

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, HONG KONG BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

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20th July 2005

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RECENT LECTURES

On 29th April, **Drs. Gillian and Verner Bickley** spoke to the Society in the City Hall about Hong Kong society as revealed through a study of newspaper reports of the court cases of the Honourable Frederick Stewart, MA, LL.D. The talk was entitled "Stories from a Magistrate's Court in 19th Century Hong Kong". Long-time members and Life Members of the Society, the Bickleys have previously spoken about the life of Frederick Stewart and his main life's work in education in Hong Kong. In 1997, Dr. Gillian Bickley's *The Golden Needle: The Biography of Frederick Stewart (1836-1889)* was published by the David C. Lam Institute for East West Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University. *A Magistrate's Court in 19th Century Hong Kong: Court in Time*, published in May this year and edited by Gillian, has interesting contributions from fellow RAS members Verner Bickley, Christopher Coghlan and Geoffrey Roper and by journalism professor Tim Hamlett and current member of the judiciary, Garry Tallentire, with a historical overview by former Chief Justice of Hong Kong, Sir T. L. Yang.

Well-illustrated with PowerPoint slides, the Bickleys' interesting talk highlighted a few of the 700 cases Dr. Stewart heard. Though he had an LL.D degree from Aberdeen University, Scotland, it was an honorary degree and he was not legally trained. However, in the 19th Century, it was common to appoint experienced people respected in the community to act as magistrates. In Dr. Stewart's case, he was especially welcomed because he not only spoke Cantonese but also was highly respected by the Chinese as well as by the non-Chinese. A number of interesting cases were cited, such as that of a group of British soldiers charged with assaulting some leading members of the Parsee community on Kennedy Road. Finding that there was not enough evidence, Dr. Stewart dismissed the case. In another case, a 14-year-old youth stole a silver bangle from a child. Dr. Stewart fined the youth 50 cents, which was given to the child, and sentenced the thief to three days

in prison, two days of them in solitary confinement. In answer to a question about Triads, Dr. Bickley told an interesting story of a triad leader, accused of demanding money with menaces, who put up the large sum of \$2000 as bail, promptly disappeared into China and died of wounds suffered while resisting arrest by Ching government soldiers!

On 13th May, in the City Hall, **Tony Latter** gave an interesting talk to the Society entitled “The Politics of Two Currencies: How Hong Kong followed China off the Silver Standard in 1935”. Tony was Deputy Secretary for Monetary Affairs from 1982 to 1985 and Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority from 1999 to 2003. First giving some of the historical background, Tony explained that British colonies typically used the metropolitan currency or were tied to it by a currency board. Hong Kong was the odd man out; the HK dollar was fixed, but to silver not sterling, a consequence of Hong Kong’s strong links with China. By the late 1920s, only Hong Kong and China were on a silver standard; the rest of the world was on gold. From 1925 to 1932, the world price of silver fell 60%. The United States agitated for higher silver prices, pressured by politicians from seven silver-producing American states including Nevada. From 1932 to 1935, the price rose threefold, and this had devastating consequences for China.

In 1935, China abandoned silver and Hong Kong banned the export of silver. A currency expert, Norman Young, was sent to Hong Kong from the UK but his visit led to indecision once he arrived and talked with business people. Throughout the 1930s, just as today, the business lobby in Hong Kong was strong and had a “steady as she goes, old chap” attitude. Tony said he felt the business lobby is sometimes given too much weight for its ideas, but noted that currency bankers are the most conservative people. A number of questions followed the talk, including one about a floating exchange rate and whether it should be used. Tony’s reply was that no one has demonstrated that Hong Kong would be better off with a floating rate.

On Friday 20th May, about a dozen Members joined Members of the Oriental Ceramics Society and the Friends of the Hong Kong Museum of Art at a fascinating and exciting talk on Bön, the ancient religion of Tibet, given by **Dr. Christoph Baumer** at the Hong Kong Museum of Art.

Dr. Baumer started his talk by discussing what is known of Bön in the years before the coming of Buddhism to Tibet: although not much is known, what can be discovered of the religion then – Creator Goddesses, Divinities of the great Powers of Nature, the perpetual and ever-new conflict between Light and Darkness, and the practice of blood-sacrifice (including human sacrifice) – was thoroughly and clearly clarified for those present. Then Dr. Baumer discussed the history of Bön in the years from the coming of Buddhism to the present day; the wholesale adoption of certain Buddhist practices, the abandonment of blood-sacrifice and the great fifteenth-century reforms of the religion, followed by the marginalisation of the religion after the Fifth Dalai Lama had it eradicated at spear-point from Western Tibet and almost eradicated from Central Tibet in the seventeenth century, so that today it survives mostly in Eastern Tibet, where it remains quite strong, despite appalling damage to Bön sites during the Cultural Revolution.

Dr. Baumer ended his talk by describing the remaining Bön strongholds today, and the hopes for re-birth of the present head of the religion, who lives today in exile in Northern India. Throughout, the talk was illustrated by a series of magnificent slides of Bön art and architecture (including some of the oldest surviving Bön murals, dating from the fifteenth century) and Tibetan scenery. After a number of useful questions (the most important, perhaps, being the answer as to why Bön was able to survive in Eastern Tibet: in that area the influence of the Dalai Lama was less than in Western or Central Tibet), the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m., after a most illuminating and valuable evening.

On 14th May a small group visited the Hong Kong Heritage Museum at Shatin to see the exhibition “**China – Dawn of a Golden Age 200-750AD; From Eastern Han to High Tang**”. This very detailed, well-curated exhibition showcased the growth of international contacts along the Silk Road in the centuries that led up to the main flowing of cosmopolitan contact in the sixth and seventh centuries A.D.

Informatively led by two curators from the Heritage Museum, the group explored the various exhibits which included Greek, Persian and Near Eastern artifacts that had been discovered in Western China. An interesting and enjoyable morning out was enjoyed by those who signed up to attend this visit. It is hoped to organize other similar visits in the coming months.

On Sunday 29th May, **Mrs. Sonia John**, Chairperson of the Armenian Church, Kolkota (Calcutta), addressed the Society on “The Legacies of Sir Paul Chater to Hong Kong and India”. She gave the talk to a near full house in the Old Vicarage at St Andrew’s Church, Kowloon. This was very fitting as Sir Paul had given the funds not only for the building of the Church and Church Hall but also, in 1909, for the Old Vicarage.

She described how Sir Paul had been born in Kolkota of Armenian parents in 1846, was orphaned, educated at La Martiniere School in Kolkota and then emigrated to Hong Kong in 1864.

He worked initially for the Bank of Hindustan and soon opened an Exchange and Bullion Company with H.N. Mody as partner. He was instrumental in setting up numerous companies including the Hong Kong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Hongkong Land, the Dairy Farm Co. and Hong Kong Electric Co. He had interests in ferry services, the Peak tram and the Praya East Reclamation. He became Chairman of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, an Unofficial Member of Legco and Exco and a prominent Freemason.

He built Marble Hall and by his will donated it to the Hong Kong Government upon the death of his wife in 1935. He also bequeathed the Chater Collection of porcelain, books and paintings and his Bizen ware (pottery) collection to the Government.

In India he gave generously to his old school saving it from closure and establishing it as the prestigious school it remains today. The residue of his estate he gave to the Armenian Holy Church of Nazareth who, in turn, fund the Armenian College for schooling Armenian children in Kolkota.

The talk was one of the activities arranged in connection with a “pilgrimage” by the descendants of the Chater family and the Armenian Holy Church of Nazareth, Kolkota at the end of May 2005 to honour the memory of Sir Paul.

On the afternoon of 5th June, a most interesting visit was made to two 19th-century buildings in Pokfulam: **University Hall (Douglas Castle in its previous incarnation) and Bethanie.**

Albert Chau, Warden and Dean of Student Affairs, and David Cheung, Hall Steward, welcomed the large RAS group. They detailed six students living in University Hall to show members round the common rooms and the dining hall, which was built as a chapel by the Mission Etrangères de Paris or the French Mission, when it took over the castle in 1894. The students pointed out two of University Hall's so-called ‘treasures’ — its cast-iron ‘golden’ spiral staircase, manufactured in France; and a pair of strange composite animal sculptures guarding its entrance. In 1894 the French Mission moved into the then empty castle to run a printing press there.

Bethanie, built in 1875 at the instigation of Father Pierre Marie Ozouf, was used as a sanatorium: priests serving in Asia and especially China, who often fell prey to tropical diseases, would recuperate in its airy wards. An inscription, still visible over the main porch, makes Bethanie’s purpose clear: ‘Domine, ecce quem amas infirmatur’ (‘Lord, behold, he whom you love is sick’).

Three members of staff from the Academy of Performing Arts — Philip Soden, Associate Director of Operations, Rosa Velasco and Kathleen Ng — led the tour through Bethanie’s wine cellars, the neo-Gothic-style chapel and the flat roof. The tour ended at the cowsheds nearby. These were established by the Dairy Farm Company in 1886 to provide milk and dairy products for the growing European population of Hong Kong. Work will start shortly to restore the cowsheds and Bethanie and turn them into the Academy's School of Film and Television.

Architects' impressions of the converted spaces show, among other uses, a multi-purpose function room on Bethanie’s top floor, which on a fine day will be flooded with natural light filtered through its glass walls and a pitched glass roof. The octagonal cowsheds will incorporate an exhibition area and a performance venue with some 150 seats — a perfect little concert hall for chamber music, as one of the RAS group remarked.

On Saturday, 18th June, 83 members and guests chose to forego a slow start to the weekend and arrived promptly at 10.00am at the Hong Kong Film Archive in Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong, for a special viewing of five old black and white films of Hong Kong, Macao and Canton.

The programme, **“Early Sights of Guangdong and Hong Kong”** comprised *The Edison Shorts*, brief clips made by the crew of the Edison Company and each less than a minute long, of Guangzhou, Macao and Hong Kong; *Views of Hong Kong* (1930) with sights of Central, Wanchai, the Botanical Gardens, Repulse Bay and Tai Po; *A Page of History* (recording Dr. Sun Yat-sen’s activities in Guangdong in early Republican days; *The Bombing of Canton*, newsreel made by the Chinese government showing the devastation after the Japanese bombing; and *Harbour of Hong Kong* (1930-40) made by the British just prior to the Japanese invasion.

Some images were indistinct but all vividly conveyed a past life. In Hong Kong: sampans jostling in the harbour; coolies scurrying along with a lofty Western personage in his sedan chair, alighting without a backward glance; hungry children eating intently; the poor turning over piles of garbage on the ground; long-lost magnificent colonial buildings; streets empty of cars, trams or taxis; and above them all, the rocky and treeless Victoria Peak. We have all seen these glimpses of the past in books and posters but to view them as a living part of everyday life with moving characters made for especially poignant viewing, particularly with the accompaniment of (to a western ear) soulful Chinese music.

After the show, which lasted 90 minutes, Mable Ho, the Acquisitions Manager, gave an overview of the Hong Kong Film Archive and answered questions. The Film Archive has over 2,000 films that they have repaired and restored. These have come from around the world, some even picked up from the streets of San Francisco where they had been discarded. The Film Archive welcomes donations of old films that may yet turn up in old storage chests and attics.

On 22nd June 2005, at the Hong Kong Museum of History in Tsim Sha Tsui East, **an all-day seminar** was jointly organized by our Society, the Museums of History and of Art, and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. The Seminar was held the day after the opening in the Museum of History of the exhibition of Chinnery’s work, “Images of the East: the Art of George Chinnery”.

Six specialists spoke at the Seminar about various aspects of Chinnery’s works. They were Dr. Patrick Conner, author of the definitive book *George Chinnery 1774-1852: Artist of India and the China Coast*, 1993; Mr. Alan Bradford, a leading restorer of Chinnery’s paintings; Mr. Jack Lee, of the University of Hong Kong, who spoke about Lamqua, the Cantonese artist who, according to Patrick Conner, “absorbed Chinnery’s style with remarkable skill”. The three other speakers were all members of our Society: Ms. Valery Garrett, who spoke about Canton in Chinnery’s Day; Mr. Cesar Guillen from Macau, whose talk, “A Possible Source for Chinnery’s Street Scenes”, suggested the possible influence of the Spanish painter Murillo on Chinnery; and Mr. Geoffrey Bonsall, whose talk “Encountering Chinnery and His Use of Shorthand” will be presented again for the Society on 19th August, as described elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Lunch after the morning session was enjoyed at a nearby Chinese restaurant and, following the afternoon session, the Seminar ended with an excellent tour of the exhibition led by Patrick Conner. Over 180 of Chinnery’s masterpieces, mainly on loan from HSBC, The Peabody Essex Museum and individual collectors, are on display; a very rare opportunity to view so many in one place.

The excellent 223-page catalogue of the exhibition, designed and sponsored by HSBC, and fully illustrated in colour, together with articles by Patrick Conner and Geoffrey Bonsall, is on sale at the Museum bookshop.

Members are reminded that the exhibition will end on 29th August, and that the Museum of History is closed on Tuesdays.

Members might also enjoy the current exhibition at the Museum of Art, “French Visions of China”; forty works of art to illustrate the cultural exchanges between France and China over the last three centuries. This exhibition will end 30th October 2005. Please note that the Museum of Art, next to the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui, is closed on Thursdays.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Friday, 19 th August	City Hall Lecture	Encountering George Chinnery and his use of Shorthand
Friday, 26 th August	City Hall Lecture	The Butcher of Amritsar's Chinese Roots: Brigadier-General Dyer and Revolution in Hong Kong, 1912-14
Friday, 9 th September	City Hall Lecture	Hedda Morrison's Hong Kong, 1946-47
Saturday, 10 th September	Local Visit	Hedda Morrison's Photographs: Hong Kong Museum and Art Gallery
Friday, 16 th September	City Hall Lecture	A Year of Living Dangerously: South China Missionaries and the Revolution, 1911-12
22 nd – 29 th October	Japan trip	Museum without Walls: Walk the Nakasendo Highway
April 2006	Proposed Tibet trip	

City Hall Lecture **Friday, 19th August**
Encountering George Chinnery and his use of Shorthand

Fortunate were those who were able to attend the Chinnery Seminar on June 22nd, jointly sponsored by the RAS and following the opening the previous day of the Exhibition, "Images of the East: the Art of George Chinnery", at the Museum of History in Tsim Sha Tsui, commemorating the 180th anniversary of Chinnery's arrival in South China.

Our President, Robert Nield, chaired the Seminar. Council Member Valery Garrett spoke on "Canton in Chinnery's Day" and RAS members Cesar Guillen and Geoffrey Bonsall spoke on "A Possible Source for Chinnery's Street Scenes" and "Encountering Chinnery and his Use of Shorthand".

The Seminar was a delight with other interesting speakers as well, and it was followed by a tour of the Exhibition led by Dr. Patrick Connor. The exhibition, the largest ever held in Hong Kong of Chinnery's work, will end on 29th August and we urge all who have not yet seen it to go.

To further encourage you, we have arranged for Geoffrey Bonsall to give a slightly revised version of his fascinating talk from the Seminar. This is a very well illustrated PowerPoint presentation. Geoffrey has been a member ever since the Hong Kong Branch was re-established in 1959.

Speaker:	Geoffrey Bonsall
Time:	6.15 p.m.
Venue:	Extension Activities Room, 8/F, City Hall High Block
Cost:	The lecture is free and members of the public are invited
Booking:	No booking is required

City Hall Lecture **Friday, 26th August**
**The Butcher of Amritsar's Chinese Roots:
Brigadier-General Dyer and Revolution in Hong Kong, 1912-1914**

On 13th April 1919, General Reginald Dyer marched a squad of Indian soldiers into the Jallianwala Bagh, a large enclosed public space in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, and opened fire without warning on a crowd, leaving over two hundred people dead. To some Dyer was the saviour of India, responding decisively to threatened insurrection, but to many in India, including Gandhi and Nehru,

his action proved the moral bankruptcy of the British Empire. The bitter debate that followed the shootings almost brought down the British Government, and was a decisive turning point in India's progression to Independence.

Dyer commanded the 25th Punjabis, an Indian Army regiment, in Hong Kong between 1912 and 1914. He was present in the Colony during the upheavals following the Chinese revolution in 1911 and the years leading up to the First World War. The lecture will principally focus on Dyer's time in Hong Kong, and how his experiences here helped to shape his attitudes and subsequent actions in India.

Lieutenant-Colonel Nigel Collett is an Oxford history graduate with a postgraduate degree in biography from the University of Buckingham. He served for twenty years in the British Army, and commanded 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles in Hong Kong from 1991-92. He is the author of *The Butcher of Amritsar*, published in London by Hambledon & London in April 2005, a definitive account of the massacre set in the context of a biography of Reginald Dyer, a man whose attitudes reflected many of the views common in the Raj.

Colonel Collett is Managing Director of the Gurkha International Group which finds employment for ex-Gurkhas and Nepalese men and women worldwide, principally as crew onboard cruise liners. It has its Headquarters in Hong Kong, where it manages a security guarding and body-guarding service. He is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society in London, and has published scholarly works on the Baluchi language and a Nepali-English dictionary.

Speaker: Lt.-Col. Nigel Collett
Time: 6.15 p.m.
Venue: Extension Activities Room, 8/F, City Hall High Block
Cost: The lecture is free and members of the public are invited
Booking: No booking is required

City Hall Lecture

Friday, 9th September

Hedda Morrison's Hong Kong, 1946-47

September 1946: Hong Kong, recovering from war, remained little changed from some decades earlier. To that place came the photographer Hedda Morrison. Today acclaimed for her images of China in the 1930s and 1940s, in 1946 Morrison – energized by her recent marriage, and captivated by her new surroundings – embraced the life of Hong Kong. For six months, cameras in hand, she roamed the colony's districts, streets, coasts and countryside.

This lecture will describe the people and places she encountered. It will draw on the book *Hedda Morrison's Hong Kong, 1946-47*, by Edward Stokes – published this September by the Hongkong Conservation Photography Foundation, together with Harvard-Yenching Library and Hong Kong University Press. In this lecture, as in the book, Edward Stokes's descriptions of Hong Kong in the postwar years will mirror Morrison's superb images. Hers is a unique record of a vanished Hong Kong: the most complete pictorial account of how the Colony looked in the late 1940s.

Fewer than thirty of the book's 220 photographs have ever been seen before. It was those few images, sighted in the 1946 Hong Kong government report, that in 1995 prompted Edward Stokes to begin searching for the original negatives – which, some years later, he discovered at the Harvard-Yenching Library of Harvard University. The lecture and the book will also describe the pleasures, and the serendipity, of researching these photographs.

Edward Stokes is a photographer, writer and author. In 1997 he established the Hong Kong Conservation Photography Foundation. As its Director, he has photographed and published five HKCP Foundation books. He appreciates and enjoys the visual interest and social history of old photographs.

The Harvard-Yenching Library of Harvard University is a renowned centre for the study of East Asia. The Library's pictorial collection holds several tens of thousands of photographs. The largest single collection is the Hedda Morrison Collection with over 5,000 images of China made between 1933 and 1947, including these Hong Kong photographs.

Speaker: Edward Stokes
Time: 6.15 p.m.
Venue: Extension Activities Room, 8/F, City Hall High Block
Cost: The lecture is free and members of the public are invited
Booking: No booking is required

Exhibition Tour

Saturday, 10th September

**Hedda Morrison's Photographs
Hong Kong University Museum and Art Gallery**

In 1946 the photographer Hedda Morrison, acclaimed for her 1930s and 1940s images of China, arrived in Hong Kong. In just over six months here she photographed virtually every aspect of local life. Accompanying the publication of *Hedda Morrison's Hong Kong 1946-47*, the University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU, is holding an exhibition of Hedda Morrison's photographs.

The exhibition will present about 100 of Hedda Morrison's compelling documentary images of Hong Kong, its people and patterns of life. These unrivalled photographs, superbly printed at Harvard University from Morrison's negatives, hold up a mirror to a vanished world. The exhibition's 16" x 20" prints, even more than the book, will show Morrison's mastery of photography – and her telling portrayal of Hong Kong.

Edward Stokes will lead a tour of the exhibition, commenting on the social history content of the photographs; and on the photographic research and production. He hopes this project will lead to other similar work, helping in the return of little-known images from archive collections overseas to their original communities in Asia.

The Main Library, Hong Kong University, will be holding a simultaneous exhibition on the original search for these 1946 photographs, the later research, and the development and production of the book. For those interested, Edward will be happy also to guide people through the Main Library exhibition.

After the tour there will be the option to have lunch in the Senior Common Room, 15th Floor of the Knowles Building.

Time: 11.00 a.m.
Venue: Exhibit room, 2nd floor, University Museum and Art Gallery, Fung Ping Shan Building, Bonham Road
Cost: \$50 members, \$70 non-members
Booking: There is a booking form on page 18, to be returned by Tuesday, 6th September.

City Hall Lecture

Friday, 16th September

**A Year of Living Dangerously:
South China Missionaries and the Revolution, 1911-12**

When the October Revolution broke out in China in 1911, barely ten years had passed since the Boxer Uprising had been quelled by foreign armies in 1900. Missionary societies were therefore quick to react to the situation by withdrawing their men and women from the interior of the country to the safer treaty ports and international settlements on the China Coast.

In the case of south China, a flood of missionaries arrived in Hong Kong in the last months of 1911 and were forced to wait in the colony until conditions were safe to re-enter the mission fields. This was a role that Hong Kong was to play on many occasions in the future until the ultimate expulsion of foreign missionaries after 1949. This paper will examine the circumstances surrounding the withdrawal of the Church Missionary Society missionaries from the Kwangsi-Hunan mission in November 1911 and will seek to evaluate the ways in which such unexpected events shaped the lives of missionaries and their missions by referring to a newly-discovered archive of personal papers.

The speaker, Dr. Peter Cunich, is Associate Professor in History and Head of the Department of History at the University of Hong Kong. His principal field of research is early

modern England, but he has a strong interest in nineteenth and twentieth-century missionary history, and has edited a collection of essays on the early history of Hong Kong University.

Speaker: Dr. Peter Cunich
Time: 6.15 p.m.
Venue: Extension Activities Room, 8/F, City Hall High Block
Cost: The lecture is free and members of the public are invited
Booking: No booking is required

Visit to Japan

22nd – 29th October

Museum Without Walls: Japan's Nakasendo Highway and Kyoto

In the last Newsletter, we asked for Expressions of Interest for this visit. Twenty people responded, so the chances seem good that this trip will go ahead. It is now time to call for deposits (due 20th August) and the final payment (due 5th September). There is a booking form on Page 19 of this Newsletter, and you are urged to return it as soon as possible as the visit could be over-subscribed.

Preference will be given to those who returned the Expression of Interest Form, and any new applicants will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note the deposit will be non-refundable unless for any reason the trip is cancelled or if there is a waiting list and someone can replace you.

For anyone who may not have seen the previous notice, we include it here, as well as the detailed itinerary:

The trip will be led by Dr. Tom Stanley, who spoke to the Society on 14th January 2005, about the Nakasendo Highway. (See the Newsletter 7th 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, hopefully, to take place 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 kilometers. 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, **22nd 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, **29th October** – fly Cathay Pacific from Osaka to Hong Kong

(to return at a later date, but before 7th November, there is a \$500 surcharge)

The cost, including flights, accommodation, ground transportation and most meals, will be HK\$19,900 for members and \$20,900 for non-members. If you have questions, you may email or telephone Geoffrey Emerson, Council Member, who is organizing this trip. (emerson@netvigator.com 2550 4374)

Itinerary

DAY 1- Saturday, 22 October 2005

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 historian’s view of the late 19th 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

Synopsis: Two kilometer morning walk to Magome post-town; tourist shops and museums; lunch in Magome; up and 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 17th 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, 24th 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

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 makers of exquisite lacquerware. 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). The village also has other shops that are very interesting to browse (or more) in. Lunch can be had at Tokuri-ya which resides in an inn of some 175 years of operation.

DAY 5 – Wednesday

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

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 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 craftshouse whose master has a world-class collection of indigo-dyed textiles from many nations. The array 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

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

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

Overseas Visit

3rd – 17th April, 2006

Study Tour to Tibet

Some 31 members of the Society have expressed interest, and it seems likely that we will indeed get off the ground as originally planned. Thank you for your patience so far. The trip looks like being quite an interesting one and we will have a good team of well-travelled members as companions.

The group should leave Hong Kong for Kunming on Monday 3rd April in order to complete our proposed travel and acclimatisation before we go to Tibet on Friday 7th April (the Zhongdian-Gonggar flights commence in Guangzhou and go only three times a week.) Unfortunately we have to delete the visit to Everest Base Camp, as the road en route is under repair and in indifferent condition, and this would entail a very long return drive to Lhasa. On the other hand we hope to include visits to some sites not normally seen on this route - a visit to a new cooperative crafts enterprise in Lhasa town, and also a visit to Lhasa's mosque. Return is scheduled for Monday 17th April via Chengdu, with a connecting flight to Hong Kong.

A detailed itinerary will appear in the September Newsletter. For your forward planning, please note that an initial deposit will be required by the end of September (to secure the air bookings by passenger name), with balance of the costs (amounts to be advised) payable by mid-February 2006.

ALL ABOUT BOOKS

By chance and not by design, the extra information in this July newsletter seems to be all about books, which is appropriate for the summer months. Firstly, anyone planning to visit Shanghai please pay attention to Dan Waters' request for assistance in locating the RAS library there.

Library of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Shanghai

Julia Chan, our Honorary Librarian, wrote a fine article about our Hong Kong RAS Library which was published in our Journal (JRASHKB, vol. 42, p.361). But of course this was not the only RAS Library. Dr James Hayes wrote (JRASHKB, vol. 34, p.129) that a North China Branch flourished in

Shanghai between 1862 and 1949. Its heyday was in the 1930s when at one stage it had over 8,000 members and owned its own modern library and museum premises. Like our own Hong Kong Branch it conducted lectures, published journals and other publications and contributed significantly to the study of various aspects of China. I have heard it said that this Shanghai RAS Museum was the first museum in China although I have not been able to confirm this.

A few years after the People's Republic Government came to power in China in 1949, the RAS building in Shanghai was requisitioned and the contents confiscated. The museum exhibits were moved and are displayed in other museums in Shanghai.

At Easter 1997, an RAS visit to Shanghai was organised by Geoffrey Roper who was at the time Chairman of the Activities Committee. On this occasion we found the old RAS building in Shanghai, which was being used as a bank, and a Hong Kong group photograph was taken outside (JRASHKB, vol. 37, p.168).

On visiting the new premises of the Shanghai Library, at 1555 Huaihai Zhong Road, we learned that the old North China Branch RAS Library was stored in boxes. The rather surprisingly high figure of 20,000 titles was quoted. We were assured the books were being well looked after and that they would be kept together as one collection. At one stage there was talk of placing some of the valuable books from the Shanghai RAS collection on display in a book exhibition in the Hong Kong Central Library at Causeway Bay.

More than eight years has passed since our Easter visit. Developments have been slow. A recent report by a Hong Kong visitor to Shanghai was that they had been shown some books that appeared to have been part of the old RAS North China Branch collection. It was also reported that the 'Old Books Library,' the 'Bibliotheque Major' at 80 Caoxi, Bei Lu, Zi Ka Wei (just north of the Xujiahui Cathedral) was only open for two hours a week and that building work was in progress.

Obtaining information about the present position of the RAS North China Branch Library is not the easiest of tasks. A few of our Hong Kong RAS members visit Shanghai on a regular basis. Perhaps they could set themselves the task of finding out more about this wonderful old RAS Library when they are next in Shanghai? We would appreciate their help. I am grateful to my friend Geoffrey Roper for much of the above information.

Dan Waters, Past President

Recent Publication

Carl T. Smith, *Chinese Christians: Elites, Middlemen, and the Church in Hong Kong*; Hong Kong University Press, 2005, (\$175).

One of the key works of Hong Kong history, Carl Smith's *Chinese Christians*, has now been reprinted by the Hong Kong University Press in its Echoes Series of reprints of books in the field of Hong Kong studies. The original book, published in 1985 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Hong Kong Branch of the RAS, has long been hard to find even in libraries, and this reprint, at a reasonable price, comes not a moment too soon.

Chinese Christians explores the lives of some 200 men and women who came into contact with Christian missionaries in early Hong Kong and who used their connections to achieve wealth and status. These – and the other groups of “middlemen” who linked the Chinese and colonial communities – laid the foundations of Hong Kong society, and many of them became influential in regions far beyond Hong Kong.

This book, which brought together meticulous and wide-ranging research carried out by Carl since the early 1960s, did much to disprove the old idea that Hong Kong's early Chinese community was a loose-knit, fragmented population of sojourners. It has inspired a new school of Hong Kong historians, and its themes, ideas and source materials are still being explored and developed.

This is an essential book for anyone who takes seriously the history of Hong Kong. But it is also a remarkably enjoyable read. In this work we are guided through the lives and thoughts of ordinary – and some extraordinary – men and women by Hong Kong's most original and influential historian, and by a great humanist.

Dr. Christopher Munn

Donations to the JRASHKB Library

O'Hara, Randolph. (2003). *One Man Remembers: Reminiscences on Cultural Provision in Hong Kong*, privately published.

A member of RASHKB, Randolph O'Hara, M.B.E., grew up in Burma (Myanmar) and joined the Hong Kong government in 1967 as an Assistant Librarian, Class II. He gradually worked his way up retiring as Deputy Director of Urban Services (Culture) in 1999. He acted as Director of the (then) Urban Services Department on many occasions. He was awarded the M.B.E. in 1997 for services to culture in Hong Kong.

Randolph has kindly donated his *Reminiscences* to the JRASHKB library. This is an enjoyable and wholly unpretentious book written by a man who from humble origins rose to make a significant contribution to the development of public libraries and venues for the performing arts in Hong Kong. He was also the driving force behind such cultural institutions as the *Hong Kong Arts Festival* and *Festival of Asian Arts*. The book is populated with names and anecdotes that will be remembered by many and written almost entirely from memory; a notable feat! Thank you, Randolph.

Peter Crush, also an active member of the Branch is '...continuing to reduce his own collection of antiquarian books about China and the Far East...' and has generously donated five such volumes. These are:

- Snow, Edgar. (1946) (1st edition 1944). *Glory and Bondage*, Sydney: Angus and Robertson Ltd.
- Cable, Mildred and French, Francesca. (1946) (1st edition 1942). *The Gobi Desert*, London: Hodder and Stoughton Limited.
- Maxwell, Sir George. (1925) (1st edition 1907). *In Malay Forests*, London: William Blackwood and Sons.
- Hoyt, Edwin. (1975). *The Fall of Tsingtao*, London: Arthur Barker Limited.
- Chou, Li-po, Li, Chun, et al. (1961). *Sowing the Clouds: A Collection of Chinese Short Stories*, Peking: Foreign Languages Press.

Choosing one of these at random, *The Fall of Tsingtao* describes how as summer in the year 1914 came to full fruition the peaceful life in Tsingtao, capital and principal port of the German colony of Kiaochow was brought to an abrupt end. The world was on the brink of war. Hoyt describes the hasty mobilisation of the city and the anxious preparation of the small German cruiser squadron based there. Their capture soon afterwards of a Russian ship gave Japan an excuse to enter the fray and before long both that country and Britain were besieging Tsingtao. The book goes to describe Tsingtao's minimal defence apparatus and the attack, and subsequent fall of, the city. The repercussions are also briefly discussed.

HKBRAS thanks Peter for his generous donation; all volumes of which are new additions to the Library.

Ms. Zhang Wei-ming, Assistant Professor, Department of Cinema and Television, Baptist University, has generously donated a bilingual, interactive multimedia CD-Rom, entitled *Nu Shu: The Secret Women's Writing*. *Nu Shu* is a special female script created over hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years ago by and only for women in southern China's Hunan province. In feudal China, women were denied educational opportunities and condemned to social isolation, but in Hunan province peasant women developed a unique language called *Nu* (women) *Shu* (writing). The CD-Rom 'explores the inner world of this unique, mysterious language.' And very unusual and interesting it is too. Thank you, Wei-ming.

Lastly, those of you who attended the Sir Catchick Paul Chater seminar *Prevention, Safety & Continuance of Sir Catchick Paul Chater's Legacy in India*, on 28 May, 2005, will have received various handouts including a DVD and a booklet written by one of his relatives, Liz Chater. Copies of these have also been deposited in the Library and an article in the Journal is forthcoming.

Sir Paul Chater (1846-1926), dubbed with some justification 'Father of the Colony (of Hong Kong),' arrived in Hong Kong in 1864 as a young man of modest means. He rose to the pinnacle of achievement and success, becoming a multi-millionaire, successful businessman, member of both Legislative and Executive Councils, knight of the realm, Masonic District Grand Master of Hong Kong and South China, racehorse owner and steward of the Jockey Club, and major philanthropist. Buildings and roads bear his name. Marble Hall, his home in later years, was one of the finest buildings ever constructed in Hong Kong. He is buried at the Happy Valley Cemetery

Dr. Peter Halliday, Hon. Editor of Journals

The following items have also been received as donations to our Library, but Librarian Julia Chan reports that some of these listed just arrived in the mail with no indication from whom they came. So if anyone reading this recognizes their books in the list, we thank you.

- *Bits of old Hong Kong. Beijing : Wen wu chu ban she, 2004.*
 - Criveller, Gianni. *Piccola storia missionaria di Yim Tin Tsai, Saigon, Hong Kong. (Hong Kong : n.d.) 2004.*
 - Enatsu, Yoshiki. *Banner Legacy : The Rise of the Fengtian Local Elite at the end of the Qing.* Ann Arbor : Center for Chinese Studies, The University of Michigan, 2004.
 - *Hunting and Rituals : Treasures from the Ancient Dian Kingdom of Yunnan.* [Xianggang] : Xianggang li shi bo wu guan, 2004.
 - Ji nian Deng Xiaoping bai sui dan chen zuo tan hui [videorecording]. aXianggang : Kang le ji wen hua shi wu shu, c2004.
 - Yang Yaolin and Huang Chongyue (Editors). *Hakka Enclosed Houses in Guangdong and Hong Kong.* Beijing : Wen wu chu ban she, 2001.
 - Ruggiero, Elizabeth M. *Politicization of a Dam: A New Look at the Three Gorges Debate of the 1950s.* 2005 (manuscript).
 - Muthiah, S. *Madras rediscovered : A Historical Guide to Looking Around.* New Delhi: East West Books (Madras) Pvt. Ltd., 2004.
-

World War II Hong Kong Poetry

The notice below appeared in an earlier Newsletter. There are just two copies left if you are interested.

"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 Sham Shui Po, 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 or 2550 4374."

Geoffrey Emerson

PROFILES and PEOPLE

In May we began introducing Members of Council to you and continue this month with three more Profiles. The idea here is to spotlight the interests and achievements of some of those who 'run' our Society and to make them better known to the membership at large.

Rev. Carl Smith, Hon. Vice-President

Carl Smith came to Hong Kong in 1961 to teach theology, first at the Church of Christ in China's Theological Institute at Tuen Mun, and then, between 1962 and 1983, at the Chung Chi Seminary and its successor, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Having been asked to teach a course on the history of the Church in China, he was struck by how little information there was on the Chinese converts to Christianity, and on what Christianity meant to them and to the people around them. He set about remedying this problem with minutely detailed research into the lives and social organization of Chinese people in and around Hong Kong. This was a radical approach to Hong Kong history, and one that has influenced a generation of Hong Kong historians.

The results of Carl's research have been published in a number of books and journals – many of them in the Journal of the Hong Kong Branch of the RAS. The most important of them were collected together in Carl's book, *Chinese Christians: Elites, Middlemen, and the Church in Hong Kong*, which was published in 1985 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Hong Kong Branch of the RAS. This seminal work has just been reprinted in paperback by the Hong Kong University Press (see review on page 11).

Carl Thurman Smith was born in 1918 in Drayton, Ohio. He took a Bachelor of Arts degree at DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana in 1940 and graduated from the Union Theological Seminary, New York, as a Master of Divinity in 1943. In the same year he was ordained as minister in the Evangelical and Reformed Church (now the United Church of Christ). He served as pastor at churches in Rochester, New York and Philadelphia before coming to Hong Kong to teach in 1961.

Carl became a member of the RAS Council in 1975 and a Vice-president in 1976. He is currently an Honorary Vice-president and a very active member of the Council. He now lives in Macau, where he is engaged in research into the elites and social history of that city, but he still returns to Hong Kong from time to time to involve himself in the work of the Society and to see his many friends in this city.

Dr. Dan Waters ISO BBS, Past President and Honorary Fellow RASHKB

Deric Daniel Waters was born in 1920, in Norwich (UK). He served as a Desert Rat in World War Two and in Italy, including in the Salerno Invasion and on the Beach-Head at Anzio. He was wounded three times and Mentioned in Despatches.

The War over, Dan returned to the family construction business and later became managing director. The firm worked on ancient buildings but he was unable to get travel out of his system. In 1954, he joined the Colonial Service and set sail for Hong Kong.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Dan taught at the College which was the forerunner of the present Polytechnic University. He became Principal of the Technical Institute and, later, moved into the Education Department HQ. He retired from Government in 1980 and was made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

In 'retirement' he obtained his Ph.D. in his 65th year and a section of his thesis was published by the HK Chinese University Press in *The Economics and Financing of Hong Kong Education* (1992). He had previously co-authored a series of books, *Understanding Technical English* (Longman), Volume One of which sold over one-million copies. He has also written *21st Century Management: Keeping Ahead of the Japanese and the Chinese* and; *Faces of Hong Kong: An Old Hand's Reflections*, as well as many articles on subjects ranging from bamboo scaffolding, to Chinese funerals, and comparing Chinese and Western humour. His new book, *One Couple Two cultures: 81 Western-Chinese Couples Talk about Love and Marriage*, is due out shortly.

Dan was an Eastern Counties (UK) weightlifting record holder shortly after WW2 and he obtained a Black Belt in Karate in his 57th year. He still holds 800 and 1,500 metres HK All-comers running records in the 'Over 70' class.

Dr. Waters has served on the Antiquities Advisory Board and was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 1998 for his work in heritage. He is married to his Hong Kong Chinese wife, Vera.

Valery Garrett

Valery Garrett has been a member of the Royal Asiatic Society since 1973, the year she and her husband Richard arrived in Hong Kong. She has been a Council Member since 1997 and was Honorary Activities Coordinator for five years from 1997 to 2002. She is also an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong.

Valery is author of nine books on Chinese dress and antiques, including her latest, an illustrated history of Guangzhou, published by Oxford University Press. She is presently working on another book on Chinese dress to be published in 2006. She has written numerous articles on a wide range of topics for publications, as well as the Journal of the RASHKB. She is a frequent speaker in Hong Kong and overseas, and a consultant to museums on Chinese dress. Her own collection has been acquired by museums in Hong Kong, Macao, Sydney, and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

The Late Mr. Denis Bray

Members will probably have seen the news that Mr. D.C. Bray, CMG, CVO, who retired from the Government as Secretary for Home Affairs and Deputy to the Governor, died at his home in Oxford, England, on 8th July. Denis was a member of the Society, who, with his wife, Marjorie, was a frequent attendee at our lectures. Many members will remember the excellent talk Denis gave to the Society on his childhood, a talk which was later used as the first chapter of his book of memoirs, *Hong Kong Metamorphosis*.

Denis was born in Hong Kong, on 24th January, 1926, and spent his childhood in Fatshan, where his father was a missionary, running an important hospital and school. He was, at the age of eight, sent to the Missionary School at Chefoo in Shantung, where he remained until the school was forced to close as the Japanese approached.

After the War he returned to Hong Kong, where he entered the Government service as a Cadet (Administrative Officer). He was a great sportsman; a rower, and a yachtsman. Much of his career was spent in the New Territories. Denis was a man of great intelligence, and strength of character, but, above all, he was a man of humility and selflessness. He was never concerned about money or position. He strove always to do what was right, and never what was expedient. He had a deep love and respect for the Chinese people among whom he had spent his childhood and all his working life, a love and respect which was, perhaps, deepest where his beloved Tai Po District was concerned. He always sought to serve the people and to make their lives better. He was always open, willing to listen, to give advice, never harsh, always to be trusted. His death is a great loss to Hong Kong, and a great loss to many in the Society who were proud to call him a friend.

I was able to attend his funeral at all Saints Church, Headington, on 18th July. Mr. David Gilkes, Past President, and Mrs. Gilkes, and Mrs. Mary Painter, previously Assistant Secretary, and Mr. Painter, and a number of other Members were also present. Our sympathy goes to Mrs. Bray and her family on their great loss.

Dr. Patrick Hase, Immediate Past President

OF GENERAL INTEREST

China Through Western Eyes

HKU Libraries is pleased to present a new title in their growing collection of digital initiatives. China Through Western Eyes (CTWE) is a project to digitize and provide online access to materials important to Sinophiles and scholars of China studies. These materials are ones in which Western foreigners wrote and described what they saw and encountered in China from about the 16th century until 1911, in which year the revolution led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen successfully overthrew the Manchu Dynasty, and thus began the modern China era. The printed materials, from which these online files were made, are housed in HKUL's Special Collections. CTWE now holds 12,800 pages of 32

titles. Eventually CTWE will hold approximately 173,000 scanned pages from 389 titles in English, French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Italian and Latin. CTWE can be accessed from their website, <http://www.lib.hku.hk/ctwe/>, or from HKUL's page for Digital Initiatives, <http://lib.hku.hk/database/>

A small reformatting team in the Systems Department of the Libraries is digitizing these pages to make them accessible online. As the database grows, new indexing features will be added, and OCR will be run to enable fulltext searching.

We hope and expect that this initiative will receive use and appreciation from many within HKU and beyond.

Julia Chan, Librarian

LOCAL EVENTS

This summer the Asia Society is presenting five films celebrating the richness and diversity of Asian music. Running from 13th July to 20th August, there is still time to catch three films:

Viva Tonal : This film takes viewers to Taiwan's "Dance Age" of the 1920s and '30s, a paradoxical time when the island's occupation by Japan also brought youth culture and a measure of artistic freedom. This lively documentary mixes interviews with singers, composers and record aficionados of the era with period footage and engaging songs. Hong Kong premiere.

Wednesday, August 3rd, 7.30 pm, Hong Kong Film Archive

Friday, August 5th, 7.30 pm, Hong Kong Space Museum, Lecture Hall

Out of this World: Tokyo circa 1947: against a backdrop of black markets and underground clubs, five Japanese jazz musicians dream of making the big-time by entertaining American GIs. A sweeping look at postwar Japan when chaos reigned, cultures clashed and jazz – banned as enemy music during the war – becomes an uneasy symbol of reconciliation. Hong Kong premiere.

Wednesday, August 10th, 7.30 pm, Hong Kong Film Archive

Friday, August 12th, 7.30 pm, Hong Kong Space Museum, Lecture Hall

Morning Raga: A Bollywood film with a difference. Shabana Azmi delivers a powerhouse performance as a retired classical singer who overcomes a past tragedy with the help of two young musicians. A luminous tale about past and present, tradition and change, and featuring a sublime combination of jazz and Indian classical music. Hong Kong Premiere.

Wednesday, August 19th, 7.30 pm, Hong Kong Space Museum, Lecture Hall

Saturday, August 20th, 3.30 pm, Hong Kong Arts Centre, Agnès b. Cinema

Tickets are \$40 for members of the Asia Society, and \$60 for non-members. Tickets are available through URBIX outlets. Telephone reservations: 2734 9009.

Hong Kong Museum of History

Exhibition: Impressions of the East: The Art of George Chinnery
Period: Ongoing until 29th August
Times: Monday-Saturday, 10.00am-6.00pm, Sunday and public holidays 10.00am-7.00pm.
(closed on Tuesdays except public holidays)
Venue: Special Exhibition Gallery, 1/F, Hong Kong Museum of History,
100 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Admission: No additional charge except the standard Museum admission fee of \$10
More info: <http://hk.history.museum>
Enquiries: Tel 2724 9042

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Beyond the Metropolis + Yaumatei and Its People (two-volume set)* \$575.00

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***HK\$70.00 per set of Yaumatei + Beyond the Metropolis**
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*I attach my cheque for HK\$.....to include postage, payable to the **Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch. We accept GBP or US\$ cheques at exchange rates of US\$1=HK\$7 / GBP1 = HK\$10.***

Name.....Membership No (if any)

Address.....

.....

.....

Daytime Tel.....Fax.....E-Mail.....

*Please return this form, together with your payment, to RASHKB, GPO BOX 3864, Hong Kong. Cheques should be made payable to **Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch.***

Booking Form

Local Visit

Saturday, 10th September

**Hedda Morrison's Photographs
Hong Kong University Art Museum and Gallery**

Please reserve for me places for members at \$50 each, and places for Non-Members at \$70 each.

My/our membership No. is

I enclose my cheque for \$ payable to the **Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch.**

Name (please print)

Daytime Tel. No. Evening Tel. No.

Fax No. Mobile No.

Email (please print)

Date: Saturday, 10th September

Meeting Place: 11.00 a.m. on the first floor of the Hong Kong University Art Museum, Fung Ping Shan Building, Pokfulam Road.

Please send sign-up sheet and cheque made out to **Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch** (please do not abbreviate) to:

Jennifer Day
36C, Block 3
10 Robinson Road
Mid-levels, Hong Kong

Deadline is Tuesday, 6th September. If you do not hear from us you may assume that your reservation is accepted.

**Visit to Japan
Museum Without Walls: Japan’s Nakasendo Highway and Kyoto**

This visit is open to Members and Guests. Please fill in this form even if you filled in the ‘Expression of Interest’ form in the previous Newsletter.

I/We am/are interested in joining this visit. _____ member(s) _____ guest(s)

Name(s) _____ (mem/guest) _____ (mem/guest)
(as in passport)

_____ (mem/guest) _____ (mem/guest)

Address: _____

Tel (day) _____ (evening) _____ (mobile) _____

Fax _____ (Email) _____

I wish to share a room with _____

I am willing to share a room with any person of the same sex. _____ (initial)

I understand that in the Japanese inns (Oct 22-26), single rooms are not available.

In Kyoto (Oct 26-29) I do not wish to share a room and agree to pay the Single Supplement amount of \$600 when final payment is due. _____ (initial)

.....

Costs: Members \$19,900. Guests \$20,900. A non-refundable **deposit** (refundable only if for any reason the trip is cancelled or if there is a waiting list) of **\$2000** for each person must be received **by 20th August**. Post with this form to: Mr G C Emerson, GPO Box 3605, Hong Kong, cheque made out to “Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch”.

The **final payment** (cost less deposit of \$2000) must be received by **5th September**.

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