

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

HONG KONG BRANCH

皇家亞洲學會香港分會
G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong



NEWSLETTER

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20th JULY 2007

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Friday 10 th August	Lecture	Rock Carvings in Hong Kong – Evidence of a Possible Link to Folk Religion
18 th August – 1 st September	Overseas Visit	Explorer Tour to Western Mongolia
Saturday 8 th September	Lecture and Visit	The Beginnings of Medical Education in HK, 1887-1922
Saturday 15 th September	Local Visit	Guided Visit to Dragon Garden
Friday 21 st September	Lecture and Visit	Chungking Mansions: A World Centre of 'Low-End Globalization'
16 th -25 th December	Overseas Visit	Study Tour to Central Bhutan

Lecture at Central Library

Friday 10th August

Rock Carvings in Hong Kong - Evidence of a Possible Link to Folk Religion

Hong Kong has a number of rock carvings dateable to the Bronze Age. Several others of simpler design may date to the Iron Age. Macao and Zhu Hai have similar carvings. This rock art may be related – at a considerable distance – to the earth god altars and certain other folk religious practices still extant today. This talk will be followed by a visit to two carvings on Hong Kong Island at Big Wave Bay and Wong Chuk Hang on 13th October.

William Meacham is a well-known archaeologist affiliated with the University of Hong Kong, where he is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre of Asian Studies. Former Editor (1972-1985) and Chairman (1985-1996) of the Hong Kong Archaeological Society, he has worked in Hong Kong since 1970. He discovered and directed two seasons of excavation in the pivotal site of Sham Wan on Lamma Island, and he directed the year-long archaeological salvage operation on Chek Lap Kok prior to the construction of the new airport.

Speaker: Dr. William Meacham
Time/date: 6:30pm, Friday 10th August
Venue: Activities Room 1, G/F, Hong Kong Central Library, Causeway Bay
Cost: This event is free and open to the public with no booking required

Explorer Tour to Western Mongolia

The Society has arranged an Explorer Tour to Western Mongolia. A sufficient group for the tour has now formed and arrangements have been finalized with the Mongolian Agent for this two-week trip, which will be led by Peter Stuckey and Rocky Dang.

Lecture and Local Visit**Saturday 8th September****The Beginnings of Medical Education in HK, 1887-1922
Visit to the Museum of Medical Sciences and Tung Wah Hospital Assembly Hall**

Dr Peter Cunich, Council Member and Honorary Editor of our Journal, has kindly agreed to speak to the Society at the Museum of Medical Sciences, located at 2 Caine Lane, Mid-levels. Following his lecture, we will visit the nearby Tung Wah Hospital. At the Museum we will be met by Ringo Ng, Assistant Curator, and at the Assembly Hall by Helene Ma, Assistant Manager, Board & Committees, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals.

This visit will also give us an opportunity to see The Museum of Medical Sciences, a historical building, in a beautiful Edwardian-style design, which was awarded the Award of Merit in Heritage Preservation and Conservation. The Museum has three floors with a total of 11 exhibition galleries on different medical topics. Of special interest are the displays of the Old Laboratory. There is also a Herbal Garden in the grounds. At the Tung Wah Hospital we will visit the historical Assembly Hall.

The Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine at the University of Hong Kong is currently celebrating the 120th anniversary of medical education in Hong Kong, its predecessor the Hong Kong College of Medicine having been established in 1887. While much has been published about early medical education in Hong Kong, and especially the College's most famous graduate, Dr Sun Yat-sen, most of these accounts have been written by medical practitioners rather than historians, leading inevitably to inaccuracy and exaggeration in the service of institutional myth-making. Peter's lecture will review what we know about early medical education in Hong Kong from the establishment of the College of Medicine in 1887 through to the first ten years of the University's Faculty of Medicine.

The lecture will commence at 10.00am. The Museum is located just below Caine Road, so any bus or mini-bus to the park at the corner of Caine Road and Seymour Road, just beyond Ladder Street, can be taken, or a taxi to Caine Road and Ladder Street. (Get off at the third bus stop beyond the escalator over Caine Road - about a 15 minute walk from the escalator.) Walk down Ladder Street from Caine Road and Caine Lane is just a few steps down on the left.

We will end the morning with lunch at the new boutique Central Park Hotel on Hollywood Road. If they wish, members may bring one guest. The size of the group will be limited. Successful applicants will NOT be notified; only those on the waiting list will be notified by email or phone.

Time/Date: 10.00am, Saturday 8th September
Venue: Museum of Medical Sciences, followed by the Tung Wah Hospital Assembly Hall
Cost: \$150 for members, \$200 for non-members
Booking: Please complete the booking form on page 13 and return to Geoffrey Emerson

Local Visit**Saturday 15th September****Guided Visit to Dragon Garden**

Dragon Garden was founded by Dr Lee Iu Cheung following his acquisition of the site in 1948. He developed the 20 ha site into one of the most beautiful Chinese gardens in Hong Kong. It includes such features as the fish pond, the Pavilion of Leisure, the "Sung" Pavilion, the Pavilion of Springs, the Golden Wedding Jubilee Building, the Glass Mosaic Dragon and the Mausoleum. We are very fortunate that Cynthia Lee, a grand-daughter of the founding Dr Lee, has agreed to give us a guided tour of the Garden and will tell us about the history, architecture, the planned restorations and the wealth of flora to be found in the Garden.

Cynthia spoke up against the proposed sale of Dragon Gardens to developers in July 2006 and received support from conservationists, green groups, the media, and the public. Subsequently, her uncle, Dr Lee Shiu, paid HK\$130 million to family members so he could donate the Garden to the people of Hong Kong. Proposals are now being made to the Government for the proper conservation and sustainable management of the garden in the future. The garden is still privately owned at this time.

We shall meet at Middle Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, behind the Peninsula Hotel, at 9:15am for a prompt 9:30 departure. Our minibus will transport us to the Gardens in Castle Peak Road. The visit is likely to take about two hours and involves gentle walking. The minibus will take those who need to return immediately after the visit to the Tsuen Wan MTR station but there is an option for participants to join a self-pay goose restaurant lunch at Sham Tseng at the conclusion of the tour before the minibus takes us back in the afternoon.

The visit is limited to 25 participants, so unfortunately we have to restrict this visit to Members of the RAS Hong Kong Branch only. Even so, early booking is advised. The participation fee allows for a donation to the Dragon Garden Charitable Trust set up by Cynthia Lee.

Time/date: 9.15am, Saturday 15th September
Meeting Place: Middle Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, behind the Peninsula Hotel
Cost: \$200 per person, RAS members only
Booking: Please complete the booking form on page 14 and return to Peter Stuckey

**Lecture at the Heritage Discovery Centre
Kowloon Park**

Friday 21st September

**Chungking Mansions
A World Centre of “Low-End Globalization”**

Chungking Mansions is widely known in Hong Kong as a place to get good Indian food. It is less widely known for the important role it plays in grassroots world trade. Chungking Mansions is the central meeting point for tens of thousands of traders passing to and from China and their developing-world home countries and is an important node on the global trade path of mobile phones and other goods. Chungking Mansions is also a temporary home for numerous other sojourners, from budget-minded tourists to political asylum seekers to temporary workers. Chungking Mansions is Hong Kong’s United Nations. In this talk, based on extended fieldwork and residence in Chungking Mansions from May 2006 on, Gordon Mathews explores the intricacies of Chungking Mansions, and the people who stay there, and he considers what Chungking Mansions can teach us about globalization in the world today.

Gordon Mathews is a Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He has written *What Makes Life Worth Living?*, *How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their Worlds*, and *Global Culture/Individual Identity: Searching for Home in the Cultural Supermarket*, as well as, with Eric Kit-wai Ma and Tai-lok Lui, the forthcoming *Hong Kong, China: Learning to Belong to a Nation*.

Following the talk, Gordon will lead us to Chungking Mansions for a self-paying dinner in an Indian restaurant (or two, depending on numbers).

Time/Date: 6:30pm, Friday 21st September
Venue: The Heritage Discovery Centre, Kowloon Park. (This is near Haiphong Road, at the southern end of Kowloon Park. The nearest entrance to the park is from Haiphong Road, about halfway between Nathan Road and Canton Road, up a slight slope, about 2 min. walk from Haiphong Road and a five minute walk from the MTR exit near the Mosque)
Cost: This lecture is free and open to members of the public with no booking required

Overseas Trip

16th-25th December

Study Tour to Central Bhutan

In response to many requests, the RASHKB again offers members the chance to visit Bhutan, this time touching places in central Bhutan, specifically to see the major parts of the splendid annual tsechu at Trongsa (some say older and more authentic than those held at Paro in March-April and Wangdue in September-October annually). The key performance, among others at Trongsa tsechu, will be The Dance of the Judgement of the Dead, which is based on the famous Tibetan Book of the Dead (Bardo Thoedrol).

This is very long, so when the giant puppet of Shinje Chhogyel - the Lord of Death - finally appears after two hours, great excitement sweeps through the crowd. Members will also visit historical monasteries in Bumthang, Shingkar village, and a rarely-visited private traditional arts school at Khabesa of excellent reputation. There will also have the chance to visit typical village family homes and see more of rural life in Bhutan.

The provisional itinerary, **for members only**, is given below; with tentative costing HK\$21,500 or a bit less (single room occupancy extra where available).

Please refer to the booking form on page 15. **A non-refundable deposit to cover full cost of airfares and related taxes (HK\$5,200) should be paid by interested members by 5.00pm, 31st October.**

ITINERARY

- SUNDAY 16th December** - KB127 BKK – PBH (6.50-10.00am via Dhaka: timing may be changed as direct flights BKK-PBH operate from October but details are not yet published); check in at Gangtey Palace hotel, early lunch; drive to Drugyel dzong via Kyichu lhakhang; visit Duntse lhakhang; return to visit bazaar; overnight hotel
- MONDAY 17th December** - National Day - [Paro museum closed] very early start to Punakha; short walk to Temple of Illustrious Horse before reaching Chuzom; visit interior of Punakha dzong; introduction to Kuruthang new town and its principal lhakhang; overnight hotel. *[Note: Today is the 100th anniversary of the formation of the monarchy in Bhutan, and we hope to witness aspects of the celebrations in the Kingdom during our stay.]*
- TUESDAY 18th December** - start by 8.30am to visit Wangdi dzong and continue to Trongsa (lunch Nobding or Chendejji)
- WEDNESDAY 19th December** - attend Trongsa tsechu (Raksha); visit Ta dzong (under renovation) if feasible, otherwise nearby village/facilities
- THURSDAY 20th December** - morning, attend Trongsa tsechu – last day (thondrel and Guru Rimpoche; finishes 2.00pm); push to Chume and on to Bumthang; visit Kurje, Jampe lhakhangs; overnight Mountain Lodge
- FRIDAY 21st December** - all-day visit by road to Shingkar village; lunch prepared by catering team in a local house; then return to Bumthang (brief photo-stop by Ura village); visit Nyingma lhakhang on hill in Bjakar if time permits; overnight Mountain Lodge
- SATURDAY 22nd December** - early start drive Bumthang – Gangtey; see Gompa (lunch by our catering team); overnight Hotel Dewachen
- SATURDAY 23rd December** - early start Gangtey – Punakha; on to Thimphu, lunch Nobding or Chendejji; overnight Hotel Riverview
- SUNDAY 24th December** - early start, say 07.15am, to visit Choki Traditional Arts School (CTAS) at Khabesa; lunch al fresco if weather permits; drive back to town, see paper-making cottage industry, Textile Museum; rest of afternoon at leisure. Depart for Paro by 5.15pm, overnight hotel Holiday Home near airport. Farewell Dinner
- TUESDAY 25th December** - Early breakfast - To Paro airport by 8.20am to join KB126 Paro-Bangkok dep 10.20am [check] -arr 4.00pm (members make own arrangements for return from Bangkok). Timing may change if there is a direct PBH-BKK flight on this day - to be announced

MORE SCHEDULED FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The following events have been planned and confirmed and full details will be in the September newsletter. For now, mark your diaries for these dates:

- 13th October: Island Tour to see rock carvings with Bill Meacham
26th October: Lecture by Steve Tsang following the launch of his new book on the history of the Administrative Officer grade in the Hong Kong Civil Service
27th October: Visit to Hong Kong Museum of Art for a guided tour of the Chater Collection
2nd November: Lecture at the Helena May by James Hayes (postponed from November 2006)
23rd November: Lecture at Central Library by Stewart Braga on postwar politics in Hong Kong

RECENT ACTIVITIES

From Shanghai to Shek O

All attendance records were broken when over 90 people signed up for Anne Marden's talk on 25th May. In 'From Shanghai to Shek O' Anne began by recounting her childhood in Shanghai. She described it as a very sheltered Western-style life, admitting however that she and her brother went to school by private

rickshaw. Her later schooldays were in England and Switzerland. Anne met John Marden in England and they were married in 1947. They then took the five-day flight to Hong Kong where John's father had moved his business from Shanghai. Their first home was in Pokfulam, then true countryside.

Instead of delivering her talk lecture-style, Anne and long-time friend Norman Wingrove sat in armchairs and discussed her experiences while Norman triggered her reminiscences with a show of family photographs. These included John and their four children; early days in Hong Kong; Typhoon Wanda; Sir David Trench turning the first spade of earth in the construction of the Cross Harbour Tunnel; and meetings with royalty. These photos were also an excellent documentation of the fashions of those earlier times.

Anne is well-known for her tireless work for the community and after her children were all away at school, she was invited to be the Chairman of the Hong Kong Red Cross Society – even though she was not a member at the time. She worked closely with Caritas “for the last, the lost and the least”, oversaw the building of three pre-vocational schools, and organized special trips for children in the Vietnamese refugee camps. These trips, all run by volunteers, have evolved into TREATS, which today still organizes special events for children in need.

Anne learned early in life to help others and although she shared some of her achievements with us, when the evening ended there was the feeling that our gracious and generous speaker had modestly left unreported many other contributions to the local community. She brought with her 30 copies of her book, *Letters to my Grandchildren*, which she kindly donated to the Society. These were quickly taken up, with members donating to Anne's two chosen charities, TREATS and Playright.

Carl Crow: His Newspapers, his Adverts and the People he Knew

On Friday 8th June, in a packed Blue Room at the Helena May, members were treated to a fascinating and wide-ranging talk on the life and achievements of Carl Crow by his biographer Paul French.

Carl Crow came from Missouri to Shanghai in 1911 and was a major figure in China in the next three decades. He launched the *China Press* and other newspapers, started a ground-breaking advertising agency and wrote the influential book *400 Million Customers*. He knew many important political figures in China and through his writing was one of the major interpreters of China to the outside world. His work is still influential and with the present opening up of China is probably more relevant today than it has been since his death in the 1940s.

The talk was illustrated by slides showing typical advertising designs from pre-war Shanghai, a ‘fusion’ style that Carl Crow was instrumental in developing. A lively discussion followed and afterwards Paul French joined members for dinner at the Helen May.

Paul French has written a biography, *Carl Crow – A Tough Old China Hand*, which will be enjoyed by anyone whose appetite has been whetted for more tales of this fascinating man. Like Crow, he has lived and worked in Shanghai for many years and is a widely published commentator on China. His *One Billion Shoppers – Accessing Asia's Consuming Passions after the Meltdown* was inspired by Carl Crow's similarly titled book. In his energy and enthusiasm for his subject, Paul French exemplified many of the qualities of this old China hand and he conveyed well the inspiration and relevance that he finds in Carl Crow's life and work.

Visit to the ‘new’ Bethanie and the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute

Having visited Bethanie in Pokfulam in 2005, before the extensive renovation, this was a chance to see the ‘new’ Bethanie, now an associated campus of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts. On 22nd June, again, our very knowledgeable and charming guide was Philip Soden, Associate Director (Operations), HKAPA. Our visit began in one of the two former cowsheds, in the lovely, small Wellcome Theater, where Philip showed an excellent documentary giving the history of Bethanie. He then led us on a tour of the buildings, including the chapel, the Sir Y.K. Pao Studio, a multi-purpose function room with a high glass roof and spectacular views over the South China Sea and towards the Peak, and the BNP Paribas Museum of Bethanie.

RAS members might be interested in knowing that the beautiful chapel is available for weddings, religious services and concerts, and the Studio for wedding receptions and private functions. The Museum opened to the public on 30th June. Guided tours of the building will also be given.

From Bethanie, we walked next door to the Chinese Cuisine Training Institute of the Vocational Training Council. We arrived at the beautiful restaurant on the top floor overlooking the sea just before

sunset and enjoyed drinks there before dining. Dinner consisted of twenty dishes and soups from all the major provinces of China, including Canton, Shanghai, Beijing and Szechuan. We were pleased that Philip Soden and his colleague, Nelson Ho, joined us for this sumptuous meal.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Member Martin Merz has researched tea in its many forms for some years and although he does not feel quite ready yet to give a talk to the Society on his findings, he has agreed to initiate us ...

Black Billies, Smokos and Gumboot

As I proudly present my collection of exotic teas on a platter to my guest, I ask effusively, "Perhaps you'd like to try the Balgadeshi Clevdon? Or the Tibetan Organic Green? How about the Tran Quang Lotus Tea?"

I sound more and more like John Cleese as I run through the entire catalogue trying to find something that will interest him. "Egyptian Licorice? Morrocan Mint? Dongding Oolong? Darjeeling Orange Pekoe?"

"I'll just have gumboot," he finally responds, apparently bored as he wanders off to another room.

Not willing to admit I have no idea what he is talking about I rummage about purposefully but Google 'gumboot' tea the moment he leaves the room. Sure enough it's there: inexpensive, ordinary, generic black tea. For a moment I feared gumboot is the NZ version of Billy Tea. I don't have a billy handy.

"Regret to inform we're fresh out of gumboot," I intone with feigned erudition. "My last guest devoured all the English Breakfast Tea. How about Chameleon Green Tea from Taylors of Harrogate? It is 'a fragrant China tea that hides its true character until it's brewed.'"

He settled for the Morrocan Mint, also from Taylors of Harrogate: a blend of black tea with pure African mint leaves.

As the African mint brought out the flavour of the strong black tea, my thoughts turned to our gardener Ron and his billy tea. Ron was a former swagman who at each 'smoko' brewed his billy tea in the laundry shed with as much devotion to the minutiae of the ritual as any tea aficionado in a London tearoom. As a four-year-old I watched with fascination as he shovelled a mysterious mixture of black confetti together with heaps of white granules of sugar into a hellishly black billy can. Ron rolled a cigarette as waited for the water to boil – the smoko part. He poured boiling water onto the concoction and agitated the billy violently left, then right, with twitches of the wrist until he was satisfied the brew was ready for the tea leaf settling procedure. He stood up, and after checking that he had a clear path, initiated the vertical windmill centrifugal process. This is the bit I came for. The sense of danger was palpable as Ron initiated the procedure. He gradually swung the small bucket filled with boiling-hot brew back and forth until he achieved the right velocity, and then at high speed windmilled the billy above his head and back down going right round in a circle several times. At the top of each cycle the billy is up-side-down, yet the water never falls out. Breath-taking.

Ron squatted on his haunches as he smoked his rollie and sipped his brew from an ancient enamel mug; I squatted on my haunches next to him and stared into the billy trying to figure out why the boiling water never fell out. I never actually tried Ron's tea. It was black and spookily opaque. But the leaf settling process was marvellous connoisseurship.

In Taiwan I encountered a less dangerous but equally engaging ritual. While Ron's billy was black on the outside, many Taiwanese believe that a patina of tannin built up over many years on the inside of a teapot is the secret to a good brew. They have a little trolley with a small gas cylinder feeding a gas ring to provide a constant supply of hot water. It's needed because they heat the tiny pot inside and out many times by sloshing hot water over the pot. And each of the thimble-sized teacups is also pre-heated with hot water before each brewing. But the most important accoutrements are cigarettes and betel nut, which combined with tannin to blacken teeth. The tiny tea pots are stuffed full of oolong leaves that expand after a few brews – good oolong can sustain a dozen brews – so that a toothpick is needed to unclog the tiny spouts. Taiwanese connoisseurship is a delicate balance of a filthy teapot, a toothpick at the ready in one side of the mouth, a cigarette in the other side, and some of the most expensive and delicious tea in the world.

One of my first encounters with tea culture in Guangdong did not go well. It was explained to me that *cha shui* is merely tea coloured water. The tea is only needed to cover the odour of the hard, and probably polluted, water. They managed to do well on the filthy teapots and other accoutrements, but the tea....

I recently met Soong Shu Kong at the HKU Museum during the opening of an exhibition called *Qing dynasty literati and their drinking vessels* which showcased many of his fine tea pots. Barely restraining myself from drooling I asked him about having tea parties with his gorgeous pots and cups. He sheepishly responded that he doesn't actually like tea, though will not refuse it when offered. A virtual connoisseur, but a connoisseur nonetheless.

Suggestions for further reading:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tea> : A very good place to start. Good overview and lots of links.

<http://www.teetalk.com/> : An archive of tea articles

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/19392/19392-h/19392-h.htm> : The Little Tea Book, compiled by Arthur Gray, 1903.

<http://www.henriettesherbal.com/eclectic/tea/index.html> : Tea from the Tea-Garden to the Teacup with Twenty Illustrations, New York: Francis H. Leggett & Co. First Edition 1900.

<http://www.teamuse.com/> : A monthly newsletter with interesting historical articles.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS' PROFILES

At this year's AGM three new Council Members were appointed and following the tradition of giving members an insight into the interests and achievements of those on the RAS Council, here are their profiles:

Mr. Geoffrey Bonsall

A Hong Kong resident since 1955, Geoffrey Bonsall was born in Wuchang, China in 1924. At that time there was anti-foreign unrest - his father was kidnapped for a while - and in 1926 his family moved to England. He received an MA in Oriental Languages (Classical Chinese) at the University of Cambridge and later an MLS (Master of Library Studies) at the University of Hawaii.

Geoffrey was in West China in 1945-47 doing relief work in Sichuan and Gueizhou with the Friends Ambulance Unit, driving charcoal-burning and alcohol-fuelled trucks.

As Assistant Librarian in charge of the Japanese collection at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London in 1955, he then came to Hong Kong as Deputy Librarian of the University of Hong Kong (1955-1969) and was later the Director of the Hong Kong University Press (1970-1979). From the late 1950s he was the Secretary of The Sino-British Club of Hong Kong.

Better known to many as Charles Weatherill, he was also for many years a freelance broadcaster and newsreader on local radio and television.

Geoffrey has contributed to many local publications and has published on the artist George Chinnery. He gave a talk to the Society on Chinnery and his shorthand in August 2006. At present he is the speech writer for Dr Stanley Ho and is also an Honorary Advisor to the Hong Kong Museum of Art. A Founder Member of our Society, he is an Associate Editor of our Journal, and a member of the Editorial Board and the Activities Committee.

Dr. Peter Cunich

Peter Cunich has been teaching in the Department of History at the University of Hong Kong for more than ten years but is a relatively recent member of the RAS. An Australian by birth, he holds degrees in History from Sydney University and Cambridge University, where his doctoral studies were supervised by Sir Geoffrey Elton.

After a short stint as a research fellow at Magdalene College, Cambridge in the early 1990s he joined HKU's History Department in 1993 to teach early modern European history. He is still the only pre-modernist in the Department but also teaches philosophy of history and historical methods to both undergraduates and postgraduate research students. His main research interests are in sixteenth-century English history, particularly monastic history and the history of state finance, and he has published extensively on the Dissolution of the Monasteries in England in the 1530s. More recently he has worked on medieval and early-modern Christian church orientation (with Jason Ali), and the English Benedictine mission to Australia in the nineteenth century.

His interest in Hong Kong history was ignited when he married Sarah, whose grandfather (Reverend Howard Bailey) was a CMS missionary in Hong Kong and Guilin in the 1920s. This interest has led to

publications on the history of the Church Missionary Society in South China and the supervision of a number of postgraduates pursuing research on Hong Kong topics. In 2002 he edited with Chan Lau Kit-ching a volume of essays titled 'An Impossible Dream: Hong Kong University from Foundation to Re-establishment, 1910-1950' and more recently he has completed (with Lawrence M.W. Chiu) a history of extra-mural studies at HKU. He has been commissioned with Professor Tony Sweeting to write the centenary history of HKU. Now that he has completed his term as chairman of the History Department at HKU he is looking forward to spending more time on research.

Dr. Colin Day

Step by step I have moved from British suburban life until, ending up as a gweilo in Hong Kong, some might say I have finally completed the circle. The first step after a degree from an unfashionable college at Oxford was to get married and move to London to spend two years researching the economics of New Towns.

Thinking that becoming a specialist in Basingstoke studies was not really what I had in mind, I moved to Stirling University (then just months old) and did a PhD in the economics of corporate finance and continued there lecturing in mathematical economics. Both our children proudly claim Stirling Royal Infirmary as their birth place. But the rise of Scottish nationalism and the need for a change took me to Cambridge to be Economics Editor at Cambridge University Press. After a couple of years, they decided I should be sent to the colonies and so I spent the next ten years working in their New York office, ending as Editorial Director.

Something pulled me yet further west and I became Director of the University of Michigan Press. This provided the opportunity to be more eclectic, so as well as the management stuff, I acquired books in political science and a variety of other disciplines. The family also acquired American citizenship during those years, sadly just in time to deprive me of the distinction of being the first non-American President of the Association of American University Presses. They were years of excitement with new ideas about digital publishing and changing concepts of copyright absorbing my energies.

However, the westward pull struck again and I landed in 2000 as Publisher of the Hong Kong University Press. In talking about a book with Jason Wordie, the RAS appeared on the horizon and gradually and insidiously it came to pervade our lives.

DAVID GILKES, MBE, HONORARY FELLOW, RASHKB **Forty years as an office bearer, 1967 to 2007**

David Gilkes arrived in Hong Kong in January 1967 in what has euphemistically been described as the 'Year of the Disturbances.' There was a vacancy on the RASHKB Council for a Treasurer. Young David volunteered. In 1987 he became Vice-President and in 1990 he became President. He stepped down in 1996 when he and his wife returned to England.

When the 'Friends' were formed in the UK, in 1998, they looked for a Chairman and it seemed quite natural that David should take up the post. This he did, again very successfully, only stepping down recently at the Friends AGM in May 2007.

We would like to thank you, David, for 40 years of dedicated service to the RAS. Your significant contribution is greatly appreciated by us all. At the same time we must not forget David's wife, Edith, who has supported her husband and invariably accompanied him to the many functions. We look forward to seeing you both at many RAS functions in the years to come.

Dan Waters, RASHKB President 1996-2001

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY Hong Kong Studies Series
“For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors: The Chinese Tradition of Paper Offerings”
by Dr Janet Lee Scott

The Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series was created a few years ago to make widely available important contributions on the local history, culture and society of Hong Kong and the surrounding region. A Trust Fund was established in the name of Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride, in memory of the Society’s first Vice-President. In addition to a sum set aside from the Society’s own funds, generous donations were received from the Clague Trust Fund and from the Friends of RASHKB in UK, enabling the series to publish high-quality works that will be of lasting appeal and value to both scholars and informed general readers.

The second volume in this series, *For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors*, has now been published by Hong Kong University Press. In this book readers are introduced to the variety of paper offerings and their uses in worship, in assisting worshippers with personal difficulties, and in rituals directed to gods, ghosts and ancestors. Using Hong Kong as a case study, ex-Council Member Dr Janet Lee Scott looks at paper offerings from every conceivable angle and considers the survival of this traditional craft, the importance of flexibility and innovation, and the role of compassion and filial piety in the use of paper offerings.

“This is a book that all specialists in Chinese religion, arts and material culture need to read. For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors is an excellent source for teaching, both undergraduate and graduate. Scott invested years of research into this project and is the world’s leading expert on Chinese paper arts.”

James L. Watson, Fairbank Professor of Chinese Society and Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University.

ORDER FORM

The second volume in the
ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY Hong Kong Studies Series
“For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors: The Chinese Tradition of Paper Offerings”
by Janet Lee Scott

Yes, I would like to order Copies of *For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors* by Janet Lee Scott at the discounted price for members of \$175.50 per copy, plus HK\$20 for postage within Hong Kong, US\$6 for overseas postage by surface mail and US\$10 for overseas postage by airmail. For more than one copy, postage rates are higher – please enquire.

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LOCAL EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Special Seminar 2007
Cultural Diversity in Globalizing Asia
Co-sponsored by
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The Chinese University of Hong Kong
and
Asia-Japan Research Center, Kokushikan University, Tokyo, Japan

The Centre for Cultural Heritage Studies (CCHS) has been established by the Department of Anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. It aims to contribute to the integration of interdisciplinary research and exchange in the area of heritage studies. As an intellectual platform, it also aims to promote public understanding of the significance of cultural heritage.

A special one-day seminar will be held in the Conference Room, 1/F Cheng Ming Building, New Asia College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, on Wednesday 8th August, starting at 1.00pm with the Opening Address, "Cultural Diversity in Globalizing Asia" given by Professor Kajiwara Kageaki. This will be followed by a Panel Discussion, and later a Roundtable Discussion on Cultural Heritage and the Public Sphere in Asia.

For more information on the Centre and this seminar email culturalheritage@cuhk.edu.hk or go to <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ant/culturalheritage/>

Collective Identity from Cultural Revolution to Contemporary Art

This exhibition at the University of Hong Kong Museum and Art Gallery explores the theme of collective identity in contemporary Chinese art with highly significant photographic works, paintings, installations, films and videos. The roots of this motif lie in the mass assemblies that have become a familiar phenomenon of political movements since 1949, and in particular the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). Curator Jiang Jiehong states, '... the Cultural Revolution has been both a burden from which Chinese contemporary artists cannot escape and also a legacy, which defines them in an increasingly global world'. This powerful exhibit runs through until 2nd September. The Hong Kong University Museum and Art Gallery, Bonham Road, Pokfulam, is open 9.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Saturday, 1.30pm to 5.30pm Sundays. Admission is free and all are welcome. Enquiries: Ms Jane Sze at 2241 5512.

The Pride of China: Masterpieces of Chinese Painting and Calligraphy of the Jin, Tang, Song and Yuan dynasties from the Palace Museum

The special current exhibit at the Hong Kong Museum of Art is an unprecedented event of its kind in Hong Kong. Included are world acclaimed masterpieces, some works dating back a thousand years. Most of the exhibits were formerly included in the imperial collection but during the administrative changes in the early 20th century they were taken out of the palace by members of the imperial family. The Palace Museum was later able to gain possession of most items and the exhibition is a testimony to the fate of Chinese cultural heritage during political upheavals.

The Pride of China exhibit will run through to 8th November and the current special opening hours are from 9.00am to 10.00pm. The Museum is closed on Thursdays. For confirmation of admission prices and opening times – these may change in August – go to <http://hk.art.museum> or call 2721 0116.

REEL ASIA : Asia Society Summer Film Series

The Asia Society's popular annual Summer Film Series has begun and showings are taking place at the Hong Kong Arts Centre Agnès b. Cinema until 11th August. Entitled *Reel Asia*, the series includes films from China, Afghanistan and North Korea looking at modern Asia and the tension between tradition and change, man and nature, individual and society in the region today. For information on schedules, ticket prices and bookings, go to www.asiasociety.org/reelasia or call 2103 9504.

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LIBRARY DONATIONS

Our Librarian reports two recent donations to the RAS library: Thank you, Janet and Patrick.

From Janet Lee Scott

- Scott, Janet Lee. For Gods, ghosts and ancestors : the Chinese tradition of paper offerings. Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2007.

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From Patrick Hase

- China. State Administration of Cultural Heritage. Kaiping Diaolou and villages. Beijing, China : State Administration of Cultural Heritage, 2005.

CORRECTION

In the May newsletter Valery Garrett's name was omitted from the list of Council Members. This was due to a word processing error when new names were added after the AGM and I can confirm that she is most definitely still a Council Member – my apologies, Valery.

Jenny Day

ADVERTISING IN THE RASHKB 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. Phone/fax 2813 7500 or email info@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk.