

# ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

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## HONG KONG BRANCH

皇家亞洲學會香港分會  
G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong



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NEWSLETTER

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**5<sup>th</sup> May 2005**

### **Council Members 2005-2006**

Mr. Robert Nield, President	Mr. Geoffrey Emerson, Member
Dr. Elizabeth Sinn, Vice-President	Mrs. Valery Garrett, Member
Mr. Peter Stuckey, Vice-President	Mrs. May Holdsworth, Member
Rev. Carl Smith, Hon. Vice-President	Mr. Robert Horsnell, Member
Mr. David McKellar, Hon. Secretary	Dr. Betty Wei, Member
Mr. Philip Stockton, Hon. Treasurer	Miss Josephine Wong, Member
Miss. Julia Chan, Hon. Librarian	Dr. Patrick Hase, Immediate. Past President
Mr. Jason Wordie, Hon. Activities Co-ordinator	Dr. Dan Waters, Past President
Dr. Peter Halliday, Hon. Editor of Journals	

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### **GREETINGS FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT**

It was with much trepidation that I accepted Pat Hase's suggestion that I stand for election as President of The Hong Kong Branch of The Royal Asiatic Society. I feel that it is going to be an extremely difficult act to follow, given the very significant contributions that have been made by my predecessor, and by all the other worthy Presidents who preceded him. Pat put an enormous amount of energy into his role as President, and should be very proud of his many achievements. He is widely regarded as one of Hong Kong's leading experts on the New Territories and its villages and customs. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have been on tours led by him will know what it is like to listen to him in full flow, readily imparting his vast knowledge. One of his greatest achievements, and the one which he says has given him most satisfaction, has been the launch of the RAS Hong Kong Studies Series, to be published in conjunction with Hong Kong University Press. I am happy to say that Pat remains on Council, and we hope he will continue to give us the enormous benefit of his knowledge, experience, enthusiasm and counsel.

For my part, I have been a member of the RAS for over 20 years, and on Council since 1988. I have served under four Presidents, and had the opportunity of learning from each of them. Whilst I do not have an academic background, I feel I can contribute to the continuing growth of our Society through experience gained from my earlier financial and administrative career positions.

Since retiring from PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2002, where I had been a partner for 17 years, I have been developing further the various interests that had been frustrated by pressure of work. In addition to my involvement in the RAS, I am Chairman of The Hong Kong Singers, and an executive director of both Opera Hong Kong and The Asian Youth Orchestra. When I can find time I write pieces about my travels, try to take better photographs and develop further my skills as a private pilot.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming months, and to receiving from you any suggestions you may have for the continuing development of this Society that we all love.

**Robert Nield, President 2005-2006**

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## **IMPORTANT NOTICE MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND SUBSCRIPTION INCREASES**

Before you go further into this newsletter, please stop to think whether you have paid your dues this year. Several members have not yet paid for 2005 and we don't want to have to delete you from the database. This will be the last newsletter for anyone who has not paid by 30<sup>th</sup> June.

As from 1<sup>st</sup> May the annual subscription rates changed as follows:

Individual	.....\$525 (\$475 by autopay)
Joint	.....\$750 (\$700 by autopay)
Student	.....\$50
Institutional	.....\$525 (\$475 by autopay)
Life	.....\$6,500 (autopay N/A)
Overseas	.....\$300 (\$250 by autopay)

A resolution was passed at the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2003 that this increase would take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004, but we postponed acting upon this in order to keep the dues low for as long as possible. Now, however, the increased time and cost of dealing with payments by cheque has necessitated this increase. We do hope that you will help us by switching to autopay. For your convenience, a Membership Renewal Form and Direct Debit ("autopay") form are on pages 15 and 16.

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## **RECENT LECTURES**

**Professor Laurent Sagart's** talk, "Who are the Thais?" on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February was a thorough-going account of detective work to determine the sources, influences and travelling route of the Thai language family.

Similarities in basic words indicate a common source. These are words such as I, you, one, two, three, body parts, natural objects, basic verbs like go, eat, die, and basic natural features like sun, sea and water. Similarity of higher cultural words without correspondence of basic words indicates loan words (as between Cantonese and English) without a common ancestor language.

Other signposts exist such as the link between Thai and Chinese languages sharing word forms of just one syllable, some structural characteristics such as no plural or tense differences and a subject-verb-object structure. A pattern of word mutation (e.g. shortening of higher numbers) can help track the migration route of the language, and, therefore, of the people. Add to this the archaeological evidences, for example, of millet and rice cultivation, and mix in some anthropological evidence, for example, of a strange habit of upper incisor tooth extraction, and Professor Sagart was able to postulate some remarkable conclusions. Probably farmers from Fujian migrated by boat to NW Taiwan, and then migrated around the coast of Taiwan about 4,000 years ago before migrating back to Guangxi and the Gulf of Tonkin.

The talk was enormously well researched and this brief summary cannot do justice to the technical detail Professor Sagart presented. Another example of his studies can be found in the RAS HKB Journal, Vol 22, 1982, pps. 142 to 160 concerning a Cantonese dialect in the New Territories.

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Not many people know much about New Territories land problems, but one who does know a great deal is **Professor Kentaro Matsubara**, a legal historian of the University of Tokyo, who has been studying the subject for more than seven years and has a PhD based upon a series of case studies on

ancestral property. On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2005, Professor Matsubara spoke to the Society at the City Hall about his current research, which he hopes to develop over his present sabbatical period in the University of Hong Kong. After listening to his talk, entitled, “The Fictions of ‘Customary Law’: Ancestral Property and the Hong Kong Legal Courts”, now many more people know something about this fascinating subject.

Professor Matsubara explained the background to the problems which have arisen, including the fact that the British colonial government decided to abide by Chinese customs when it came to New Territories village property. Thus “Ancestral Property”, i.e. property not held by an individual but in a Chinese lineage, with the owner being possibly a deceased ancestor or an ancestral hall, continued under the British government. These property holdings generated funds for a variety of purposes, including village welfare and the provision of ancestral rites. In the talk, these practices were set in the context of traditional Chinese family customs, where there was no individual property as we understand the term. Using three cases, decided in 1968, 1990 and 1998 respectively, Professor Matsubara showed how complicated things can get. A lively question and answer session concluded this interesting talk, during which Professor Matsubara explained that to help solve these cases experts such as Hugh Baker, David Faure and Anthony Siu, all names familiar to our Society, are often called in to help.

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On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2005, **Eric Peter Ho**, CBE, gave an interesting talk entitled “My Hong Kong” at the Hong Kong Jockey Club Racing Museum, about his career with the Hong Kong Government in the post-war years until his retirement in 1987. Born in Hong Kong, Mr. Ho was a student at St. Joseph’s College when the Japanese attacked in 1941. Surviving the occupation, he was awarded a Government scholarship to the University of Hong Kong on the results of the Matriculation Examination in 1946. He subsequently was selected for a training scholarship in Britain.

As was typical of Government officers, Mr. Ho served in a very wide variety of posts, starting as a Cadet Officer with the Secretariat for Chinese Affairs. He next worked in the Finance Branch of the Colonial Secretariat. One of the interesting stories he related concerned his being asked to count the Government’s stash of gold coins. In those days the import and export of gold was tightly controlled, and some of the Government’s coins had been seized from smugglers. Some of these coins had been hidden in treacle and as a result it was not easy counting those bags of sticky coins! Mr. Ho later served as Assistant Director of Fisheries, which involved him in the change of Hong Kong’s fishing fleet from old-fashioned junks to modern trawlers. Another project was the Plover Cove Reservoir, and later he became Secretary for Social Services, in particular Education. Among other things, he was involved in Baptist College’s struggle for Government recognition. Mr. Ho’s final years in Government involved his role as Secretary for Trade and Industry and Chairman of the Public Service Commission. He is now retired in England with his wife, whom he met while a student at the University of Hong Kong. His book, “*Times of Change: A Memoir of Hong Kong’s Governance 1950 – 1991*” was published earlier this year by Hong Kong University Press.

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On 16<sup>th</sup> April 2005, in the newly renovated City Hall Extension Activities Room, **Alex Hui Yat-chuen**, an architect and Curator (Education) with the University of Hong Kong Museum and Art Gallery, spoke about “Hong Kong’s Heritage: Central Police Station Compound”. Together with the Oriental Ceramics Society, more than 80 members and friends enjoyed this interesting talk, very well illustrated with a Powerpoint presentation using two computers so that often comparisons of two photographs could be shown. If enthusiasm is a large part of a successful talk, Alex’s enthusiasm for his subject made this a most enjoyable one.

One of Alex’s main objects was to show the relationship of Hong Kong’s Central Police Station Compound with the city. The Compound was really Hong Kong’s “Forbidden City”, (he very cleverly juxtaposed slides of the Compound with slides of the Forbidden City in Beijing). Within three city blocks, “in the middle of a cultural crossroad”, Chinese vernacular buildings, offices, warehouses, churches, Government House, villas and parks surround the Compound. Using slides of other well-known Hong Kong buildings, such as the Foreign Correspondents’ Club and King’s College, he showed how architects used the same principles in designing colonial buildings.

Also, he showed photos of 19<sup>th</sup> Century buildings in England and compared them with buildings in the Compound. Particularly interesting is the Magistracy Building with each of its four facades demonstrating a different function of the building, e.g. a grand façade with classic columns on its front to show authority, law and order to the public. Ending the talk with many interesting questions, Alex was asked what he would like to see happen to the Compound. His reply was that by becoming an art school, unlike a museum, it would be a vibrant site alive 24 hours a day. On 31st May, the public consultation period will end. And then?

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## **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

An exceptionally wide variety of activities have been scheduled for the coming weeks, only one of which is at the usual time on a Friday evening. So please be sure to note days and times carefully.

Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Lecture	<b>The Politics of Two Currencies: How Hong Kong followed China off the silver standard in 1935</b>
Saturday, 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Museum visit	<b>China – Dawn of a Golden Age, 200-750 AD</b>
Sunday, 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Lecture	<b>Sir Catchick Paul Chater’s Legacy to Hong Kong</b>
Saturday, 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Local visit	<b>University Hall and Bethanie</b>
Saturday, 18 <sup>th</sup> June	HK Film Archive	<b>Early sights of Guangdong, Macao &amp; Hong Kong, black and white silent films</b>
Wednesday, June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Seminar	<b>Impressions of the East: The Art of George Chinnery</b>
October 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	Japan trip	<b>Museum without Walls: Walk the Nakasendo Highway</b>

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### **Public Lecture**

**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **The Politics of Two Currencies: How Hong Kong followed China off the Silver Standard in 1935**

Was it the Japanese invasion of China or the selfish antics of the USA in the silver market in the 1930s that forced China to abandon the silver standard? How did Hong Kong reach its decision to follow this policy, and was it the right decision?

In this talk Tony Latter will explore the economic and political background, including the power struggle for global financial leadership between the United Kingdom and United States, the lurking influence of Japan on decisions that pertained to China, and the protracted and occasionally fractious consultations between London and Hong Kong on the future of the Hong Kong dollar.

Tony Latter is a visiting Professor at the University of Hong Kong. From 1982-85 he was Deputy Secretary for Monetary Affairs, and from 1999-2003 Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. In 2004 he completed a major research project on Hong Kong’s exchange rate regimes.

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### **Museum Visit**

**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **China – Dawn of a Golden Age 200 – 750 AD**

While much has been written on the art and culture of both the Han (221BC-AD206) and the Tang (618-907) dynasties, far less is known of the 400 years between those great periods of China’s history. A landmark exhibition recently held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York

threw remarkable light on this era. Now almost 300 exhibits from there are on display here at the Heritage Museum in Shatin.

The exhibition, entitled *From Eastern Han to High Tang: a Journey of Trans-culturation*, covers the time from the fall of the Han dynasty to the early part of the Tang, an age of war devastation and upheaval. At the end of the Han dynasty, the once unified empire was thrown into disarray as a number of political leaders emerged and the country remained divided for almost four centuries. Yet this did not hinder cultural development, and the arrival of non-Chinese people and the introduction of foreign religions and cultural artefacts brought change and creativity through artistic exchange.

The exhibition concentrates on these artefacts, called “odds and ends” by curator James C Y Watt, of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They were produced between the end of the Han dynasty and the early Tang, and it is these important archaeological discoveries that have made this exhibition possible. The exhibits show great diversity, from more mundane objects like bricks and coins, to sculpture, stele, jewellery, lamps, and models of camels, warriors, horses and their riders. Remarkably, given their transitory nature, there are textiles that cover the entire period of the exhibition. The objects were drawn from forty-six institutions throughout China, most of them excavated in the last forty years, and many never seen before outside China.

A curator and a docent from the Heritage Museum will give RAS members and their guests a guided tour of this important exhibition – an opportunity not to be missed. There is a sign-up sheet on page 14; please return this as soon as possible as time is short for this event.

**Date:** Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am – 12.00 noon

**Venue:** Please meet at front entrance of Hong Kong Heritage Museum, 1 Man Lam Rd., at 10.15am

**Transport:** Nearest KCR stations: Tai Wai or Che Kung. There is also a nearby carpark.

**Cost:** \$50 members, \$70 guests (numbers are limited).

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**Lecture for RAS Members and their guests**

**Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> May**

**“Sir Catchick Paul Chater’s legacies to Hong Kong and India”**

Sir Paul Chater, CMG, was born in Calcutta in 1846 and moved to Hong Kong in 1864. He advanced the cause of commerce creating and directing several famous and prosperous companies. He was a Legislative Councillor for 20 years and a strong advocate of acquiring the New Territories lease. Perhaps less well known to a Hong Kong audience are his legacies in India and to the Armenian Church and the speaker will give us an insight into these. He was a great public benefactor. He erected and presented to Hong Kong the first Anglican Church in Kowloon, known as St Andrew’s Church. We are fortunate to be able to meet in the Old Vicarage of that church; Sir Paul provided the funds for its construction.

Mrs. Sonia John is the Chairperson of the Armenian Church and the Honorary Manager of the Armenian College and Philanthropic Academy in Calcutta (Kolkata). She is the organizer of a “pilgrimage” to Hong Kong being conducted during the last week of May involving many of Sir Paul’s descendants and members of the Armenian Church to honour Sir Paul Chater.

**Speaker:** Mrs Sonia John

**Time:** 2:00 pm (The meeting will finish by 3:30 pm)

**Venue:** The Old Vicarage, St Andrew’s Church, 138 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

**Cost:** This lecture is free and open to Members of the RAS and their guests

**Booking:** No booking is required

**Two Historical 19<sup>th</sup> Century Buildings – Bethanie and University Hall**

Bethanie was built in 1875 by the Mission Etrangères de Paris (The French Mission), as a place for priests to rest and recover from tropical diseases. Opposite Bethanie was Douglas Castle (today, University Hall), built in 1861 by a Scottish merchant named Douglas Lapraik. He retired from Hong Kong in 1863 and the castle stood empty until the French Mission took it over in 1894, adding a chapel and religious touches such as stained glass windows. The French called it Nazareth. It became a printing centre for the French Mission, and today it is a hostel for University students.

Next to Bethanie are two cowsheds built by the Dairy Farm Company, which was founded in 1886. These structures and Bethanie will soon undergo dramatic restoration and transformation into the Academy for Performing Arts' School of Film and Television. The cowsheds will be converted into an exhibition area and a performing space. Nearly \$100 million is to be spent in the conversion, to be completed in 2006. We are fortunate in being able to see the area before the conversion. We hope to organize another visit after the conversion is completed next year.

To reach the meeting point, many buses can be used from Central, Wanchai and Admiralty including 7, 4, 40, 40M, 94, 37A and cross-harbour buses 970 and 973. Green minibus 22 from the Star Ferry is also a possibility. Taxis can drop you on the side road off Pokfulam Road leading to High West apartments. There is no parking for private cars in the immediate area (there is limited parking on Pokfulam Reservoir Road). The meeting point, the tennis courts, is approximately ¼ mile on the left beyond Queen Mary Hospital coming from Central, the third bus stop after the hospital will leave you near the tennis courts.

This may be a hot day so be sure to bring a bottle of water with you.

<b>Time:</b>	2:30 pm
<b>Place:</b>	Meet at the junction of Pokfulam Road and the road to University Hall & High West (142 Pokfulam Road), next to the University tennis courts
<b>Cost:</b>	\$50 for members, \$70 for guests
<b>Booking:</b>	Return the form on page 17 of this Newsletter (first come, first served)

**Early Sights of Guangdong, Macao & Hong Kong  
Black and White Silent Films**

We will see five films from the Hong Kong Film Archives taken from 1898 to 1940. These films were recently shown at the Hong Kong International Film Festival and quickly sold out, so we are arranging for a special showing for the Society.

The films include the following.

1. **The Edison Shorts** – 16 minutes, some of the earliest sights of Hong Kong, Macau and Guangzhou on film.
2. **Views of Hong Kong** – 8 minutes, 1930s, with sights of Central, Wanchai, Botanical Gardens, Repulse Bay and Taipo.
3. **A Page of History** – 34 minutes, Dr Sun Yat-sen's activities in Guangdong in early Republican days, campaign for the Northern Expedition and victory celebrations in Guangzhou after Sun's death.
4. **The Bombing of Canton** – 6 minutes, newsreel made by the Chinese government, showing the devastation after the Japanese bombing.
5. **Harbour of Hong Kong** – 30 minutes, 1939-40, showing sights of Hong Kong, lives of the working class, and a British military parade.

It is hoped that a member of the Hong Kong Film Archive will be available to answer questions after the showing.

**Date:** Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2005  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to approx. noon (arrive by 9:45, please)  
**Venue:** The Hong Kong Film Archive, Lai King Road  
(10 min walk, towards the harbour, from the Sai Wan Ho MTR Station, the stop just beyond Taikoo Shing, before Shaukiwan coming from Central)  
**Cost:** Members .....\$50  
Guests .....\$70  
**Booking:** There is a booking form on page 18. Please return this **asap** as there is a limit to the number of tickets available - first come, first served.

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**Seminar**

**Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Impressions of the East:  
The Art of George Chinnery Exhibition and Seminar**

Hong Kong Museum of History is going to stage an exhibition on the English artist, George Chinnery (1774-1852), to mark the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his voyage to the East. A selection of more than 180 Chinnery masterpieces in oils, water-colours and sketches will be featured in the exhibition.

George Chinnery was undoubtedly the most outstanding and influential European artist who came to the East in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Born in England, Chinnery commenced his journey to the East in 1802. He stayed in British India for over two decades, and arrived on the South China Coast in 1825. He spent half his life in the East and his last years in Macau. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Chinnery paid visits to Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macau from time to time, and produced a rich repertoire of artworks on a wide range of subjects with his signature style. At the time when photography had not yet come on the scene, his works served as both artistic appreciation and valuable historical visual documentation. His art also exemplified the "China Trade Paintings", an emerging genre in the 19<sup>th</sup> century art circle with many followers and a thriving business supported by the expatriate communities with wealthy patrons.

Details of the exhibition are as follows:

**Period:** 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 29<sup>th</sup> August 2005  
**Venue:** Special Exhibition Gallery, 1/F, Hong Kong Museum of History,  
100 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
**Admission:** No additional charge to the exhibition except the standard Museum  
Admission Fee of \$10  
**More Info:** <http://hk.history.museum> (with effect from mid-May 2005)

To accompany this exhibition, a one-day seminar on George Chinnery, his art and times, will be held on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2005, which everyone is welcome to attend. The seminar is jointly organized by the Hong Kong Museum and the **Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch**.

**Seminar on George Chinnery  
In Commemoration of the 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Arrival in South China  
Tentative Programme:**

9.00 – 9.15	Registration
9.15 – 9.30	Opening Addresses by representatives of LCSD and RAS
9.30 – 10.15	Dr. Patrick Conner (Martyn Gregory Gallery) on Chinnery's life and art and the making of the Chinnery exhibition
10.15 – 11.00	Mrs. Valery Garrett (RAS) on Guangzhou at the time of Chinnery
11.00 – 11.15	Tea Break

11.15 – 12.00	Dr. Jack Lee (HKU) on Chinnery's followers and influence, Lamqua in particular
12.00 – 12.45	Mr. Cesar Guillen (Macau Ricci Institute) on the historical context of Macau
12.45 – 2.30	Lunch Break
2.30 – 3.15	Mr. Alan H.K. Bradford on the conservation of China Trade Paintings
3.15 – 4.00	Mr. Geoffrey Bonsall (RAS) on Chinnery's shorthand ( <i>to be confirmed</i> )
4.00 – 4.15	Tea Break
4.15 – 5.15	Gallery Tour by Dr. Patrick Conner

**Date:** Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
**Time:** 9.00 – 5.15pm  
**Venue:** Hong Kong Museum of History  
 100 Chatham Road South  
 Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon  
**Admission:** Free. All are welcome  
**Contact:** Ms. Josephine Wong, Tel. 2724 9034

### Proposed Visit to Japan

October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

#### Expression of Interest Museum Without Walls: Japan's Nakasendo Highway and Kyoto

The Society is now asking for Expressions of Interest for this trip to Japan in October. The trip will be led by Dr Tom Stanley, who spoke about the Nakasendo Highway to the Society on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2005. (See the Newsletter 7<sup>th</sup> December 2004. Dr Stanley, Acting Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Hong Kong, has been taking visitors on visits along the Nakasendo highway for several years. The trip is timed to take place, hopefully, at the height of the beautiful autumn leaves.

The first four days will be spent along the highway, staying in Japanese inns (sharing rooms) and making walks each day. The walks will take us through villages full of artefacts and buildings from the early 1600s when the Nakasendo was one of the major transportation routes. We will visit temples, shrines, museums, shops, restaurants and historical sites.

(Luggage will not be carried by participants but will be transported by car. The walks are of moderate distance and time: the longest one is about 4 hours and 12 kilometres. In addition, we will be wandering around the villages in a leisurely manner. We will walk up and over two passes, but the time up is only 1½ hours at the most, although it is steadily and sometimes steeply uphill. We have, however, lots of time to finish the walks. If anyone does not feel up to a particular walk, a self-funded taxi is always possible.)

The last three nights will be spent in Kyoto, with visits to historical buildings and sites, and it is hoped that Dr Dick Irving, a Human and Historical Geographer living in Osaka, will be the Kyoto guide.

Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October – fly Cathay Pacific to Nagoya  
 Saturday to Wednesday – Along the Nakasendo  
 Wednesday – to Kyoto, staying in the New Kyoto Hotel (western style, single rooms available for an additional charge)  
 Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> October – fly Cathay Pacific from Osaka to Hong Kong  
 (to return at a later date, but before 7<sup>th</sup> November, there is a \$500 surcharge)

The cost, including flights, accommodation, ground transportation and most meals, is *expected* to be HK\$19,900 for members and HK\$20,900 for non-members. Returning the Form at the end of this Newsletter will entail no obligation, but should the trip be over-subscribed, preference will be given to those who return the Form. Final costs will be given and a non-refundable deposit will be asked for in the next Newsletter in July, and full payment will most likely be required in mid-August.

Please return the Form on page 18 of this Newsletter as soon as possible. If you have questions, you may email or telephone Geoffrey Emerson, Council Member, who is organising this trip. (emerson@netvigator.com, Tel. 2550 4374)

## ITINERARY

### **DAY 1- Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

**Synopsis:** Fly HK to Nagoya; train to Nakatsugawa, a former post-town on the Nakasendo; taxi to Shinchaya and check into an old, but refurbished inn.

Mainly a day of travel, but ending up at Shinchaya, a “village” of two houses at the very edge of Magome village. The modern novelist Shimazaki Toson came from Magome and Shinchaya, as well as Magome, features in his novel *Before the Dawn*. This 1930s novel dramatically changed the historians’ view of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Meiji Restoration from being a creature of the warrior class to something that all levels of society, especially the rural elites, played a strong role in. This view reduced the Restoration from being a dramatic move from a pre-modern system to a totally modern system in 20 or 30 years, to a process which extended back to 1600 or 1700 and evolved among all social classes over a period of 200 or 300 years instead. In front of our inn is a poem by the famous haiku poet, Basho, which was put into stone by Shimazaki’s grandfather.

### **DAY 2 – Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

**Synopsis:** Two kilometer morning walk to Magome post-town; tourist shops and museums; lunch in Magome; over Magome Pass and gently down to O-tsumago, about 3-4 hours. Evening bath at an indoor/outdoor hot spa.

Magome is a tourist town that lives on the memory of Shimazaki Toson. With beautiful views of Mt. Ena and the valley below, one can sample local delicacies (especially those that use buckwheat), browse the handicraft shops, or have a good cup of hand-made coffee in an old storehouse. After lunch, the walk over Magome Pass is steadily uphill for about an hour, passing through the lovely village called Toge (“The Pass”), and then down a lovely footpath to O-tsumago, a village of about 50 people. Along the way, we pass the waterfalls where the most famous swordsman in Japan in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century honed his skills on the darting swallows. The inn is a virtual museum and includes a relatively rare open hearth in the middle of the “great room” downstairs. In the evening, we will go by taxi to a hot spring at the top of the pass into the next valley: indoor bath, outdoor bath, jacuzzi, sauna and cold water plunge.

### **DAY 3 – Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> October**

**Synopsis:** Walk to Nagiso train station; mostly downhill, about 1½ hours. Train to Kiso-Fukushima and lodgings at a ryokan. Visit the grand local temple and the highway barrier station (for control of travellers).

Kiso-Fukushima was the only place in the entire valley where samurai resided and administered the highway over a stretch of 70 or 80 kilometers: villages like Magome were generally left to administer themselves and the local stretch of the highway by their own authority. Kiso-Fukushima was the check point: there was a barrier station which inspected every single traveller, arresting and questioning, harshly, anyone deemed to be suspicious. There is also a very large and grand Buddhist temple that is a must-see. The inn is more formal than most of our inns: dinner is formally served by waitresses. The baths are available 24 hours a day.

### **DAY 4 – Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October**

**Synopsis:** Train to Yabuhara and then walk over Torii-toge to Narai village for the night.

The hike over Torii Pass takes us steadily up for 1½ or 2 hours to a temple that combines Buddhist and Shinto elements and looks out on Mt. Ontake, a 3000+ meter active volcano that is the end point of pilgrimage by many. From the temple, it is a gentle level or downhill walk to Narai, the last of three splendidly preserved feudal period villages. The inn, and its food, are the best in the area. Narai also is part of a large area of exquisite lacquerware makers. Shops up and down the main street have pieces that range from a few hundred yen to hundreds of thousands of yen. Looking alone is worth the price of admission (free). Lunch can be had at Tokuri-ya which resides in an inn of some 175 years of operation.

### **DAY 5 – Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October**

**Synopsis:** Train and “bullet train” to Kyoto. Check into hotel and then out to Silver Pavilion and Philosophers’ Walk on the eastern side of Kyoto.

In Kyoto, we will stay in a Western-style hotel: comfortable with twin or single (at extra charge) rooms. After checking in, we will use the remainder of the day to strike out to the eastern side of the city which abounds with temples and inns. The Silver Pavilion and Philosophers’ Walk is to the north: we could also head to the southern end with Kiyomizu Temple, Sanjusangendo Temple and the Kyoto National Museum. Dinner at a restaurant.

### **DAY 6 – Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October**

**Synopsis:** Taxi to the western side of Kyoto to visit the Nishijin Kaikan (silk weaving and kimono show) and Aizen Kobo (small shop specializing in indigo dyeing), then see the Golden Pavilion, Ryoanji (Zen) temple, and on to the western side of Kyoto (Arashiyama area).

Nishijin Kaikan is in the middle of Kyoto and features demonstrations of the silk weaving, especially of obi (the belts women wear above their kimono); gorgeous brocades, lush with gold and silver. There is a regular kimono show. A few blocks away is Aizen Kobo, a traditional indigo dye crafthouse whose master has a world-class collection of indigo-dyed textiles from many nations. The sampling of products for purchase is stunning. Then, off by taxi to the western side of town to take in the famous temples there and, time permitting, the Arashiyama area on the far west side of town. Those who want, of course, can chart their own course for the day. We will meet back at the hotel for dinner.

#### **DAY 7 – Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> October**

**Synopsis:** Taxi to the eastern side of Kyoto to visit a selection of temples and shrines while walking south along the eastern foothills.

When Kyoto was built, the government sought to distance itself from the political influence of the Buddhist temples and Shinto Shrines by dictating that they could only be built outside the city walls (with a few exceptions). The result was that many large religious institutions are scattered in the low hills and are connected by quiet paths and suburban streets. Ginkakuji (the Silver Pavilion), Nanzenji, Chion-in, Yasaka Shrine and, well to the south, Kiyomizu and Sanjusangendo temples, near the Kyoto National Museum. Alternatively, some travellers may wish to visit other Kyoto attractions on their own.

#### **DAY 8 – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

**Synopsis:** Free time until departure for Osaka's Kansai International Airport and return to Hong Kong.

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## **OTHER LOCAL EVENTS**

The Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong is pleased to host a lecture by Mr Stephen Selby on “China's Ancient Culture through Bronze Age Weapons”. Stephen Selby is well known to members for his research in the field of Chinese archery and as an honorary adviser to the Hong Kong Museum of History. The lecture will be held on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, and participants will also have the opportunity to view and discuss several antique weapons. The number of participants is limited to 30 and the cost for non-members is \$100. If you are interested please contact the OCS on [ocs@orientalceramics.org](mailto:ocs@orientalceramics.org) or leave a voice message at the OCS on 2527 0696.

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## **CALL FOR PAPERS FOR INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM**

### **HISTORY AND MEMORY:**

#### **Present Reflections on the Past to Build our Future**

An International Symposium organised by the  
Macau Ricci Institute, December 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> 2005

History and memory are tightly connected: both deal with the past, and one cannot exist without the other. Without the lineaments of memory—whether writings, works of art, oral accounts or physical sites—history would have nothing to relate. Without the narrative of history, memory would be utterly fragmented and liable to vanish with the passing of its initial and unique bearer. Memories are constitutive of being, human and social, and history allows memory to nurture the present and build the future.

The connection between history and memory is, of course, open to debate. Some argue that these two ideas are made of a very different fabric, memory being borne by living societies founded in its name, whereas history is always reconstructed, and so problematic and incomplete, of what is no longer. Others see history as a special case of social and cultural memory.

Our contemporary era has again been full of “sound and fury”. Empires have been replaced by nation-states, all places on the earth have been discovered, all cultures and civilisations have been put in contact, and yet we have witnessed in the twentieth century some of the greatest tragedies in the history of mankind. Living in a modern world scarred by these terrible man-made disasters, and on a planet where the escape routes have almost all disappeared, suggests that global communication has yet to translate into global understanding. It is our belief that the manufacturing of *historical consciousness*, what “history and memory” is all about, has thus become a need—

witness the trend for commemoration and celebration of all sorts and in all guises—and an imperative.

Macau has been a place for true and uninterrupted encounter between the West and China for the past 450 years, and, as such, is a “place of memory” where remnants of history can still be found everywhere. We are therefore confident that this symposium will serve as a bridge between cultures, historical paths and schools of thought, bringing in elements of comparison between China and the rest of the world not only to illustrate differences but also to uncover elements of commonality and narrative of shared experiences.

**The main axes of this symposium will be:**

- I. The liaisons between History and Memory: Epistemological issues;
- II. Questions of method: On the sources of History and towards an interdisciplinary approach;
- III. Selecting and constructing memories;
- IV. Teaching history and preserving memory;
- V. The “duty of Memory”: For whom and to what end?

All paper proposals should be relevant to these five axes. Moreover, to ensure the richness and diversity of these presentations and discussions, at least half of the papers will be by invitation. All fields of the humanities are welcome, and participants shall be comprised of academics as well as “actors of history”.

**Proposal / CV / Abstract Submission:**

May 31<sup>st</sup> 2005 \*\*

**Final Abstract:**

July 31<sup>st</sup> 2005

**Final Paper:**

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2005

**Dates of the Symposium:**

December 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005

**Organising Institution:**

Macau Ricci Institute

**Venue:**

Inspiration Bldg, Inst. Tourism Studies, Macau

**Registration Deadline:**

November 14<sup>th</sup> 2005

**\*\* Proposal Form**

Contact the Ricci Institute by phone at (853) 532 536, by fax at (853) 568 274, or download the Proposal Form from the website [www.riccimac.org](http://www.riccimac.org)

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## PROFILES and PEOPLE

There are now around 500 members in the Society in Hong Kong (and another 130 overseas) and it is increasingly hard, especially for new members, to get to know each other. From now on the newsletter will have short profiles of Council, and ‘regular’, members. These will be either first-person contributions or in official ‘bio’ form. This will add a personal touch to those names without faces and, hopefully, encourage interaction between members with similar interests. Robert Nield has already addressed everyone, and we start off the Profiles section this month with our Immediate Past President, a new Vice-President and the convener of ‘The Volunteers’.

**Dr. Patrick H. Hase, Immediate Past President**

Dr. Hase is English, and came to Hong Kong in 1972 to join the Hong Kong Government as an Administrative Officer, after taking his PhD at Cambridge. He took early retirement in 1996. Among other posts he was City District Officer, Shamshuipo, District Officer, Sha Tin, and Deputy Director of the Urban Services Department. He joined Council in 1982 and, after acting as Hon. Editor for some years, became President (2001-2005). He has researched especially New Territories History and Society. Current interests are in the History of Salt-making and the Salt-trade in the Hong Kong area, the Traditional Land Law of Hong Kong, and in the Developmental History of the New Territories Market towns, among other topics. He is an Hon. Research Fellow of the Centre of Asian Studies, Hong Kong University, and an Hon. Advisor to the Museums Service, LCSD, and to the Zhong-ying Street Historical Museum, Shataukok. He is married with four children.

### **Mr. Peter Stuckey, Vice-President**

"The first entry concerning the Royal Asiatic Society in my diary appears on 12 December 1995. That evening, by a happy chance, I met Mrs Valery Garrett and she introduced me to the Society, thereby opening the door for me to a treasure house of opportunities and experiences. How grateful I am for that introduction! I had already been in Hong Kong 18 years. I first came in 1977 on a contract with my employer, Binnie and Partners, working on Landslide Preventive Measures. My career work, until retirement, has been as a consulting civil engineer, particularly as a water engineer. I had already worked in Britain and Peru before coming here and have also worked in Egypt and Malaysia for a few years since I became based in Hong Kong. I soon found the immense variety and quality of the RAS lectures, local visits and overseas visits fascinating. I joined the Activities Committee whereby I could be more involved. In 2000 the membership kindly voted me on to the Council where I was glad to serve as Hon Sec for about three years. Through the Society I have been introduced to many of the most interesting and worthwhile people in Hong Kong and to some of the important cultural and heritage issues in the region. I hope to be able to share and extend these great benefits through further involvement as a Vice President."

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### **Mr. Robert Horsnell, Council Member & Convener of 'The Volunteers'**

Bob Horsnell is a Chartered Building Surveyor from the UK who has been a member of the RASHKB for over 12 years and has served on Council for about half that time. He is also convener of "The Volunteers", a group of members formed in 1992 to assist the antiquities and Monuments Office in the recording of historical buildings in Hong Kong.

Bob came to Hong Kong in 1971 to join the Public Works Department as a maintenance surveyor. He retired from government service in 2001 and is now self-employed as historic buildings consultant. He is married to Cathy and they have three grown-up daughters, all born and educated in Hong Kong, but now pursuing careers in the UK.

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### **Changes to Council**

Those Members who were not at the Annual General Meeting may be unaware that the Society is losing a number of long-standing Members of Council, to our great loss and sorrow. Following below is what the President, Dr. Patrick Hase, had to say on these changes.

"This year sees a large number of changes on Council. Dr Joseph Ting joined Council in 1990, and, in his fifteen years on Council has given a huge amount to the Society, especially in the many tours he has led, and the many visits he has arranged to exhibitions in the Museum of History and the Museum of Art. His presence on Council has enabled the Society to keep the closest possible contacts with the Museum of History, which has been a factor of the greatest importance to us. Joseph is now extremely busy with the establishment of the Sun Yat-Sen Museum, and feels he cannot give as much time to the Society as he would wish, and thus is stepping down. I am glad to say, however, that we will be keeping our contacts with the Museum of History, since Josephine Wong of the Museum will continue to serve as a Councillor. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing Joseph and his new Museum every possible success.

"Tim Ko joined Council in 1998, and has given us seven years of his time. His presence has been invaluable. His assistance with the Society's Photograph Library has been massive, and the tours he has led or assisted in have been of major importance to us. Above all, perhaps, he has allowed the Council to hear the voice of a young local scholar. Unfortunately, and despite all attempts to induce him to change his mind, he feels he has to step down as he has found the Society taking up too much of his time. His departure will be another very great loss.

"Dr Janet Scott joined Council in 1999. She acted as Hon. Activities Co-ordinator for several years, to our very great advantage. Unfortunately, she is retiring from the Baptist University, and returning to Boston, and so has been forced to retire from Council. Her presence will be missed: we wish her the greatest happiness in her retirement."

### **New Honorary Fellow**

Those Members who were not at the Annual General Meeting may be unaware that the Society elected Dr Anthony Siu as a new Honorary Fellow then. Attached below is what the President, Dr Patrick Hase, had to say on this occasion:

“One of the duties of the Society is to recognise outstanding services to the study of Hong Kong and its history and society by the award of Fellowships of the Society to scholars and others who, in the opinion of the Council, should be given such public recognition. Dr Anthony Siu Kwok-kin is one such outstanding scholar. A student of Luo Hsiang-lin, he took over from him the deep study of the Chinese sources for the history of this area, and has made himself the master of them. No-one alive has a greater, more encyclopedic knowledge of these sources, indeed. He has researched the pre-British and traditional history of Hong Kong and its region for thirty years, and is, without any question the foremost scholar of the area writing in Chinese today.

I know that I personally am greatly indebted to Anthony, and use his work continuously. Anthony sat on Council for some years, but felt he had to resign eventually because Council always met on days when he had to teach in the evenings, so making it difficult for him to attend. He has, however, whether sitting on Council or not, always been a supporter of the Society and its work. Perhaps, now he is approaching retirement, he can be persuaded to sit on Council again! It gives me the very greatest pleasure to announce Council's unanimous decision to offer Dr Siu an Honorary Fellowship of the Society, and Dr Siu's acceptance of this offer. I look forward to many years of further co-operation between the Society and Dr Siu.”

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### **Departed Friends of RASHKB**

The last trumpet call has recently sounded for two more of our long-time members and it is appropriate here to review briefly the full and active lives they led and the contributions they made to the community.

#### **The Late Professor Emeritus Tony Reynolds**

Tony graduated from Cambridge University as an Industrial engineer and taught in Hong Kong University in the 1960s and 1970s. I met him there. He was no stranger to this part of the world as he had served during World War II in China with the humanitarian Friends' Ambulance Unit, a Quaker non-combatant organisation. Tony Reynolds led the first allied convey over the 'Hump' (the Himalayas) carrying medical and humanitarian supplies to the Eighth Route Army led by Mao Tse Tung in Yenan in 1941.

Tony, in fact, gave a lecture to the RAS at the Hong Kong Club about his experiences in China during the War. It must have been around 1970 and was illustrated with slides. He was quite extrovert in his way and he came across very well. His memory stays with me.

The last time I saw him would have been about 1981 at the Centre of Asian Studies. Tony was a gentle, kind person and the world is a better place for his having passed through it.

#### **The Late Peter Alan Lee Vine OBE, LL.D (Hon), VRD, JP**

Some of our members only seem to attend a certain kind of function. For Mr and Mrs Vine it was the RAS AGM. I looked for them at the HK Club on the occasion of the 2005 AGM but they were not there. Peter had not enjoyed good health for some time. He was 83.

The first time he came to Hong Kong was, at the age of 24, at the end of the Second World War. He was a lawyer. He in fact wrote a piece for our Journal titled 'Experiences as a War Crimes Prosecutor in Hong Kong' (JHKBRAS, Vol. 35, p.205). I invited him to speak to our Branch a few years ago but he told me he did not think his health was up to it. Having lived in Hong Kong for the best part of sixty years I know he had many a good yarn to spin. I had heard him talk informally on various occasions.

Peter, as a leading lawyer, had been a director of some Hong Kong companies for three and even four decades.

Both Tony Reynolds and Peter Vine will be greatly missed. In their own way they made major contributions to Hong Kong. May they both rest in peace.

Dan Waters, Past President

**This activity is open to Members and Members' guests.  
\$50 for members and \$70 for guests.**

I/we are interested in attending these films. I will come with .... Guests. (Total number of tickets is .....@\$50 and .....@\$70.)

Name\* ..... Membership No. ....

Tel (day) ..... (evening) ..... (mobile) .....

Email (please print clearly) .....

Fax .....

Please include a cheque made out to the **Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch**, (*please do not abbreviate*) and post it to Mr G C Emerson at GPO Box 3605, Hong Kong.

Inquiries – call Geoffrey Emerson at 2550 4374 or email: emerson@netvigator.com

If you do not hear from us, you may assume your order is accepted. Just go to the Archive on 18<sup>th</sup> June at 9:45 a.m.

\* Please write below the names of other members and/or guests you are paying for.

**Expression of Interest**

I am interested in taking part in this proposed trip. I would probably come with ..... guests.

Name\* .....Membership No. ....

Address .....

.....

Tel (day)..... (evening) ..... Mobile .....

Fax ..... Email (Please print clearly) .....

I understand that filling out this form is entirely without commitment at this stage and that commitment to the trip will not be needed until the next Newsletter.

Signature: .....

Please return this form to: Mr G C Emerson, GPO Box 3605, Hong Kong, or by Fax to Mrs Jennifer Day, 2813 7500, or by Email to emerson@netvigator.com. Please return the form by 20<sup>th</sup> May 2005. Inquiries: Geoffrey Emerson, 2550 4374.

\*If more than one person, please list the other names below, noting any non-members of the RAS.