

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, HONG KONG BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

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20th September, 2005

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FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Saturday, 15 th October	Local Visit	St. John's Cathedral and St. Paul's Church
22 nd – 29 th October	Overseas Trip	Museum Without Walls: Japan's Nakasendo Highway and Kyoto <i>(a few spaces are still available)</i>
Friday, 4 th November	City Hall Lecture	Reaching out to the 'Bad Girls' in Hong Kong society – the Myth and the Reality of Sex Work in Hong Kong
Friday, 18 th November	City Hall Lecture	Chinese Canadians in the Second World War: Defenders of Hong Kong and China
Friday, 25 th November	Special Event	Quiz Night: Topic - "Asia"
Friday, 2 nd December	City Hall Lecture	Carl T. Smith: A Celebration of his Work on Hong Kong and Macao
Friday, 9 th December	City Hall Lecture	Hong Kong Temples: A Visual Interpretation and Guide
Saturday, 10 th December	Local Visit	Four Shau Kei Wan Temples
3 rd - 15 th April, 2006	Overseas Trip	Study Tour to Yunnan and Tibet

Local Visit

Saturday, 15th October

Visit to St. John's Cathedral and St. Paul's Church

Two of Hong Kong's most historic churches will be seen on what promises to be a very interesting morning visit. Built in 1847, St. John's Cathedral is one of Hong Kong's most beloved old buildings and houses many fascinating relics from the past. St. Paul's Church on Glenealy was originally built as the chapel for St. Paul's College, one of Hong Kong's oldest schools, which was established in 1851. The visit will be led by the Reverend Matthew Vernon, the Chaplain of St. John's Cathedral.

Please assemble near the main entrance to St. John's Cathedral at 9.15am for a 9.30 start. After visiting St. John's Cathedral, the party will walk the short distance to St. Paul's with a brief stop to look at the Bishop's House. It is estimated that the visit will take about two and a half hours.

A self-pay lunch after the visit will be organized at the Fringe Club. Please indicate on the booking form on page 16 whether you plan to attend the lunch, so an appropriate number of seats can be reserved.

Time: 9.15am for a 9.30 start
Place: Main entrance to St. John's Cathedral
Cost: \$50 for members and \$70 for non-members
Booking: Please return the booking form on page 15 **by 11th October**

Some places still available!

Overseas Trip

22nd – 29th October

Museum Without Walls: Japan's Nakasendo Highway and Kyoto

There are still a few places left on this trip but we must have your decision, with full payment, as soon as possible, i.e. within a few days of reading this newsletter. Full details and the itinerary can be found in our July newsletter but here is a quote to tempt latecomers:

"The first four days will be spent along the highway, staying in Japanese inns 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."

If you are interested and can commit immediately please contact Geoffrey Emerson on 2550 4374 or 6012 0700, or email emerson@netvigator.com.

City Hall Lecture

Friday, 4th November

Reaching out to the 'Bad Girls' in Hong Kong Society – the Myth and the Reality of Sex Work in Hong Kong

The lecture will focus on some of the myths that have developed surrounding the Hong Kong sex industry over time, and contrast these with the reality of sex work in Hong Kong today. Issues relating to sex work and the law, and sex work and public health, will also be discussed.

The speaker, Ann Gray, is originally from Scotland but has been living and working in Hong Kong for the last twenty years. She belongs to the Missionary Sisters of St. Columban, a missionary group in the Catholic Church. Ann was one of the founding members of Action for Reach Out (AFRO), a non-governmental organization that works with and for female sex workers in Hong Kong.

AFRO believes that every individual should have their personal freedom, dignity and basic human rights protected and promoted and that society should embrace diversity and facilitate the efforts and participation of all sectors to bring about necessary social change in relation to the ways in which the sex industry in Hong Kong operates. AFRO works for the social inclusion of female sex workers and the enhancement of their life options.

Speaker: Ann Gray
Time: 6.15pm
Venue: Extension Activities Room, 8/F City Hall High Block, Central
Cost: This lecture is free and members of the public are invited
Booking: No booking is required

City Hall Lecture

Friday, 18th November

**Chinese Canadians in the Second World War:
Defenders of Hong Kong and China**

Approximately 600 Chinese Canadians served in the Second World War, the only ethnic minority group that served in all services and every theatre, including Hong Kong and China. Not only did these young men fight for Canada, but they also fought to protect the land of their ancestors.

Some of these valiant Canadians include Vancouver-born Bill Chong, who worked as Agent 50 for the British Army Aid Group; Sub-Lieutenant William Lore, who was one of the first ashore to liberate Hong Kong on 30th August 1945; and brothers Albert and Cedric Mah, who had been rejected from the Royal Canadian Air Force because of their ethnicity so they joined the Chinese National Aviation Corporation. These are but a few of the interesting stories regarding Chinese Canadians and their dual loyalties to defend their people in Canada and in Asia.

Judy Maxwell specializes in Chinese Transnational History. She recently completed her Master's research on the Chinese Canadian veterans from the Second World War. She is now pursuing her PhD in Australia.

Speaker: Judy Maxwell
Time: 6.15pm
Venue: Extension Activities Room, 8/F City Hall High Block, Central
Cost: This lecture is free and members of the public are invited
Booking: No booking is required

Mariners Club

Friday, 25th November

Quiz Night – “Asia”

Come and enjoy a light-hearted evening of questions and answers. The theme is “Asia”. Questions will range over a wide spectrum of Asia, from films, food and flags through ferries, founders and festivals and lots more, about Hong Kong, China and beyond. Find out how well you really do know the place we each call home, and maybe learn something along the way.

It is a good chance to meet each other and to enjoy a dinner buffet provided by the Mariners Club, with a cash bar.

For the quiz we will form teams of six with small prizes for the winning team. You can apply as a member, a non-member, or as a group and we can help you form a team. If you would like to form your own complete team of six, you can do so and enjoy the member's rate irrespective of the number of members or non-members in your team.

The capacity of the room is limited so early booking is advised.

Organizers: Peter Stuckey, Valery Garrett, and May Holdsworth
Time: 7:00pm to 10:00pm
Venue: Seven Seas Lounge, The Mariners Club, 11 Middle Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
Cost: Members \$200, Non-Members \$250, Team of six \$1200
Booking: There is a booking form on page 16, to be returned asap and **before Friday, 18th November**

Carl T. Smith: A Celebration of his Work on Hong Kong and Macao

The Reverend Carl Smith was a pastor of the Reformed Church in Philadelphia when he applied to go into the mission field. He arrived in Hong Kong in 1961 and was asked to teach a course on the history of the Protestant Church in China. But most of the literature he found ‘dealt with what the missionaries did and not who the Chinese converts were.’ This spurred him to look at all the archives he could find, and thus began a lifelong engagement with the history of Hong Kong and the China coast. In the course of following the fates of Chinese Christians, Carl unearthed a rich seam of source materials on other groups such as the Parsees, the Jews and the women who cohabited with Europeans in colonial Hong Kong; he also learnt about the growth of neighbourhoods like Sai Ying Pun and Wan Chai.

In 1985 a collection of his essays, *Chinese Christians: Elites, Middlemen, and the Church in Hong Kong*, was published by Oxford University Press to mark the 25th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. This book later went out of print and became unavailable except in libraries. Its recent re-publication by Hong Kong University Press reminds all those with a serious interest in Hong Kong history what they owe to Carl Smith.

Three years ago, at the age of 84, Carl was invited by the Instituto Cultural of Macao to work full-time on extending his researches into the society and elites of colonial Macao. Carl has promised to come back to Hong Kong specially to join RAS members at this event, which will be as much a launch of *Chinese Christians* as a celebration of his life’s work.

The evening will consist of three short talks followed by questions from the floor. There will be an option for members and members’ guests to have dinner with Carl and the speakers at Maxim’s Restaurant, 1/F Low Block, City Hall, at 7.45pm. Please fill in the sign-up sheet if you wish to join the dinner.

Speakers:Dr. Elizabeth Sinn

Numerous scholars and students are indebted to Carl Smith for sharing with them his knowledge and wisdom. Elizabeth will recount the many ways in which Carl has helped her develop as a historian over the past 25 years. She will also speak specifically on the significance of his work on women in the history of Hong Kong.

Dr. Christopher Munn

Chris, who wrote the Introduction to the reissue of *Chinese Christians*, will explore some of the themes in the book and other key works by Carl Smith. He will describe how Carl’s methods and findings have changed our understanding of Hong Kong history.

Dr. Paul van Dyke

Paul will recount his experiences trying to collect material about all the unknown figures in Macao and the delta, and how he bumped into Carl Smith in the Macao Historical Archives. Suddenly all of those people from the past started speaking, and since then the history of Macao has never been the same again.

Time:	6.15 pm
Venue:	Extension Activities Room, 8/F City Hall High Block
Cost:	The lecture is free; for the dinner afterwards, the cost is \$150 for members, \$170 for guests
Booking:	Required for the dinner only – see booking form on page 17

**‘Hong Kong Temples’:
A Visual Introduction and Guide**

Every Hong Kong temple is a time capsule of Chinese life that is as relevant today as it has been for centuries. Luck and fortune is so important to the psyche of Hong Kong people that gods and temples still provide a central focus point for the important decisions of life. In a Chinese temple a believer

can communicate directly with the gods by asking simple yes or no questions or by means of fortune sticks. Life is a game of chance and the gods provide much peace of mind.

Hong Kong temples have avoided the huge upheavals that have affected temples in other regions. This continuity has provided them with an aura of traditional genuineness that has been lost elsewhere. Hong Kong temples offer a collection of amazing objects or references. Think of a temple that floats, the skin of a tiger shot on Hong Kong Island, four poster beds and dressing tables, a Fire Dragon made of joss sticks, a wishing tree and cars made of paper. The temples offer a fascinating visual introduction for anybody with a hint of interest in Chinese culture, Chinese Gods or Chinese temples.

Ken Raby, born in Portsmouth, England, is a graduate of Liverpool Polytechnic and a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, a Chartered Quantity Surveyor who has spent most of his life keeping his eyes and ears open trying to capture as many worldly images as he can. Capturing images has been a long time hobby since Ken was given his first 35mm camera at the age of thirteen. Ken is a long term Hong Kong resident, arriving in 1974 to work on Mei Foo Sun Chuen, and from 1980 until retirement he participated in one of Hong Kong's amazing success stories as the Construction Director for McDonald's. Ken retired at the end of 2001 and went about a personal project that ended up as a recently self-published book called 'Hong Kong Temples' which will be on sale at a special price after his presentation. During the past couple of years Ken has been generally enjoying life and had a wonderful experience consulting on the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort Project.

Speaker: Ken Raby
Time: 6.15pm
Venue: Extension Activities Room, 8/F City Hall High Block, Central
Cost: This lecture is free and members of the public are invited
Booking: No booking is required

Local Visit

Saturday, 10th December

Visit to Four Shau Kei Wan Temples

On Saturday afternoon, 10th December, the day after his lecture, members and guests are also invited to explore four Chinese temples in Shau Kei Wan with Ken Raby. This will provide the opportunity to see in real life the history and traditions of temples which Ken will have explained in his talk. There is the option to meet beforehand for a self-paying *dim sum* lunch. A booking form can be found on page 18.

Time: 2.00pm (or 12.15pm for lunch)
Meeting Place: Whether coming for lunch or just for the visit, the meeting place will be the Hang Seng Bank in Shau Kei Wan MTR Station
Cost: \$50 for members, \$70 for guests (excluding lunch)
Booking: Please return the booking form on page 18 by **Monday, 5th December**

Overseas Visit

3rd - 15th April, 2006

Study Tour to Yunnan and Tibet

Following our request for expressions of interest in earlier newsletters, some 38 members did so indicate, and it therefore seems that we can probably get together a good-sized group.

The itinerary is designed to allow a good accommodation to altitude change, and at the same time to sample aspects of traditional culture and Buddhist influence in a part of Yunnan as well as in the "heartland" of traditional Tibet, within the constraints of time available to members for this excursion. More detailed commentaries on the places we are to visit will be made available later. The timing of the visit allows inclusion of some public holidays in Hong Kong (Ching Ming, Easter Friday and Saturday). The weather should be fine but chilly at night, as this is the tail end of winter. We should however have the advantage of being ahead of the great number of people who will visit Tibet after late April and especially internal tourists coming during the Golden Week starting 1st May.

With the substantial investments now being made and planned by the Central Chinese Government for the development (and specifically tourism development) of both the Yunnan and Tibet regions, the face of these traditional cultural areas will be further and significantly changed within a short time. The remarkable Qinghai-Tibet railway (now to be extended to Shigatse and Nyingtri, with work commencing in 2006) will mean a journey of only 48 hours from Beijing to Lhasa. The track from Xining to Lhasa will be completely laid by end of 2005 (Lhasa's railway station is almost complete); trial runs will commence on 1st July 2006.

Unfortunately, to date only the current seasonal flights have been published, and therefore it is not yet possible to confirm all details (and fuel surcharges for flights remain to be determined). The revised draft itinerary below is based on current flight schedules. While all should be clear by the end of November 2005, we do need to put pressure on the airlines to confirm seats at the earliest possible moment, with a **correct and complete list of names (as in passports)**.

Therefore, we are now calling for firm deposits by 20th October, with balance of payment due by early February (see booking form on page 19). A more detailed itinerary will be sent to those who have sent in their deposits, along with the Tibet Alien Permit Application Form for completion. **Please note that the final costing cannot be confirmed until later this year:** members will be kept informed of details immediately these come to hand. **All members must have valid PRC visas or Home Return Permits.**

OUTLINE ITINERARY (subject to change)

Monday 3rd April: Travel Hong Kong-Kunming; overnight Kunming

Tuesday 4th April: Early morning flight to Lijiang. Visit old town, Dongba Museum. Dinner in Old Town with Naxi concert. Overnight Grand Lijiang Hotel.

Wednesday 5th April: Full day tour to Jade Dragon Snow Mountain; Yufeng temple, Baisha fresco, Longquan village. Overnight Grand Lijiang Hotel.

Thursday 6th April: Travel by road to Zhongdian. Tibetan dinner at overnight Gyalthang Dzong Hotel.

Friday 7th April: Zhongdian-Lhasa. Travel by bus to Tsetang (overnight Snow Pigeon Hotel): afternoon visit to Samye Monastery if circumstances allow, otherwise alternative local programme.

Saturday 8th April: In Tsetang; visit Yumbu lhakhang, Tradruk monastery; tumuli of the Tibetan kings at Chonggye, etc. Overnight Snow Pigeon Hotel.

Sunday 9th April: Travel Tsetang to Gyantse; en route visit Dratang monastery; picnic lunch at Yamdrok Tso; continue to Karo la; reach Gyantse by sunset. Overnight Gyantse Hotel.

Monday 10th April: Travel Gyantse-Shigatse; visit Gyantse Kumbum, Palkor Chode monastery and fort. Visit Shalu monastery en route to Shigatse. Overnight Manasarovar Hotel.

Tuesday 11th April: Visit Tashilhunpo monastery; visit Shigatse free market; after lunch, drive to Lhasa, Overnight Dhood Gu Hotel or similar.

Wednesday 12th April: In Lhasa; visit Potala, Tibet Museum, Jokhang, Barkhor street. Overnight Dhood Gu.

Thursday 13th April: Visit Drepung Monastery; nearby carpet factory; visit Sera monastery; visit Norbulinka; visit Drogenling Handicraft Centre. Overnight Dhood Gu.

Friday 14th April: Visit Ganden Monastery; "Tibetan home visit"; return to Lhasa; visit mosque/s; farewell dinner.

Saturday: 15th April: Lhasa-Gonggar for flight to Chengdu, connect with flight to Hong Kong.

We are hoping to keep total costs below \$15,000 a head, but much depends on 2006 airfares and costs as mentioned. For enquiries please email (preferred) Dr. Brian Shaw at bcjshaw@hkucc.hku.hk. For additional information (re final costs, fares etc) please wait a little while until these are to hand.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

On August 19th a longtime member of the Society, **Geoffrey Weatherill Bonsall**, gave an interesting and very well-illustrated PowerPoint presentation at City Hall entitled “Encountering George Chinnery and his use of Shorthand”. This was a revised version of his talk on June 22nd at the Chinnery Seminar at the Museum of History. He described his own experiences in the development of Chinnery studies over the last fifty years, particularly of the shorthand, and the new appreciation of Chinnery’s art. After the talk there were many questions from the very appreciative audience, ranging from the shorthand, to Chinnery paintings in India today, and to Chinnery’s wife.

Geoffrey was born in China in 1924, studied at Cambridge and Hawaii, and was a founder member of the revived Royal Asiatic Society (Hong Kong Branch) in 1959. From 1955 he was Deputy Librarian, and later the Director of the University Press, in the University of Hong Kong. For the past 25 years, Geoffrey has also been a freelance broadcaster, writer, book distributor, speechwriter, etc. Some might recognize his voice as that of Charles Weatherill on RTHK, Radio 3 and Radio 4 some years ago.

We look forward to another talk by Geoffrey next year. For a long time he has been researching the voyage of the famous Chinese junk, the *Keying*, which sailed from Hong Kong in 1846, round the Cape of Good Hope and, via New York and Boston, reached London in 1848. Certainly something to look forward to!

On 26th August **Lieutenant-Colonel Nigel Collett** spoke to a large audience at City Hall. His very interesting talk, well-illustrated with PowerPoint slides, was entitled, “The Butcher of Amritsar’s Chinese Roots: Brigadier-General Dyer and Revolution in Hong Kong, 1912-1914”. Nigel, who studied at Oxford, the University of Buckingham and RMA Sandhurst, commanded 6th Queen Elizabeth’s Own Gurkha Rifles in Hong Kong from 1991-92, and today is Managing Director of the Gurkha International Group in Hong Kong. His book, *The Butcher of Amritsar*, was published earlier this year in London.

The main focus of Nigel’s lecture was on the influences on Dyer, which culminated in the massacre at Amritsar, the Punjab, in April 1919, when troops under Dyer’s command fired into an unarmed crowd, including many women and children, for 15 minutes on that fateful day. Nigel mentioned Dyer’s schooling in Ireland in the 1870s-80s, where he witnessed loss of Protestant power. Later he feared British loss of control in India and all he held dear. Before India, Dyer served for two years in Hong Kong and experienced the fear among some here that the Chinese revolution of 1911 would spill over and threaten British rule. In 1914, Dyer heard reports that local Indians were spreading sedition among the Sikh soldiers and the community here. Also, while Dyer was serving in Hong Kong, there were riots in Calcutta when a ship, the *Komagata Maru*, arrived from Canada with revolutionary Indians on board. During the First World War, Germany actively encouraged anti-British revolutionary feelings. All these things, and more, influenced Dyer.

After the talk, one of the longest question-and-answer sessions in recent years ensued! Many interesting questions were asked, too many to mention here. But of interest was Nigel’s summing up of Dyer as an insecure man who acted from fear, never admitting he did wrong at Amritsar although his conscience did bother him. Churchill, who was Secretary of State for War at the time, said Dyer was a murderer. Nevertheless, Dyer had strong support particularly in Parliament and eventually resigned with full honours and pensions. Nigel noted that today British people have forgotten Amritsar, partly because it’s the dark side of the Empire. Dyer let the Empire down and shamed the Empire. Finally, in response to a question about David Attenborough’s film, “Gandhi”, Nigel said that although Attenborough’s portrayal of Gandhi was very one-sided, his portrayal of the massacre at Amritsar was “spot on”. Dyer had two sons and his descendants were very helpful to Nigel in writing the book, which took him three years to research and compile.

On 9th September the room at City Hall was packed tight when around 100 people came to hear **Edward Stokes** give a talk on “Hedda Morrison’s Hong Kong, 1946-47”. Edward described Hong Kong as Hedda saw it after her arrival in September, 1946. An acclaimed photographer in later

years, she had the rare ability to quickly win the trust of her subjects who went about their daily work at ease in front of her camera.

Only a few of the photos she took at that time were printed. The whereabouts of the negatives were unknown until Edward finally discovered them at the Harvard-Yenching Library, Harvard University, Massachusetts. The long process of identifying and then printing the images for the first time took some years but the end results are stunning images, with which Edward illustrated his talk.

In 1946 Hong Kong was just beginning to recover from Japanese occupation and views of Victoria Harbour, with still, calm water, show sunken ships amid a heavy naval presence. At that time the distance across the harbour from Shau Kei Wan was five kilometres: today it is reduced to two and a half kilometres. Of the many remarkable pictures shown images of everyday street life and long gone colonial buildings stand out, also the shoreline life of the fishermen, small farm plots in Kowloon and rural Pokfulam, and views over the South China Sea. Crystal clear views to the horizon, together with Hedda's skilled composition produced stunning photos, which are a unique record of a long-gone Hong Kong and are probably the most complete visual account of Hong Kong immediately after the Second World War.

The attendance at this talk shows the great interest there is in the Hong Kong of the past, and it is hoped that these newly minted photographs will bring about more awareness of the need to protect the shoreline and preserve the few historic buildings that have survived to this day. The photos can be viewed at the Hong Kong University Art Museum and Gallery until 9th October and after that at the Rotunda, Exchange Square, from 14th October to 3rd November.

LOOKING FOR AN HON TREASURER!

Our Hon Treasurer, Phil Stockton, has informed the Council that he intends to step down at the 2006 Annual General Meeting. He has come to this difficult decision owing to a significant increase in the travel and general work demands of his employment. We therefore need to identify somebody who would be willing and able to take on this important post. Somebody with an accounting background would be ideal. The Society's financial records are not complicated, and are maintained on a suite of Excel spreadsheets. If there is any member who would be interested in finding out more about this vacancy, please feel free to contact Phil Stockton (tel. 2914 1527) or the President, Robert Nield (tel. 9142 1415).

RASKHB CONGRATULATES CARL SMITH

It was with great pleasure that we recently heard that Carl Smith, our Hon.Vice-President, who has done so much research on Hong Kong over the years, is being awarded an Honorary PhD by the Macao Inter-University Institute. As stated below, everyone is welcome to attend the ceremony in October. Paul van Dyke of the Institute writes:

“Macao Inter-University Institute will be awarding Carl with an honorary PhD on 30th October, at 2:30pm. It will be an elaborate ceremony, and will be part of IIUM's regular graduation of MAs and PhDs. We will all be dressed (including Carl) in our 16th century style gowns, and will parade through the centre of Macao with all our paraphernalia, and then march up to the Cathedral (the Se) next to the bishop's palace. The entire ceremony will be in Latin, in the old tradition of Portugal. (IIUM is half owned by the Catholic University in Portugal, which is one reason why the ancient style is maintained). You can check out our school at this web address: www.iium.edu.mo.

“All are welcome to attend, especially Carl's compatriots at the Royal Asiatic Society. We just need to know names of attendees in advance, and then they can pick up the invitation to the ceremony at the door of the Cathedral when they enter. There is of course no charge, but all guests should arrive no later than 2:00pm so they can be seated in time. No entry will be permitted after 2.30. Anyone wishing to come can simply email me at vandyke@iium.edu.mo and invitations will be prepared for them to pick up at the door.”

This is an opportunity for everyone to show support for Carl and also to witness a local historical ceremony. Please be sure to respond to Paul van Dyke at the email address given, not to RASHKB.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Two of our members have new books in the bookstores this month, Dan Waters and Edward Stokes. Member Ronald Taylor has also sent an account of a recently republished book by a member of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps which will be of interest to many.

“One Couple Two Cultures: 81 Western-Chinese Couples Talk About Love and Marriage”

by Dan Waters, MCCM Creations, Hong Kong, 2005, 278 pages, List price in bookstores \$220. Price for RAS members \$180 plus \$20 for postage and packing. email: mccmcreations.com, Tel. 2110 9873.

Although Western-Chinese marriages are far more common today, the author embarked on this project partly because little has been written about them. Examples include successful and not so successful unions and a divorcee, who contributed to the study said, ‘I hope to marry again one day. I would prefer another cross-cultural marriage for the interest it engenders.’

To obtain much of the information the author, who himself has spent approaching half a century in such a marriage, ‘asked the folk who cut the hay.’ The book is based largely on oral history. The voices of the spouses themselves, who were granted anonymity, form the heart of the book. Their thoughts on everything from cuisine, to in-laws, to spouses’ friends and discrimination, received the lightest of editing.

The ‘Voices of History’ section of the book provides a more macro picture of how European and Chinese men and women have lived together, or more often apart, in such Chinese communities as Hong Kong and Singapore, up to World War II. This section also shows how society has more often than not portrayed Western-Chinese couples in literature and the media.

“Hong Kong Volunteers in Battle”

by Evan Stewart, Blacksmith Press, Hong Kong, 100 pages, available through the RHKR The Volunteers Association, www.rhkr.org, Blacksmith Books, www.blacksmithbooks.com and selected bookshops, \$90/\$95 plus postage.

“Hong Kong Volunteers in Battle” was first published in 1953 under the title “A Record of the Actions of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps in the Battle for Hong Kong, December 1941”. The book was started in the prisoner-of-war camp and is believed to be the only book on the Battle written by someone who took part. After the capture of Wong Nei Chung Gap, Evan Stewart organised the escape of the six survivors and then, although injured, he made his way alone through enemy lines to rejoin the friendly forces. For his actions he was awarded the DSO. Although the book concentrates on the actions of the HKVDC, it has served as a key reference book for subsequent authors on the Battle.

This is the first edition to acknowledge Evan Stewart as the author. His original text has been retained unaltered but an appendix has been added to include nominal rolls of all members of the HKVDC in December 1941 under headings of what happened to them either in the battle or in the years leading up to 1945. A further appendix lists those members who received honours either in the Battle or subsequently. The final appendix gives a short biography of Evan Stewart who died at the age of 66 in December 1958 while he was still headmaster of St. Paul’s College.

“Hedda Morrison’s Hong Kong, 1946-1947”, by Edward Stokes, Hong Kong University Press, Hong Kong, 2005, 300 pages, available from hkupress@hku.hk and local bookstores, \$380.

Most of you will already be aware of Edward Stokes’ remarkable book of Hedda Morrison’s photos of Hong Kong in the years after the end of World War II. There is an account earlier in this newsletter of his talk to the Society on 9th September.

This is a book of exceptional quality and design which mesmerizes everyone who looks through it. Let us hope that it will bring about more discussion of the preservation of the few historic buildings that still remain in Hong Kong and remind people of what Hong Kong was once like before reclamation and pollution rearranged the land and clouded the air.

DONATIONS TO THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG BRANCH LIBRARY

This month thanks go to Dan Waters, Betty Wei, Zhang Wei-Min and the Hong Kong Museum of History for their generous donations to the RASKHB Library. Betty has given 66 Chinese titles over 103 volumes, and more than 30 English books. A full list of these donations can be found on the website, but a sample is given below:

From the Hong Kong Museum of History:

- Impressions of the East: The Art of George Chinnery. Jointly presented by The Leisure and Cultural Services Dept., and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Museum of History, 2005.

From Dan Waters:

- Harland, Erasmus. The letters of William Harland MD of Scarborough and W. Airelius Harland MD of Hong Kong 1818-1857: A Victorian Family in the Age of Improvement.
- Waters, Dan. A Case Study of a Chinese funeral. (RAS talk) (Audiocassette)
- Waters, Dan. Chinese Funeral: A Case Study. (Audiocassette)
- Waters, Dan. Forces of Hong Kong. (Audiocassette)
- Waters, Dan. Tai Fu Tai. (Audiocassette)
- Waters, Dan. Interview. (Audiocassette)
- Waters, Dan. Heritage explorer (CD-ROM)
- Hong Kong. Resettlement Dept. The resettlement of small-scale industries in Hong Kong. Hong Kong: the Dept., 1965.

From Zhang Wei-min:

- Nu Shu: The Secret Women's Writing. 2005.

From Betty Wei:

- Chang, Chung-Li : The Chinese Gentry : Studies on their Role in Nineteenth-century Chinese Society. Seattle : University of Washington Press, 1955.
- Connors, Michael : C.Y. Tung : His Vision and Legacy. 2nd Ed. Hong Kong : Seawise Foundation Inc., 1955.
- Dodgen, Randall A. : Controlling the Dragon : Confucian Engineers and the Yellow River in Late Imperial China. Honolulu : University of Hawai'i Press, 2001.
- Folsom, Kenneth E. : Friends, Guests and Colleagues : The Mu-fu System in the late Ch'ing Period. Berkeley : University of California Press, 1968.
- Gaster, Theodor Herzl : The Scriptures of the Dead Sea Sect in English Translation. London : Secker & Warburg, 1957.
- Han, Yen-ping : The Comprador in Nineteenth Century China; Bridge Between East and West. Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press, 1970.
- Harbsmeier, Christoph : Science and Civilisation in China. Cambridge University Press, 1954.
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PROFILES and PEOPLE

This section continues with profiles of three more Council Members, Geoffrey Emerson, Julia Chan and Dr. Betty Wei.

Mr. Geoffrey Emerson

The Royal Asiatic Society has played an important part of my life for more than thirty-five years. I came to Hong Kong on a two-year contract in 1964. I'm still here and already retired for five years. I was born in upstate New York on one of the beautiful Finger Lakes; a fine place to grow up but without the excitement of Hong Kong! I studied history at Hamilton College and then education at New York University.

When people ask why I came to Hong Kong, I reply that like many people here, I was a refugee: in my case, a refugee from the New York City public school system. I had taught a year in a junior high school there but it was really rough. When a friend told me about teaching in Hong Kong, I boarded a BOAC plane in New York (remember BOAC?) and arrived at the old Kai Tak Airport. Then, to my great surprise, I spent thirty-two years at St. Paul's College, opposite the University of Hong Kong. There I taught history and English and also served as Vice-Principal for twelve years and Careers Master for eight years. From 1969 to 1971, I studied for an M.Phil. degree at the University of Hong Kong, my thesis being on the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong. For twelve years I served as President of the Hong Kong History Society. In 1984 I took two years off from teaching and sailed up and down the Yangtse River through the famous three gorges, as Sinologist and Cruise Director on a ship mainly carrying American tourists. I still marvel that someone from a small town in upstate New York can end up having such an interesting life on the other side of the world, and I am sure the Royal Asiatic Society will continue to enrich my life for many more years.

Julia L.Y. Chan, Honorary Librarian

Miss Julia Chan has been the Hon. Librarian of the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, since 1995.

She is currently working in the University of Hong Kong as the Medical Librarian while simultaneously serving as the Team Leader of the Branch Libraries Services. Prior to this, she took responsibilities in various posts including the Dental Library, Reader Services and Collection Development in the University of Hong Kong. She was awarded the Medical Library Association (U.S.), Academy of Health Information Professionals – Distinguished Member in 2001.

She is professionally active and has served on various committees. As a long time member of the Hong Kong Library Association since 1984, Miss Chan has served on various HKLA committees. She was Hon. Librarian and Secretary in 1985, Treasurer in 1986 and 1987, Special Libraries Committee Member in 1986 and Liaison Officer for Medical, Health & Welfare Section from 2003-2004. She was also Secretary/Treasurer of the International Association of Orientalist Librarians from 1990-1993. Currently she is the President of the Hong Kong Library Association. She was awarded a Fellowship of the Hong Kong Library Association in 1995.

For many years she played an active role in teaching the Certificate Course for Library Assistants, Diploma in Librarianship, Diploma of Library and Information Science, and Master of Applied Science. She has also published and made presentations on library resources and services and co-authored the Directory of Libraries and Information Centres in Hong Kong.

Betty Wei

I was 16 when I arrived in New York City and became the first Asian student to study at Chapin. Then I went to Bryn Mawr and New York University.

I married Richard Liu, a Chinese American, and we have now enjoyed almost 50 years together. In 1975 Richard accepted a job in Hong Kong and this move completely changed the direction of my life. Hong Kong at that time was British and Cantonese, and I did not belong. In the 1970s there was little for married women outside the context of their husbands' jobs. I hated shopping, did not play mah-jong, and the fantastic Cantonese food, on which one is not supposed to "get fat", made me twice the woman I was. So I had to do something. Since the University of Hong Kong

granted degrees through research, I obtained a doctorate by producing a dissertation. After 30 years of constant expanding and revising, this study is about to emerge as a book!

With a doctorate, one instantly becomes a "scholar" and Oxford University Press invited me to write. *Shanghai: Crucible of Modern China* boasted a colourful cover, so I told everybody to judge at least this book by its exterior. For several years I lectured and wrote columns for international newspapers.

Hong Kong in the 1980s was rapidly changing and my interests took me in several directions. I served on the board of a society that trained children with multiple handicaps, on a committee of the World Wildlife Fund, and the scholarship committee of the Hong Kong Association of University Women. I was a trustee of a foundation that constructed a junk, based on the design of Marco Polo's, authentic to the final detail except for the electronic navigational equipment. I was elected to the Board of Governors of an institution which pioneered in Hong Kong the teaching of children in English and Mandarin Chinese. I was also Governor of the Hong Kong-American Center. I resigned all these responsibilities in 1997.

My daughter complains that I am the "girl who can't say no". As if to prove her point, I took the job of creating a liberal arts curriculum for the degree programs of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts; a new experience for me. It has been a challenge but the rewards continue to multiply. I retired, and hope to devote my time to family, writing, and needlepoint.

Obituary – Reginald Ewart (Tod) Lawry OBE

We have to record with sadness the passing of another RAS personality who few today may remember.

Tod Lawry served in China with the Quaker Society of Friends during World War II and, from then on, he developed a deep love for China. His wife, Beryl, describes in a five-page paper, information about Tod's life. This includes a short piece about their stay in Hong Kong in the first half of the 1960s – a time I myself remember with fondness. Then, we in the RAS used to meet in the British Council rooms which Tod ran in those far off days in Pedder Street. RAS week-end seminars were held in the old Hong Kong Club.

Tod did so much for Hong Kong, and, at the time, it was readily accepted that his OBE was well deserved. He was also made an Honorary Member (since re-styled Fellow) of the RASHKB, an honour which his wife says he treasured. In the RAS President's report, when the Lawrys left in 1966, Dr. J.R. Jones paid high regard to Tod when he said, among many other flattering things, '*... not only was he a veritable godsend as Hon. Secretary but [he] has been the mainstay of the Council and the pivot around which the activities of the Society revolve[d].*'

In the latter part of his time here, in the mid-1960s, he served as Vice-President. In the words of the well known song, 'Forty Years on when afar and asunder, parted are those who are singing today!'

Tod has left many monuments, both tangible and intangible, some buried deep in the past, not only in Hong Kong but also in many other places around the world where he served with the British Council.

Peace, only peace that is all we ask.

.....**Dr. D.D. Waters Past President
and Honorary Fellow RASHKB**

OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

SYMPOSIUM : HISTORY AND MEMORY

Present Reflections on the Past to Build our Future

An International Symposium organised by the Macao Ricci Institute, 1st – 3rd December, 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.”

This is the opening paragraph of the outline of this Symposium which was in our May newsletter. If you do not still have the newsletter to hand, this is available through the RASHKB website.

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; and v) The “duty of memory”: For whom and to what end?

Dates of the Symposium:	1 st – 3 rd December, 2005
Organising Institution:	Macao Ricci Institute
Venue:	Inspiration Bldg, Inst. Tourism Studies, Macao
Registration Deadline:	14 th November, 2005
Enquiries:	The Ricci Institute at Tel: (853) 532 536, or Fax: (853) 568 274

Seminars at the Department of Anthropology, CUHK

Upcoming lunchtime seminars open to the public:

- **14th October - Professor John Lawrence Witzleben**, Department of Music, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, “Music for the Masses: Crossover Dreams (and Nightmares) in the presentation of Chinese Instrumental Music.”
- **11th November - RASHKB member Professor Hugh Baker**, Director, Centre for East Asian Studies, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, “Anthropology Applied?”
- **8th November - Mr. Christian Lo**, MPhil Candidate, Department of Social Anthropology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, “Making it at the Chung-king Mansions: Stories from the Bottom End of Globalization”.

Seminars take place at 12.30-2-00pm in Room 401 Humanities Building, New Asia College, CUHK. Feel free to bring your box lunch or sandwich to eat during the talk.

The Story of Bodhidharma

On 30th September and 1st October the Jade Group and City Entertainers will present Zen Katha, the Story of Bodhidharma, a play in English which traces the journey of an Indian prince from south India to the Chinese court in 525AD. After the dramatic encounter of Bodhidharma with Emperor Wu Ti of the Liang dynasty, it culminates in the birth of Zen and martial arts at the austere Shaolin monastery. With stunning visuals and spectacular performances, the play is one of the first to depict the historical, cultural and spiritual linkages India and China share, reinforcing the current economic and political ties.

Dates:	Friday, 30 th September and Saturday, 1 st October
Time:	8.00pm
Venue:	Drama Theatre, HKAPA, Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong
Tickets:	HK Ticketing (www.hkticketing.com)
Enquiries:	9641 8214 / 6019 0621

OTHER SOCIETIES

The Mineralogy Society of Hong Kong

The Mineralogy Society of Hong Kong is a newly formed society which will be of interest to any RAS members who are fascinated, as I am, by the symmetry and beauty of naturally occurring crystals, and by the details of their formation over geological ages. Members receive a monthly newsletter, often with some offers of minerals for sale, and participate in a variety of activities. Earlier this summer we

visited the Lin Ma Hang mine, in the closed area up by the border, and pictures of this outing are shown on our website, www.minsochk.org. We are planning a trip to Hunan province in March/April next year, to visit some sites where excellent mineral specimens have been found. In the meantime our next meeting is just a local get together to visit the jade market in Yaumatei on Friday, 14th October, meeting at 10.30 in the morning at the MTR station.

Please visit our website for more details about the society, email info@minsochk.org, or call me at 2857 3464.

....**Anthea Strickland**

The Hong Kong Natural History Society

Those who enjoy the Royal Asiatic Society might also be interested to know about the Hong Kong Natural History Society. They hold an outing every month and from November to April, these usually consist of hikes in the Country Parks and countryside of Hong Kong. During the summer months, they take boat trips to some of the distant islands that are more difficult to reach by public transport; for example, this month to Ping Chau and next month to the Sokos. Membership is \$100 per year, or \$150 for joint membership for a couple. Members come from diverse backgrounds but are a very social, friendly group. Anyone is interested in joining or would like further information, please contact me at 2573 8305 or by email at hellojan@netvigator.com.

....**Jan Campbell**

The Textile Society of Hong Kong

The Textile Society has a full programme of events to which non-members are welcome. Their programme in the next few weeks includes:

4th October : “Risk Management: Keeping Heritage Textiles Healthy”. Sharon Little will show the basic approaches and techniques of textile conservation.

8th October : A visit to the Textile Conservation Laboratory of the Central Conservation Section. Textile conservator Rosa Pang will show textiles she is currently working on, including a very fragile Chinese military uniform and a brocade painting.

17th November : “Chinese Opera Costume” – talk by Sally Yu Leung.

For full details of these events, with cost and venues, go to www.textilesocietyofhk.org. For general information, email info@textilesocietyofhk.org.

The Siam Society

Anyone visiting Bangkok in early October is invited to a Siam Society lecture by Ms. Linda McIntosh entitled “Status, Myth and the Supernatural: Ritual Tai Textiles”. Ms. McIntosh is presently a Ph.D. candidate at Simon Fraser University, Canada, and she is a member of the Textile Society of America. A donation of 150 baht is suggested for non-members.

Date/Time: Thursday, 6th October, at 7.30pm

Venue: The Siam Society, 131 Asoke Road, Sukhumvit 21, Bangkok

Enquiries: (Country code 66) Tel: 2 661 6470-7, Fax: 2 258 3491, email info@siam-society.org

PHOTOS FOR THE WEBSITE

If you have signed up for either of the upcoming overseas trips or plan to take part in a future local visit, please remember that we always welcome photos for the website, which has been so well redesigned by Ruth Benny. If you have any pictures from recent events you'd like to send her please do so via ruth@angelcommunications.biz. We would also like to have video recordings of RASHKB visits. If you already have some from past events do let us know – membership@royasiaticsociety.org.hk and bear this in mind if you plan to video any future events.