

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

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20th NOVEMBER, 2005

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

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
Friday, 16 th December	Lecture at Museum of Coastal Defence	Crisis in Command: BAAG & the Politics of Intelligence in China 1942-1945
Saturday, 14 th January	Local Visit	Hong Kong Maritime Museum
Friday, 20 th January	City Hall Lecture	One Couple Two Cultures: 81 Western-Chinese Couples Talk About Love and Marriage
3 rd - 15 th April	Overseas Trip	Study Tour to Yunnan and Tibet <i>(A few places are still available)</i>

City Hall Lecture

Friday, 2nd December

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 let Jason Wordie know if you will be coming to the dinner : email jasonwordie@graduate.hku.hk or Tel 2476 5057.

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 and the public are welcome to attend. For the dinner afterwards, the cost is \$150 for members, \$170 for guests
Booking: No booking is required for the talk. Please let Jason Wordie know if you will be coming to the dinner: email jasonwordie@graduate.hku.hk or Tel 2476 5057

City Hall Lecture

Friday, 9th December

‘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 he was given his first 35mm camera at the age of thirteen.

He 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. He 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. At the time of going to press, however, this event is almost full. Anyone interested in taking up the last spaces should contact Geoffrey Emerson: Tel 6012 0700 or email emerson@netvigator.com.

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: Contact Geoffrey Emerson: Tel 2550 4374 or email emerson@netvigator.com

Museum of Coastal Defence

Friday, 16th December

Crisis in Command: BAAG & the Politics of Intelligence in China 1942-1945

When Lieut-Colonel Lindsay Ride arrived in Chungking following his escape from Sham Shui Po Camp on 9th, January 1942, he found the British Military Attaché at the Embassy, fellow Australian Gordon Grimsdale, sympathetic to his proposal for an operation that would assist escaping prisoners of war, extract information about the Japanese and conditions in Hong Kong and smuggle in drugs for the relief of prisoners and internees.

Unaware of the existence of MI9/MI19 in German occupied Europe, Ride named his organisation the British Army Aid Group in order to mask its covert function. Initial success gave way to problems in 1944, not only between MI9 and rival British intelligence units, but more seriously with the Americans, whose organisations were empowered by Roosevelt and poured dollars into the Nationalist coffers, thus enjoying far better relations with Chiang Kai-shek and his secret police chief, Dai Li. The turf war that ensued came close to destroying the BAAG and almost brought about Ride's departure from China.

Sue Ebury followed a career as a librarian with DSIR and as Librarian-in-Charge of the School Library Service in Southland, NZ, by 19 years with an international publisher in Melbourne, Australia, where she was Publishing Director. She commissioned and was the editor of important diaries kept in Java and on the Burma-Thailand Railway by Australian surgeon and prisoner-of-war, (Sir) Edward Dunlop: *The War Diaries of Weary Dunlop*. Her biography, *Weary: the Life of Sir Edward Dunlop* was, like the diaries, acclaimed worldwide.

Sue lived in Hong Kong between 1986 and 1994, when she returned to Australia. She is completing a biography of the Australian philanthropist and public figure Kenneth Baillieu Myer and

recently began research for a biography of the late Brigadier Sir Lindsay Ride, former Vice-Chancellor of Hong Kong University and Commandant of the BAAG.

Speaker: Sue Ebury
Venue: Lecture Hall, Museum of Coastal Defence, Tung Hei Road, Shau Kei Wan. The museum is walking distance (about 15 minutes) from Shau Kei Wan MTR station and the way is clearly signposted.
Time: 6.30pm
Cost: This lecture is free and members of the public are invited
Booking: No booking is required
Contact: Jason Wordie, Tel 2476 5057 during normal office hours

Local Visit

Saturday, 14th January

A Guided Tour of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum

This museum by the bay, which opened in September 2005, is located in Murray House, a colonnaded, 19th century building in Stanley. It is a superbly well-designed showcase of centuries of coastal culture and shipping.

In the 'Ancient Gallery', a stunning exhibition of artefacts (many from private collections) shows the important role China played in developing the world's waterborne industry and also underlines the part played by Middle Eastern and Western traders and seagoing powers. A Han-dynasty pottery model boat, for example, reveals how simple and effective water transport was in early China. One of the Museum's most important acquisitions is an 18-metre silk hand scroll in ink and colour by an anonymous Qing artist depicting the defeat of the pirates who infested the waters around Guangdong. The storyboard is enriched by audiovisual displays.

The 'Modern Gallery' illustrates how the global shipping industry has developed from the beginning of the steam era to the present day and demonstrates what has made Hong Kong a world-class port and maritime centre.

Dr. Stephen Davies, the Museum Director, has kindly agreed to guide this visit. Following a spell in the Royal Navy and as a Royal Marine Commando subaltern, Stephen Davies became a lecturer in politics and philosophy at the University of Hong Kong. Between 1989 and 2004 he and his partner sailed their 11.5m sloop two-handed some 50,000 miles from Hong Kong to Australia and New Zealand, then through Southeast Asia and the Red and Mediterranean Seas to Britain, and finally back to Singapore. He is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre of Asian Studies, the University of Hong Kong.

This visit includes a tour of the Museum and, afterwards, lunch at Lucy's, a restaurant in Stanley Market.

Time: 10.15am for a 10.30am start at the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Murray House, Stanley Plaza. Stanley Plaza is a retail complex. Convenient buses include nos. 6, 6X, 66, 260 from Exchange Square, Central. Take the escalators down to sea level and Murray House can be seen directly across the open arena.

Place: Entrance of Hong Kong Maritime Museum

Cost: \$180 including a two-course lunch

Booking: Please return the booking form on page 14 by 7th January, 2006. There is a limit on numbers so please return your form as soon as possible - first come, first served.

City Hall Lecture

Friday, 20th January

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

The focus of this talk will be on the research Dan Waters undertook which culminated in his recently published book with the above title. Up until World War II Western-Chinese inter-marriage

was not generally accepted in 'polite' society, neither by Europeans nor by Chinese (although there was an Anglo-Chinese marriage in London in 1881). Such attitudes continued after 1960 when Dan took his Chinese bride to the altar. Today, when having Chinese blood in one's veins is sometimes considered a cachet, Western-Chinese marriages are common, and, with globalization, will become more so.

Compatibility is said to depend as much on smelly gorgonzola cheese and chickens' feet as on a man-to-woman relationship. Communication is obviously important because, as our Chinese friends say, 'a chicken cannot talk to a duck.' With many cultural differences can a Western-Chinese marriage be as happy as a marriage where 'wooden gates match wooden gates and bamboo doors match bamboo doors?'

Dr. Waters was born in Norwich (UK), city of pubs and churches, in 1920. He has written widely about Hong Kong history and culture and is a Past President of RASHKB.

Speaker: Dr. Dan Waters
Venue: Activities Extension Room, 8th Floor, City Hall High Block, Central
Time: 6.15pm
Cost: This lecture is free and members of the public are invited
Booking: No booking is required

Overseas Visit

3rd - 15th April

Study Tour to Yunnan and Tibet

We have 30 members now signed up (coming from HK, Australia, Canada, the UK and the USA), and it looks like being a great trip. The good news is that we can take a few more members if there is last-minute interest! We need your completed trip form and deposit cheque ASAP (see details in the September Newsletter). The trip dates remain 3rd-15th April 2006, but the airlines have not yet issued their flight schedules for the Zhongdian-Lhasa (Gongar) sector (this should be available by the end of this month at latest). Balance of payment (amount to be advised later) is due by 10th February 2006 latest. For further details contact Dr Brian Shaw: bcjshaw@hkucc.hku.hk.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

On 16th September **Dr. Peter Cunich** gave an informative and delightful talk on South China Missionaries and the Revolution, 1911–1912. His talk was made all the more endearing as he centred it on the experiences of his wife's great-aunt, Charlotte Bailey, and her husband-to-be, the Rev. John Bacon. Both had become missionaries with the Church Missionary Society and both arrived to serve the mission in Kweilin shortly before the Republican revolution of 1911. The Archdeacon of Hong Kong had become the first Bishop of the newly formed diocese of Kwangsi-Hunan in 1909. The Kweilin Mission, in Kwangsi, had been formed in 1900, the centenary of the formation of CMS. It was an inland and isolated mission, subject to privations, with death ever near, and had had to be evacuated temporarily in 1899 due to the Boxer Rebellion.

With the lawlessness surrounding the Republican revolution the mission again had to be evacuated and John and Charlotte each sought the safety of Hong Kong. The relationship between them blossomed. Peter developed the sub-plots of love and adventure – although as a professional historian Peter recognized these were areas where historians may fear to tread. When John returned to China ahead of Charlotte he wrote a series of charming letters describing his situation, the conditions and his love for Charlotte. She remained longer in Hong Kong learning Chinese and more about tropical and eye diseases. These letters formed the intimate and unique resource that Peter shared with the audience. The love led to marriage. Regrettably, Rev. John Bacon died of pneumonia in 1918 after volunteering for service in the trenches. Aunt Lotte, as Charlotte became known, continued the mission work until retirement in 1944. The mission hospital still runs as a state hospital, perhaps the most physical reminder of the mission in Kweilin, but there is also a thriving community of Christians in Kweilin and Aunt Lotte is still fondly remembered there.

On Saturday, September 17th, **Edward Stokes** led a tour of the exhibit of photographs from his book, “Hedda Morrison’s Hong Kong, 1946-47”, at the Hong Kong University Museum and Art Gallery. He put each picture in context, and pointed out many historical details that may have been missed by a casual gallery visitor. An account of his lecture on 9th September about the discovery and publication of these photographs can be found in the September newsletter. This event had had to be postponed from 10th September but nevertheless nearly 30 members and guests attended.

On 15th October, some 30 members gathered on Saturday morning at **St. John’s Cathedral**. While the participants were enjoying coffee and biscuits, provided by Mrs. Vanda Cole, member of the RASHKB Activities Committee, the Rev. Matthew Vernon, Cathedral Chaplain, and Past President of the RASHKB, Dr. Dan Waters, spoke about the history of the Cathedral. The group then toured the Cathedral itself, where many historical features, including stained glass windows, a small wooden altar piece from the Shamshuipo Prisoner of War Camp and regimental flags buried during World War II, were pointed out and explained.

From the Cathedral, the group walked to **Bishop’s House** at 1 Lower Albert Road. On the ground floor of this historical building, dated 1851, Council member Geoffrey Emerson spoke about the history of the building, which had originally housed St. Paul’s College, and some of the Bishops and others who had lived and worked there. A number of historical photographs of the College and of the Bishops were on display.

Finally, the group was warmly welcomed to **St. Paul’s Church**, just above Bishop’s House, by Mr. Clement Siu and Ms. Eliza Chan, who showed a very interesting PowerPoint program about the history and work of St. Paul’s Church and then led us into the church itself. Originally this was used as the chapel of St. Paul’s College, until the outbreak of World War II. Following the visit, a number of participants enjoyed an Indian lunch at Jashan restaurant on Hollywood Road.

A group of 17 members thoroughly enjoyed the RASHKB **visit to Japan** from 22nd to 29th October. The group flew to the new Central Japan International airport near Nagoya. For three days we walked along parts of the Nakasendo Highway, staying overnight in ryokan inns and sleeping comfortably on tatami mats. We visited several of the 67 “post stations” along this 500kms-long route. The route was one of the five main highways controlled by the Tokugawa Shogunate during the Edo period (1600 – 1868), overseeing the movement of people and of goods, particularly timber. In places the track has been upgraded to a tarmac road but much of the sample we walked along was constructed with stones or well placed cobbles and much was simply an earthen track.

The road is steeped in the culture of Japan, with Ando Hiroshige, the wood-block print artist, and Kiukawa Eisen another of the Ukiyo-e artists, having painted along its route. Shimazaki Toson the novelist lived in Magome, one of the post towns we visited, also Basho, one of whose poems was carved into a stone in front of the ryokan we stayed in on the first night.

Much of the route we visited was wooded with the leaves turning to beautiful autumnal colours. Ron Clibborn-Dyer was able to point out and name for the group an amazing array of flowers and plants. The Japanese food at the ryokans was a delight, as were the Japanese baths.

The remainder of the week we visited some of the spectacular sites of Kyoto – the Silver Pavilion and the Philosopher’s Walk at the eastern side, the Golden Pavilion and Ryoanji Zen Temple on the west and Nijo Castle nearby the hotel. All too soon it was time to catch the train to the Osaka Kansai International airport for our flight home.

Few people have an opportunity to meet a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, but on 4th November, those who attended the City Hall talk by **Ann Gray** had that chance. Ann gave a very interesting talk about her work with female sex workers in Hong Kong as a founding member of Action for Reach Out (AFRO), a non-governmental organization. The title of her talk was “Reaching out to the ‘Bad Girls’ in Hong Kong Society – the Myth and the Reality of Sex Work in Hong Kong”. A member of the Missionary Sisters of St. Columban, Ann, who is from Scotland, touched upon the reasons women become involved, the priority of most women being to earn money for their children’s education.

AFRO has a drop-in centre in Kowloon and provides many services to the women who do come in, mainly street-workers. Among other things, the women are introduced to other skills and can get peer help. Before 2003, health services (and many people don't think about the fact that sex workers have other diseases than HIV and STD) were free, but most unfortunately now sex workers not in possession of a Hong Kong I.D. card face a charge of \$700 and a further charge of \$700 is levied for a report, so no migrant women will go for a health check. When AFRO was founded in 1993, funding was a great difficulty but today help is given by the Global Fund for Women in the United States and the Hong Kong Jockey Club. There are seven full-time staff members. When asked what she would like to see improved, Ann replied that there are many unfair laws and she would like to see soliciting decriminalized. It is most unfair that the women are thought of by the public and portrayed in the media as "deviant women" and the men who use their services are seldom charged and considered "normal". This most interesting talk was followed by a lively question and answer session.

On Tuesday, 15th November, seven members attended a 'Da Jiu', a once in ten years festival for peace, at Kam Tin village. The festivities lasted a week and culminated in the burning of the effigies on Thursday, the 17th in the evening, an event also attended by several of our members. On the Tuesday we were able to see, and to be part of, a procession of the male members of the Tang clan around Kam Tin and neighbouring villages. There were dragon dances (one dragon was over 50m long) and lion dances, and the procession included men variously dressed in the bright red Taoist robes, the grey robes of the village elders, blue robes or simply yellow T-shirts. There were flags and cymbals and gongs. In all, perhaps a thousand people took part in the procession, of whom only a small proportion were visitors like ourselves and even fewer were "tourists".

A huge shed, made from bamboo poles and metal sheets had been set up in a field near the village. It was gaily decorated with vast colourful paper billboards and served as a gathering point and centre of festivities. Inside were several stalls with altars set up by various members of the Tang clan. One section was decorated with hundreds of dolls showing the "good" village life hereafter – with coffee shops, jewellers and even estate agents in dolls' houses, but also showing judgment and the appalling consequences should one misbehave. There were also puppetry shows with live singing. Each day the villagers celebrated with the communal vegetarian "poon choi" lunches. The villagers kindly invited us to join in this healthy meal.

We regret that notice of this event did not come through in time to organize a local trip for all members. However, the society is hoping to arrange visit to a 'Da Jiu' to be held in another village next year.

"Chinese Canadians in the Second World War: Defenders of Hong Kong and China" was the title of a very informative talk on 18th November given by **Judy Maxwell**. She began her talk by explaining her background and why she became interested in this topic, a subject certainly very few of those in the audience knew much about. Judy made the subject come alive with the use of PowerPoint slides. She was born in Vancouver, Canada, and she has an M.A. in history from the University of British Columbia, for which she wrote about Chinese Canadian veterans from the Second World War. She explained a bit about the background of Chinese immigration into Canada starting from the gold rush in the late 1850s and her own interesting family history before relating many fascinating personal stories about Chinese Canadians in the War.

At the beginning of the War, Chinese Canadians were not even allowed to serve in the Canadian armed forces, so some of them went to China and flew planes over The Hump for the Kuomintang. It was not until 1942 that Chinese were allowed to enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Winston Churchill pressured the Canadian government to change their anti-Chinese policies to enable the Chinese Canadians to assist fully in the war effort. After the war, however, the Chinese still had to petition for citizenship, the right to vote, and for the removal of discriminatory legislation. The benefit of the Second World War for Chinese Canadians was that it enabled them to gain equality. Interestingly, Judy explained that although the Japanese Canadians — who were interned during the war in Canada — received redress in 1988, the government has yet to compensate Chinese Canadians for the extremely unfair poll tax that they were required to pay. However, C\$25 million has been

allocated to rectify past mistreatment of Chinese, Ukrainians, Italians, Jews, etc. Deciding how this money will be distributed and how the Chinese will fare has yet to be resolved!

Judy is presently working on research projects in Hong Kong, but will commence her PhD in Australia in late February. She will be returning to Hong Kong regularly, so we hope to have her speak to us again one day.

CARL SMITH'S PhD CEREMONY

On Sunday, 30th October, a small group of Members of the Society went to Macao to watch our Hon. Vice-President, Rev. Carl T. Smith, receive an Honorary Doctorate from the Inter-University Institute of Macao, an overseas branch of the Catholic University of Portugal. The ceremony took place in the Cathedral of Macao, a fine venue, as part of the Commencement ceremonies for the University. Carl, resplendent in his robes of black and scarlet, flecked with green, sat as Dr. Paul van Dyke read a Laudation in which he spoke of Carl's lifetime of work researching into the history of Hong Kong and Macao, of the vast amount of exceptionally valuable written work produced by Carl, and of the immense corpus of notes and file-cards Carl has amassed, much of it today in the Public Records Office at Hong Kong. Then the Rector of the Institute, Ruben Cabral, read the words that conferred the degree, to great and well-deserved applause. Later, the Members present, with Carl's niece and her husband, who had come to Macao for the event, took Carl for a celebratory lunch at the Solimar Restaurant.

On Friday, 2nd December, the Society is hosting an evening of short talks on Carl's life and work. For details, see elsewhere in this Newsletter. Carl will be present. This will be an excellent opportunity for those of the Society who could not get to the Ceremony in Macao to express their congratulations to Dr. Smith.

Volunteers Needed - **“IN SEARCH OF THE PAST”**

Many members may be aware of the publication, "In Search of the Past: A Guide to the Antiquities of Hong Kong." Written by Hon. Fellow of the RASHKB Dr. Solomon Bard, this book has become a standard work of reference for anybody interested in discovering the current state of Hong Kong's many old buildings, villages, forts and ancient rock carvings. However, as the book was published in 1988, the descriptions are now far from current. The book is in need of a major update and revision. Dr. Bard has informed us that he is very keen for somebody to take on this task, although he is not in a position to commit to it himself.

We are therefore looking for volunteers who are interested in becoming involved in this landmark project. A number of talents will be needed to be brought together for such an important task, including historical research, exploring (some of the buildings and villages are fairly hard to find these days), photography, writing, publishing as well as administrative help. If a team can be found, we could then go forward and seek the necessary permissions and funding to make it happen. One practical initial consideration is that the book was published by the now-defunct Urban Council; we are not sure at this stage where the copyright currently rests. But first, is there anybody interested to help us make a start? Offers of help great and small would be welcomed, but at some stage a project leader would have to be identified.

Please respond in writing to the President, Robert Nield, at our address - GPO Box 3864, or by e-mail to membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk.

STILL 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).

DONATIONS TO THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG BRANCH LIBRARY

This month thanks go to Dan Waters, the Hong Kong Museum of History and the Institute of Ethnology Academia Sinica for their donations to our library.

From Hong Kong Museum of History:

- § East Meets West : Cultural Relics from the Pearl River Delta Region. Hong Kong : The Hong Kong Museum of History, 2005
- § Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb. Hong Kong : The Hong Kong Museum of History, 2005

From The Institute of Ethnology Academia Sinica:

- § Images of Others, Regional Variations and History Among the Amis. 2005

From Dan Waters:

- § Woo, Edward P.H., Ng Patrick, Fu, Y.S. The Musical Approach: Introducing a New Concept to learn Cantonese. Hong Kong : Novelty Publishers Ltd., 1995. (kit)
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PROFILES and PEOPLE

The next newsletter will contain the last of the profiles of our Council Members. For now, here are three more.

Peter Halliday, Hon. Editor

Peter Halliday has been the Hon. Editor of HKBRAS since 1993. He is a former police officer turned entrepreneur with ventures currently in ICT consulting, executive training and search engine marketing. He is married with two young children. His interests include academia, scouting, Special Olympics and trying to keep fit.

Josephine Wong

Josephine has been a member of the Society since the mid-nineties and joined the Council in 2003. She was born and educated in Hong Kong and earned her B.A. and M.Phil (on Hong Kong history) degrees in 1995 and 2001 respectively at the University of Hong Kong. She joined the Hong Kong government in 1998 as Assistant Curator of the Hong Kong Museum of History, and she completed the postgraduate programme in Museum Studies at the University of Sydney in 2001. Her research interests include Hong Kong history, women's history, and cultural studies. "It has been a wonderful experience being with the Society, attending all those lectures, visits and special events which have broadened my academic and social horizons."

Jason Wordie, Activities Co-ordinator

Jason Wordie is a local historian and writer. A member of the Society from 1990, he was elected to Council in 2000, and has chaired the Activities Committee since late 2003. A graduate of the University of Hong Kong, he is an Honorary Research Associate at the Centre of Asian Studies and in the History Department of Hong Kong University. An Australian by birth, he has lived in Kam Tin in the north-west New Territories since the late 1980s. He worked for several years as a civilian teacher with the Brigade of Gurkhas in the New Territories and Brunei, and served for a time with the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) in the early 1990s.

Jason is the author, with Ko Tim Keung, of *Ruins of War: A Guide to Hong Kong's Battlefields and Wartime Sites*, published in 1996. He subsequently prepared for publication Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride's illustrated history of Macao, *The Voices of Macao Stones*, which appeared in 1999. *Streets: Exploring Hong Kong Island*, a ramble around lesser-known corners of Hong Kong Island, was released in 2002. *Streets: Exploring Kowloon* is currently with Hong Kong University Press, and a similar work on Macao is now in preparation.

In addition to writing newspaper articles on local history subjects and conducting walking tours to sites of historical interest in Hong Kong and Macao, Jason's research interests range from the evolution history of Hong Kong's local Portuguese community, to the little-known Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps Nursing Detachment; both of which will be the subject of books in due course. He also completed an extensive biography of former Hutchison International Ltd. *taipan* Sir Douglas Clague, which remains unpublished at this time.

LOCAL EVENTS

“House, Home and Family : the Chinese Way of Living and Being”

Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong Lecture

Ms. Kai-yin Lo will be speaking on the subject of "House, Home, Family : the Chinese Way of Living and Being" at a meeting of the Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong on 5th December at 7.30pm.

The concept of house, home, family represents the Chinese way of living, contributing to the formation of Chinese culture and identity, and the Chinese way of being. Ms. Lo's investigations began with questioning why traditional furniture was arranged in a prescribed pattern in the principal rooms of a house. Her research led to an understanding of the philosophy, ethical norm, cultural background, social and economic organization of the traditional house, bound by Confucian tenets and a belief in the ancient cosmic order. Ms. Kai-Yin Lo has edited or co-edited four books on Chinese arts and culture. The last, co-edited with Ronald G. Knapp, "House, Home, Family: Living and Being Chinese", has recently been released.

The cost of the lecture, which will be held at the Hong Kong Club, is \$100. For reservations, please contact the OCS by emailing ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk or calling 2527-0696. Visitors are also very welcome to reserve for dinner after the lecture. The extra cost for dinner, including two glasses of wine, will be \$420.

Venue: The Hong Kong Club
Date/Time: Monday, 5th December at 7.30pm
Cost: \$100
Booking: Contact Oriental Ceramic Society at ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk

“East Meets West : Cultural Relics from the Pearl River Delta Region” Exhibition

Through some 160 items of cultural relics from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, this exhibition attempts to unfold the extent of commercial and cultural contact between China and the West in different dynasties. By studying the design of export wares, the spread of Christianity, the introduction of scientific knowledge, the materialization of cultural ferment and the rise of a new intelligentsia, visitors will learn about the specific roles that the trio of Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macao played in the history of Sino-Western exchanges.

Period: Until 2nd January, 2006
Venue: Special Exhibition Gallery, Hong Kong Museum of History
100 Chatham Road South, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Admission: No additional charge except Museum admission fee (\$10, \$7, \$5)
Exhibition Catalogue at \$100 (highly recommended)
Enquiries: Tel 2724 9042
Website: <http://www.hk.history.museum/>

The Ancient Culture of Hong Kong: Archaeological Discoveries in Sha Ha, Sai Kung

In 2001 the Antiquities and Monuments Office organized a large-scale excavation of cultural remains which were uncovered during construction of a new road around Sai Kung. Many of the ancient cultural relics unearthed by this operation in Sha Ha are now on exhibit at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre in Kowloon Park, illustrating the life of prehistoric inhabitants and the early history of Hong Kong.

Venue: Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Hours: Mondays to Saturdays (except Thursdays) 10.00am to 6.00pm; Sundays and Public Holidays 10.00am to 7.00pm; Closed at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve and Chinese New Year's Eve; closed on Thursdays (except Public Holidays) and the first two days of the Chinese New Year
Admission: Free
Enquiries: Tel 2208 4400
Website: <http://www.amo.gov.hk/>

A series of special lectures will be taking place at the Heritage Discovery Centre over the next two months, to which the public are invited. English-only speaking members please note that these talks will be held in Cantonese, except where indicated:

10th December : Landscape Archaeology and its Application (in English)
Speaker: Dr. Christopher Day
17th December : A Review of Archaeological Work in Hong Kong for the Past 20 years
Speaker: Dr. Tang Chung
7th January : A Legacy of the Ming Dynasty: Ceramics of the Ming Dynasty Excavated from Sha Ha, Sai Kung and Penny's Bay, Lantau Island
Speaker: Prof. Lam Yip-keung
21st January : Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Hong Kong
Speaker: Mr. Au Ka-fat
11th February : An Analysis of the Geological Environment of and Stone Artefacts at Sha Ha
Mr. Lee Cho-min

Venue: Lecture Hall, Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon
Time: 3.00pm to 4.00pm
Admission: Free - first come, first served (110 seats)
Enquiries: Tel 2208 4407
Website: <http://www.amo.gov.hk/>

Exhibitions at the University Museum and Art Gallery, Hong Kong University

1. Hong Kong Cantonese Opera Artist: Law Ka-ying

Jointly presented by the Department of Music and the University Museum and Art Gallery, this exhibition features Law Ka-ying's own collection of costumes and accessories, librettos, publicity materials and photographs, giving a comprehensive view of his operatic art in the past fifty years. Law has been instrumental in the revival of Cantonese Opera in the past few decades. This exhibit runs through until 8th January, 2006.

2. Heavenly Creations: An Exhibition of Chinese Snuff Bottles

An exhibition of over 300 snuff bottles from the collections of five Hong Kong connoisseurs is on display at the University Museum and Art Gallery. The collections include bottles made of glass, porcelain, jade, quartz and other soft stones, organic materials and inside-painted glass and rock crystal, of both imperial and non-imperial origins. This exhibit runs through to 26th February, 2006.

Venue: University Museum and Art Gallery, Hong Kong University, Bonham Road, Pokfulam
Hours: Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 6.00pm; Sundays 1.30pm to 5.30pm. The Museum is closed 24th-27th December, 31st December (pm), 1st-2nd January, 28th-31st January and public holidays.
Admission: Free
Enquiries: Tel: 2241 5500, email museum@hkusua.hku.hk
Website: <http://www.hku.hk/hkumag>

Exhibition of Racing Badges

Hong Kong Racing Museum, Happy Valley

Badges signify identity, status and sometimes organisational membership, and membership badges of the Hong Kong Jockey Club are no exception. The basic elements of the badges include the Club's name, its logo, the year of issuance. The size, colour, pattern, wordings and manufacturer change over time, but whatever the changes, every element on the badge points to some information, which helps decipher embedded stories and establishes a relationship with a particular point in history. Featuring over 300 valuable badges of the museum's collection from the 1930s, plus archival documents, this exhibition not only reveals the evolution of the design of badges over time, but also reconstructs the Club's history, and that of Hong Kong, through the unique language of badges.

Venue: Hong Kong Racing Museum, 2/F Happy Valley Stand, Happy Valley
Date: Through to 1st January, 2006
Hours: 10.00am to 5.00pm, Tuesdays to Sundays
Admission: Free

OTHER SOCIETIES

The Friends of the Art Museum, CUHK

Founded in 1981 to promote the study of Chinese Art and Culture, the Friends celebrate their 25th Anniversary in 2006. Through fundraising activities over the last quarter century the Friends have provided scholarship and support to Fine Arts students and have helped with the acquisition of artefacts by the Art Museum at CUHK.

Members and members' guests can enjoy both Local and Asian Tours – hugely popular with local, expat and overseas Friends; lectures by resident and visiting experts; join our marvellous study groups as well as film and gallery clubs and, most importantly, enjoy the company of others interested in the Arts. Through these activities and the sale of our popular range of cards and other products we finance our charitable work.

For full details of all our events, please visit our website, <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/friends> or join us for \$450 per year by contacting our membership secretary on asblau@netvigator.com.

The Women's Corona Society

The Women's Corona Society also welcomes ladies who are new to Hong Kong as well as those who are not. They meet each Monday morning in the Mariners' Club in TST and enjoy coffee and a chat as well as interesting speakers; they also arrange local visits and social activities. For more information call Karen Ellis on 2779 3476.

The Oriental Ceramics Society

The Oriental Ceramics Society provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information in study sessions and travel programmes, a platform for scholarly lectures by distinguished speakers and a medium through which members may show their collections to other members and the public. For further information email ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk or leave a message at Tel 2527 0696.

SOME USEFUL WEBSITES

<http://www.chinese-furniture.com/>

This is a good introduction to the craftsmanship and styles of Chinese furniture through the ages. Close-up photographs and good descriptions of the various types of woods and other materials particular to Chinese furniture construction are a feature of this site.

<http://www.regiments.org/>

The goal of this website, Land Forces of Britain, the Empire and Commonwealth, is to catalogue essential information about every regiment of the Empire and Commonwealth. One of the section lists all nations that were at one part of the Empire and Commonwealth, and another lists all wars fought since 1660 by Britain and its colonies. A useful tool for military researchers.

<http://www.chinapage.com/history1.html>

This site offers chronologies of dynasties and emperors, and Chinese history with timelines and maps. Under History, you can access a reference site at UCSD with good Archives, Sources and Bibliography sections. The section Links provides quick access to on-line catalogues of East Asian libraries throughout the world.

<http://www.cnd.org/fairbank/>

This website, A Modern Chinese Virtual Library, provides easy access to sources of modern Chinese historical information on the internet.

http://www.asianinfo.org/asianinfo/history/history_timeline.htm

This site offers a brief and clear overview of the history timelines of China, Korea, Japan, India, Thailand and Malaysia.

<http://www.erols.com/arbs>

Asian Rare Books, 175 W.93 Street (16-D), New York, NY 10025, USA, have been selling old and out-of-print books on China and Asia for 30 years. Phone (1) 212 316 5334, fax (1) 212 316 3408, email arbs@erols.com.

<http://www.asia-fineart.com/>

This website spotlights the current exhibition of Vietnamese paintings in the gallery of RASHKB member Sidney Cowell.

<http://www.asia-art.net/>

A website for Asian art.

<http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org/>

This is the address for our parent society in London. The site includes information concerning, among other topics, upcoming events, the Journal and application information.

ADVERTISING IN THE RAS NEWSLETTER

In an effort to defray newsletter costs, we are accepting ads that would be of interest to RAS members. Would you like to advertise a business or a service you can provide, or do you know someone who might be interested? Our rates are very reasonable: Full Page \$1,150.00; 2/3 Page \$850.00; 1/2 Page \$725.00, 1/3 Page \$450.00. If you have a short ad and would like to pay according to the number of words in the ad, you may do so at the following rates - first 10 words \$70.00, each additional word \$2.50.