

# ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

*Telephone/fax : 2813 7500*

*e-mail address : membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk*

*web address : www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk*

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

### Council members 2003-2004

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 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          |   |

The talk by Mr Paul Fonoroff on a history of the Chinese cinema held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2003, at a time of grave concern in Hong Kong over the Sars epidemic, attracted more than 50 attendees. Mr Fonoroff, well-known to most people as a film critic of Chinese films for the *South China Morning Post*, drew not only on his encyclopaedic knowledge of the subject but also on his extensive collection of cinematic memorabilia, such as posters and Chinese movie magazines from Shanghai and Hong Kong.

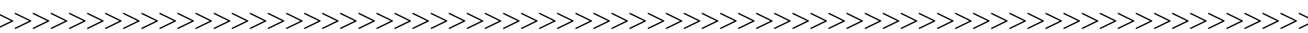
Focusing on the connections and parallels between Hollywood and the movie studios of Shanghai and Hong Kong from the 1920s to the 1960s, Mr Fonoroff used illustrations of such well-known stars as Charlie Chaplin, Anna May Wong, Butterfly Wu and Josephine Siao Fong Fong, among many others. He traced the development of the Chinese cinema from pre-World War II, through the war and afterwards into the communist era. For example, two of the film magazine covers he showed clearly illustrated the great changes from the 1940s when a star was shown in a bathing suit and then the same star in the 1950s fully clothed in ordinary clothes holding firmly to a worker's bicycle. The individualism of Hollywood and its influence on Chinese cinema in the pre-liberation era was especially noted. However, in Hong Kong in the 1950s, the left-wing studios were not left-wing enough for their films to be shown on the mainland! Time ran out as the interested audience asked many questions of the enthusiastic and knowledgeable Mr Fonoroff.

"The 1941 Hong Kong Garrison – Unabridged!" was the title of Tony Banham's talk to a keen audience on 9<sup>th</sup> May. Mr Banham, author of the recently published *Not the Slightest Chance: The Defence of Hong Kong, 1941*, explained that several books have been written about the Battle of Hong Kong, December 1941, but none had looked at the individuals involved, the 12,000-14,000 defenders of the Colony. Being interested in people, he set out to do this, aided by his computer skills. He spent many hours entering the names and data of the people involved and searching for information about them. It turned into a much bigger task than he had originally anticipated and a fascinating one.

Skillfully aided by his computer and powerpoint presentation, Mr Banham held the audience spellbound with his stories of tracking down and piecing together the intriguing stories of the participants and even their descendants. For example, he was contacted by a descendant of an Ice House Street broker who had been killed during the fighting to ask if the house in which the man had lived on Conduit Road was still there. Eventually Mr Banham, to his great surprise, found the house still standing. He photographed it and sent it off to California. Back came a photograph of the broker standing on the balcony of the same house! Seeing the photographs, the audience was able to share the excitement of that discovery. In another instance, Mr Banham told how he was able to track down a Mr Wagstaff in the UK. His father had been killed in 1941 and his grandfather was the sculptor of the lions in front of HKBC headquarters today! The talk concluded with a spirited question and answer session, including one person who had been in the Battle of Hong Kong in 1941!

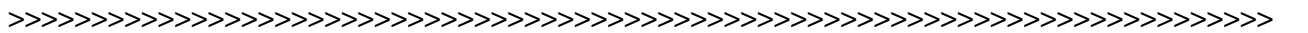
A near-capacity audience enjoyed the talk given by Dr. Vicky Lee on 30<sup>th</sup> May, entitled “Memoirs on Eurasianness”. In her Ph.D dissertation, undertaken at the University of Hong Kong, she was particularly interested in three women – the Rev Joyce Symons and Sir Robert Ho Tung’s two daughters, Irene Cheng and Jean Gittins. Starting with the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Dr. Lee traced the beginnings of the Eurasian community in Hong Kong, when European men began to take Chinese mistresses. Their offspring, the Eurasians, were at first segregated, but by the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, things improved for the Eurasian community.

Dr. Lee told many interesting stories, such as how in 1940, when European women and children were evacuated to Australia and the order was not clear as to what “pure British” meant, Eurasian women and children were forced to return to Hong Kong when the ship docked in Manila. Two “pure British” women were said to have pointed out those who were Eurasian, including Joyce Symons. A lively question session followed Dr. Lee’s talk, one concerning the question of Eurasian collaboration with the Japanese during the occupation. Dr. Lee said there certainly was some collaboration but it was done mainly to protect their families. Today Eurasians are fully part of the Hong Kong community.



***FUTURE ACTIVITIES***

|  |                   |   |
|--|-------------------|---|
| Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup> June              | City Hall Lecture | <b>The Return of the Refugee God: Wong Tai Sin in China</b>   |
| Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> August             | City Hall Lecture | <b>The Birth of the Lunatic Asylums in Hong Kong</b>  |
| Friday, 29 <sup>th</sup> August            | City Hall Lecture | <b>Chinese Archery – An Unbroken Tradition?</b>   |
| Saturday, 30 <sup>th</sup> August          | Local Visit       | <b>Guided Tour of Asian Traditional Archery Exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence</b> |
| Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> September          | City Hall Lecture | <b>The Fall of Hong Kong: Britain, China and the Japanese Occupation</b>                              |
| Saturday, 20 <sup>th</sup> September       | Local Visit       | <b>Behind the Scenes: A Conservation Tour The Hong Kong Heritage Museum</b>                           |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> October | Seminar/Visits    | <b>Parsees, Armenians and Muslims in the Early Nineteenth Century Pearl River Area</b>                |
| Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> November          | City Hall Lecture | <b>Sun Yat-sen, Hong Kong and the Sam Chau Tin Rebellion</b>  |
| Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> November          | City Hall Lecture | <b>Sha Tau Kok Market and its Market District</b>   |
| 22/23 <sup>rd</sup> November               | Local Visit       | <b>Sha Tau Kok/Ping Shan</b>  |



City Hall Lecture

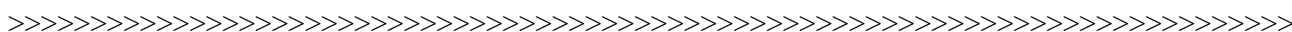
Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> June

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

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

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 (postponed to this date from the original date in March) 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.



City Hall Lecture

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> August

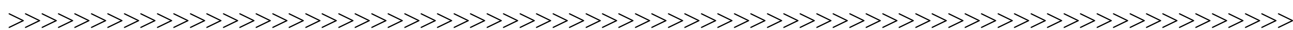
**The Birth of the Lunatic Asylums in Hong Kong**

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

In the earliest days of colonial Hong Kong, 'lunatics,' or 'persons of unsound mind,' were cared for in Victoria Gaol and then in 'insane wards' attached to the general hospitals. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, Hong Kong adopted the Victorian approach of placing such persons in 'lunatic asylums' and two were built for this purpose. They, and a nearby extension which was commandeered in 1939 to reduce the overcrowding, served the colony until 1961, when the Castle Peak Hospital was commissioned. The pendulum has now swung back and psychiatric wards attached to general hospitals are once again considered to be the optimum method of caring for the mentally ill.

Dr. Halliday will give a detailed account of the early days of treatment for the mentally ill in Hong Kong using original material never before presented.

Dr Peter Halliday has been the Hon Editor of the Journal of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society since 1992. His interest in mental health services arose in 1985 when he underwent the Hong Kong Government's Senior Staff Course. Each participant – from across the government - had been requested to come prepared to undertake a personal research project for the duration of the course. On the first day of the course, the Director of Studies announced that six 'volunteers' had been selected to take part in an 'exciting new learning experiment'; they were to exchange their projects so that 'you six will be researching something that you know nothing about.' Dr Halliday – a police officer - "volunteered" to exchange his project with a consultant psychiatrist. His new project was: 'Solving the overcrowding problem at Castle Peak Hospital.' He attests to never having worked so hard in his life to complete the project before the end of the course. After the course, he worked for a further three years expanding his project report into a Master's dissertation. He graduated in 1990.



**City Hall Lecture**

**Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> August**

**Chinese Archery – An Unbroken Tradition?**

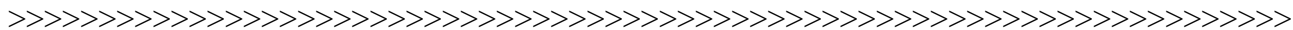
**Speaker:** Mr. Stephen Selby  
**Time:** 6:15 p.m.  
**Venue:** Extension Activities Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall High Block, Central.  
**Cost:** The lecture is free and open to the public.  
**Booking:** No booking is required.

Archery is recorded in China’s literary records from 3,500 years before our time. Wall paintings and archaeological evidence could push that date back even further. Use of the bow and arrow persisted long after the invention of the gun, and died out only after it was abolished from the imperial examination syllabus in 1901.

What was distinctive about the archery tradition in China? Was there any continuity over the three thousand years in which it has been practiced? And what does the future hold in store? Mr. Selby will discuss these and other issues about archery.

Mr. Stephen Richard Selby was born in London and studied at the University of Edinburgh, where he took an MA Honours Degree in Chinese, and at the Moray House College of Education. He is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society (UK), and a member of both the Hong Kong Branch of the RAS and the Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong. He is an Honorary Advisor to the Yan Huang Chinese Culture Research Association in Beijing and the convenor of the Asian Traditional Archery Research Network (ATARN).

The lecture will be followed by a visit to the newly-opened exhibition of Asian Traditional Archery at the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence on Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup> (see below).



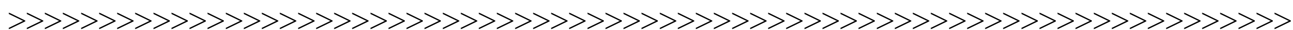
**Local Visit**

**Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August**

**Asian Traditional Archery and Bow-making  
Guided tour of exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence**

**Meeting Place:** Queen’s Pier, Central (coach)  
**Meeting Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Return:** 12:30 p.m. (approx.)  
**Cost:** Members \$80. Due to limited space, this visit will be limited to 30 people (Members only).  
**Booking:** There is a booking form at the end of this newsletter. Please return it by 23<sup>rd</sup> August, at the latest.  
**Questions:** Tim Ko 9181 6556

This visit will follow on from the talk the previous evening at City Hall. The speaker, Stephen Selby, will lead us around this unique exhibition. Due to space restrictions, Stephen will take members round the exhibition in groups of eight. While waiting, members may view the other exhibits in the museum.



**City Hall Lecture**

**Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> September**

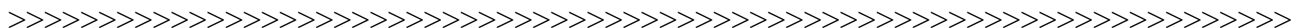
**The Fall of Hong Kong: Britain, China and the Japanese Occupation**

**Speaker:** Mr. Philip Snow  
**Time:** 6:15 p.m.  
**Venue:** Extension Activities Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall High Block, Central.  
**Cost:** The lecture is free and open to the public.

Booking: No booking is required.

On Christmas Day 1941 Japanese forces captured Hong Kong and Britain lost control of its colony for almost four years. The Japanese occupation was a turning-point in the slow historical process by which the British were to be expelled from the colony and from four centuries of influence in East Asia. Philip Snow will unravel the dramatic story of the occupation from the viewpoint of all the key players and examine the subsequent evolution of Hong Kong in the light of this episode.

Philip Snow graduated from Oxford University with a First Class degree in Chinese. He is the author of *The Star Raft: China's Encounter with Africa* and of a number of shorter works on Sino-African and Sino-Russian relations. His new book, *The Fall of Hong Kong*, the product of several years of research in London and Hong Kong and research visits to Taiwan and Japan, will be on sale at the lecture.



**Parsees, Armenians and Muslims in the early Nineteenth Century Pearl River Area**

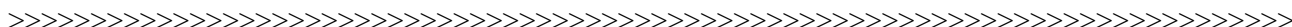
There is to be jointly presented Seminar and visit programme on this subject October 9-12, 2003. Co-sponsors will be the RAS; the Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong; the Instituto Cultural, Macau; and the Zhongshan University, Canton. A whole-day Seminar, with speakers from round the world, will be held at the Centre of Asian Studies on Thursday 9th October. Friday 10th will see a tour of sites in Hong Kong related to these ethnic groups, mounted by the RAS, and there will be an RAS lecture in the evening (repeating one of the talks from the seminar for those unable to attend the whole day event). On Saturday 11th there will be a tour to sites of interest in Macau, and, on Sunday 12th to sites in Canton and Whampoa (staying overnight probably in Canton). The Canton leg of this programme will be led by Dr Joseph Ting for the RAS. We will return to Hong Kong in the evening of Sunday 12th, by the last through train. We hope to visit the Zoroastrian Temple in Hong Kong, and the ancient Mosque in Canton, as well as several interesting old cemeteries, among other sites of interest. This promises to be a fascinating and highly interesting four-day programme, so write it into your diaries now! Members will be able to book for either the whole of the four days, or section by section of the programme, with priority going to those booking for the whole four days.

**Visit to Sha Tau Kok and associated talks**

Dr Patrick Hase, our President, together with Dr Louis Ng of the Antiquities and Monuments Office and Dr Anthony Siu Kwok-kin, will lead a visit to Sha Tau Kok, November 22-23. We will visit Sha Tau Kok on the morning of Saturday 22nd, and will have the opportunity to walk down Chung-Ying Street (the Border Street), on the Chinese side. We will also visit the Zhong-ying Street Historical Museum, and visit sites of interest in Sha Tau Kok, including the recently restored Tin Hau Temple and Ng Clan Ancestral Hall. In the afternoon, we will visit Sam Chau Tin, the site of the first (abortive) Kuomintang rebellion against the Ching Government, which is in the hills behind Sha Tau Kok. We will spend the night at Tai Mui Sha. On Sunday 23rd we will visit the Museum of the East-River Guerillas at Ping Shan, and a number of interesting Hakka Walled Villages and other sites of interest in the Ping Shan area. Return to Hong Kong about 7.30 p.m. Sunday 23rd. This will be a fascinating and not-to-be-repeated opportunity: write it into your diaries now! Members only: members wishing to take part will have to have a valid Chinese Visa.

To prepare for this visit, the RAS will mount two lectures. On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November Dr Louis Ng will talk on "Sun Yat-sen, Hong Kong and the Sam Chau Tin Rebellion". On Friday 21st, Dr Patrick Hase will talk on "Sha Tau Kok Market and its Market District". Both talks should be of great interest, especially to those hoping to go to Sha Tau Kok, but to others as well!

Full details and booking forms for these events and the September 20<sup>th</sup> visit to the Heritage Museum will be in the August newsletter.



## ***RAS BUSINESS***

### **Subscription Renewal – Last Call!**

This is your last chance for annual members to renew their subscription for this year. If you have not yet paid, please do so immediately, otherwise your name will be deleted from our database and you will receive nothing further from us. If you are not sure whether or not you have paid, please contact our Assistant Secretary Mary Painter on 2813 7500 or email [membership@royalasiticosociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiticosociety.org.hk) to check. A subscription renewal form will be found at the end of this newsletter. If you do not intend to renew, please would you let us know, and your reasons why. Thank you.

### **RAS visit to eastern Bhutan, February 2003**

This group of 23 souls was one of the largest contingents to visit eastern Bhutan for many years: five of the group had been with the Society's 2002 visit to central Bhutan. Members from London and Shanghai made their way to Bangkok and (with the main Hong Kong contingent, which arrived very late on Thursday 30 January) prepared for Friday's 4am breakfast call. Sardined into the hotel's largest (but small) transport bus, we headed for the airport nearby to meet a 5.20am check-in with Druk-Air. Departure was delayed, but on eventual arrival at Paro (after entry formalities and greetings from our in-country operators Etho-Metho Treks and Tours) we embarked on two comfortable mini-coasters (with us throughout the tour) and went directly to lunch, then to the National Museum for cultural background, followed by a visit to the famous 7<sup>th</sup>-century Kurje lhakhang, and thence by bus to the overnight halt at Lobesa.

The strategy (which turned out to be quite a successful one) was to bypass Thimphu in the first instance and go directly to the east, with extensive driving and minimal stops en route: so our second night was in Bumthang; night three was in Mongar (the first of four under canvas); nights four and five were at Tashiyangtse (adjacent to Chorten Kora) – with a shower tent provided! The stay at Yangtse included a three-hour walk each way to and from the black necked crane nesting site at Bomdiling, plus an informative visit to the Institute for Zorig Chosum kindly hosted by the Principal, Lam Kesang. Night six was a somewhat damp time at Ranjung (following a visit to Sherubtse College at Kanglung and returning from Radhi); night seven was to have been under canvas at the hilltop monastery at Drametse but was replaced (by dint of heavy usage of satellite and terrestrial phones) by an extended drive from Drametse to Mongar and the relative comfort of adequate rooms in the centre of town.

There was no more need for tents, and after climbing up to and over Bhutan's highest pass we were able to spend a short while at Ura village. With two nights in Bumthang the group was able to learn of the rich cultural tradition of the region, through visits to Khenchoksum, Jamyang, Kurje, and the 7<sup>th</sup>-century Jampe lhakhangs, and the Jakar Dzong inner courtyard; and also visited the Nyingmapa Dratshang's Karchung lhakhang sited on a hill above the bazaar with splendid tangkas and murals (to be formally consecrated in 2004). The new 5-star luxury lodge (only a few rooms, rumoured to be marketed at US\$700 a night) coming up next to the Wangdichholing Palace seemed incongruous, and several wondered about the viability of this and similar joint-venture projects now under way. Heading west from Bumthang, many of the group scrambled up the steep slope to Ta-dzong at Tongsa, and later examined the courtyard of Tongsa dzong (with extensive renovation continuing from our previous visit), before moving on for a night halt at Lobesa. After a brisk walk through the village of Yeewakha (aka Awakha), literally "the place of the irrigation channel", to visit Drukpa Kinley's lhakhang, we visited the interior of Punakha dzong and admired the newly-completed prayer hall with splendid images and tangkas. Lunch was al fresco on the banks of the Puna-chhu and here we took leave of our splendid catering team.

In Thimphu the group visited Changgangkha lhakhang, sighted the famous takin (Bhutan's national animal), visited Zilukha nunnery, and the murals at Tashichhodzong. We also saw the papermaking process, and the splendid Folk and Heritage Museum. There was time for shopping. At our farewell dinner in Thimphu, we were honoured to have as our guests the Director of Protocol, Foreign Ministry (Dasho JigmeTshultim), the Director-General of the Department of Tourism (Dasho Lhatu Wangchuk), and the MD of Etho-Metho Treks and Tours (Aum Dago Beda) and many of her senior staff.

On the penultimate day the group visited the Convention Centre and by invitation of Dasho Jigme Tshultrim were able to inspect the National Assembly's debating hall (normally closed to visitors). We returned to Paro for lunch, and then visited the Dungtse lhakhang (the caretaker was absent when we visited on our first day) and the interior of Paro Dzong. We took formal but amiable leave of our very capable guides and drivers at an early dinner at the aptly named "Travellers' Rest" off Paro's main street. The group checked in at the airport at 7.30am the following day (Thursday 13 February) for the hops to Bangkok (via Dhaka and Yangon). Some left at Bangkok, but the majority of the group took a connection to Hong Kong and were approaching CLK airport as the night of that day fell. For many, the journey was rather exhausting yet had seemed like a dream. The videos, prints and slides had yet to be processed, edited, labeled and shared around. On the whole, it seemed to be another successful overseas study tour for members of the RAS-HKB, to show some aspects of the rich Bhutanese traditions of art and architecture in the contemporary context of rapid social and political change. In addition to the professional work of the Etho-Metho team, the organizers especially express deepest appreciation to Bhutan's National Commission for Cultural Affairs for permission for the group to visit many sacred places normally closed to visitors.

### **Within these Walls**

An exhibition of photographs taken by RAS member Ulana Switucha and freelance writer and photographer Iain Masterton is on display at the China Tee Club, 1/F, Pedder Building, 12 Pedder Street, Central until 31<sup>st</sup> July. The photographs were taken in and around the walled villages and castles near Huiyang in Guangdong province, which were built many years ago as defensive enclosures for the ancestral homes of the Hakka people. Although many are in a state of disrepair, life within these walls still goes on in much the same way as it has for generations. Both Ulana and Iain contributed photographs to the RAS publication *In the Heart of the Metropolis: Yaumatei and its People*. See their web sites [www.ianmasterton.com](http://www.ianmasterton.com) and [www.comane.com/ulana/index.html](http://www.comane.com/ulana/index.html).

### **World War I – The Chinese Labour Corps in Belgium and France**

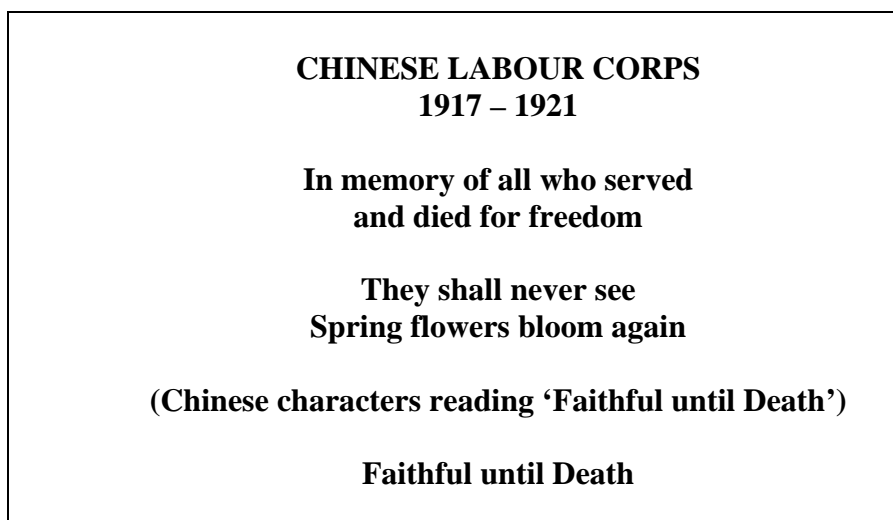
Following on from his very interesting article in Volume 40 of the RAS Journal, Brian Fawcett has written to us the following letter:-

"I have been researching the Chinese Labour Corps (CLC), for which I have visited the Imperial War Museum and the National Army Museum, London and the Historial de la Grande Guerre, Peronne. I have also visited many Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) cemeteries in which individual members of the CLC are buried.

In brief, the CLC were recruited by the British from northern China, served under military terms but were not allowed to fight. They helped, for instance, in the docks, worked in repair shops, helped build and maintain roads and railways. They also helped to clear the battlefields of unexploded shells, and locate and rebury the bodies of servicemen, even after the war. Many died after the war as a result of the influenza epidemic. The Headquarters of the CLC was located at Noyelles-sur-Mer, Somme, of which now nothing remains except for the large cemetery of 848 graves, well maintained by the CWGC. The French also employed the Chinese, but I have not carried out any research on them.

In my researches, I have found no mention that there is any monument or plaque to commemorate the many officers, non-commissioned officers and Chinese killed or who died during their service with the CLC, from 1917 to 1921. You may be pleased to know that this has now been rectified in that a plaque has been installed, which was dedicated on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2003, in St. George's Memorial Church, Ieper, Belgium. I hope that this will be a fitting memorial to the members of the CLC who have been neglected and forgotten until now.

The wording on the plaque, which is located on the left side of the door on leaving the church, reads”:-



Brian C. Fawcett  
U.K.

#### **The origin of the name ‘Repulse Bay’**

Further to the correspondence in our December and February newsletters, we have received the following copy message from Adrian Churn to Jon Zinke:

“I was reading the Society's newsletter of 20th February whereupon I saw with interest the quest for the origin of that peculiar name in English. I have always wondered how a sense of being put off in English might somehow relate to its Chinese name of Shallow water, yet its corresponding sister bay has no English variation to Deep water which might logically have been something Happy.....

The following may be the answer to your enquiry:

"The first official horse race took place at Pok Fu Lam in 1845. Racing started at Happy Valley a year later. It has been the headquarters of racing ever since. When Sir Edward Belcher made the first survey of Hong Kong, he named the valley after himself. The story goes that an amorous young cartographer proposed to a young lady at a beach picnic. When he was rejected he named the beach Repulse Bay. A short time later he proposed to the same young lady and was accepted. So he changed the name of Belcher Valley to Happy Valley. Governor Sir George Bowen modestly renamed it Bowen Park. The next Governor Sir William des Voeux promptly changed it back to Happy Valley" (!)

p.64  
Hong Kong  
A Rare Photographic Record of the 1860's  
By Arthur Hacker  
Wattis Fine Art  
Published 1997

So there you are! She wasn't shallow, didn't like his belching and in so doing made everyone happy! A story to the moral if ever there was one. I take the liberty of copying the publisher of the book as well, who might shed more light on this intriguing question”.

#### **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 joining details contact Paul Bolding at [pbolding@bigfoot.com](mailto:pbolding@bigfoot.com). Any Hong Kong members visiting the U.K. are very welcome to attend any of their functions. On 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> October, they are



Hong Kong Architecture 1930 (in English)  
Mr. Alex Hui (Museum Curator)  
Saturday, 5 July 2003, 3:00 p.m.

Conservation of the Pak Tai (God of the North) Temple, Wanchai (in English)  
Mr. Alex Hui (Museum Curator)  
Saturday, 19 July 2003, 3:00 p.m.

The opening hours of the University 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, please contact the museum office on 2241-5513, or visit their website: [www.hku.hk/hkumag](http://www.hku.hk/hkumag).

### **The Hong Kong Natural History Society AGM and Annual Dinner**

Chairman and RAS member Professor John Hodgkiss will give a talk on his many years of study of Natural History in Hong Kong at their AGM and Annual Dinner on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Enquiries: to Hon. Secretary John Jones on [johnjones@netvigator.com](mailto:johnjones@netvigator.com).

### **Asia Society Summer Family Film Series**

The Asia Society are showing a series of films from across Asia suitable for children of all ages at the Lim Por Yen Film Theatre, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Wanchai.

July 17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> : Oil Children (Iran)  
July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 2<sup>nd</sup> : The Day the Earth Moved (Japan)  
August 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> : Saroja (Sri Lanka)  
August 28<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> : The Way Home (Korea)

Tickets are available from the Asia Society @ \$80 each. Students @ \$40 each. Programme and ticket enquiries 2103 9508 or email [fchim@asiasoc.org](mailto:fchim@asiasoc.org).

**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   |

Name/s . . . . .

Type of member . . . . .

Address . . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .

Email address . . . . .

Daytime telephone . . . . .

Fax . . . . .

I prefer to receive newsletters by Email / Mail (please delete one)