

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, HONG KONG BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

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20th JANUARY 2007

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Friday 26 th January	Lecture	Putting Hong Kong on the Map: The Strange Story of Captain Daniel Ross, Marine Surveyor
Friday 9 th February	Lecture	Border-crossing Practice and the Integration Process – Hong Kong and Macau in Comparison
19 th - 28 th February	Overseas Visit	Study Tour to Bhutan
Friday 2 nd March	Lecture	Conducting Sino-British Relations before the Opium War: Ruan Yuan, a Major Scholar-Official in Canton, 1817 – 1826
Saturday 10 th March	Local Visit	Visit to Places of Interest in the Border Closed Area
Friday 27 th April	Annual Event	AGM and Annual Dinner

Lecture at Central Library

Friday 26th January

Putting Hong Kong on the Map: The Strange Story of Captain Daniel Ross, Marine Surveyor

From his achievements, Daniel Ross should be as well known as Matthew Flinders. Between 1804 and 1821, with his subordinate Lt Philip Maugham, both officers of the British East India Company's navy, the Bombay Marine, he was employed on the first modern surveys of the South China coast and the South China Sea. It was work which 'put Hong Kong on the map' and thus played an important part in changing the subsequent history of China.

Daniel Ross's story could have been written by Patrick O'Brian. His birth as the bastard of Lord Nelson's West Indies Station prize agent and a quadroon ex-slave concubine. His initiative, as a 14

year old, in signing himself on for a working passage from England to Bombay when missing baggage meant a missed berth. His 'bleeding' in battles against pirates in the Persian Gulf and the taking of Ternate. His finding of his métier in his brilliant surveys in the China Seas with the attendant tales of shipwreck, chase and capture, incarceration and liberation, a stormy salvage and a chance meeting with a long-lost cousin, culminating in his election to a Fellowship of the Royal Society and promotion to be the EIC's Marine Surveyor General in Calcutta.

If what followed was a sadder story of loss, bereavement and frustration, the whole is one of the more dramatic lives of the era and one undeservedly, thanks to the work of white ants, cockroaches and Admiralty Jobsworths, little known.

Stephen Davies grew up by the sea in Devonshire, with a father in the Royal Navy and an uncle who ran a boatyard. At age two, he was introduced to Hong Kong when his father was appointed chaplain to *HMS Tamar*. He trained as a deck officer in the Royal Navy and then as a Marine Commando subaltern and left the military in 1967. After university, he found a happy niche in academia for 21 years, 15 of them at the University of Hong Kong.

Stephen then became a freelance writer on marine topics and, with his partner, Elaine Morgan, a former RASHKB Librarian, they sailed their 11.5-metre sloop two-handed some 50,000 miles from Hong Kong to Australia and New Zealand, Fiji, the Marshall Islands and through SE Asia, the Red and Mediterranean Seas and the Atlantic Ocean to Britain, and then back to Singapore.

Stephen was appointed as the Director of Hong Kong's new Maritime Museum at Stanley in April 2005. His specialist area of interest is the history of eastern waters hydrography between 1750 and 1850, specifically in the work of Captain Daniel Ross, FRS, IN, on the China Coast and in SE Asia, 1804-1821, and that of Captains Thomas Elwon and Robert Moresby in the Red Sea, 1829-1834.

Speaker: Stephen Davies
Venue: Activities Room 1, G/F, Hong Kong Central Library, Causeway Bay
Time/Date: 6.30pm, Friday 26th January
Cost: This event is free and open to the public with no booking required

Lecture at the Helena May

Friday 9th February

Hong Kong and Macau – A Comparison of Integration with the Mainland

Dr Werner Breitung, Associate Professor of Geography at Sun Yat Sen University in Guangzhou and a German living in Hong Kong and Guangzhou, is interested in the human aspect of the integration of Hong Kong and Macau with the Mainland. Based on research in Macau and Zhuhai, he argues that the integration process of Hong Kong and Macau depends on the people's attitudes and everyday behaviour as much as on political and economic factors. In both places, people have developed trans-border activity spaces and increased their familiarity with the respective other side of the boundary. The attention given to Macau is due to the extraordinarily high degree of everyday integration between this smaller SAR and Zhuhai.

With degrees in geography and mathematics from Free University, Berlin, Werner did his PhD in geography at the University of Basel, Switzerland. He has lived in Hong Kong since 1994 and taught at the University of Macau from 2001 to 2003, the University of Hong Kong since 2001 and Sun Yat Sen University since 2004. He was a research scholar of the Instituto Cultural do Macau and has recently been appointed Regional Editor for China of the German geography journal "Geographische Rundschau International".

Speaker: Dr Werner Breitung
Time/Date: 6.00 for 6.15pm, Friday 9th February
Venue: The Blue Room, The Helena May, Garden Road, Central
Cost: \$50 for members, \$70 for non-members (there will be a cash bar)
Booking: Please complete the booking form on page 12 and return to Valery Garrett

Overseas Visit

19th – 28th February

Study Tour to Western Bhutan

Everything is now in hand for this members-only event, with a hardy contingent of 29 (several from abroad) signed up to meet together in Bangkok (admittedly at the early hour of 4.30am on 19th February) to enjoy a small sampling of Bhutan's unique culture, splendid scenery and friendly people. We will not be alone – 2006 saw the greatest influx of visitors (17,365, earning about US\$24m in hard currency) since tourism operations commenced in 1974. 2007 and 2008 seem likely to set new records, and discussions continue in Bhutan over whether to increase the per diem to US\$250. The group will visit the famed Taktsang cliff-side temple and see the black-necked cranes in Phobjikha as they winter over from Tibet.

We will also see and learn a great deal about the major annual rededication ceremonies honouring the country's guardian deities in the temple-fortress at Punakha, the social and religious inter-weaving of these events with the lives of the local people, and much else. In addition, we will learn more about the preparations continuing in 2007 for the momentous events scheduled for 2008 – Bhutan's first parliamentary elections for a two-house, two-party parliament, the celebration of 100 years of monarchy, and the formal enthronement of the present (fifth) monarch, King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck, as head of state. Members will return to Bangkok on 28th February.

Brian Shaw

Lecture at the Helena May

Friday 2nd March

**Conducting Sino-British Relations before the Opium War:
Ruan Yuan, a Major Scholar-Official in Canton 1817 – 1826**

Ruan Yuan (1764-1849), Governor-General of Guangdong and Guangxi and the highest authority handling affairs involving foreigners in Canton before the Opium War, and J.B. Urmston (1781-1849), "President of the Honourable East India Company's affairs in China", were antagonists in their official capacities. They were not supposed to have anything to do with each other in any way, shape or form personally or officially as all dealings between the Chinese and foreigners were supposed to be conducted through the hong merchants. Urmston, as head of the East India Company and leader of the foreign community, had a significant role in this system.

However, when Urmston left Canton in 1826, he took with him to England an impressive portrait of Ruan Yuan, which was passed down through generations of the Urmston family until it was sold by the Martin Gregory Gallery in London in 2001. Dr. Patrick Connor, Director of the Gallery, who spoke to our Society in June 2005 about George Chinnery, brought it to Betty's attention, and a reproduction of the portrait is showcased on the cover of Betty's new book.

The existence of this portrait means that how Sino-British relations were conducted in Canton before the Opium War warrants scrutiny from a new perspective. Did the Chinese officials and foreign traders conduct their affairs directly, face to face, and did they see each other socially as well? If so, how? And where can information on their meetings be hidden? No one is better able to guide us through this puzzle than our own Dr Betty Wei - historian, lively speaker and Council Member of our Society.

A graduate of Bryn Mawr College, New York University and the University of Hong Kong, Betty has spoken to the Society on several occasions, most recently a year ago on Liu Chi-wen, a revolutionary leader. HKU Press has recently published Betty's book on Ruan Yuan, which will be available for members to purchase at a discount at this talk.

Speaker: Dr Betty Wei Peh T'i

Time: 6.00 for 6.15pm

Venue: The Blue Room, The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central

Cost: \$50 for members, \$70 for guests (there will be a cash bar)

Booking: Please complete the booking form on page 13 and return to Geoffrey Emerson

Local Visit

Saturday 10th March

**Visit to Places of Interest in the
Border Closed Area**

Note: This visit is limited to members only.

Our Immediate Past President, Dr Pat Hase, will lead a visit on Saturday 10th March to places of interest in the Border Closed Area. This is an area without easy access and this will be an opportunity to see a part of Hong Kong usually closed to visitors. The visit will include stops at Lo Wu (to see the old Border Bridge, now preserved in a small garden there), the Sandy Ridge Cemetery, and two of the villages in the area, including Lin Ma Hang. Two temples, at Lin Ma Hang and Shan Tsui, will also be visited. Other sites of interest will be visited as well, as time permits. The visit will include travelling along the Border Road from Lo Wu to Shan Tsui. The visit will not include any stop in Sha Tau Kok. There will be a stop for a picnic lunch, and members should bring their own food and drink for this lunch.

There is a limit on numbers (only 30) so please apply for a place early, using the booking form at the end of the Newsletter.

Organizer: Dr Pat Hase
Time: 9.15am to approx. 6.00pm
Meeting Place: Behind the Peninsula Hotel (return to behind the Peninsula Hotel)
Cost: \$150

Booking: Please complete and return the booking form on page 14 with your cheque and a photocopy of your Identity Card or Passport to Dr Hase, who can be reached at 2658-6529 during office hours, after January 24th.

Harcourt Room, Hong Kong Club

Friday 27th April

Annual Dinner and AGM

Last year's Annual General Meeting set a benchmark, and expectations are already high for a repeat performance this year. There will be a speaker, the identity of whom will be revealed in due course. There will also be photographs of recent RAS visits, and there will be a number of members' recent publications available for people to buy. Most of all, however, the AGM gives members an opportunity to meet and mix and to hear about what their Society has been doing - and what it plans to be doing in the coming year. The venue will be the same as last year, the Harcourt Room of the Hong Kong Club, a buffet dinner will be provided. We recognise in addition that some members may wish to come to the meeting but not stay for dinner. Such members will be very welcome also and appropriate arrangements will be made to accommodate them and make them feel welcome.

Please Note: In the last newsletter there was mention of a weekend visit to Guangzhou in March. This was still in the planning stage at that time and since then some difficulties arose which meant postponing this idea for the time being. Speaker Miles Young, who was to speak on 30th March has had to postpone due to a business commitment. The tentative date for his talk is now 11th May but this will be confirmed in the March newsletter.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Imperial Connections – Canada and the Chinese Labour Corps

Speaking on a little known topic – Chinese labourers from Shantung Province hired to assist the British and French during World War I – Judy Maxwell enthralled her audience with this talk at the

Central Library on 17th November. Showing more than 200 slides, largely culled from a photo album unexpectedly given to her by David Livingstone, the son of one of the two doctors – Harry Livingstone and Louis Siebert - immediately concerned with the Chinese workers, the talk went overtime with questions and a lively discussion afterwards.

In August 1916, the British government made the decision to recruit Chinese labourers, and in 1917, more than 200,000 went to assist both the British and the French. The workers mostly left from Wei Hai Wei, a British concession in northern China, sailed to Vancouver and then across Canada by train to Halifax and on by ship to England and to France. Private contracts were signed with each worker and Scotland Yard still has the fingerprints in their files. In northern France the workers performed non-combative roles. After the war, the British were very careful to ensure the labourers were returned to China, but the French were less strict and some did settle in France and married local women. Unfortunately some of the labourers stayed in northern France, felled mainly by disease, in cemeteries existent today. Judy showed a slide of a gravestone engraved in both Chinese and English, bearing the English inscription “A good reputation endures forever. August 6, 1919”.

The Japanese Internment of Allied Civilians in China and Hong Kong, 1942 – 1945

Dr Greg Leck spoke to the Society about civilian internment on 24th November at the Central Library to a nearly full house of some 60 people. Basing his talk on the more than four years of research that went into his book, *Captives of Empire*, Greg used an excellent PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the talk. After explaining the reasons for his interest in the subject, including the fact that his grandfather had been interned in Shanghai and his mother was born in Macau and lived in both Shanghai and Hong Kong before going to the United States, where Greg was born, he covered several of the many camps, including Stanley Internment Camp in Hong Kong and others in China. A lively question and answer session followed, and a big surprise intrigued the audience when one of our members produced a British passport which had been renewed during internment in 1943. It also was significant that several children of internees were in the audience. Those who went on to dinner afterwards at the Police Officers’ Club were further treated by Greg to a fascinating short film of life in Shanghai in 1927.

Visit to the *Götheborg*

For many of the nearly fifty members of the RAS who visited the Swedish East Indiaman *Götheborg* on the evening of 1st December, it was a magical moment to be sitting on the deck of this superb replica on a surprisingly clear night with the lights of Hong Kong island dazzling across the harbour. However, it was a bit sad to think that such a magnificent ship laden with treasures from China had sunk in 1745 just outside its home city. Helpful crew members answered questions and an excellent display had been mounted just inside Ocean Terminal where the ship was tied up. Thanks go to our member who first alerted the Activities Committee to the *Götheborg*’s visit; we always welcome suggestions from members of possible activities. Thanks go to member Robin Bridge who first heard about the ship’s visit to Hong Kong and notified Geoffrey Emerson. Then more thanks to Geoffrey for working hard on organising this visit at short notice.

Daniel Caldwell: Churchman, Freemason, Policeman ... and Pirate Accomplice?

In a fascinating talk on 8th December, Dr Mark MacAlpine took us back to the early days of British colonial Hong Kong. These were, it seems, days of great, even larger than life, characters, such as a gentleman born in St Helena by the name of Daniel Caldwell. Caldwell counted pirates, like Wong Ma Chow, among his best friends yet assisted the government in catching pirates and destroying their junks. Despite his marrying a Chinese lady according to Chinese and Christian custom another civil servant publicly accused her of being a harlot; yet there is a plaque to her memory in the Hop Yat Church.

In his illustrious career, he became Registrar General and was indispensable as an interpreter in the Supreme Court. He was elected as Master of two of the Masonic Lodges a total of five times. While he was an Assistant Police Superintendent, he was dismissed from Government service in 1860, amid concerns about his contacts, only to be reinstated with Legco support and with a much improved

salary as "one of the most valuable of civil servants" in 1866 during the Governorship of Sir Richard McDonnell (who, let it be noted, was not a Mason). He was buried in the Colonial (now Hong Kong) Cemetery with a Masonic inscription on his sepulchre – one of the most impressive there.

If you missed the talk you missed a rattling good adventure story. Our thanks to Mark for setting the scene and bringing to life some of the facets of Hong Kong in the 1840's to 1860's.

Visit to Chiu Yuen Cemetery, Pokfulam

On the suitably gray and gloomy morning of Saturday 9th December, May Holdsworth and Geoffrey Emerson collected 25 members for a visit to the Chiu Yuen Cemetery for Eurasians in Pokfulam. Andrew Tse, a great-grandson of Ho Kom-tong, had arranged for permission to visit and led the group round.

Our first stop was at the imposing tomb of the mother of the famous Ho brothers (Ho Tung, Ho Fook and Ho Kom-tong). The inscription on its headstone implies that their father (Ho Sze-man) is also buried there. In fact the father, Charles Henry Maurice Bosman, was interred in England. Family lore has it that the tomb contains only an item or two of his clothing. (Yiguanzhong, tombs containing clothing or other personal effects of the deceased, whose remains are either missing or buried elsewhere, are of course found in Chinese tradition.)

We were shown the graves of members of other illustrious Eurasian families, including that of Lo Man-kam and his mother, and of Sin Tak-fan. The grave of Sir Robert Kotewall is in a different style, more European than Chinese. The visit ended at Ho Kom-tong's private cemetery, Ho Chong. Built on a hillside facing the sea, this was laid out on three terraces, each devoted to one generation.

There is also a memorial building which, though rather derelict, is still furnished, with portraits and photographs hanging on its walls. In the style of a Greek temple, the domed building was designed by A.C. Little, architect also of the Kom Tong Hall in Castle Road, which has just opened as the Sun Yat-sen Museum. According to Andrew Tse, the family would gather for picnics at Ho Chong on Ching Ming and Chung Yeung. Andrew Tse had asked his uncle, David Ho, to meet the group, and it was interesting to hear that David, an engineer, has been put in charge of restoring the memorial hall. Geoffrey Emerson mentioned to David that the RAS would be glad to offer help with the restoration if required. Afterwards, the group enjoyed a Chinese lunch at a restaurant in Cyberport.

From Tangled Jungle to Hidden Paradise

On a hill walk in 1996 not far from their home near Plover Cove, Ron and Veronica Clibborn-Dyer discovered an overgrown path leading to an abandoned building, Wing Jing Jai Temple, a one-time nunnery. The garden was so overgrown they could not see the ground but on subsequent visits they cleared a path to the temple, which they discovered had been vandalized by illegal immigrants.

On January 12th, in a lecture at the Helena May to a record attendance of over eighty members and friends, Ron recounted the many challenges they faced in reclaiming the land and restoring the temple.

An eventual meeting with the owners of the land (then living in England) led to Ron and Veronica being asked if they would be the guardians of the temple. After far less hesitation than most of us would have given to this daunting suggestion, they agreed. Today, after years of slashing, burning, irrigation and planting, they have created a beautiful garden around what is now their home. In recent years this was a haven for many living creatures but life was a constant battle against nature; hawks and eagles catching their pigeons, pythons and leopard cats devouring their guinea fowl, and predatory wasps wiping out their bees. Cows who made their home nearby and brought their newborn to the temple, were rounded up by the AFD and removed from the area and the current restrictions on backyard poultry have meant the loss of all Ron's geese, chickens and ducks. Today, however, there are still plenty of goats and Ron's faithful dogs in residence.

Ron also recounted the history of the temple and the surroundings and showed a 30-minute video of life at the temple, vividly conveying his love of nature in all its forms, even the pythons. What members will probably remember most vividly is the footage of pythons – over 12 feet long – disgorging their prey, in one case a goat.

Ron and Veronica have kindly invited RAS members to visit the temple on 21st January, and a report of that event will be in the next newsletter.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Following the publication of his book on the history of Bethany and University Hall we asked RAS member Alain le Pichon to tell us how he set about doing the research and what his main source was. He replied:

How I wrote *Béthanie and Nazareth, French Secrets from a British Colony* Alain de Pichon

In October 2004, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts invited me to write a book about the French Fathers in Pokfulam and the buildings they had erected there, Béthanie and Nazareth. Two years later, in November 2006, the book was launched at a party held in the restored building of Béthanie, now used as the HKAPA School of Film and Television. Two years from start to finish is a relatively short time to produce a book based on historical research. But I was greatly helped in this by the excellent organization of the archive of the French Society of Foreign Missions. The extensive archive dating back to the XVIIth century is housed in the Fathers' historic buildings, at No 128 rue du Bac, in the heart of Paris.

For a historian, the first encounter with a new archive is more exciting than words can convey. I was ushered into a rather austere room with a view on the Society's beautiful grounds. On that day, I was the only reader and I could use several tables as my desk. Boxes of material started being brought to me on a trolley by a kindly assistant. Her main job was, as I discovered later, to catalogue the Society's iconographic records.

There I was, in the midst of Paris, entrusted with the task of finding out how some buildings had been built in Hong Kong, not only thousands of miles away from the French capital, but over one hundred and thirty years ago. I knew nothing about this extraordinary story then. But I was going to find out, and when I did find out, I was going to share my discoveries with future readers. This, I think, is at the heart of the excitement a historian feels when he first taps previously unused archival material. There is the joy of the discovery itself, and there is the added joy of being able to share that discovery through the written word with other people.

Slowly, gradually, with every new visit to the archive, a picture started emerging of who these people were who had built the Pokfulam buildings, and what they were using them for. They were of course French priests who felt a compelling mission to travel to the ends of the world to evangelize the Chinese and other Asian communities. But they were not just French, or just catholic priests, or just members of the Society of French Missions. There were above all human beings.

As I read the letters they wrote, which had not been meant for me but for their original correspondents, I could not help feeling a little bit like God – reading into human hearts as though they were an open book. And when I had read dozens, hundreds of letters from a few persons, when I knew the dramas they went through, the problems they faced, the solutions they worked out, their weaknesses and their strengths, their virtues and their failings, I realized that something strange had happened. Though long dead, these characters had acquired a new life of their own, and they have become as real as my own friends of flesh and blood. Through some mysterious process of osmosis I felt enriched by the insight into our common humanity which delving into their correspondence had afforded me.

Working with a publication deadline as I did for this book has its merits, the principal of which is that things get accomplished. But it also has drawbacks. One of the beauties of historical research is that, if time allows, you can stroll through an archive at leisure and treat it as though it were a whole new country offering itself for discovery. Working in this more relaxed way sometimes enables historians to make important discoveries, particularly in archives which are unwieldy or have not been carefully catalogued. The danger there is that you so much enjoy making your own meandering way through the documents that you forget to prioritize your reading, to organize your notes and to update your indexes as you go along. When the time comes to organize the chapters and to write the book, the task will then prove that much more difficult. By contrast, in this instance, I was as businesslike as could be. I had no time for gentle strolls or agreeable detours through the archive. I knew exactly what I was looking for and, because the archive of the French Society of Foreign Missions is a model of organization, I was able to make a bee-line for the material I needed most... No doubt, when time

allows, I look forward to going back there in a more relaxed mode, and spending long, leisurely hours revisiting the old friends I made whilst working on *Béthanie and Nazareth*.

Part of my brief from the HKAPA was to bring back a number of old photos from the Paris archive in order to provide illustrations for the intended book. And this is where the help of the young lady I met on my first day in that austere first-floor room was invaluable. Her long term-project - cataloguing the Society's iconography - was nearing completion. So I moved from my first-floor room with a view to a modern fourth-floor room with no view. But I had plenty of compensation in the form of a treasure trove of boxes containing old pictures. Suddenly, my old friends, whose hearts and minds I was already familiar with, acquired a face as well - Fr Osouf, who built Béthanie; Fr Rousseille, who built Nazareth, and dozens of others, down to Fr Chevalier, the parish priest of Notre Dame of Lourdes in Taikoolao.

On one of my last visits to the archive for this project, the Archivist himself had an iconographic surprise for me. Since the mid-nineteenth century the Society had owned a couple of large watercolours of Hong Kong which had been damaged and needed restoration. On that day the two pictures had just been received from the restorer and the Society's Archivist started unwrapping them in front of me. I was immensely excited. Original pictures of Hong Kong no one here had ever seen!... "What a scoop for the book!", I thought. I took a look at the pictures. They were huge - some 5 ft. by 2 ft. - and of very fine quality.

"Well?" asked the Archivist, puzzled by my silence.

It was no good beating about the bush.

"They are superb!" I said.... "but this is Macao, not Hong Kong!"

PLAQUES: RECLAMATION AND PREVIOUS SHORELINES IN CENTRAL DISTRICT

Many of you will remember the splendid talk given by Chief Executive Nick Sallnow-Smith of Hongkong Land, on 26th May 2006 at the City Hall, about *The Shaping of Hong Kong's Central Business District*.

After the enlightening talk there was the usual Question and Answer session. Again you may remember I asked about the missing plaques which used to grace Pedder Street. Mr Sallnow-Smith promised to look into the matter. After the talk, as good as his word, he and I liaised and I put Hong Kong Land in touch with the Antiquities and Monuments Office.

You observant RAS members may have already noticed that a new plaque has been mounted on the west wall, at ground level, of Chater House and another has been placed on the north wall of Chater House, up on the footbridge. In addition, the old plaque which was affixed to the west wall of the Landmark has been replaced by a new, better quality plaque.

Things like this are important. We must thank Mr Sallnow-Smith and Hongkong Land, and AMO for reinstating these plaques.

Dan Waters, Past President

UPDATE ON THE "IN SEARCH OF THE PAST" PROJECT

Things are happening, albeit slowly due to work commitments. A meeting is being planned with officials of the Hong Kong Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO) early in 2007 to see if the AMO can help on the project as they have excellent photographs and data on most of the sites listed in the book. President of the RAS, Robert Nield is also currently looking into possible sources of funding and we are preparing costings for the project.

In late November last year only one volunteer, Helen Lee, and I investigated a few sites in Kowloon as a "test run" for future site visits. We plan to have a circumlocution of the Yuen Long/Ping Shan/Kam Tin area on 24 February. If you want to come along, please contact me at jenny@asian-emphasis.com for further details. We need volunteers to help us to consolidate our knowledge of the buildings and other things to be seen, to photograph them - and maybe even to find them!

Jenny Eagleton

AN INVITATION FROM THE HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

The Hong Kong Association of University Women invites RAS members to the opening ceremony and first lecture of its year-long celebrations of the Fiftieth Anniversary of its founding.

**“The Life and Work of Fang Zhaolin: Woman Painter of the Twentieth Century”
with Catherine Maudsley
Hong Kong University Museum
Pokfulam Road
Monday, 5th February 2007
5.45 – 7.30pm**

Fang Zhaolin, renowned master of Chinese painting and calligraphy, was born in the year the First World War started and lived and worked into the twenty-first century. Mme Fang studied under masters from various leading schools of Chinese painting, but the style she developed was uniquely her own. Although she spent most of her life in Hong Kong, her works are in museums and private collections all over the world. Her private life was noteworthy as well. Widowed from a young age, she was a single mother who brought up five children all of whom who have made valuable contributions to our community, including Anson Chan.

Catherine Maudsley, a renowned arts consultant specializing in Chinese painting and calligraphy, and a resident of Hong Kong, was educated in Canada, the USA, Beijing, Hong Kong and Kyoto. She holds MA and MPhil degrees in Chinese fine arts and religion; was a Connaught Research Scholar at the University of Toronto, a Canada-China Exchange Scholar at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, and a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Hong Kong.

Booking

If you are interested in attending this seminar, please let HKAUW know by e-mail, janet.liu@bocigroup.com before Friday 2nd February 2007. Last minute decisions to join are also welcome.

NEW CO-OPTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

I am pleased to announce that two new Council members have been appointed - Colin Day and Geoffrey Bonsall. Colin has a huge amount of experience in publishing and editing and has for a while been a member of the Society's Editorial Board. Geoffrey has the distinction of having been a member of the Society since its re-opening in Hong Kong in December 1959. He too has been a very active member of the Editorial Board, to which he has brought his vast and relevant experience. Both have been doing a tremendous amount of work for the Society and to ask them to join the Council was a very sensible and easy decision. I am delighted that they both accepted.

Robert Nield, President

PROPOSED HERITAGE CENTER ON LANTAU

A small group of residents on Lantau is keen to include a recommendation for a 'heritage centre' to record the history, culture and ecology of the area. RAS member Eric Spain is requesting that if anyone has material or references that might be included in such a centre - either about Mui Wo or rural life in general that is relevant to Mui Wo - to please contact him: ericjs@netvigator.com

LIBRARY DONATIONS

Over the past four months the RAS Library has received donations of 42 books, 1 magazine and 1 package of postcards. Our thanks as always go to those making these donations.

Donated by:

Shiona Airlie

- Airlie, Shiona. *Johnston, Reginald. Chinese Mandarin*. Edinburgh, National Museums of Scotland Publishing, 2001.

Phillip Bruce

- Bruce, Sharon. *Campo Kitchen*. Cartagena, Loyga, 2006.

Chinese University of Hong Kong

- *Passing on the torch: Exhibition of 65 years of children's literature in Hong Kong*. Xianggang : Xianggang Zhong wen da xue da xue tu shu guan xi tong : Xianggang jiao yu xue yuan tu shu guan, c2006.

Peter Crush

- Abend, Hallett. *My life in China, 1926-1941*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1943.
- Cunyngham-Brown, Sjovald. *The traders: a story of Britain's south-east Asian commercial adventure*. London: Newman Neame Limited, 1971.
- Mew, Egan. *Old Chinese porcelain*. London: T.C. & E.C. Jack, [n.d.].

Jennifer Day

- Morris, Esther. *Helena May: the person, the place and 90 years of history in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Helena May, 2006

Fung Chi-ming

- Fung Chi-ming. *A history of Queen Mary Hospital 1937-1997*. Hong Kong : Queen Mary Hospital, 1997
- Fung Chi-ming. *Yuen Long historical relics and monuments*. Hong Kong : Yuen Long District Board, 1996

James Hayes

- Hayes, James. *The great difference: Hong Kong's New Territories and its people 1898-2004*. Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2006
- *Look*. New South Wales: Art Gallery Society of New South Wales (Sept 2005). (Magazine)

Hong Kong SAR Government.

- *Hong Kong 2005*. Hong Kong: Information Services Department of the Hong Kong SAR Government, 2005

Pamela Hunt

- Hunt, Pamela. *Hong Kong expatriate reactions to the 1967 disturbances*. Oxford: University of Oxford, 2006. (Thesis)

Andrew Lee King Fun

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Peter Stuckey & Rocky Dang

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- A package of 10 postcards.
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OBITUARY
ALEXANDER JAMES REEVE, 1927 - 2007

When the RAS visited the *Götheborg* on December 8th Alex's wife, Barbara, was with us. I enquired after Alex at the time but was told he was not well. Sadly, he has recently passed across. He was of course a long-time Hong Kong resident as many of you will know.

Early in life Alex was destined to become a man of the cloth but he realized quite early on that the priesthood was not for him and he became a teacher instead. Nevertheless he remained a devout Catholic for his entire life.

After teaching at King George V School in Kowloon he was promoted to Principal in the same school in the late 1960s and that is how many pupils (and their parents) who passed through his hands will remember him. Although quite a statement, I recall there were those who considered him at the time to be one of the best principals in the territory.

In the late 1970s Alex was transferred to the Education Department Headquarters in the old Lee Gardens at Causeway Bay where he took up the post of Assistant Director (Further Education) until he retired in the early 1980s. He always had an ear to listen to students' problems and he always took a great interest in sports. Indeed his son, Dermot, at one stage played cricket for England.

Rest in peace Alex. We will remember you.

Dan Waters, Past President



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