Kong.
- To enable the publication of a broader range of Hong Kong related publications than is generally possible, due to the constraints of commercial viability, by means of publication subvention.

### Benefits to the RAS HK Branch of a Microgrant and Publication Assistance Scheme

- The Society will directly benefit by a more diverse range of publications than at the present time, more lectures and visits on a potentially wider range of subjects, and a higher public profile.
- Original research of benefit to the Society and the wider public will be able to be undertaken by ordinary members, who may at present be unable to shoulder the full financial burden themselves.

### What constitutes Publication Assistance?

The Microgrant and Publication Assistance Scheme will assist with funds for publication of works deemed worthy of publication but which are:

- Outside ordinary academic publication criteria or
- Not of a suitably commercial nature to make their publication viable without subvention.

Hong Kong University Press, through their publisher Dr. Colin Day, has expressed interest in participation with such a scheme. This would in due course involve a joint Hong Kong University Press/Royal Asiatic Society imprint.

### What constitutes a Microgrant?

- A microgrant is a fixed, non-repayable sum allocated to an individual to assist with the financial costs associated with privately conducted research.
- The sum allocated will be spent by the individual according to the needs stated in their project proposal.

### Who will be eligible for a microgrant or publication subvention?

Any Life, Ordinary or Student member will be deemed eligible, as well as members of the general public. While not aiming specifically at student members, requests for assistance from students will be treated sympathetically.

Preference for microgrant awards will be given to those not already in receipt of university scholarships, grants or awards, and not in a position to apply for these funds. Professional academics will therefore be generally excluded from the scheme for the purposes of micro-grant disbursement, though not necessarily for publication subvention.

### Who will make decisions on awards and/or eligibility?

A specially constituted Grants Sub-committee of the RASHKB Council will make the microgrant or publication assistance awards, subject to discussion of subject matter and final approval by Council.

The Grants Subcommittee will have considerable discretion in the final selection of individual research subjects and suitability of candidates.





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](mailto:cheung_edith@hotmail.com).

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

#### *Picturing Cathay: Maritime and Cultural Images of the China Trade*

March 29 - June 22, 2003

As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, the University Museum and Art Gallery of The University of Hong Kong, will present this exhibition which includes over sixty China Trade paintings and export items, borrowed from both public and private collections. To explore how trade, particularly maritime trade, encouraged the development of export art and of cross-cultural artistic expression, the exhibition will present port scenes and scenes of daily life alongside portraits of the people and vessels that made the China Trade and the art of the China Trade possible.

The history of maritime trade with China can be traced as far back as the beginning of the Christian era. This exhibition will show works produced mostly in and around the ports of southern China, Hong Kong and Macao from the mid-eighteenth to the late nineteenth centuries. Prior to this period, the prevalent view of China was steeped in mystery, shaped by the reports of travellers such as the thirteenth century merchant Marco Polo, and Ibn Battuta, who travelled to China in 1347. Increased trading activity in Canton during the eighteenth century helped to slowly erode those images, and by 1715 the British East India Company had set up office in Canton, quickly followed by Dutch, French, Danish, Swedish and in 1784, American interests. Views of these foreign 'factories' can often be seen in the paintings and other export art items of the period. Many of works on view were created as souvenirs to be taken home to Europe, and played a role in documenting, rather than idealising China.

#### *Ancient Taoist Art from Shanxi Province*

31 March–23 June, 2003

Again, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Museum and the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Arts Faculty, the University Museum and Art Gallery and the Administration of Cultural Relics, Shanxi province, will jointly present this exhibition in association with the Taoist Association of Hong Kong. Part of the Hong Kong Taoist Festival in March, it is the first exhibition in Hong Kong to show Taoist relics found in Shanxi province.

Taoism is one of China's most important philosophical and religious doctrines and continues to be widely practised today. Taoist philosophy is built upon the teachings of Laozi collected in the classic Daodejing, and developed into a religion during the Han dynasty. Taoist philosophy stresses the natural forces of the universe, yin and yang, which must be maintained in harmony in the world. Religious Taoism teaches that human beings can transcend their mortal lives by following the natural law of the Tao. Mortality itself was believed to be deferrable through methods invented by practitioners and priests for preserving health and prolonging life. This also gave rise to the cult of the immortals.

On display will be over sixty works of Taoist art illustrating many facets of Taoist religion dating from the Tang (618-907) to the Qing dynasties (1644-1911). They include paintings, porcelain, lacquerware as well as carvings in stone, wood, jade and bronze which are all on loan from museums in Shanxi province.

#### *Early Hong Kong Eateries*

26 March – 9 June, 2003

The University Museum will present an exhibition, *Early Hong Kong Eateries*, from 26 March to 9 June 2003. The eateries in Hong Kong have a history of over a hundred years. People could enjoy a great variety of food at teahouses, restaurants, cafés and even dai pai dong (food stalls on the street) throughout Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. Each one had its specialities to cater for different tastes and different people. Before the 1960s, there were already many restaurants serving western and Chinese provincial cuisines. Their rise and fall reflect the development of the city and also changes in eating culture. The exhibition features over one hundred photographs of old Hong Kong, most of which are from the collection of

Mr. Cheng Po Hung, a renowned expert on Hong Kong history. Supplemented with documents and artefacts related to culinary culture in Hong Kong from the late 19th century to the 1970s, viewers can have a better understanding of the diversity and range of early Hong Kong eateries, refreshing their memories of delicious cuisines. The Museum will publish a fully-illustrated book, in both Chinese and English, written by Mr. Cheng Po Hung for this exhibition.

The opening hours of the Museum are daily from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sundays. The Museum is closed on public holidays. Admission is free. All are welcome.

For enquiries and exhibit photographs, please contact the museum office on 2241-5513, or visit their website: [www.hku.hk/hkumag](http://www.hku.hk/hkumag).

### **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](http://www.RASKorea.org) to view their current programme or Email [info@raskorea.org](mailto:info@raskorea.org).

### **The Siam Society**

The Siam Society in Bangkok has a very active programme of talks and visits and welcomes any of our members who may be visiting the city. For details of their current programme, call 02 661 6470, Email [info@siam-society.org](mailto:info@siam-society.org) or go to [www.siam-society.org](http://www.siam-society.org).

### **New Exhibition and Publication in Sydney**

Members visiting Sydney this summer may be interested in a new exhibition to be opened at the Museum of Sydney on 10<sup>th</sup> May. The exhibition, entitled *India, China, Australia: Trade and Society 1788-1850*, will run until 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2003.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Australia was strongly influenced by its close and substantial trade with India and China. This exhibition demonstrates that Australia was much more a part of East Asia than its history as England's farthest flung province might suggest. The warehouses of India and China supplied an extraordinary proportion of the colony's imports. In its first 30 years, over 100 trading vessels from India alone visited the colony. The range of goods brought to Australia in its first half-century was extensive and diverse – textiles, furnishings and furniture, ceramics, silver, trinkets, toys and edible delights.

Published to coincide with the exhibition is *India, China, Australia: Trade and Society 1788-1850* by James Broadbent (curator of the exhibition), Suzanne Rickard and Margaret Steven. Published by Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales. Available from May 2003 at the Museum of Sydney (02 9251 4678) or by direct mail order (02 9692 8366).

**SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FOR 2003**

I am an annual member of the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, and do not pay my subscription by Banker's Order or Direct Debit.

I enclose my cheque in the sum of HK\$ . . . . . being my subscription for 2003 (January to December).

Cost of annual subscriptions:

Individual	475.00
Joint	700.00
Student	50.00
Institutional	475.00
Life	6,000.00
Overseas	250.00

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