

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 SEPTEMBER 2007

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Saturday 13th October	Local Visit	Field Trip to Bronze Age Rock Carvings on Hong Kong Island
Friday 26th October	Lecture	In Search of Good Governance: The Administrative Officers of Hong Kong 1852-1997
Saturday 27th October	Local Visit	The Chater Legacy: A Selection of the Chater Collection (at the HKMA)
Friday 2nd November	Double Lecture	The New Territories? Please Remind Me! and Shanghai before 1843
Saturday 3rd November	Local Visit	A Private View – Chinese Textiles
Friday 16th November	Lecture	<i>Chinese Restaurants: Exploring the Chinese Diaspora</i>
Friday 30th November	Lecture	Hong Kong 1945 – Future Indefinite
16th-25th December	Overseas Visit	Study Tour to Central Bhutan

Local Visit

Saturday 13th October

Field Trip to Bronze Age Rock Carvings on Hong Kong Island

Following on from the very interesting lecture archaeologist William Meacham gave to the Society at the Central Library on 24th August, a visit by coach to the rock carvings on Hong Kong Island has been arranged. Stops will be made at Big Wave Bay and Wong Chuk Hang.

The Big Wave Bay petroglyph is one of Hong Kong's most impressive, with a large abstract design, possibly a mythical animal. It was discovered in 1970 by a police officer, Brian Haigh. The group of carvings at Wong Chuk Hang was known to squatters nearby for many years, but only reported to government officials in 1980. It is unique among Hong Kong rock carvings in being away from the coast in an upland setting.

The visit will conclude with a set lunch on the Top Deck of the Jumbo Floating Restaurant. Please indicate on the booking form if you prefer a vegetarian main course. As the trip will require some walking, participants are advised to wear rubber-soled shoes. Members may bring one guest, and a waiting list will be used if necessary. Successful applicants will NOT be notified; only those on the waiting list will be notified by email or telephone.

Time/Date: 9:30am, Saturday 13th October
Meeting Place: City Hall, the main entrance to the Concert Hall near the former Queen's Pier
Cost: \$250 for members, \$300 for guests (includes lunch)
Booking: Please complete the booking form on page 14 and return to Valery Garrett by 8th October

Lecture at the Helena May

Friday 26th October

**In Search of Good Governance
The Administrative Officers of Hong Kong 1862–1997**

Steve Tsang, Louis Cha Fellow and University Reader in Politics at St Antony's College, Oxford University, will be in Hong Kong for the launch of his book, *Governing Hong Kong: Administrative Officers from the Nineteenth Century to the Handover to China, 1862–1997*. We are fortunate that he has agreed to speak to the Society.

In his lecture, Steve will focus on such questions as: Who were the Administrative Officers and what made them tick? What made them special in the context of colonial Hong Kong? What was the most important factor that enabled the AOs to become and remain 'the race horses' of the colonial administration while the professionals in the government were relegated to function more as 'cart horses'? What enabled the overwhelming majority of AOs to remain untainted by corruption despite the existence of systemic corruption within the colonial administration up to the 1970s?

Born in Hong Kong and educated at King's College and the University of Hong Kong, Steve earned his DPhil in Modern History at Oxford, where he has always taught. He has published widely on the history, politics and international relations of China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. His publications include numerous articles in journals and international newspapers as well as twelve books. Steve lives in Bicester, near Oxford, and he and his wife, Rhiannon, have one young son.

Speaker: Dr Steve Tsang
Venue: The Garden Room, The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central
Time/Date: 6:00 for 6:30pm, Friday 26th October
Cost: \$50 for members, \$70 for guests (there will be a cash bar)
Booking: Please return the booking form on page 14 to Robert Candler by 22nd October
Enquiries: Call Robert Candler at 2982 4033

Museum of Art Visit

Saturday 27th October

**The Chater Legacy
A Selection of the Chater Collection**

This important exhibition at the Museum of Art in Tsim Sha Tsui opened in March this year and will close in January. We are very pleased that Assistant Curator Maria Mok, responsible for organizing the exhibition, has agreed to lead a group of RAS members and guests around the Chater Collection. Maria joined the Museum in 1996, subsequently worked in the Chinese Antiquities Department, and became Assistant Curator of Historical Pictures in May 2006. She takes care of the Museum's collection of China trade paintings and works of art with a focus on the Pearl River Delta region. A graduate of St Paul's Secondary School, she received a Master's degree at the University of Hong Kong specializing in Guangdong decorative arts of the 18th and 19th Centuries.

Following the visit to the Museum a self-paying Shanghai vegetarian lunch will be held at the famous Kung Tak Lam restaurant in the new 1 Peking Road building overlooking the Cultural Centre and harbour.

On 23rd June this year, our Council Member Geoffrey Bonsall, Honorary Adviser on Historical Pictures to the Museum of Art, gave a public lecture at the Museum on 'The Lost Collections of Sir Paul

Chater'. As only a few members of the RAS were able to attend this lecture, he has kindly agreed to give it again at a later date. Full details will be given in the next Newsletter.

Venue: The Museum of Art, Cultural Centre, Tsim Sha Tsui
Time: 10:20am (meet in the lobby)
Cost: \$50 for members, \$70 for guests (each member may bring only one guest)
Booking: Please complete the booking form on page 15 and return to Jenny Day
First come, first served. As always, only those on the waiting list will be notified; if you do not hear from us, you may assume your application is successful.
Please indicate if you are interested in joining the group for lunch

Double Lecture at the Helena May

Friday 2nd November

**The New Territories? Please remind me!
and
Shanghai Before 1843**

A year ago, in November 2006, our former President Dr James Hayes was to have spoken to us, but an accident unfortunately prevented him from coming to Hong Kong. Now we are very happy to report that he has recovered and will be with us on 2nd November. He will give two short talks on different topics – The New Territories and Shanghai. There will be a break between the two, each of which will last no more than half an hour, including PowerPoint presentations. The first talk will feature his latest book, *The Great Difference, Hong Kong's New Territories and its People, 1898-2004*, published by Hong Kong University Press in 2006, and the second talk, about Shanghai before Treaty Port times, is based on a longer one he gave in Australia recently.

The New Territories - Leased from China for 99 years in 1898, the New Territories was a distinctly separate place until urbanization and development began furiously in the 1970s. But during the 1980s, very likely by conscious decision-taking in high places, this separate identity was gradually eroded, until its very name disappeared from the titles of government departments and the indexes of official publications. The contents of James Hayes's book are too varied to cover in a short talk. Instead, the speaker has selected some favourite images and a few well-remembered words from his long service in the New Territories, and will use them to illustrate some of the history and characteristic features of the old New Territories and its original population.

Shanghai – “Conventional interpretations of the development of the city of Shanghai usually begin with its creation as a European treaty port in 1843; the prevailing impression has been that prior to that time Shanghai was a fishing village, the county seat for a marginal region on the edges of the empire” (Linda Cooke Johnson, 1993). This was both erroneous and misleading. Shanghai was already a port-town during the Southern Song (1127-1278). It became an Administrative County in 1360, and by the 18th century had become the main outlet for the rich Yangzi region and its principal products, grain, tea, cotton, and silk. In the 1830s, the celebrated missionary author and traveller, Rev Karl Gutzlaff, would describe the place as “perhaps the largest emporium in the Chinese Empire, where an extensive trade is carried on”. Yet because Western trade was confined to Canton, the area was known to very few Westerners before the Opium War.

Using accounts in English and other European languages to supplement native sources, James's talk will describe Shanghai and its port before the Walled City was burnt during fighting between Imperialists and Triads in 1853-1855, and before the terrible destruction and loss of life wrought by the Taiping rebel armies in the hinterland between 1860-1864, from which Shanghai itself, with its foreign settlements, was saved only by British and French forces. British naval and military officers, resident missionaries, and American globe-trotters are among those contributing to this recreation of a very lively scene.

James Hayes spent half his government service working in the New Territories - as a district officer, as a town manager and district officer during the development years, and finally as the official responsible for its administration, until his retirement in 1987. In April 2006, James spoke to the Society about Chinese scholar-officials and their calligraphy. His doctorate is from London University, and he is an honorary Doctor of Letters of the University of Hong Kong.

Copies of *The Great Difference* and of *Friends and Teachers: Hong Kong and its People, 1953-1987* (Hong Kong University Press, 1996) a memoir of his working life in Hong Kong, will be on sale during the event, with discounts to members.

Speaker: Dr James Hayes
Time: 6:00pm drinks, 6:30 first of two talks
Venue: The Garden Room, The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central
Cost: \$50 members, \$70 guests
Booking: Please complete the Booking Form on page 15 and return to Jenny Day

Local Visit

Saturday 3rd November

A Private View - Chinese Textiles

This event is a repeat of a visit last made in 2001 to view the Chinese dress and textile collections of Valery Garrett and Chris Hall.

Valery is a long time resident of Hong Kong and Life Member of our Society. An acknowledged expert on Chinese dress, she has served as consultant for museums and collections in Hong Kong and around the world. A large part of her personal collection has been acquired by museums both here and overseas, including the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Her latest book, *Chinese Dress from the Qing Dynasty to the Present*, with over 500 illustrations, has just been published by Tuttle, and will be available. An Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre of Asian Studies, University of Hong Kong, she is also a Council Member of the RAS.

Chris Hall, another long time Hong Kong resident and RAS Life Member, has been collecting Chinese textiles for many years. During that time he has acquired a collection which is the envy of museums around the world. A major part of the exhibition *Heaven's Embroidered Cloths* at the Hong Kong Museum of Art in 1995 was from his personal collection. There have been many other exhibitions of his rare textiles worldwide since then.

Numbers are limited, and restricted to members of RAS only. Successful applicants will be sent details of the meeting place, easily accessible by public transport.

Meeting Place : To be advised to successful applicants
Time : 2:30pm sharp
Cost: \$120
Booking : The booking form for this visit is on page 16 of this newsletter. Please return to Valery Garrett by 27th October. Numbers will be limited to 20 members only
Enquiries: Call Jenny Day at 2813 7500 or Valery Garrett at 2849 8164

Lecture at the Helena May

Friday 16th November

Chinese Restaurants: Exploring the Chinese Diaspora

The family-run Chinese restaurant is a familiar icon of the Chinese diaspora, linking Chinese immigrants from every corner of the world. As one of the researchers for a 15-part documentary series, Judy Maxwell will discuss how *Chinese Restaurants* explores the struggles of Chinese restaurant owners, highlighting and showing a 25-minute excerpt from the award-winning episode *Latin Passions*, which features both South American and Hong Kong-born Chinese restaurateurs and their families in Lima, Peru. Producer-Director Cheuk Kwan, born in Hong Kong, illustrates how these Chinese émigrés have faced their transition to non-Chinese countries, how they have maintained their culture yet redefined their identity, and how they have endured.

Judy, a native of Vancouver and a graduate of the University of British Columbia, specializes in Chinese Transnational History. She has spoken to the RAS twice – in November 2005 about Chinese Canadians in the Second World War, and in November 2006 about the Chinese Labour Corps in the First World War.

Speaker: Judy Maxwell
Venue: The Blue Room, The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central
Time/Date: 6:00 for 6:30pm, Friday, 16th November
Cost: \$50 for members, \$70 for guests (there will be a cash bar)
Booking: Complete the booking form on page 16 and return to Geoffrey Emerson

Hong Kong 1945 – Future Indefinite

At the beginning of 1945, the Japanese administration in Hong Kong was facing an increasingly critical military and economic situation. A diplomatic tussle was also taking place between China and Britain for occupation of Hong Kong once the Japanese were defeated. Following the Emperor's speech on 14th August, an interesting and fluid situation ensued. Mention will also be made in the lecture of the unsuccessful proposals for constitutional reform made by the Governor, Sir Mark Young, reflecting on where these might have led had they been adopted.

The speaker, Stuart Braga, was born in Hong Kong. He moved to Australia in 1951 and taught history for some forty years before retiring in 1998 as Senior Master of Trinity Grammar School, Sydney. He has written several books and numerous articles on educational, church and military history, his latest book, *Kododa Commander*, having been published by Oxford University Press in 2004. It is a life of Major-General 'Tubby' Allen, the commander of the Australian troops who defeated the Japanese on the Kokoda Trail in October 1942. In 2007 he was requested by the National Library of Australia to reorganise the research papers of his uncle, the late, well-known J.M. Braga of Macau, whose extensive library on the Portuguese in the Far East was acquired by the Library in 1966. Stuart's forebears resided for some 200 years in Macau, and he and his wife will be attending the 2007 Encontro in Macau from 24th November to 4th December, a reunion of former Macau and Hong Kong residents with Portuguese ties.

Speaker: Dr Stuart Braga
Time/Date: 6:30pm, Friday 30th November
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

Overseas Trip

16th-25th December

Study Tour to Central Bhutan

A description of this study tour and detailed itinerary can be found in the July newsletter. There are still places available for this trip, which also takes advantage of off-season reduced rates on airfares to and from Bhutan. In addition to the cultural significance of the tsechu at Trongsa, participating members will have a good chance to observe many aspects of Bhutanese life and society on the eve of a) the first nation-wide elections for a multi-party parliament, b) a coronation for the fifth king, and c) celebrations of the centenary (on 17th December) of the monarchy's establishment.

Interested members should complete the booking form and return it with their deposit cheque - \$6,000 per person - by 15th October. Enquiries from early October to Dr Brian Shaw at bcjshaw@hkucc.hku.hk.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Rock Carvings in Hong Kong – a Possible Link to Folk Religion

Bill Meacham spoke on a subject of which he is probably Hong Kong's foremost authority before an almost capacity audience at the Central Library on 24th August.

With the aid of slides he took us through approximately 3000 years of civilization in Hong Kong, with pictures of early excavations, showing that this subject has attracted some of the most notable Hong Kong archaeologists, including Drs Solomon Bard, Brian Peacock, Father Finn and Walter Schofield. It seems that the original purpose of the carvings is as enigmatic as ever. However, their construction dates are now being firmed up, mainly due to comparison with typology of established bronze and pottery designs (e.g. Shang Dynasty 'double-f').

The latest Hong Kong carving discovered was on Kau Sai Chau (estimated at 5000 Before Present) and similar carvings have recently been discovered in Vietnam, Zhu Hai and Macao. The 'Game Board' designs found on high points (possibly look-out stations) show marked similarities with the old English game 'Nine-Men's Morris', as well as similar inscribed designs found in ancient Egyptian tombs. Similar examples have also been reported as far afield as Spain and South America. Bill has arranged to publish his new book, *Archaeology in Hong Kong*, early in 2008 and also hopes to publish a revised edition of his

well known *Rock Carvings in Hong Kong* (1976) later next year. The talk went overtime with questions, which produced some lively discussions afterwards at a dinner at the Hong Kong Police Officers' Club, kindly arranged by Ron Clibborn-Dyer.

With all the controversy and mystery surrounding this subject, it could be considered as Hong Kong's answer to the Da Vinci Code! To see some in-situ examples for yourself, a visit to the carvings on Hong Kong Island will be led by the speaker on Saturday 13th October and there you can make your own judgment. Please see separate announcement for details of the visit.

William Greaves

Explorer Tour to Western Mongolia

A group of intrepid explorers thoroughly enjoyed visiting western Mongolia from 18th August to 2nd September. There were 10 of us, ranging in age from 10 to seventy something – your secret is safe with us Jessie, but where do you get that vitality?

Air China took us via Beijing to Ulaan Baatar. After a night in a ger camp decorated with snow leopard skins, we returned to the airport and boarded a Saab 340B for a fascinating domestic flight across Mongolia to the western province of Khovd. Our expedition consisted of three comfortable Japanese jeeps and a rugged Russian kitchen van. We stayed mostly in gers but also camped four nights beside scenic lakes and rivers.

We soon crossed into the Kazakh-dominated province of Bayan Olgii. The Islamic influence became apparent in the colourful textiles and clothes. We visited Kazakh families in their gers and enjoyed Kazakh hospitality on several occasions. In the provincial town, Olgii, we were treated to the first of several cultural shows with fine singing and music. In an unpromising township we came across an eagle keeper who proudly told us about capturing and training his “pet” and let us each hold the eagle so that we could realise how heavy and strong the 6kg bird was. Other wildlife we saw included a snow hare, a lynx, marmots, long eared owls and a wide variety of other birds – as well, of course, as the domesticated “five treasures”, camels, yaks, horses, cows and sheep and goats.

We entered the Altai National Park and trekked to a fine view point of the highest peak in Mongolia, the snow capped Mt Huiten, at 4,374m, on the borders of Russia and China. Our efforts were well rewarded with a glorious sunny day and great views of the “Five Saints” range of mountains and their adjacent glaciers. The nights, though, were freezing and we were relieved to find a “spare” empty ger where all ten of us could arrange ourselves in family groupings around the stove for a warm and comfortable night.



After visiting some ancient rock carvings we crossed into the third of the western provinces, Uvs. Here we trekked through some beautiful riverside birch and larch forests before heading across the desert to the largest salt water lake in Mongolia (Uvs Nuur, more than twice the area of Hong Kong) and camping beside the adjacent sand dunes. We flew back from the run-down provincial capital, Ulaangom, and most of us visited another attractive National Park just outside Ulaan Baatar, the Terelj, before returning to the positive luxury of Ulaan Baatar's restaurants and hotels. After a busy day visiting the Fine Arts and National History Museums with some shopping for cashmere

clothes and another cultural show featuring the classic Tsam mask dance, all too soon it was time to leave the open spaces and return to the congestion and bustle of Hong Kong.

Peter Stuckey

Photographs courtesy of Rocky Dang

The Beginnings of Medical Education in Hong Kong, 1887-1922

Until not so many years ago, there was a string of magnificent mansions along the roads of Mid-Levels, whose surrounding verandahs afforded panoramic views of Victoria Harbour. The last remaining one of these in Caine Road is now preserved as the home of the Museum of Medical Sciences, the first stop on a brief tour attended by some 40 members and guests on Saturday 8th September. An introductory talk, expertly researched and delivered by Council member Dr Peter Cunich, described the history of medical education in Hong Kong from its humble beginnings in 1887. The “Hong Kong College of Medicine for the Chinese” was founded in that year and its primary purpose was to train the six medical dressers who were employed by the Alice Memorial Hospital, founded a few months earlier. The college also

admitted medical students, and one of the first to receive their licentiates in 1892 was Sun Yat-sen, later to be the founder of the Republic of China.

The college existed in name only – it did not have its own premises, nor did it have any full-time staff. Also it failed to break free of its small size, never achieving the goal of having a student strength of sixty. The first plans to build dedicated premises were discussed in 1905, and work was just about to commence in 1908 when Sir Frederick Lugard announced his plan for the founding of the University of Hong Kong. The college was dissolved in 1915; its activities had by that time been subsumed into those of the university’s faculty of medicine.



After a tour of the museum’s impressive and thoughtfully presented exhibits, we went down the hill to see the Assembly Hall of the Tung Wah Hospital. This extraordinarily impressive place is not open to the public, so we were indeed fortunate to be able to spend time admiring the many commemorative tablets that adorn the walls. These include two from the Guangxu Emperor (1879 and 1885) recording relief work done in China by Tung Wah following natural disasters. By way of complete contrast, there was also a bronze bust of Sir Shiu-kin Tang, compete with his British imperial orders and decorations. The morning ended with a pleasant lunch at the Central Park Hotel.

Robert Nield

Photographs courtesy of Colin Day

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

As you can see, this newsletter has been illustrated with members' photos. Inclusion of pictures has been long overdue and in future the write-ups of all local and overseas trips will include one or two photos. Anyone going on one of our local or overseas trips is encouraged to send their photos for inclusion in the newsletter (send to Jenny Day at membership@royalasiaticsociety.com.hk) or in the website (send to Ruth Benny at ruth@angelcommunications.biz). However, this is something of an experiment and if too many members have problems opening larger files then we may have to think how we handle this.

Also, we would welcome assistance in putting out news about local events of interest to members in general. Often very interesting and unusual events slip under the radar or else news arrives too late to include in the newsletter. If you know of any activity, exhibition or lecture, which is relevant to the society's interests, please let Jenny know so that a notice can be included in the next newsletter or in an email notice. The deadline for newsletter announcements is the 15th of alternate (and uneven) months.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Council Member Valery Garrett is the author of many books and is well known for her superb collection of Chinese textiles. In November she will be hosting a visit to her home, where members will be able to see many beautiful pieces before they are donated to museums. What are the circumstances which lead someone to be a collector? Just how and why did this collection come about? We asked Valery how it all began.

Three Decades of Collecting by Valery Garrett

Searching the racks at Oxfam for an outfit for Saturday night while an impoverished art student turned out to be good practice for a mid-life career change. Little did I think then, that this early training would result in a unique collection of Chinese dress being acquired and displayed by the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

When Richard and I arrived in Hong Kong from England in 1973, I didn't collect a stitch. But a visit to Chinese Arts and Crafts in Kowloon, and the purchase of a few rank badges worn by 19th century mandarins to hang on the walls of our new apartment, started me off. And I never looked back.

Over the next few years I collected all kinds of Chinese dress, as and when something caught my eye in Hollywood Road. It was not easy to visit China, but Hong Kong dealers received consignments of antiques from the mainland from time to time. In the containers there would often be a quantity of old textiles, perhaps twenty or more children's hats, or a bundle of purses or ladies' bound feet shoes. There was little local interest in these accessories, so I could take my pick.

My collecting took a different direction when I taught for two years in the design department at the Hong Kong Polytechnic. During the vacation of 1978 I decided to visit the New Territories to record the villagers' traditional Chinese dress before it disappeared completely.

Once a week that summer, I set off early with a camera and notebook. I visited the old market towns of Fanling, Tai Po and Sheung Shui and stood quietly in corners watching the women who gathered to buy fresh fish and vegetables just picked from the farms around. Here were villagers from the different ethnic groups, the Cantonese and Hakka farming people, and the Hoklo and Tanka fishing people.

Back at the Poly in the autumn, I continued my research, and employed an assistant, Josephine, who spoke the Hakka dialect - very useful where in some villages few women spoke Cantonese. My plan was to acquire representative pieces of all types of dress and accessories, including children's, from the four main ethnic groups and to collect information on the costumes and the customs behind their use. Villagers were asked to sell me unwanted items of clothing, while market stalls and hawkers continued to yield many pieces.

I knew that as a stranger walking into a village to beg or buy old clothing I would be looked upon with at best amusement, at worst, suspicion. So I contacted the District Offices who put me in touch with Village Representatives and they introduced us to groups of villagers. Together we covered the New Territories, from the Soko Islands to Sha Tau Kok. After many months I had made a substantial collection of traditional dress worn by men, women and children, including *sam fu* (the side fastening jacket and loose fitting trousers), aprons, headwear, patterned bands, jewellery and festive dress.

In 1980 I moved back into industry and worked in the depths of Ngau Tau Kok. There was nowhere to go at lunchtime, so after I had eaten I went back to the design studio and typed up my notes. I mentioned this to an old friend, Dr James Hayes, (past President of the RAS and a published author of many books on Hong Kong village culture), and he asked to see the manuscript when finished. After several years of lunchtime typing, I handed over a thick manuscript, only to hear nothing for months. (I was too embarrassed to ask him what he thought!) But one day I had a phone call from Oxford University Press. Dear James had sent the manuscript to his editor, and they wanted to publish it.

After *Traditional Chinese Clothing in Hong Kong and South China* appeared, the Hong Kong Museum of History offered me a post as project researcher to build up their fledging collection of traditional Chinese dress. For three years, from 1989 to 1992, I made frequent visits to villages I had previously visited, and to others, especially in the Closed Area, with assistants who spoke the local dialects, to collect costumes and interview villagers for the museum. In doing so I collected and catalogued well over 1000 items of clothing. Many are now on display in the museum with photos I took at the time.

Soon researching, collecting and writing became a full time occupation, and several more books and an ever-expanding collection followed. I collected anything and everything a Chinese person would wear from the Qing dynasty to the mid twentieth century, from the top of their head down to their toes. Richly embroidered dragon robes and the tiny bound feet shoes worn by Chinese women held a special fascination. Children's clothing and their elaborate hats were a particular favourite, and led to an exhibition of my collection at the Hong Kong Museum of History in 1990.

Then, after *Chinese Clothing, an Illustrated Guide* appeared in 1994, I decided it was no longer right to just keep my collection in store. I wanted to make it available to a wider audience, so I offered part of it, fully documented, to the Victoria & Albert Museum in London where it was quickly accepted.

This unique collection of 250 pieces of rural clothing worn by the farming and fishing people in a part of Hong Kong, now mostly urbanized and changed forever, was displayed in the Dress Court at the Museum in the spring of 1996. The Gala evening was held in the presence of Princess Alexandra, and we talked of the New Territories which she remembered well. The 'Valery Garrett Study Collection' is now available in the museum's study rooms to all interested in Chinese rural dress for generations to come.

Most of my collection has now been acquired by several other museums around the world, and just a few favourite pieces remain with me, soon to go too. Collectors are only temporary custodians anyway, and I want others to have the opportunity to study and enjoy these precious pieces.

Chinese Dress from the Qing Dynasty to the Present, with 520 colour pictures, has just been published by Tuttle, Singapore and USA. This is a round-up of all my work on Chinese dress and concludes a chapter of my life where I had the chance to preserve a small part of Hong Kong's history.

LIBRARY DONATIONS

In the last two months five volumes have been donated to the RAS library. As always, we are very grateful for these contributions.

From Hong Kong SAR Government. Information Services Department

- Hong Kong 2006. Hong Kong : Hong Kong Information Services Dept., (2006).

From Columbia University Press

- Andrade, Tonio. How Taiwan became Chinese : Dutch, Spanish, and Han colonization in the seventeenth century. New York, N.Y.: Columbia University Press, 2007.

From Instituto Cultural do Governo da R.A.E. de Macau

- The Canton-Macao Dagregisters 1762. Translated and annotated by Paul A. Van Dyke. Revision by Cynthia Vailles. (Macao): Instituto Cultural do Governo da R.A.E. de Macau, 2006.

From The Swedish Institute

- The Swedish Ship Gotheborg. Hong Kong : Crystal Printing and Design Ltd., 2006.

From an Unknown donor

- 譚世保 (Tan, Shibao).
金石銘刻的澳門史：明清澳門廟宇碑刻鐘銘集錄研究。[廣州]：廣東人民出版社，2006。

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY Hong Kong Studies Series

This 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. To order a book in the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series, please complete the booking form below and mail to Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch, GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong.

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

by Dr Fung Chi Ming

Reluctant Heroes by Fung Chi Ming reconstructs the daily lives and social environments of rickshaw pullers in Hong Kong and Canton. Subject to patron-client problems, the interventions of the police, the regulations of the state, and the British colonial and Chinese authorities, they struggled with their adversities and became a political force to be reckoned with. Fung argues that they are “reluctant heroes”, since their collective outbursts were authentic protests against encroachments on their livelihood. This book is accessible and interesting for a lay reader, while making an important contribution to interethnic relations, social movements, migrant populations, the colonial situation, and the growth of the modern state.

“For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors: The Chinese Tradition of Paper Offerings”

by Dr Janet Lee Scott

In the second volume in the series, *For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors*, 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.

ORDER FORM

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY Hong Kong Studies Series

I would like to order copies of *Reluctant Heroes: Rickshaw Pullers in Hong Kong and Canton 1874-1954*
by Dr Fung Chi Ming
and/orcopies of *For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors: The Chinese Tradition of Paper Offerings”*
by Dr 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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My cheque for is enclosed, made out to **Hong Kong University**

MAIL TO: Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong.

LOCAL EVENTS

The Asia Society

“Ten Things you Should Know about Chinese Contemporary Art”

On Saturday October 6th Melissa Chiu, Director of the Asia Society Museum, will give a presentation on the fast-changing scene in contemporary Chinese art. The illustrated lecture will identify ten top issues to bear in mind when collecting contemporary Chinese art and discuss misconceptions and predictions in the contemporary art market. This event will be held at 5.30pm in the China Resources Building, Harbour Road, Wanchai, with a fee of \$100 to non-members of the Asia Society. For more details about this talk and to obtain a registration form email hk@asiasoc.org or call 2103 9506.

Exhibition: In the Spirit of the *Siheyuan*: Architectural Elements of the quadrangle houses of Beijing

The Rotunda, Exchange Square will be the setting for a special exhibit creating an open courtyard house surrounding a rectangle space with trees inside. The exhibition, using panels, screens and furniture, is designed to capture the essence of the *siheyuan* and the harmonious relationship between nature and the dwelling place. This exhibit marks the printing of the second edition of *A Quadrangle in Beijing, The Story of a Chinese House* by Priscilla Chen, and is presented in collaboration with the Department of Architecture, Chinese University of Hong Kong. This interesting recreation of a quadrangle house will be on display from 8th-14th October, 10.00am to 7.00pm.

Chinnery Sketches and Treaty Port Views

The Martyn Gregory Gallery, 3/F Princes Building, Central, will be holding their annual exhibition at the Rotunda, Exchange Square, from 14th to 17th November. On display will be historical pictures by Chinese and Western artists, 1750-1950. For enquiries email penelope@martyngregory.com.

Treasures of the World’s Cultures from the British Museum

This special exhibit will be running until 2nd December at the Hong Kong Museum of Art. It features about 270 items including sculptures, paintings, jewellery, porcelain and stone artefacts that have been collected from all over the world by the British Museum. The exhibition covers a span of time from two million years ago to the present day and represents many diverse cultures. Highlight items include an Egyptian wooden mummy-board from about 945BC, a 13th century Egyptian brass “Astrolabe”, a 2nd century marble Roman statue of Dionysos and a “Queen’s lyre” from about 2400BC, excavated at Ur. Opening hours at the HKMA are 10.00am to 6.00pm, Sunday to Friday and Public Holidays (closed on Thursdays), Saturday 10.00am to 8.00pm. For full information go to www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/Arts and for enquiries call 2721 0116 or email enquiries@lcsd.gov.hk.

Chinese Ceramics and the Maritime Trade Pre-1700

The University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong and the Museum of Eastern Art, Bath, UK, are currently presenting an exhibition of Chinese ceramics dating from the Tang (618-907) to the early Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. These items provide an insight into the importance of Chinese ceramics made for export before 1700 and the involvement of the Arabs, Japanese, Portuguese and Dutch markets in this maritime trade and explore the history and diversity of ceramic wares produced in private kilns in China. The opening hours of the museum are daily from 9.30am to 6.00pm and from 1.30pm to 5.30pm on Sundays. Closed on university and public holidays. Admission is free. For full information go to www.hku.hk/hkumag/exhibition3.html and for enquiries on this or other gallery events call 2241 5500 or email museum@hkusua.hku.hk.

70% off
RAS PUBLICATIONS SALE

This sale is still on-going – see information and Order Form on pages 18 and 19

HOT OFF THE PRESS

RAS Council Member Valery Garrett's latest book, *Chinese Dress from the Qing Dynasty to the Present*, has recently been published by Tuttle Publishing, Singapore and USA. This comprehensive and lavishly illustrated book brings together everything from court and formal costumes to the working attire of the lower classes and the latest Chinese fashions. With over 500 images of garments and accessories from museum and private collections, as well as unpublished or little-known archival photos and printed materials, this book is a feast for the eye and an essential reference not only for costume historians but for all lovers of beautiful clothes. *Chinese Dress*, 240 pp., can be ordered now from Amazon.com for US\$40.95, a 37% discount over the list price of US\$65.00.

RAS JOURNAL VOLUME 45

The latest volume of the RAS Journal was mailed out direct from the printer at the end of April but we have been getting word that some overseas members have still not received their copy. Postal hold-ups in the UK might explain some of the delays. However, this is the first time we have had this problem and we want to ensure mailing is as efficient as possible when Volume 46 goes out later this year. If any overseas member has not yet received Volume 45, let Jenny Day know and a replacement will be put in the mail.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP CARDS

All Life members will receive a replacement membership card in the mail in early October. These have been updated and follow the design of the regular membership card. Any Life member who does not receive their card within three weeks of reading this newsletter should contact Jenny Day at membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk.

RESEARCH AT HKU LIBRARIES

Hong Kong Public Libraries' registered readers looking for research materials not available in the public libraries can apply for a temporary pass to the University of Hong Kong Libraries through a new referral service provided by the Hong Kong Central Library. The referral service is the first public-academic library collaboration of its kind in Hong Kong.

Applications can be made at the Reference Library on the 8th or 9th floors of Hong Kong Central Library. Applicants must submit proof of their research needs, together with the application form. A temporary pass referral letter will be issued to eligible applicants within five working days.

Pass-holders can get on-site access for three consecutive days to Hong Kong University Libraries' resources including books, audio-visual materials and electronic resources, but the materials cannot be checked out. Readers may request extension of the temporary pass if needed. For enquiries, please call 2921 0222.

ADVERTISING IN THE RASHKB NEWSLETTER

In an effort to defray newsletter costs, we are accepting ads that would be of interest to RAS members and related to the objects of the Society. 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.