

# ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG BRANCH

## NEWSLETTER

**Telephone/fax : 2813 7500**

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

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

**24<sup>th</sup> January 2005**

### Council members 2004-2005

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Mr. Robert Nield, Vice-President  
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Rev. Carl Smith, Hon. Vice-President  
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Mr. Robert Horsnell, Co-opted Member  
Dr. Betty Wei, Co-opted Member  
Miss Josephine Wong, Co-opted Member

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### AGM 2005

**Please note that this year's Annual General Meeting will be held at the Hong Kong Club on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. All details will be included in the AGM papers which Members will receive in early March.**

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### TRIP TO SABAH

**While there have been a number of firm commitments for this forthcoming trip, there have not been enough payments received, as yet, to make the trip viable. Anyone who wishes to attend this interesting and varied visit programme should please fill in the form at the end of this newsletter and return it, along with their cheque, by Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> February. If the organizers do not have sufficient numbers by that date there is a possibility that the visit will be cancelled. A full itinerary is given under Future Activities.**

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### RECENT LECTURES

Dr. Susan Whitfield, Director of the International Dunhuang Project of The British Library, gave a talk entitled "The Silk Road: Trade, Travel, War and Faith" on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2004, to more than 130 members and guests of our Society, The University of Hong Kong Museum Society and the Friends of the Art Museum, Chinese University, at The Helena May on Garden Road. Well-illustrated by a powerpoint presentation, Dr. Whitfield fascinated the audience talking about the

challenges of putting together the exhibition which was at The British Museum from May to September 2004. It was the most successful exhibition ever held at the Library with over 1200 visitors a day.

What made the evening particularly interesting were Dr. Whitfield's insights into the mounting of such an exhibition, e.g. the complicated planning (six years from start to opening), the financing, working with the exhibition builders, the negotiations to borrow some exhibits (while 80% came from The British Library and The British Museum, others came from the National Library of China, the Dunhuang Academy, the National Museum in Delhi, and collections in Belgium, Germany and Japan), the arranging of publications and lectures as well as music, and the inevitable last minute glitches (e.g. the non-arrival of some exhibits and the problem of visas for the Chinese experts). But as Dr. Whitfield said, two adjectives which sum up the whole experience were "exhausting and exhilarating".

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The Jockey Club Museum auditorium in Happy Valley was the venue for a very interesting and thought-provoking talk on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2005, by Professor Leo Goodstadt, a "Hong Kong hand" of some 40 years and presently Adjunct Professor at Trinity College Dublin and an Honorary Fellow at the Centre of Asian Studies, Hong Kong University. The title of his talk was, "The Rise and Fall of Social, Economic and Political Reforms in Hong Kong, 1930-1955".

Professor Goodstadt spoke of the 1930's trend in Hong Kong toward general liberalism, particularly in the fields of education and the civil service. Governor Sir Geoffrey Northcote encouraged the trend and was supported by large segments of both the mainly British business community as well as the Chinese community. There was even talk of the introduction of an income tax and closer cooperation with mainland authorities. However, World War II caused liberal plans to be shelved, and after the war the trend was revived but petered out after Sir Mark Young. Then the more conservative Sir Alexander Grantham ruled out political reforms and reversed liberal trends. A lively question and answer session rounded out this informative evening.

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## FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Saturday, 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Local Visit	<b>Visit to Sai Kung and Yim Tin Tsai (this trip is now fully booked)</b>
Friday, 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Lecture	<b>Who are the Thais?</b>
Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Lecture	<b>The Fictions of "Customary Law": Ancestral Property and the Hong Kong Legal Courts</b>
April 22nd – May 1st	Overseas Visit	<b>Sabah: The Land Below the Wind</b>

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**Central Library Lecture**

**Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> February**

**"Who are the Thais?"**

**Speaker:** Professor Laurent Sagart

**Time:** 6.30 p.m.

**Venue:** Hong Kong Central Library, Causeway Bay, Activity Room 1, G/F\*

**Cost:** The lecture is free and open to the public

**Booking:** No booking is required

\*Tin Hau MTR Station, Exit B, or Causeway Bay Station, Exit F

In this lecture Professor Sagart will examine the history of the Thai language family, spoken widely in parts of South-East China and North-West Vietnam, as well as in Thailand and Laos. The lecture will demonstrate that the Thai languages have a special relationship with a subset of the Austronesian family: Malayo-Polynesian, thought to originate on the East coast of Taiwan, c. 4000 years ago. It will be argued that the Thai language family was formed as a result of a migration by boat from east Taiwan to the area of the present-day China-Vietnam boundary, at about the same time as the Malayo-Polynesian migration. In the course of their history, the Thai peoples entered into intimate contact with the speakers of two other languages, borrowing large quantities of loanwords from them. The first of these was a now extinct language of the region, possibly with Vietnamese affinities; the second was Chinese.

Professor Laurent Sagart, of the University of Paris, is a linguistic historian, researching the history of languages and the people who speak them. He has concentrated on the languages of East Asia for many years, including the languages of the New Territories. This lecture will present a new and exciting view of the pre-history of East Asia, and will be of the greatest interest.

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**City Hall Lecture**

**Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March**

**The Fictions of "Customary Law": Ancestral Property and the Hong Kong Legal Courts**

**Speaker:** Professor Kentaro Matsubara  
**Time:** 6.15 p.m.  
**Venue:** \*Recital Hall, 8/F, City Hall High Block, Central  
**Cost:** The lecture is free and open to the public  
**Booking:** No booking is required

\*Note – this is the room next door to the Extension Activities Room, on the same floor.

"Ancestral Property" refers to property that is held in a Chinese lineage, where the "owner" is deemed to be either a (dead) ancestor or an ancestral hall. The practice has been extremely widespread, and in the New Territories one could find villages where everything - land, houses, graves, etc. - was owned in this way, consequently making all villagers tenants of a particular ancestor. While being a fascinating phenomenon, ancestral property has posed difficult problems for the legal courts, which have tried to integrate this institution into Hong Kong law.

This lecture looks at a series of legal cases concerning such property, and tries to reformulate the possibilities and difficulties that the practice entailed, as well as exploring the problems inherent in interpreting a peculiarly Chinese institution in terms of English law. Particular attention will be paid to the role of the notion of "Chinese Law and Custom", through which such traditional practices as these would be incorporated in the legal system.

Dr. Kentaro Matsubara, of the University of Tokyo, has been researching aspects of new Territories traditional land law for a number of years: the lecture will present a summary of his research.

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**Overseas Visit**

**22<sup>nd</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2005**

**Visit to Sabah: The Land Below the Wind**

A full and detailed itinerary follows below. This trip will be jointly organized and led by the Reverend Hans Lutz of the Basel Mission, whose experience of Sabah goes back to the late 1960s, and Council Member Jason Wordie, who has traveled extensively in Sabah on a number of occasions since 1986.

In Kota Kinabalu we will be based at the Hotel Jesselton, a conveniently located, comfortable old hotel in the town centre. It is hoped that on one evening we will meet for dinner with members of the Sabah Society, a scholarly organization established in 1960, which shares similar aims and objectives to the HKBRAS in relation to the study and appreciation of the history and culture of Sabah. The visit will take us to Kota Belud, Kudat, Kundasan, the Padas Gorge and Tenom, Sandakan, Sepilok, Gomantong and the Kinabatangan River.

Cost for what promises to be a very interesting and varied trip, including airfares, accommodation, all transport and most meals, will be **HK\$8900** per person for RAS Members, and **\$9500** for non-members. To guarantee a place it is necessary to pay a non-refundable deposit of \$1000 at this stage, and firm confirmation, accompanied by final payment, will be needed by February 14th. Numbers are limited to 25, so please make your booking as soon as possible. (Please use the booking form at the end of this newsletter.)

A more detailed itinerary, and a full reading list, will be provided to all confirmed participants in due course.

*N.B. It should be noted that while the risk of terrorist activity is not high, both the US State Department and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Offices have issued travel advisory warnings against Sabah for their nationals. It is felt that Members should be aware of this situation when making a decision on whether or not to travel to Sabah, as the Society cannot be held responsible for any consequences of the wider political situation.*

### **Proposed Itinerary**

#### **Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

Depart Hong Kong by Malaysian Airlines at 15:30hrs, and arrive at Kota Kinabalu 18:25hrs.  
Arrival and transfer to Hotel Jesselton.  
Evening at leisure.

#### **Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

In the morning we will have an orientation bus trip around Kota Kinabalu, which will include a visit to Bukit Bendera, (Flagstaff Hill) with views out over the town, and the theological seminary. Lunch will be in town followed by an afternoon guided tour through the Sabah Museum.  
Evening: Seafood dinner with local dances.

#### **Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> April**

Visit to Pulau Gaya, one of the offshore islands in the Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park.

#### **Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> April**

Depart Kota Kinabalu by coach for Kudat. Enroute we will stop in Kota Belud, an area mainly populated by the Bajau, a Muslim population living in Kota Belud.  
Lunch in Kota Belud (this will be a very simple Chinese meal).  
Continue to Kudat, a scenic small town at the northern tip of Sabah, where we will stay at Kudat Golf and Marina Resort.

Accompanied by Rev. Hans Lutz, we will visit the headquarters of the Protestant Church of Sabah (PCS) with a briefing on the history of the Kudat area and the local Kadazan population, the Rungus. We will also visit one of the old Chinese congregations of the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM). The congregation dates to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when the British North Borneo Company recruited Hakka migrants, many from Hong Kong, to settle in the area. Chinese dinner in Kudat with local specialties.

#### **Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April**

We will visit a Rungus village near Kudat, and learn something about the economy of the village, then have a simple local lunch offered by the parish, which will be followed by a program of local dances. Return to Kudat. Simple Chinese dinner.

**Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Leave Kudat by road for Kinabalu National Park.

Lunch in Kundasang, between National Park and Ranau, where, weather permitting, we will have views of Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in South East Asia.

Return to Kota Kinabalu. Evening at leisure.

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Leave for Sandakan by MH2042, arrival in Sandakan at 07:40hrs. On arrival we proceed to Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre in time for the Orang Utan feeding.

After Sepilok we will continue to Sandakan for an estimated 2 hours boat journey to Sukau Rainforest Lodge on the Kinabatangan River. Along the way we will have the opportunity to view birds and wildlife in virgin mangrove, wetland and rainforest habitats. After arrival and check-in we will take a late afternoon two-hour river cruise using electric motor in search of some of the 10 primate species, including the Proboscis monkey.

Return to Sukau Lodge for dinner and slide presentation by the guide

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

Depart Sukau Lodge after breakfast for road journey to Sandakan by way of Gomantong. This is one of the locations where birds' nests, the well-known Chinese delicacy, are gathered.

We will lunch at Sandakan and then have a city tour by bus, where we will visit a Kampong Ayer (stilted water village), the former home of well-known author Agnes Newton Keith House, and the Australian War Memorial.

Depart from Sandakan by MH2065 at 5:20 p.m. for Kota Kinabalu. Transfer to Hotel Jesselton.

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

After breakfast drive to Tanjong Aru station and board the train for Tenom. This scenic journey follows the coast for some distance, then proceeds through rice fields and rubber estates, and beyond the small town of Beaufort travels through the scenic Padas Gorge to Tenom. We will lunch in Tenom (simple Chinese food) and then return to Kota Kinabalu by bus.

**Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> May**

Early morning and breakfast at leisure. Departure by Malaysian Airlines from Kota Kinabalu at 11:40hrs, and arrival at Hong Kong 14:30hrs.

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**FROM OUR MEMBERS****World War II Hong Kong Poetry**

Some of you may recall a headline in the South China Morning Post last September, "War poems capture life in camps". The article told of a remarkable book of poems written in the POW camps of Argyle Street and Shamshuipo, Kowloon, during the Second World War by Frederick Percy Franklin. Born in England in 1890, he migrated to Australia in 1912, served in World War I in Belgium and France and came to Hong Kong in 1921. He was 51 when Hong Kong was invaded in 1941. A senior member of the staff of the SCMP, in 1940 he volunteered to join the Royal Engineers and was wounded during the Battle of Hong Kong in December 1941.

During his imprisonment, Mr. Franklin wrote poems showing a wonderful degree of feeling and sympathy. Forty two of the poems were published by his son, Douglas, and his daughters, Sylvia and Joan, in 2004. Mr. Franklin died in Hong Kong in 1955, days after retiring as Managing Director of the SCMP, and he is buried in Happy Valley cemetery. Not only does the book contain some lovely poems but also information of Mr. Franklin's fascinating family history, photographs and documents concerning his imprisonment. Douglas has sent a few copies of the book to our Council member, **Geoffrey Emerson**. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy can contact Geoffrey at [emerson@netvigator.com](mailto:emerson@netvigator.com) or 2550 4374.

### **RASHKB Library**

New RAS members may not be aware of what an excellent resource our library is. **Hon Librarian Julia Chan** writes:

The Library of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society is deposited on long-term loan to the Hong Kong Central Library in Causeway Bay. The collection comprises more than 5,000 titles of books, periodicals, pamphlets, photo albums, microforms, audiovisual materials, and CD-ROMs, covering oriental subjects and cultures of the Far East. It is located in the Special Collections of the Reference Library.

Like the Royal Asiatic Society in London and its other branches, from the outset the Hong Kong Branch established a library collection within its field of interest, and has added to it steadily over the years by purchase, gift and exchange. Some of the books provide eye-witness accounts of China over the past years. Many of these are rare and valuable items, available to the public only in this Library.

There are several contemporary works relating to Britain's first embassy to China in 1793-94 as well as some important books recounting the establishment of British Hong Kong in 1840-42. Several books came from other collections including the old Hong Kong Club, the South China Morning Post's pre-war library and from Madam du Breuil, a former resident of Peking who served briefly on our Council before her death in the 1960's. Other outstanding additions include five albums of F.A. Nixon containing photographs of his collection of Nestorian Crosses, over 400 volumes of the oriental library of the late of Mr. Arnold Graham, and a superb copy of a two-volume reproduction of a series of nineteenth century Chinese woodcuts from Shanghai.

Members of the Society are welcome to use the library collection. If you have any queries concerning the RAS collection please do not hesitate to contact Miss Julia Chan, the Hon. Librarian, at tel.: 2819 9286, and fax no. 2855 9343, or the Assistant Librarian in charge of the Hong Kong Central Library Reference Library.

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From Dan Waters, Immediate Past President:

### **MTR Roving Art: 100 Years of Architecture in Hong Kong Victoria City/ Tenement Houses/ Vernacular Architecture Exhibition at MTR Central Station**

**Organisers:** Hong Kong Institute of Architects and the MTR

**Supporting Organisations:** The Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch, HK Museum of History, Dept. of Architecture HK University, Department of Architecture Chinese University

**Sponsors:** Lord Wilson Heritage Trust

**Venue:** Central MTR Station, Tsuen Wan Line Hallway, paid area

As far as the RASHKB was concerned, this exhibition really commenced with a meeting which I attended in the summer of 2004 to discuss what contributions the RASHKB could make. This led up to a visit to see Mr Tim Ko, RAS Council member and keeper of the RAS photographs. In addition there are models and other photographs on display at the exhibition showing the development of Chinese tenement buildings over the years.

The RAS photographs on display at the exhibition were mostly taken during an RAS photographic shooting project carried out during the 1970s. A number of these photographs can also be seen in *Hong Kong Going and Gone*, an RASHKB 'best seller.' Since then, time has marched on and many of the buildings in the photographs no longer stand. *Hong Kong Going and Gone* is obtainable direct from the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch; call 2813 7500 or email [membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk).

One-hour **Cantonese** speaking tours of Central District are also being arranged in conjunction with this architectural exhibition and a limited number of places are available. Details may be obtained from Miss Vivian Sie (T) 2511 6323. The RASHKB conducted a similar architectural tour, in English, you will remember, around Central in June 2004.

In the past our Branch has staged a number of photographic exhibitions similar to the above. These included one in conjunction with the Government Antiquities and Monuments Office, others at Hong Kong University and the City University, and another on the Landmark overhead walkway in Central District.

Dan Waters  
Immediate Past President

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## **RASHKB VOLUNTEERS WANTED!**

The Executive Secretary of the Antiquities & Monuments Office, Dr. Louis Ng, has appealed to council for volunteers to help in vetting appraisals of recorded historic buildings. AMO have produced around 900 research/building survey files on selected historical buildings which they hope to make available to the public in late 2005/early 2006 in the Reference Library of the new Heritage Resource Centre in Kowloon Park. To ensure the files are of high quality and presentable to the public, the AMO have invited volunteers from the RAS with an interest in local history to review the historical appraisals and suggest suitable amendments or improvements.

These files are not just dull records of boring old buildings. They are about Hong Kong's history in the colonial and pre-colonial days, the people who lived here, their lives, their customs, their beliefs, the clan lineages, village life, the cyclical market systems, major historical events, and the reasons the buildings were built in the first place. Volunteers may opt to review files of buildings in the following categories (urban or rural): schools and educational institutions, churches, government buildings, military buildings, residential buildings, shop-houses, temples and ancestral halls, cemeteries, etc.

Volunteers may work at the AMO, or alternatively they may take hard copies of the files home to work on them. Each file takes about 15 to 25 minutes to read. Comments or suggestions can be made in red biro/felt pen on the hard copies and then returned to AMO. A small amount of honorarium might be payable to cover expenses. The RAS will be acknowledged as contributor, and this acknowledgement will be printed on the cover of all the files.

Council have initially agreed in principle to assist AMO in this joint venture. The RAS Buildings Volunteers group cannot undertake this task entirely by themselves and reinforcements are therefore needed. If you are interested please complete and fax the form attached to this Newsletter to our man at AMO, **Bob Horsnell**, who will arrange a preliminary meeting to give further details to prospective volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about Hong Kong's history, now is your chance.

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## **LOCAL EVENTS AND EXHIBITS**

For photography enthusiasts as well as historians, there are two more interesting exhibits coming up in February, in addition to the MTR Roving Art exhibit mentioned above.

### **“Early Hong Kong Tramways”**

To celebrate the recent centennial anniversary of the Hong Kong Tramways, the University Museum and Art Gallery, University of Hong Kong, will be holding two tram-related exhibitions. “Early Hong Kong Tramways” takes a look at urban development along the tramways since their construction in 1902. Over 70 photographs will take visitors on a tour of bygone eras along the tramways with photographs on loan from the collection of Mr. Cheng Po Hung, a specialist in Hong Kong history. A second, and concurrent, exhibition, “Hong Kong ‘Tramways: Photography by David Young, Ricky Poon and Ella Tam” features the works of three local photographers that capture scenes in the midst of crowded streets along the tramways. “Early Hong Kong Tramways” runs from 1 February to 4 April, and the modern exhibit, “Hong Kong Tramways” runs from 1 February to 13 March. The Museum’s hours are Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 6.00pm, Sundays 1.30pm to 5.30pm.

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### **John Thompson: Illustrations of China and its People 1873/1874**

Wattis Fine Art are pleased to announce this exhibit of two hundred photographs of John Thompson, the most important photographer working in China in the nineteenth century. Between 1862 and 1872 he traveled across China and Formosa recording people and places. Thompson himself said, “My design in the accompanying work is to present a series of pictures of China and its people, such as shall convey an accurate impression of the country I traversed as well as of the arts, usages, and manners which prevail in different provinces of the Empire.... Those familiar with the Chinese and their deeply-rooted superstitions will readily understand that the carrying out of my task involved both difficulty and danger ... The superstitious influences such as I have described, rendered me a frequent object of mistrust, and led to me being stoned and roughly handled on more than one occasion.”

The opening evening is on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February and the exhibit continues until Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**Venue:** Wattis Fine Art, 20 Hollywood Road, 2/F, Central. [www.wattis.com.hk](http://www.wattis.com.hk)

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### **“Politics and Porcelain in China”**

On Tuesday, February 1, the Oriental Ceramics Society is holding a joint lecture with the Friends of the Hong Kong Museum of Art. Rose Kerr, recently retired from the Victoria and Albert Museum where she was Keeper of the Far Eastern Department, will be speaking on “Politics and Porcelain in China” at the Hong Kong Museum of Art, Museum Lecture Hall, Basement, 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui. This lecture will focus on the political dimensions of the production of ceramics in China. Time is 6.30 to 8.00 pm, Members HK \$100, Non-Members \$150. Reservations may be made on line at [ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk](mailto:ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk), and for more details call 2527 0696.

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### **Department of Anthropology Friday Seminars, Chinese University of Hong Kong**

**Venue:** Room 401, Humanities Building, New Asia College, CUHK

**Time:** 12.30pm – 2.00pm

**18<sup>th</sup> February:** Ms. Lisa Harding, MPhil Candidate, Department of Anthropology: “In the Shadow of the Metropolis: Landscape, Ethnicity and Memory in the Transnational Village of Yung Shue Wan, Lamma Island.”

**11<sup>th</sup> March:** Ms. So Wan Suen, MPhil Candidate, Department of Anthropology, “Restaurants, Class and Consumption in Hong Kong – A Study of a City Block in East Tsim Sha Tsui.”

RAS members wishing to attend these seminars are welcome to take their lunch to eat during the talks.

On 17<sup>th</sup> February, the **English Speaking Union (ESU) Hong Kong** will conduct a heritage tour, led by Gillian Bickley to mark the anniversary of the arrival in Hong Kong of Dr. Frederick Stewart, the founder of Hong Kong Government education. The tour will start at The Centre, Queen's Road, and terminate at Stewart's tombstone in the Protestant Cemetery, Happy Valley. For more details about this walk and further information about the ESU, who are seeking members and volunteers, email [esuhk@netvigator.com](mailto:esuhk@netvigator.com), phone 2186 8449, or visit [www.esuhk.org](http://www.esuhk.org)

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#### **Exhibit at Museum of Coastal Defence**

To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Hong Kong Volunteers, the Museum of Coastal Defence is holding a special exhibit, "Serving Hong Kong: the Hong Kong Volunteers". The Hong Kong Regiment, also known as The Volunteers, was essentially a part-time volunteer force. Since its establishment in 1854, The Volunteers served the Hong Kong community continually until its disbandment in 1995. The Volunteers, at first temporary in nature, subsequently developed into a highly mobilized unit with advanced light weapons. Since the 1960s, the job nature of the Volunteers shifted from defence against foreign enemies to maintaining order at home and carrying out surveillance at the border. The Volunteers Association, jointly with the Museum of Coastal Defence, prepared this exhibition, which runs until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2005.

**Venue:** Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence, 175 Tung Hei Road, Shau Kei Way, Hong Kong  
**Opening Hours:** 10.00am to 5.00 pm daily. Closed on Thursdays (except public holidays) and the first two days of the Lunar New Year  
**Enquiries:** Tel 2569 1500

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### **OF GENERAL INTEREST**

**Ganesha Publishing** of Bristol, UK, have a selection of publications which may be of interest members. Look for Western Historical Sources on Asia at [www.ganesha-publishing.com](http://www.ganesha-publishing.com).

A conference, "**Asia in New Zealand**" will take place at The University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ, on 6-7 February, 2005. Sessions on the Chinese in New Zealand and also Chinese medicine are of particular interest. For further information: [www. http://www.otago.ac.nz/news/conferences](http://www.otago.ac.nz/news/conferences).

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### **OTHER SOCIETIES**

**The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland**, at 60 Queen's Gardens, London W2 3AF, has a busy lecture programme which may interest members visiting London. For further information email [info@royalasiaticsociety.org](mailto:info@royalasiaticsociety.org) or go to [www.royalasiaticsociety.org](http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org).

**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).