

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, HONG KONG BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

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20th MAY, 2006

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Friday, 26 th May	City Hall Lecture	The Shaping of Hong Kong's Central Business District
Sunday, 18 th June	Local Visit	The Jewish Synagogue in Mid-levels The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru
Friday, 30 th June	City Hall Lecture	China's Political Movements since 1949
Saturday, 5 th August	Local Visit	Crown Wine Cellars, Shouson Hill
Friday, 11 th August	City Hall Lecture	Reluctant Heroes: Rickshaw Pullers in Hong Kong and Canton, 1874-1954
17 th - 26 th August	Overseas Visit	Proposed Study Tour to Mongolia
18 th - 27 th February, 2007	Overseas Visit	Proposed Study Tour to Bhutan

City Hall Lecture

Friday, 26th May

The Shaping of Hong Kong's Central Business District

Nicholas Sallnow-Smith will give a presentation looking back over the development of Central since the founding of Hong Kong in 1841. He will review how the series of reclamations have expanded the district and how design and construction techniques have enabled it to become one of the world's key business hubs.

Mr. Sallnow-Smith is Chief Executive of Hongkong Land Holdings Limited. He was Finance Director of Hongkong Land from 1998-2000, prior to which he was Group Treasurer of Jardine Matheson for five years. His early career was spent in the British Civil Service, where he worked for

Her Majesty's Treasury in Whitehall, London from 1975-1985. He was educated at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, and the University of Leicester and is a Fellow of the Association of Corporate Treasurers. He holds M.A. (Cantab) and M.A. (Soc. of Ed.) degrees.

Speaker: Nicholas Sallnow-Smith
Time: 6:15 p.m.
Venue: Extension Activities Room, 8/F, City Hall High Block, Central
Cost: The lecture is free and open to the public.
Booking: No booking is required

Local Visit

Sunday, 18th June

Visit to the Jewish Synagogue in Mid Levels

Following our visit to the Synagogue some years ago, we are delighted to be invited back again. This time the Rabbi has kindly offered to talk the group through the religious aspects of the Synagogue, and another member will discuss the architectural features of the building. After this the librarian will give us a short tour of the interesting collection of Sino-Judaica.

Lunch will follow in the Jewish Community Centre and it is hoped the Rabbi will join us in case some people are interested in asking further questions. Immediately after lunch RAS member S.J. Chan will give a short talk about Jews in China and his book will be for sale afterwards.

Time: 11.00am
Meeting place: Outside the main entrance to the JCC at 70 Robinson Road
Cost: \$180 for members, \$230 for non members (includes buffet lunch and a donation to the JCC library)
Booking: Please return the booking form on page 12 to Valery Garrett (Tel 2849 8164 during office hours)

Evening Talk

Friday, 23rd June

The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru

We are delighted that Tony Banham has agreed to give a talk on the subject of his most recent book, the sinking of the Lisbon Maru, a Japanese ship carrying POWs from Hong Kong to Japan which was torpedoed by an American submarine off Shanghai in 1942. Tony spoke to us previously about his first book published by HKU Press, *Not the Slightest Chance: The Defence of Hong Kong, 1941*.

After the Battle of Midway, Yamamoto and some other senior Japanese realised that a short war – and perhaps even victory – was now out of the question. Every effort had to be made to bring Japan to Total War. With thousands of POWs on their hands, and thousands of Japanese men doing essential war work in the home islands, they put two and two together. They would use POW slave labour to free up Japanese manpower. That meant shipping POWs from their points of capture at Hong Kong and elsewhere. The first shipment from Hong Kong – of some 600 POWs – went smoothly, so a bigger draft – of two thousand – was planned. But this transportation was not plain sailing. It met an American torpedo, and a thousand died then or as a result soon after. Somehow, in the context of all the other Allied disasters of the period, this episode has been forgotten for more than sixty years. This, finally, is the story of the Lisbon Maru, and all who sailed on her.

Tony Banham has been studying the Hong Kong Garrison for almost twenty years. *The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru* is his second book on the subject; four more are planned.

This event is being hosted jointly with the Helena May. Canapés will be served in the Garden Room at the Helena May, with a cash bar, and the talk will commence at 7.15pm. Copies of *The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru* will be for sale after the talk, with a discount going towards the Helena May charity of the year.

Speaker: Tony Banham
Time: 6.30pm for 7.15
Venue: The Garden Room, The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central
Cost: \$140 for Members, \$200 for Non-members, including canapés. Please return the booking form on page 13 to Jennifer Day (Tel 2813 7500)

City Hall Talk

Friday, 30th June

China's Political Movements since 1949

The special emphasis of this talk on China's political movements will be on the 1957 Anti-Rightist Movement and the Cultural Revolution (1965-1975). Over 500,000 intellectuals were labelled Rightists (or counter-revolutionaries) during the Anti-Rightist Movement. The Cultural Revolution was a most shameful and chaotic political movement which brought the country to the precipice of economic destruction.

Frances Wong was born in Hong Kong in 1923, and was educated and worked there until 1949, when she went back to mainland China, walking from Hong Kong to Guangzhou in seven days. She stayed in China for 37 years, going through all the political movements and upheavals, latterly working in the Foreign Ministry and teaching in the universities. She currently lives in Guangzhou and gives lectures on English Literature. Frances is the author of *China Bound*, a memoir of her life in China, and copies of this book will be for sale after the talk.

She is currently working on *China Unbound*, covering those parts of her story which she felt it was unwise to include in the earlier book.

Speaker: Frances Wong
Time: 6.15pm
Venue: Extension Activities Room, 8/F, City Hall High Block, Central
Cost: The lecture is free and open to the public
Booking: No booking is required

Local Visit

Saturday, 5th August

Crown Wine Cellars, Shouson Hill – Visit and Lunch

Located in a historically significant former military site (indeed, the last position to fall to the Japanese in December 1941), Crown Wine Cellars was initiated in 2001 by Jim Thompson, Chairman of the Crown Worldwide Group, and Gregory De'eb, a former career diplomat, when they decided to create the first professional wine storage facility with a private clubhouse in Asia. While searching for the ideal location, they discovered the Deep Water Bay Drive Bunkers. Originally known as the Central Ordinance (Munitions) Depot, construction including 12 pairs of bunkers, a depot HQ, a sentry box and a guardhouse was completed in 1937. The Military ceased its use of the site in 1977. In 1999, the Hong Kong Government approached the private sector with an initiative to guarantee the survival of the site. The result is Crown Wine Cellars with six underground cellars, a private members' clubhouse in two underground bunkers and a newly constructed conservatory, all in a beautiful park-like setting.

Our host and guide will be Gregory De'eb, and following a tour we will enjoy a 2-course set lunch. Drinks will be additional on a consumption basis. Transportation will be provided from Queen's Pier, City Hall, to and from Shouson Hill. There is parking for those who prefer to drive. The address is: 18 Deep Water Bay Drive, Shouson Hill.

Time: 9:30am
Meeting Place: Queen's Pier, City Hall, Hong Kong
Cost: Members: \$290. Guests: \$340
Dress: Smart casual and participants are advised to wear rubber-soled shoes
Booking: Please return the booking form on page 14 to Geoffrey Emerson
Enquiries: Phone Geoffrey – 2550 4374 or email: emerson@netvigator.com

City Hall Lecture

Friday, 11th August

Reluctant Heroes: Rickshaw Pullers in Hong Kong and Canton, 1874-1954

Fung Chi Ming will speak on aspects of *Reluctant Heroes: Rickshaw Pullers in Hong Kong and Canton, 1874-1954*, which is the first publication in the Royal Asiatic Society's Hong Kong Studies Series. The focus of his talk will be confirmed in the July newsletter.

Overseas Visit

17th – 26th August

Study Tour to Mongolia

The Society has arranged a Study Tour to Mongolia in this the 800th anniversary year of the coronation of Genghis Khan – arguably the founder of the Mongolian nation and empire, and declared by the Washington Post to be “the most important man of the last thousand years”. A sufficient group for the tour has now formed and arrangements are being fixed with the Mongolian agent. For those who have signed up, the balance of payment is due by 1st June, 2006, please. For any further details you can see the RASHKB website or contact <mailto:peterstuckey@yahoo.com.hk>.

Overseas Visit

18th – 27th February, 2007

Study Tour to Bhutan

The Society is hoping to arrange a study tour to Bhutan from Sunday 18th to Tuesday 27th February 2007, to visit Paro and Thimphu, as well as the lovely Phobjikha valley. A main focus of the visit will be to attend the major features of the Punakha domchoe, an important and colourful annual celebration over several days of ritual ceremonies introduced by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel as an expression of gratitude to all forms of protecting deities guarding Bhutan against enemies and invasions. Further details will be given in the September Newsletter. Anyone with enquiries should contact Dr. Brian Shaw at <mailto:bcjshaw@hkucc.hku.hk>.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Chinese Scholar-Officials and their Calligraphy

More than 40 members and guests attended the talk given by our former President, Dr. James Hayes, in the City Hall on 7th April. James, a long-time District Officer, New Territories, now lives in Sydney, Australia. During his nearly 35 years here, he collected historical materials from the New Territories and Guangdong Province, including many scrolls written by Cantonese scholar-officials. Recently he donated many of these items to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, and an exhibition was mounted at the Art Gallery, *The Poetic Mandarin: Chinese Calligraphy from the James Hayes Collection*.

James showed slides of the collection as well as a number taken when he was working in Hong Kong. He explained that he became interested in calligraphy when he saw the calligraphy on temples and ancestral halls in the New Territories. Most of that calligraphy was done by scholar-officials and by other men who had failed the imperial examinations but were highly respected and very skilled at calligraphy. He discussed the various styles of calligraphy and told many interesting stories about the scholar-officials and the imperial examination system, which ended in 1905. The very first slide shown was of James in 1962 with the only scholar-official he ever met, the photo having been taken on Cheung Chau. James kindly donated a CD of all his slides to the RAS Library, together with a copy of the exhibition catalogue.

Catalogue mentioned in James Hayes' Talk, 7th April, 2006 and other books

Copies of the Catalogue - *The Poetic Mandarin, Chinese Calligraphy from the James Hayes Collection* – can be obtained from the Gallery Shop, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Domain Road, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia. The 144-page catalogue is illustrated by plentiful black and white images, with English and Chinese text and full explanations, and there are three essays with Chinese abstracts. Copies cost 20 Australian dollars plus postage.

Telephone inquiries can be made to the Gallery's main switchboard (from Hong Kong 61 2 9225 1700) and ask for the Shop. Or you can go to www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au.

Inquiries to James Hayes – mouseh1@bigpond.com.

James was also asked to recommend books concerning the scholar-officials and has suggested these three, which may be difficult to find but should be in many libraries.

1. *Local Government in China Under the Ching*, by T'Ung-tsu Ch'U, published by Stanford University Press, 1969
 2. *The District Magistrate in Late Imperial China*, by John R. Watt, Columbia University Press 1972
 3. *The Trade and Administration of China*, by H.B. Morse, London, 1908
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The Annual Dinner and Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM at the Hong Kong Club was an outstanding success and we are only sorry that not all the members who signed up for the dinner were able to come, due to space constraint. All 80 places were reserved a week before the event and there was a waiting list of 15 for the dinner.

On arrival, members saw Tony Hedley's stunning photographs of Bhutan, taken on the RAS trip in 2004, displayed around the walls and a PowerPoint show of images from Ed Stokes' book *Hedda Morrison's Hong Kong, 1946-47* which ran until the meeting began. Peter Stuckey also displayed photos taken in Mongolia, as a taste of what is to come on the trip he is organising for us this coming August. A book display showcased the talents of many of our members (although not all, inevitably there were omissions for which we apologise – maybe next year?) and also the Society's own publications. A number of books were sold and thanks go to those who contributed a percentage of sales to the Society.

Robert Nield, the mastermind of the New Look AGM, gave his President's Report for the Year in which he pointed out that while our membership numbers remain steady, we really need them to grow to improve revenue. He also outlined what the Society has achieved in the last year, including the publication of *Reluctant Heroes*, the first in our Hong Kong Studies Series and the establishment of a new Editorial Board to govern the production of our Journal and - what he will be aiming to achieve in the coming year - hopefully more publications and maybe even an updated Index to our Journals.

As dessert drew to a close during dinner, Dr. Hugh Baker stood up to give what he claimed was his tenth talk to the Society over many years. His talk, titled "Thinking the Undinkable" was a very witty exposition of the joys, mysteries and pains of learning Cantonese, beginning with an early romanisation system that would have us write Hong Kong as "Xheong Gorng" and including some priceless pieces of Pidgin English from early days on the China Coast. Hugh also claimed that this talk would be his last, but we were all left with a feeling that maybe there was "talkee namba oilyfan" waiting up his sleeve for us for the not too distant future. We certainly hope so.

Heritage Value in Macao – A One-day Tour

There is always something new of interest to see and enjoy in Macao, no matter how often one has visited before, and this proved to be the case again on our one day tour on 12th May.

We were kindly hosted by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (CAB) of the Macao SAR and guided by friendly staff from the Cultural Institute of Macao (ICM). Marie Imelda Macleod, the Acting Director of the Historical Archives, ICM, showed us around a major conservation project being undertaken at a former Mandarin's House near Lilau Square. It was originally built in 1881 with several courtyard houses and was home to a prominent Chinese literary figure, Zheng Guan Ying. Marie also described the work of the CAB with a fine presentation at the recently opened Lou Kau Mansion, built in 1889 near the Senado Square.

Our tour started with a visit to the recently reopened Chapel of the nuns of St. Clare at the Guia Fortress and Lighthouse. Colourful frescoes were found on the walls during restoration work. We could also climb up the lighthouse, the first erected on the whole coast of China, dating from 1865.

At the Protestant Cemetery we saw Dr. Robert Morrison's grave and noted that he had arrived in China almost 200 years ago, in 1807. We visited the Morrison Chapel - he is famous for having translated the Bible into Chinese and writing the first English/Chinese dictionary. Adjacent, we walked around the Casa Gardens and looked inside St. Anthony's Church. Another cluster of interest was around St. Augustine's Square where we saw the Sir Robert Ho Tung Library building and were able to look inside the Dom Pedro V Theatre, built in 1860. All these sights form part of "The Historic Centre of Macao" which was inscribed in the World Heritage List on 15th July, 2005.

We were fortunate to be joined at lunch at the Institute for Tourism Studies by Carl Smith and Dolly Dabuco Eusala, and by Paul Van Dyke. After such a full and interesting day touring with the benefit of the ICM minibus we also much appreciated the generosity of the ICM in providing a splendid tea at the "Mel on the Bend" restaurant.

RUSSIAN AND SOVIET RELATIONS WITH MACAO

For those many members with an interest in Macao, there is an article by Dr. Michael Share, Lecturer in European and Russian History at the University of Hong Kong, in the April 2006 issue of the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (United Kingdom) entitled "The Bear Yawns? Russian and Soviet Relations with Macao".

To quote: "From the late nineteenth century until the hand-over of Macao to Chinese rule about one hundred years later, Russia and the Soviet Union demonstrated discernible, though far from overwhelming, interest in the tiny Portuguese territory of Macao. Their activities and involvement in the enclave served as an interesting contrast and coda to their more extensive dealings with the larger entities of British Hong Kong and even more problematic Taiwan.the fact that first Russian and then Soviet foreign policymakers assigned some importance to Macao is amply demonstrated by the Foreign Ministry Archive, which contains nearly thirty files of varying size spanning the period from 1910 to 1987."

A copy of this, the most recent issue of the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, can be found in our own RAS library Special Collection.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Southeast Asian Anthropology Conference Chinese University of Hong Kong 13th-16th July

This four-day conference will be held at New Asia College, CUHK, in the Mong Man Wai Building, and all RASHKB members who are not presenting papers are welcome to attend any panels free of charge. They are also welcome to attend lunch for \$50, if advance notice is given, and to participate in most of the conference's activities. Anyone wanting to attend and have lunch should email Gordon Matthews at cmgordon@cuhk.edu.hk as soon as possible. All details of this conference, together with a schedule of events can be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ant/SEAAconf> Do check the website again in a week or two as updates are expected.

**International Conference on the
History and Culture of the British Concession in China
During the Late Qing Dynasty
20th – 22nd October**

Dr. Joseph Ting, recent Council Member and Director of the Hong Kong Museum of History, and member of the Organizing Committee of this Conference, has sent the following announcement to the Society:

“I am delighted to inform you that the “International Conference on the History and Culture of the British Concession in China during the Late Qing Dynasty” will be jointly organized by the Weihai Municipal Archives Shandong Province, the Shandong University at Weihai and the Hong Kong Museum of History from 20th – 22nd October, 2006 at the Heqing Hotel in Weihai, Shandong Province. This is an invaluable opportunity for the leading experts and scholars in both Mainland China and Hong Kong to discuss the subject and share their latest research findings or views.

“The Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, is well known for its excellent research on topics relating to the history and culture of Hong Kong, China and Asia. Members of your Society are cordially invited to attend the conference and present a paper on the subject.

“The Conference will be conducted in both Putonghua and English. If your members are interested in attending, please forward the completed reply slip by post or fax to Mr. Zhang Zhichao, Law School of Shandong University at Weihai.

“If you have any enquiries concerning the conference, please kindly contact Mrs. Rebecca Lui, Assistant Curator I (Extension Services) at 2724 9024. We look forward to your favourable reply and participation in the conference.”

The reply slip referred to is part of a three-page pdf file that also contains the official invitation and full details of the conference, but which will not easily transmit into this newsletter. At present there is no website information available so anyone interested in further details should contact Jenny Day (<mailto:info@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk>) who will forward all relevant information.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES YET?

There are still some members who have not yet paid their dues for 2006. This will be the last newsletter for those whose membership is not paid in full within the next few weeks. You will be receiving a last personal reminder in the next week and if dues are not received by mid-June we will have to delete all unpaid members from the database.

We already have a full and interesting programme organized for the coming months, so please don't let your membership lapse - fill in your renewal cheque and mail it now!

BAD NEWS CONCERNING CITY HALL

We have just been informed that City Hall will not be available for our meetings from mid-September until July 2007. This is due to fire safety enhancement work which has to be carried out following the fire at the Low Block last year. Fire sprinkler systems will be installed on every floor of the High Block from mid-September until November this year and then for several months the Extension Activities Room will be needed by the City Hall Public Library for back-office use.

We will of course do our best to provide convenient and appropriate alternative venues for talks but if members can help with suggestions of other meeting rooms which could accommodate 60-80 people, in Central if possible, which could be made available to the Society then we would be very grateful. Any ideas should be directed to Geoffrey Emerson (<mailto:emerson@netvigator.com>.)

BOOKS AT CITY HALL

There will be a few more evening lectures at City Hall before it closes its doors to us, so be sure to look at the books on sale there as it may not be possible to have book displays at some of our future temporary locations. Some available suggestions for summer reading are:

- *Liu Chi-wen: Biography of a Revolutionary Leader*
By Dr. Betty Wei Peh T'I - free to members while stocks last
 - *An American in Canton*
by Brian Cuthbertson. - \$190 (\$70 of which is donated to RASHKB)
 - *Reluctant Heroes: Rickshaw Pullers in Hong Kong and Canton, 1874-1954*
by Fung Chi Ming - \$190 (special discounted price to RASHKB members)
 - *Chinese Christians, Elites, Middlemen and the Church in Hong Kong*
by Carl T. Smith - \$140 (special discounted price to RASHKB members)
 - *Macau Miscellany and More Macau Miscellany* by Shann Davies - \$25
 - Plus a selection of Journals and RASHKB publications
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LIBRARY DONATIONS

Brian Cuthbertson, James Hayes, the Hong Kong Museum of History and the Jewish Historical Society of Hong Kong have all kindly donated items to the RAS library:

From Brian Cuthbertson

- § Ride, Lindsay. *The Old Protestant Cemetery in Macao*. Hong Kong, The Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, 1963
- § Davies, Shann. *More Macau Miscellany*. Hong Kong, Derwent Communications Ltd., 1993

From James Hayes

- § Art Gallery of New South Wales. *The Poetic Mandarin : Chinese Calligraphy from the James Hayes Collection / Liu Yang with Edmund Capon and James Hayes*. Sydney: Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2005.
- § Chen, Ling and others (Editor). *China's late Qing period illustrated by postcards*. Xianggang : Zhonghua shu ju (Xianggang) you xian gong si, c2005.
- § Hayes, James. *Chinese Scholar-officials and their Calligraphy*. An introduction to the exhibition "The Poetic Mandarin", September-November 2005. (RASHKB lecture at City Hall Public Library.) [CD]
- § Lahiry, Subrata. *A Communist – who is? And a Communist part – Composed of whom?* New Delhi : Professor Subrata Lahiry, 2003. 2nd enlarged edition.

From the Hong Kong Museum of History

- § Ting, Joseph S.P., Chow Kai-wing, Wong Yin-lee. *Collected Essays on Foreign-educated Students of Modern China*. Produced by the Hong Kong Museum of History. Hong Kong, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, 2006.

From the Jewish Historical Society of Hong Kong

- § Chan, Sui-jeng. *The Jews in Kaifeng : Reflections on Sino-Judaic history*. Hong Kong, Jewish Historical Society of Hong Kong, 1986.
- § Kyoto University. Institute for Research Humanities. *Selection from Stone Inscription in the Wei and Jin Dynasties : General Remark and Annotation*. Kyoto Shi, Kyōto Daigaku Jinbun Kagaku Kenkyūjo, 2005.

CHANGES ON COUNCIL

At the AGM in April, we said goodbye to two Council members, Josephine Wong and Phil Stockton. Josephine had been a Council member since April 2005 and prior to that had been a Co-opted Council member since November 2003. Throughout that time she served as a vital link between the Society and the Hong Kong Museum of History, where she works as Acting Assistant Curator I (Urban and Oral History). We hope that her absence from Council will be only temporary as she is taking a year off to start a family. We wish her every success in this and look forward to welcoming her back to Council next year. Phil had found that expanding work and business travel commitments had to take priority over his voluntary post as our Hon. Treasurer, and so he had to step down, too. He cannot totally escape, however, as his wife Micheline continues as a member of our Editorial Board and will no doubt keep him up to date. Thank you both for all your past efforts.

Two new Council members were elected – Adrian Churn and Tony Sweeting. Adrian kindly stepped forward to fill the vacancy left by Phil Stockton. A qualified accountant and Life Member, Adrian will be getting stuck into the various debits and credits and will be reporting his progress to us at the 2007 AGM. Tony Sweeting retired from the University of Hong Kong as a Professor in the Faculty of Education in 1998, but continues to teach and conduct research. He has been a member of the Society since the late 1980s.

Whilst he continues on Council, Jason Wordie has had to step down as our Hon. Activities Coordinator. This is a job that is very key to our success as a Society as the Activities Committee is the body that ensures that there is a continuing stream of interesting events for our members to enjoy. Jason tackled this role with great enthusiasm and ability but found that his other duties and responsibilities had to be given a bit more of his time. Happily, Geoffrey Emerson, a member of the Activities Committee for four years, offered to take over from Jason, such that the change will not affect the output of this vital group.

We have also had to say goodbye to Vanda Cole who had been a valuable member of the Activities Committee for some years. Vanda was always willing to help and her cheerful presence at the meetings is already sorely missed. We are very glad indeed that to fill this vacancy, Robert Bunker has agreed to come on board. Robert has been an enthusiastic RASHKB member since 1995 – welcome Bob!

Robert Nield

PROFILES AND PEOPLE

This month we welcome Dr. Anthony Sweeting and Adrian Churn to the RAS Council, and Robert Bunker and Geoffrey Bonsall to the Activities Committee, two of whom have submitted profiles for this section.

Dr. Anthony (Tony) Sweeting, Council Member

Tony describes himself as a Welshman by birth, a teacher by training, an historian by conviction, and a Hong Kong believer by inclination. He arrived in Hong Kong in 1969 to take up a post as a lecturer in education at the University of Hong Kong but, he says, for some unaccountable reason did not join the Royal Asiatic Society until the late 1980s.

In the interim and since then, Tony has enjoyed Hong Kong, especially his courtship of, and marriage to, Sansan Ching, who, among her many accomplishments, had the advantage of being a member of a fascinating family. They married in July 1975. Consequently, he gained (and enlarged) the same advantage. Tony says this certainly contributed significantly to his decision to become more involved in the history of Hong Kong, especially its history of education.

He retired from the University of Hong Kong in 1998 as a Professor in the Faculty of Education, but has, since then, continued to teach, as an Honorary Professor in the History Department, and to conduct research, as an Honorary Research Fellow of the Centre of Asian Studies. Tony's latest book was *Education in Hong Kong, 1941 to 2001: Visions and Revisions*. A current research project focuses on Hong Kong Eurasians. Retirement now offers Tony time to become a more active RAS member.

Robert Bunker, Activities Committee member

Bob has been a member of RAS for over 10 years. Graduating from Cambridge University, he went to work in the City and has been in the investment business ever since. Coming to Hong Kong in 1979, he ran bond dealing for a major US bank, then was for many years a director of HSBC's asset-management operation. He is now with a private investment company, but still maintains he has not really decided what he wants to be when he grows up.

One of the founding-fathers of the Hong Kong Securities Institute, a body set up to improve standards in the securities industry, he still sits on its board, and was vice-Chairman of the Asian Security Analysts' Federation. For many years he wrote the weekly "Currency Comments" for the SCMP.

Formerly Chairman of the Hong Kong Classic Car Club, Bob has now retired from racing his old sports cars. Living in South Lantau, the Bunkers are dedicated to many local and "green" issues, and intend retiring in Hong Kong.

What do they most like about RAS? "The amazing variety of topics that are covered, and the depth of knowledge around – no matter how obscure the question, someone somewhere in the RAS knows about it"... "Having enjoyed the wealth of lectures, overseas trips etc which the Society puts on, it was about time I put something back into it and joined the Activities Committee."

Bob's interests include model engineering, railways, industrial archaeology and travel, and he keeps fit through a punishing regime of extreme gardening and aerobic dog-walking.

OBITUARY

The Late David Liu Deh-hsin, 1909-2006

I first met David Liu in the mid 1960s, at an RAS lecture in the old British Council rooms on Pedder Street. He was a northern Chinese and I remember being struck by his distinguished appearance. From then on I joined his cosmopolitan walking group every Sunday when we took to the hills from November to May. 'It's the best walking group in Hong Kong!' David occasionally proclaimed.

He was born on 'Everybody's Birthday,' the seventh day of the Lunar New Year, in Che Moon in the district of Chi Foo (now Yen Tai), the district where Confucius was born. David went to Melbourne at the age of 18 and a year later returned to China where he served in the China Maritime Customs. His last posting was to Hainan Island, the most southerly part of China, from where he moved to Hong Kong when the People's Republic government came to power. He eventually joined the American Consulate in Hong Kong.

David was a Council member of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch from 1975 to 1989. He wrote articles which were published in our Journal including one about Peking opera which he himself enjoyed performing. He went to some lengths to explain Chinese customs to the European members of his walking group as well as explaining names of trees and plants of which he knew the

Latin names although he had never studied the language formally. Whenever I hear the term 'Lifelong learning' I invariably think of David. At an advanced age he would telephone me asking questions about the English language and so on. Such questions continued until he became hard of hearing. He also kept a daily record of the weather purely for general interest. This was kept up for over 20 years.

In some ways David was an Anglophile and yet he was fiercely proud of his Chinese heritage. One RAS council member described him as 'quite the gentleman and very cultured.' He was also neat and meticulous. He enjoyed a simple life and, in many ways, set an example for us all. When I last saw him some time ago he exclaimed to me, 'I think I can live to be 100!' Well, he didn't make it. But, like everything that David set his mind to, he had a good try! He had turned 97 when he passed across.

RAS Council member Geoffrey Emerson and I bid David farewell at his funeral on 29th April, 2006. Rest in peace old friend!

Dr. Dan Waters, Past President

A DONATION TO THE SOCIETY

We recently received a donation of US\$50 from Miss Ruth Carlson, an overseas Life Member who joined the RASHKB in 1965. She says she still remembers with interest the lectures and excursions that she enjoyed forty years ago and says thank you for the continuing connection with the Society. Her donation, for which we are very grateful indeed, will help with ongoing general expenses. Thank you again, Ruth.

BEQUESTS TO THE SOCIETY

A member of Council has recently been asked about the possibility of an RASHKB member leaving a donation to the Society in their will. The answer is that, yes, this can certainly be done and the gesture would be warmly received, albeit in sad circumstances. Any such bequests would of course be very welcome, as would donations of books and journals for the RAS library. The membership would be told of such gifts and the books could be labelled with the name of the donor. The Society would be very grateful for and touched by any such bequests.

PATRICK HASE – CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Anyone wanting to contact Patrick Hase please note his change of address, which took effect mid-May:

235 3rd Floor
Tong Sheung Village
Lam Tsuen, Tai Po, New Territories
Contact numbers remain unchanged:
Tel: 2658 6529 : Fax 2658 5400 : Mobile 9134 4237
Email : phase@hkusua.hku.hk

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