

# ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

HONG KONG BRANCH

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NEWSLETTER

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**20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2008**

## **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Lecture	The 'Hidden' Shenzhen – its Historical Side
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Cross-border Visit	The 'Hidden' Shenzhen – its Historical Side
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	RAS Event	Annual General Meeting
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Lecture	Vice-Admiral Nagumo and the British Eastern Fleet: April 1942
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Lecture	What is Shanghai Style?
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Local Visit	St Andrew's Church, Tsim Sha Tsui
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Lecture	More than a Stuffed Bird Show – The RAS Legacy in Shanghai
19 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> June	Overseas Visit	Trip to Northern China
5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> September	Overseas Visit (Proposed)	Trip to Shanghai

Lecture at City Hall

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April

### **The 'Hidden' Shenzhen – its Historical Side**

*Please note the change of venue for this event*

When we hear the word 'Shenzhen', we usually think of shopping malls. But there is another side – a historical one, and RAS members Ted Rule and his wife, Karen, are going to show us this historical side. They now live in Shenzhen, having lived in Hong Kong and China for many years. Ted has been involved with investment projects in Shenzhen since 1987.

Shenzhen and Hong Kong have closely related histories but with subtle differences. Ted Rule will explore some of these. He will speak about the tomb of the last emperor of the southern Song Dynasty and the role of the eunuch Admiral Zheng He in establishing China's biggest Tin Hau temple at Chiwan. He will explore the contribution of the Southern Song statesman, general and poet, Wen Tianxiang, to the area, the astonishing number of Wen's descendents in the area and the composition of his poem, 'On the Lingding Ocean'. He will ask whether the Japanese pirates responsible for the early Qing depopulation of the area were

really Japanese, and explain the role of Koxinga in this episode. Also, he will discuss the Dapeng Fort and its hereditary leading family, the Lai family, in the Opium War as well as the position of Li Hongzhang's China Merchants' Steamship Navigation Company in the history of the city. Finally, he will deal with some little-known aspects of Deng Xiaoping's relationship with Shenzhen with particular reference to the SS Minghua, which is now a floating hotel at Shekou.

The talk will be followed the next day, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, by an all-day bus tour to Shenzhen, taking in as many of the following as possible: Dapeng Fort, the tomb of the last Emperor of the Southern Song Dynasty, the largest and grandest Tin Hau temple in China, and Xia Sha Hakka Village. (See the following notice.)

Ted Rule has an honours degree in Chinese from the University of Melbourne and an MA from the Australian National University in Chinese language and literature. He has lived in China since 1970, in Taipei, Beijing, Hong Kong and Shenzhen. One of the founders of the Chinese equity markets, he has written widely on Chinese economics, finance and history. Karen Rule studied at the Australian National University and the University of Sydney. Her career in IT included five years with Hewlett-Packard regional headquarters in Hong Kong. From 1994, when living in Sydney, she was active in the Australian Liberal Party with several leadership roles, including a term as an elected local Councillor. She speaks Mandarin and is now writing a travel guide.

**Speaker:** Ted and Karen Rule  
**Time/date:** 6:30pm, Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April  
**Venue:** Activities Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall High Block, Central  
**Cost:** This event is free and open to the public with no booking required

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## Cross-border Visit

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April

### The 'Hidden Shenzhen' – its Historical Side

*Please Note: This trip is now fully subscribed with a long waiting list. This notice is being repeated as a details reminder for those who successfully signed up.*

Karen and Ted Rule will be our guides for this all-day visit across the border. Our historical tour of Shenzhen will take in as many of the following sites as time permits: Dapeng Fort, the best preserved Ming Dynasty building group in the Hong Kong-Shenzhen area, including a Qing Dynasty general's mansion, the tomb of the last Emperor of the Southern Song Dynasty, the largest and grandest Tin Hau Temple in China, which was built under the aegis of the eunuch Admiral, Zheng He, and which still maintains interesting aspects of Ming Dynasty architecture, and Xia Sha Village, an urban Hakka village settled at the end of the Southern Song Dynasty by the Huang clan, descendants of the Southern Song official Huang Motang.

Our bus will depart from beside the Peninsula Hotel, Tsimshatsui, at 9.00am and return there about 7.00pm. A dim sum lunch at the Laurel Restaurant will be included in the cost and 'afternoon tea', self-paying, will be at Starbuck's at Seaworld Square. We will cross the border at Sha Tau Kok and return via the new crossing and bridge over Shenzhen Bay.

Visas must be obtained by individuals before the day so there will be no delays at the border. Participants should carry both their passports and Hong Kong ID Cards. Also, participants are strongly urged to buy one-day travel insurance policies if they are not already covered by travel insurance. Members may bring only one guest.

**Time/Date:** 9.00am, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April  
**Meeting Place:** Between the YMCA and the Peninsula Hotel, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon  
**Enquiries:** Enquiries to Geoffrey at 2550 4374 or email [emerson@netvigator.com](mailto:emerson@netvigator.com)

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## Annual Event

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April

### Annual General Meeting

This year's annual General Meeting will take place in the Harcourt Room, The Hong Kong Club, on 25<sup>th</sup> April. This year we are very fortunate that Richard Engelhardt, Regional Advisor in Culture in Asia and the

Pacific at UNESCO, has agreed to be our speaker. His talk will be 'Asian Values in Heritage Conservation: the search for an Asian vocabulary of historical authenticity within the context of renewal and globalisation'.

Mr Engelhardt was educated in anthropology, archaeology, and the history of East, South, and Southeast Asia at Yale and Harvard Universities and at the post-graduate Population Institute of the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii. For the past 25 years, he has directed archaeology and heritage conservation projects throughout Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. With all the prominence currently being given in Hong Kong to heritage conservation and urban renewal, Mr Engelhardt's talk will be very timely.

If you would like to come for the AGM (for which there is no charge) but not stay for dinner, please let Jenny Day know so extra seating can be arranged.

**Time/date:** 6.00 for 6.15pm, Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
**Venue:** The Harcourt Room, The Hong Kong Club, Central  
**Cost:** \$325 for RAS members, \$375 for guests  
**Booking:** Please complete the booking form on page 16 and return to Jenny Day by 18<sup>th</sup> April

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## Lecture and Tea at the Helena May

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

### Vice-Admiral Nagumo and the British Eastern Fleet: April 1942

John Parkinson, a South African member of our Society, will speak to us about Vice-Admiral Nagumo Chuichi, IJN, and his misfortune in not encountering the British Easter Fleet in the Indian Ocean in April 1942. John, born in Trinidad, educated at Tonbridge School and now retired, previously worked in the shipping business in Sarawak, the Bahamas, South Africa, Belgium and the USA. He has spoken and written extensively about aspects of Royal Naval history, usually involving the RN on the old China Station. John's article on the first steam-powered ascent through the Yangtse gorges in 1858 appeared in our recent Journal, Volume 46. We are fortunate that he is able to speak to us when passing through Hong Kong briefly on his way from China to South Africa.

The early Japanese naval successes in World War II were largely directed by Vice-Admiral Nagumo, Commander-in-Chief of a fleet consisting of Japan's six largest aircraft carriers. Following the success at Pearl Harbour in December 1941, Nagumo achieved carrier-launched aircraft attack successes in the Bismarck Archipelago and at Darwin. He was most unfortunate in not finding the main British fleet in April 1942 as, had he done so, he would have added possibly the greatest of all to his list of early wartime achievements. The speaker will explain, with illustrations, something of the wide-ranging circumstances which were to have the fortuitous result of this British escape.

*Please note this will be a Saturday afternoon lecture following tea.*

**Speaker:** John Parkinson  
**Venue:** The Blue Room, The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong  
**Time/Date:** 3.00 p.m., Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
**Cost:** \$80 for RAS members, \$100 for guests (including tea)  
**Booking:** Please return the booking form on page 17 to Geoffrey Emerson  
**Enquiries:** Email Geoffrey at [emerson@netvigator.com](mailto:emerson@netvigator.com) or phone 2550 4374

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## Lecture at the Helena May

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May

### What is Shanghai Style?

Lynn Pan, who has just published a book called *Shanghai Style: Art & Design Between the Wars*, will pose and answer the question 'What is Shanghai Style?' in an illustrated talk that will encompass modern paintings, graphic design, cartoons and architecture. Though Shanghai Style is frequently assumed to be synonymous with Art Deco, Lynn Pan will show that it was much more eclectic than that, its sources ranging from Aubrey Beardsley to Futurism.

While some of its practitioners had studied in Paris and Tokyo, many more were completely home-grown. How, then, did European influences come their way? Lynn Pan will look at such conduits of style as Western film and illustrated magazines, and how keenly Western trends were followed through these printed and screen images by the artists and designers who fashioned Shanghai Style.

She will also discuss Haipai, the Chinese shorthand for the Shanghainese way with Chinese art, opera and literature – a way once scorned and denigrated by its critics in Beijing as being bastardized, commercialized, slick and superficial.

Lynn Pan, who lives in Shanghai, is the author of a dozen books including *In Search of Old Shanghai*, *Sons of the Yellow Emperor*, *Tracing It Home*, *The New Chinese Revolution* and *The Encyclopedia of the Chinese Overseas*.

**Speaker:** Lynn Pan  
**Venue:** The Garden Room, The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong  
**Time/Date:** 6.30pm, Friday 9th May  
**Cost:** \$50 for RAS members, \$70 for guests  
**Booking:** Please return the booking form on page 17 to May Holdsworth  
**Enquiries:** Email Jenny Day at [membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk) or phone 2813 7500

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## Local Visit

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May

### St Andrew's Church 138 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui

In 2006, St Andrews Church celebrated its centenary. In preparation for this event, the church was given a comprehensive 'make-over'. The red bricks were cleaned and repointed, broken and unstable stained glass was repaired, and the bells, which had been silent for almost 20 years, were brought back into full operation and are now rung by volunteers each Sunday. The successful conservation project won a UNESCO Asia Pacific 2006 Award of Merit.

The tour will be led by Dr Ken Nicolson – a long standing member of St Andrew's and heritage advisor to the church for the refurbishment works. This entertaining visit will last about 1½ hours and include a climb up the bell tower, a little-known secret about the stained glass, and several 'tricks of the trade' in building conservation along the way. We will also be able to visit the old vicarage and make a brief visit next door to the Antiquities and Monuments Office to see another building of similar age. There will be an optional self-pay lunch after the visit.

Ken Nicolson is a professional town planner and landscape architect. He recently completed his PhD in heritage conservation. He has his own design practice and is a part-time assistant professor in the Architecture Conservation Programme at Hong Kong University. Members may remember he guided us admirably around the Dragon Gardens recently.

**Meeting Place:** St. Andrew's Church, 138 Nathan Road, Tsim Sha Tsui  
**Time/Date:** 10.30am, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May  
**Cost:** \$50 for members, \$70 for non-members  
**Booking:** Please return the booking form on page 18 to Peter Stuckey as soon as possible  
**Enquiries:** Call Peter Stuckey at 9232 4284

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## Lecture at the City Hall

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June

### More than a Stuffed Bird Show - the RAS Legacy in Shanghai

The story of the Royal Asiatic Society is very much part of the story of the Bund, today as well as yesterday. Presently the magnificent former RAS building lies dormant awaiting a new beginning alongside a whole host of illustrious neighbours in the 'Waitanyuan' area to the west of the Bund. The area was the major centre for British social and civic life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Shanghailanders could glee over Gilbert & Sullivan operas at the 600-odd seat Lyceum Theatre, be put on trial at the British Court for their foibles, attend services and fêtes at the Union Church and take to the waters from the Rowing Club. They could also freely engage in learned activities at the RAS North China Branch, consult its magnificent library or view its mammoth collection of stuffed animals, which evolved from a collection wild ducks, in its museum. Peter Hibbard will illustrate the history, the vicissitudes and the revival of the RAS in Shanghai and look at some of the practical, social and preservation issues relating to the ongoing development of its Bund locale.

Shanghai-based Peter Hibbard has a background in urban planning and sociology, but decided to turn his attention to the development of the Chinese tourism industry in 1983. He was a visiting scholar at Hong Kong University's Centre of Asian Studies in 1985/86. He devotes his life to researching the historical development

of tourism in China and to plotting the historical development of Shanghai. He has produced a wide range of publications and is author of the Shanghai section of Odyssey's *Beijing and Shanghai: China's Hottest Cities* and *The Bund Shanghai: China Faces West*. Peter is currently project historian for Hirsch Bedner Associates, architects for the restoration of the north wing of the Peace Hotel and president of the RAS China in Shanghai.

**Speaker:** Peter Hibbard  
**Time/Date:** 6:15pm, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June  
**Venue:** 8/F City Hall High Block, Central  
**Cost:** The lecture is free and members of the public are invited.  
**Booking:** No booking is required

This lecture is a prelude to a Shanghai visit now being organized for the RAS, tentatively scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September. Peter will be one of our guides in Shanghai. Full details and a booking form will appear in our next newsletter, but you might like to mark your diaries now. See also the notice about this trip on the following page.

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## Visit to China

19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June

### Trip to Chengde, Mulan Hunting Ground and Beijing

In the last newsletter there was a preliminary announcement about this trip to be led by Dr Joseph Ting, recently retired from Government and now Senior Research Fellow in the History Department of the Chinese University. Because of the pressures of travel to China this summer, the deadline is earlier than hoped for – deposit cheques must be received by Dr Ting **by 15<sup>th</sup> April**.

The deposit will be \$1,500, of which \$500 will be non-refundable. The balance will be payable by 15<sup>th</sup> May. The total cost will be \$8,000 for members and \$8,500 for non-members. This includes economy class air fare (valid for 14 days, so participants who would like to stay behind may do so but must indicate this upon returning the Booking Form on p 19), airport taxes, TIC ticket handling charge, hotel accommodation, coach, tips and personal travel insurance for each participant. The single room supplement will be \$1,300 per person. Children above the age of 12 may join the group. All participants are expected to arrange their own visas in advance.

#### TENTATIVE ITINERARY

19 <sup>th</sup> June (Thurs)	Hong Kong-Beijing-Chengde
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Visit the Mountain Resort; Putuo Zongsheng Temple (resembles the Potala in Lhasa); Puning Temple
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Chengde to Mulan Hunting Ground, visit the Miaogong Reservoir and the largest livestock market in northern China on the way
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Moon Lake, visit the river which flows along the border of Hebei Province and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region; back to Chengde
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Pule Temple, Sledgehammer Peak. Return to Beijing
24 <sup>th</sup> June (Tues)	Visit the Western Missionaries' Graveyard, Hutong tour, flight back to Hong Kong

Note: Beijing – 5-star hotel    Chengde – 4-star hotel

Chengde, formerly known as Jehol, is located about 200km northeast of Beijing. With its proximity to Mongolia and its cooler climate, it was chosen as the summer capital, where the Qing emperors would spend half a year, greeting Mongolian nobles and foreign envoys, as well as enjoying hunting in autumn. It was in the Mountain Resort that Emperor Qianlong granted audience to Lord McCartney in 1793. Half a century later, at the wake of aggression of the Anglo-French forces, Emperor Xianfeng fled to Chengde from Beijing and eventually died in the Mountain Resort. While the Summer Palace (Yuan Ming Yuen) in Beijing was plundered and burnt by the Allied forces, the Mountain Resort is well preserved. It is the largest imperial garden in China and a World Heritage Site. The Manchus were fervent Tibetan Buddhists, and numerous temples were built in the vicinity of Chengde at the order of the imperial court in the Qing Dynasty. These impressive temples, collectively known as the Eight Outer Temples, are the largest group of Tibetan temples outside of Tibet. They are also World Heritage Sites. We will also pay a visit to the Mulan Hunting Ground, where the Qing emperors used to go hunting in the company of Mongolian nobles. With its cool climate and picturesque landscape, the place has become a favourite summer resort in recent years.

In Beijing, special arrangement will be made to visit the Western Missionaries' Graveyard, where Matteo Ricci, Ferdinand Verbiest, Johann Adam Schall Von Bell and Giuseppe Castiglione are buried. The graveyard is currently located within the boundary of the Communist Party School! Finally, a Hutong tour will be conducted by Matthew Hu of the Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Centre, bringing our group to back alleys in the capital which few tourists or even locals are aware of.

Please return the booking form on page 19 to Dr Joseph Ting by **15<sup>th</sup> April**. Each member may bring only one non-member as a guest. Applications will be accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis and there will be a waiting list if necessary. There can be no substitutions or additions other than by the waiting list.

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## Overseas Visit

5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September

### Proposed Trip to Shanghai

A visit to Shanghai is being planned for Friday to Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September. Highlights will include local tours led by Peter Hibbard and Tess Johnston, and a visit to the library where the book collection of the former Royal Asiatic Society North China Branch is being housed. Preliminary expressions of interest would be very useful so that we can start to gauge the likely number of people to cater for. If you are interested, please send in the Expression of Interest form on page 18 before **15<sup>th</sup> April**, or contact Jenny Day by phone at 2813 7500.

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## RECENT ACTIVITIES

### Walkabout and Lunch in Northern Kowloon

Following a talk the previous evening by Jason Wordie, a self-confessed 'streetwalker', the previous evening which was both inspiring in its insights into Hong Kong and dispiriting in illustrating how much of Hong Kong's heritage is gone forever, a fortunate band of RAS members met at nine o'clock sharp at Lok Fu. We learnt that this was formerly known as Lo Fu Ngan (Tiger's Cave). Under the 'Hong Kong flag' of assorted washing flying from the bamboo poles of the surrounding public housing, Jason urged us to see these estates as a sign of great post-war economic success. The trip was to prove an experience of seeing familiar, and not so familiar, sights in a new way.

From the Hau Wong temple we viewed Munsang College with its fascinating story of the Manchu loyalists who came to live in Kowloon City and teach Mandarin at the school. We could also see the weathered chequered pattern on the hillside bringing back memories of the approach to Kai Tak airport. On a nearby street corner was an inscribed stone from a time when this area was not officially part of colonial Hong Kong but of 'New Kowloon'. Such simple things could be deciphered by urban archaeological detectives as keys to the history of Hong Kong.

Then on to Kowloon City, the heart of our tour. As we stood in the delightful park which now covers the area, we learnt more from Jason about the connections between the local economy, the nearby airport and south-east Asia with its various communities and trades, from unusual plastic products to drugs. We appreciated the Suzhou style reconstructions and the original yamen or almshouse, before walking via the south gate to Nga Tsin Wai village, soon to be demolished. The Tin Hau temple, which will be preserved, is a reminder of how near to the coast this village once was. Jason spoke of the issues which the preservation of an area like this raised, before the group moved on, via the Kai Tak Nullah, to San Po Kong.

We were transported by the sights and smells of Thailand as we made our way to the Golden Wheat Restaurant in Nam Kok Road where we had a delicious meal accompanied by refreshing and well-earned fresh lime sodas.

We had had a delightful stroll down streets which were unknown to many of us and thanks to Jason's guidance we had a much deeper insight into both the area and into issues of heritage preservation. All who participated are indebted to Jason for a fascinating morning.



Photo courtesy of Colin Day

Robert Candler

## Visit to the Fireboat *Alexander Grantham* and the Museum of Coastal Defense

Fortunate were those members and their guests who joined this visit to Quarry Bay Park on 19<sup>th</sup> January, a day with near-perfect weather. At the fireboat we had three very knowledgeable experts to guide us around the boat and gallery. The first was Mr Chan Shing-wai, Chief Curator (Conservation), second, Mr Jonathan Tse, Assistant Curator (Conservation), both of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and, thirdly, RAS member Paul Harrison of Phoenix Conservation Ltd. All three were intimately concerned with the restoration of the fireboat and were able to explain things clearly to us and answer our many questions. Also, thanks to



Photo courtesy of Geoffrey Emerson

their presence, we were able to visit areas of the boat not open to the public, such as the bridge, the engine room and the pump room. As a bonus, our Past President Dan Waters kindly provided notes about Sir Alexander Grantham, Governor of Hong Kong from 1947 to 1957. From the fireboat we went on to a short visit to the Museum of Coastal Defence, where Paul talked about some of the cannons on display and we toured this very impressive museum with its fascinating history and wonderful views of the entrance to the harbour. The day ended with a delicious dim sum lunch in Shau Kei Wan.

**Geoffrey Emerson**

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## A Century of Travels in China

In this illustrated talk based on a collection of twelve essays entitled *A Century of Travels in China*, editors Douglas Kerr and Julia Kuehn from the University of Hong Kong discussed the changing motivations and attitudes, and the varied experiences of Western travellers in China from 1840-1940.

Since it sometimes seems that almost everyone who went to China in the 19<sup>th</sup> century wrote about it, selecting which writers to include must have been difficult. Arranged chronologically, the first essay begins with the period around the time of the Opium Wars in the early nineteenth century and ends in the 1940s.

Westerners in China were a necessary evil in the eyes of the Chinese. Allowed into Canton (Guangzhou) to buy tea, porcelain and silk, initially in return for silver (and then opium), “Foreigners were perceived, correctly, as one of the most destabilizing and dangerous factors..... yet foreigners were also seen as the bearers of the technology and ideas that might be adapted to bring a saving modernity to China. These are the conditions in which Victorian travellers visited China and reported on it.”

The first writer Douglas Kerr spoke of was imperial traveller, James Bruce, Lord Elgin, sent on two missions to China by the British government. Bruce wrote of his distress, depression and shame, when asked to carry out attacks on Canton during the Second Opium War.

After this war, many missionaries arrived in China and settled in other parts of the country. Julia Kuehn then talked of Rev W H Medhurst, whose little-known book *A Glance at the Interior of China* was written between the Treaty of Nanking (1842) and the Treaty of Tienstin (1858) when foreigners could not travel far from the five Treaty Ports. Medhurst recommended dressing as a Chinese and went into great detail on how to “sustain the character of a Chinese”.

Dr Kuehn also spoke of Mrs Alicia Little, wife of a Yangtze River trader who founded the Natural Feet Society to ban the thousand year practice of girls binding their feet for men’s gratification. Other women writers discussed included intrepid Isabella Bird, and Communist sympathiser Agnes Smedley.

As the essays show, and the speakers pointed out, many times the writer unwittingly holds a mirror to his/her own face, revealing their foibles and prejudices. Travel writers are expected to give a true and honest account of the place and people described, yet the boundaries between fact and fiction are as varied as the writers themselves.

**Valery Garrett**

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## Local Visit to HSBC – One Queen’s Road

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February members of the RAS were privileged to visit areas usually not open to the public at HSBC’s main branch at One Queen’s Road. Our guides included the Bank archivist Helen

Swinnerton, P Y Li, retired building engineer and an expert on the design and construction of the building, as well as RAS member Andrew Primrose, Business Development Manager of HSBC Bank International Ltd.

Established in Hong Kong and Shanghai over 143 years ago to finance trade between China, Europe and America, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) is known around the world. The present bank headquarters in Hong Kong, the fourth on the site since the founding in 1865, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster. One of the most innovative bank buildings in the world, it replaced the one built in 1935 and demolished in 1981. When completed in 1985, it was the most expensive building in the world at HK\$5.227 billion.

The building has 47 storeys and four below ground. Its main characteristic is the absence of an internal supporting structure. All services are located in modules hung on the east and west sides of the building, thus eliminating the need for a central core and creating large, unobstructed floor areas, which are key to the building's flexibility and efficiency. P Y Li told us that at first three escalators reached up to the banking halls, but a *fung shui* expert likened it to an arrow pointing upwards, so one was removed. In the basement we saw the safe-deposit vault entered through a huge circular door weighing 50 tonnes but which can be moved with the slightest touch. Next to this is the mail room with 120 red bins which circulate the building on an elevated track and can be programmed to stop according to floor and area.

Natural sunlight is the major source of lighting and solar power helps conserve energy. The building has 480 computer-controlled glass mirrors outside to reflect sunlight inside. For cooling the air conditioning system, sea water comes from the harbour in a conduit the size of an MTR tunnel.

After a short talk by Andrew Primrose on the Bank's off-shore services during which refreshments were served, we were shown some paintings from the Chinnery and China Trade collection by Bank archivist, Helen Swinnerton. HSBC maintains a link to the past with one of the world's best collections of the south China coast painter, George Chinnery.

Valery Garrett

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### Hong Kong & Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Saturday afternoon, 25 members and guests found their way to the former Central Police Station for a most interesting afternoon visiting this fascinating exhibition held in almost every building of the former police station, including the Headquarters Block, Barrack Block, the old Central Magistracy and even the male and female cell blocks. Our two very knowledgeable guides were Thomas Chung, one of the curators of the exhibition, and Hendrik Tieben, one of the contributors. Both are Assistant Professors at the Chinese University of Hong Kong Department of Architecture.

Our members were exposed to a very wide variety of architectural concepts, models, photographs and plans under the general title of 'Refabricating City'.

The fact that all this was done in one of Hong Kong's most important heritage sites was very meaningful, showing what wonderful use can be made of heritage buildings. The exhibition was organized by The Hong Kong Institute of Architects and Hong Kong Institute of Planners, with sponsorship from the Jockey Club, various Government departments and private individuals. This very enjoyable visit came about at the suggestion of an RAS member, so please let us have your suggestions anytime.

Valery Garrett



Photo courtesy of Allan Butcher

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### Mandarins Unmasked

On 29<sup>th</sup> February a packed room of 71 people heard Leo Goodstadt explain that one of the purposes of his talk was to redress the imbalanced view that Hong Kong's miraculous prosperity is thanks to the guiding hand of British colonialism. This view, he said, is even held to some degree by China, with proof being that at the end of British rule, Hong Kong was alone amongst all British colonies in having a GDP per head higher even than that of the United Kingdom. Goodstadt quoted the view expressed in *Governing Hong Kong* by Steve Tsang, another recent speaker to the Society, that Hong Kong is the only city in Chinese history to have been governed with the ideals that Chinese people traditionally believe should apply to government.

Stating the principle that the past is relevant to the future, Goodstadt then gave a brief snapshot of each of the Financial Secretaries to have served Hong Kong in the period from 1937 to 1987, many of the later ones having been known to him socially as well as professionally.

Sidney Caine took office in 1937, when Japanese incursions in China were causing huge numbers of refugees to flood into Hong Kong. Unlike the official view in later decades that Hong Kong could not afford to play host to so many uninvited guests Caine, as Financial Secretary, underwrote the massive expenditure needed to feed, house and generally look after the influx of people – and the economy took off. He failed, however, to introduce at the same time a more effective system of bank regulation.

H R Butters took over in 1940 as a champion of the working class, although his motives may have been more influenced by changing Colonial Office policies rather than personal conviction. Again, he failed to recognise a need for banking control, even of the savings banks patronised by his favoured working-class depositors.

Charles Follows was the first post-war Financial Secretary. He was responsible for rejecting proposals from the new Labour government in London for taxation reform to finance economic and social development, with the result that Hong Kong did not introduce a modern income tax system. However, he considered statistics to be a waste of time with the result that he was not able effectively to manage the economy in another key period of its growth.

Arthur Clarke served from 1952 until 1961. He believed that Hong Kong would collapse under the weight of refugees from China. However, he had the foresight to give priority to relations with the People's Republic, turning a blind eye to exchange control irregularities and resisting pressure from the United States to enforce the trade embargo against the PRC.

John Cowperthwaite was a clever but often inconsistent administrator. He was able to take a complex problem and produce from it a simple case for action, or inaction. He introduced, almost overnight, a non-means-tested system of providing assistance to those in need, but at the same time resisted the introduction of free primary education. He was an advocate of *laissez faire*, but oversaw the creation of the banking cartel that set Hong Kong's interest rates behind closed doors.

In 1971 Philip Haddon-Cave was not the first choice for the post and felt himself lacking in qualifications, but he did recruit the government's first qualified economist. He was status-conscious but also unconventional, attracting some serious gossip. The press and the business community liked him, despite his interminable and tedious budget speeches.

John Bremridge became, in 1981, the first FS to come from a corporate background. He soon found out that being a taipan did not qualify him to run Hong Kong's economy; he confessed that he had no idea about the workings of the Exchange Fund. He did overturn the record of his many predecessors and brought in strong and effective banking regulations, but he turned down a proposal for a new airport in the early 1980s as "Hong Kong cannot afford it."

Goodstadt concluded by saying that Hong Kong's brilliant success has been a result of unstoppable economic and social development, very often despite mistakes and miscalculations made by successive governments. Hong Kong's population has consistently shown that it knows instinctively how to react to economic crises, and that the community can often do much better than its rulers – "therefore trust the people and listen to what they have to say."

Goodstadt has been active in Hong Kong for over 40 years, as a journalist (deputy editor of the *Far Eastern Economic Review* in the 1960s and 1970s), a private sector economist, and then head of the government's Central Policy Unit from 1989 to 1997, where he was policy advisor to the Governor, the Chief Secretary and the Financial Secretary. More recently he has written two books – *Profits, Politics and Panics* and *Uneasy Partners*, both of which amply demonstrate his in-depth knowledge of Hong Kong's recent economic development. However, it was both refreshing and discouraging to hear from him that much of the material for these books came from the Public Records Office. Refreshing in that it shows what a very valuable repository the PRO is, and discouraging because since 1997 the government has not followed the previous practice of storing its records there. In the absence of any archives legislation in Hong Kong, it will no longer be possible for scholars to put together impressive works such as Mr Goodstadt's based on records at the Public Records Office. Hong Kong's history is being confined to a Black Hole, from which there will be no escape. Such a pity.

**Robert Nield**

### Visit to the Border Closed Area

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March Dr Pat Hase, our Immediate Past president, and Tim Ko, recently retired Councillor of the Society, led 43 members of the society and their guests on a whole-day trip into the Border Closed area. Helped by excellent weather, and facilitated by the assistance of the Border Police, the trip was a great success.

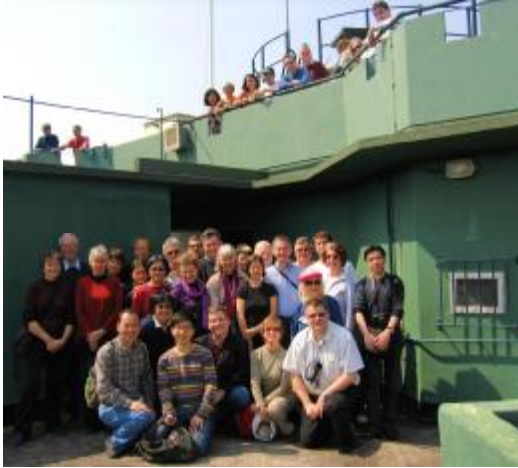


Photo courtesy of Tim Ko

The party visited the Fukien, Chiu Chow, Tung Wah and Government sections of the Sandy Ridge Cemetery, where they enjoyed a detailed and thorough commentary by Tim. Many participants were particularly touched by the Annual Graves where the bodies of still-born children are laid to rest in beautiful sylvan surroundings. After an excellent vegetarian lunch at the Wan Chuen sin Kwun Taoist Centre, we visited examples of old and new Border security facilities, that is, the Nam Hang 'Mackintosh Cathedral' and the Man Kam To Control Point.

Finally we visited two especially beautiful and interesting villages, Heung Yuen Wai, with its superb houses and gun-tower, and Lin Ma Hang, with its fina Fung Shui pond. At both villages we were met by the Village Representatives. Exhausted but very happy with the day, the party returned to Tsim Sha Tsui at 5.35 in the evening.

Patrick Hase

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### Madame Chiang Kai-shek: Dragon Lady or China's Joan of Arc?

For the first time a lecture organised by our Society was supported also by the Hong Kong Literary Festival, and we welcomed a number of outside participants. Laura Tyson Li spoke on 7<sup>th</sup> March at the Helena May to a nearly full house in the Garden Room. She first showed a most interesting 8-minute newsreel of Madame Chiang's 1943 visit to the United States, when she spoke before thousands at venues ranging from Congress in Washington, DC, to the Hollywood Bowl in California. Her popularity was extremely high, but nevertheless, while some thought the Madame and her husband were a 'God-sent couple', others felt the she was 'one of the most heinous characters' of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Without doubt, however, she was one of the most colourful, complex and influential women of her age.

Laura used a number of interesting slides to illustrate her talk, and she said that she first became interested in Madame Chiang because Laura's mother had gone to Wellesley College in Massachusetts, like Chiang, and used to speak about her. Laura discovered that there was no biography in English about Chiang alone – her husband, sisters and family, but not Madame alone. Laura has righted this with the publication of her book, *Madame Chiang Kai-shek: China's Eternal First Lady*. When she started interviewing people about her in Taiwan, Laura found that some were still nervous talking about Madame Chiang even when she had reached the age of 100. Madame Chiang's family was 'polite but not encouraging', and Laura unfortunately never met Madame Chiang herself.

Geoffrey Emerson

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### The Chinese Railway Timetable: Translating and Reorganizing it as a Labour of Love

On Saturday afternoon, 8<sup>th</sup> March, Duncan Peattie, a self-confessed railway anorak\*, gave a talk of a different stripe when he recounted the challenge he faced translating the Chinese railway timetable into English and into a convenient form. He embarked on this project after travelling from Hong Kong to Shanghai in 1997 and observing the many trains going to different distant destinations. He tried to find information on individual journeys but the national Chinese Railway Publishing House (CRPH) railway timetable was incomprehensible due to its method of organization and the only other sources of information were local area time-table extracts and station wall posters.

He declared the CRPH timetable to be user-hostile, with trains listed not by time but by train number, and with information on trains from one town being spread over many pages. He then embarked on the daunting project of translating the information in the national CRPH timetable into an accessible format. His timetable now lists trains in time order, provides a station index in Pinyin, and has a map of the entire country with each line numbered, with one table for each line or group of lines. He also provides a quick reference guide covering trains between major cities, fare information, the train numbering system, some overlapping timetables and a key showing where the trains in the official CRPH timetable fit into his own. His timetable is

updated regularly - it is now in its fifth edition - and supplements showing new train routes and major schedule changes are published regularly.

Duncan asked himself who would be interested in his timetable? His answer was train enthusiasts, tourists, business travellers, travel agents and tour operators. The short form of his timetable can be downloaded from his website, [www.chinatt.org](http://www.chinatt.org), and the full version may be purchased online or by contacting him at [mail@chinatt.org](mailto:mail@chinatt.org). Despite the forthcoming Olympics and Duncan's efforts to encourage them, the Chinese railway authorities have as yet shown no sign of creating a similar timetable themselves for the benefit of foreign travellers.

\*Someone interested in the minutiae of train operations

Jenny Day

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## A VISIT TO THE ASIATIC SOCIETY, CALCUTTA

When I received an invitation to attend the celebrations to mark the beginning of the 225th anniversary year of the Asiatic Society in Calcutta, I replied immediately that I would love to go. It seemed a rare opportunity that was too good to miss. Patrick Hase and I and our wives were made to feel very welcome amongst the many local and overseas guests at this impressive event. The Asiatic Society was established on 15 January 1784 in Calcutta by Sir William Jones, and it was at his tomb that the day's ceremonies started. This is an enormous and impressive obelisk in the South Park Street Burial Ground, Calcutta's oldest cemetery. After prayers, speeches and the laying of wreaths, we were all taken to the Society's buildings at 1 Park Street. The older of these dates from 1808, the adjacent newer one from 1965. We were entertained by the General Secretary, Professor Ramakanta Chakrabarty, until it was time for the second stage of the ceremony – the raising of a commemorative flag on the roof and the singing of the Indian national anthem. The main event of the morning was an address on the life and achievements of the founder, Sir William Jones, delivered by Professor Soumyendra Nath Mukherjee of the University of Sydney.

I was not able to establish how many members the Society has, but the membership is excellently served by a large staff and some impressive facilities. Chief amongst these is what the Society itself describes as its "glory and honour" – its library. This enviable collection was started at the founding of the Society and has been continually added to ever since. It now comprises some 149,000 books and 47,000 manuscripts. There are works written in Siamese, Burmese, Sanskrit and many other languages, written on sheets of tin, copper, palm leaf, wood and parchment as well as paper. The oldest book in the collection is a 1497 volume on astronomy from Germany. We did not see this, but we were shown a 1744 five-volume set in Latin on zoology. I was assured that any of our members could use the library, on production of their membership cards. Of particular interest was the library's Restoration Department, with a staff of 19 restorers. Sadly, this facility is very much in need of attention as the conditions in which the books are kept are far from ideal.

Annexed to the library is a museum, again comprising artefacts collected over the 225 years of the Society's existence, although much was given to the Indian Museum, established in 1866 at the urging of the Society. Pride of place is given to a rock on which is carved an inscription of the Edict of Ashok, Buddhist Emperor of India, which dates from the first century BC and was deciphered and then translated in the 1820s by Society member James Prinsep. The proceedings closed on the roof terrace, where lunch was served to about 400 Society officials and guests.

Calcutta has a huge amount to offer to the tourist with a historical bent. The cemeteries, monuments, churches, and government, military and other buildings could easily make a visit worthwhile. But if you do go, be sure to pay a visit to the Asiatic Society in Park Street and introduce yourself.

Robert Nield



Photo courtesy of Patrick Hase

## **“THE DETENTION AND PERSECUTION OF HO CHI MINH BY THE BRITISH IN HONG KONG AND THE TRIUMPH OF THE GLORIOUS RULE OF LAW”**

Long-time RAS Life member Dr Peter Wesley-Smith has written a play, commissioned by the Fringe Club, which will be performed at the Fringe Club in May. He tells us:

“In the Hong Kong Law Reports in the 1930s there is a case concerning a Mr Sung Man Cho. One issue was whether a person detained as an undesirable character, and thus subject to deportation, could be removed to a specific destination. The government wished to deliver Mr Sung to the Indo-Chinese (French) police in Saigon. They could not extradite him for various reasons (he’d committed no crime in Hong Kong, for starters) – but could they deport him to Saigon and thus achieve under the deportation ordinance what was denied by the extradition treaty between Britain and France? The Full Court said it looked a bit dodgy but they could see no reason why not. Mr Sung appealed to the Privy Council, which was the court of final appeal for the colony.

“The case is of minor interest from a legal and constitutional point of view – the courts would not be so relaxed about executive abuse of power now (one hopes) – but it becomes of great historical importance when one realizes, as I did many years after first reading it, that Mr Sung was in fact the Annamese revolutionary Ho Chi Minh. The story of Ho’s detention in Hong Kong and eventual release and escape to Moscow is celebrated in Vietnam. But it need not be seen as a simple piece of propaganda: there are fascinating nuances, such as the ambiguous role played by English law, the close personal friendship between Ho and his Hong Kong solicitor Frank Loseby, and the relationship between the administration of law and the demands of international politics. These issues can perhaps be presented better through the arts of theatre than by scholarship. That, at least, is the presumption behind my play, *The Detention and Persecution of Ho Chi Minh by the British in Hong Kong and the Triumph of the Glorious Rule of Law*. The Fringe Club, which commissioned the work, is presenting it in their theatre in Ice House Street from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May 2008.”

Peter Wesley-Smith taught at the University of Hong Kong from 1972 to 1999, bearing the title Professor of Constitutional Law at the time he decided to change course. His academic works include *Unequal Treaty 1898-1997* and texts on Hong Kong’s constitution and legal system. Describing himself as a recovering academic, he now lives in rural New South Wales where he is gainfully unemployed as gardener, occasional lecturer, and writer of texts for musical works. His collaboration with his composer brother Martin has produced such works as *Boojum!* and *Quito*. The Fringe Club previously presented their short musical about Noël Coward in Hong Kong, *Noonday Gun*, in 1986.

**Dates:** 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
**Place:** The Fringe Club, Ice House Street, Hong Kong  
**Director:** Peter Jordan  
**Cast:** Lee Chun Chow

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### **GOVERNMENT HOUSE PRINT FOR SALE**



The Hong Kong Society in London initiated a fund-raising project in 2007 in support of St Christopher’s Children’s Home in Hong Kong, to mark the tenth anniversary of the reversion of sovereignty to the People’s Republic of China. Artist Roger Draper, formerly of Hong Kong, produced a painting ‘Government House, Hong Kong’, which has now been produced as a limited-edition print of 150 copies, each print signed by the last two Governors, Lord Wilson and Lord Patten.

The majority of the prints have now been sold within the Society, but a few have been held in reserve for other organisations, including the Royal Asiatic Society, HK Branch. Prints are available at HK\$2,045, £137 or US\$260,

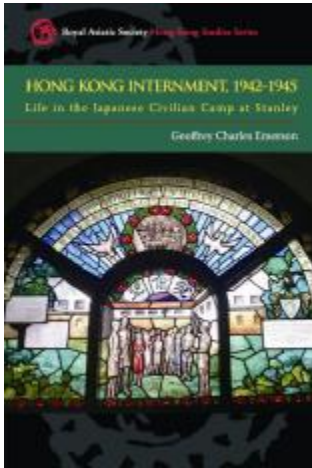
including postage. If you are interested please contact Geoffrey Emerson at [emerson@netvigator.com](mailto:emerson@netvigator.com) or phone him at 2550 4374.

## HOT OFF THE PRESS

### ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY Hong Kong Studies Series *Hong Kong Internment, 1942-1945: Life in the Japanese Civilian Camp at Stanley*

When he was not busy organizing our programme of activities over the past two years, Geoffrey Emerson has been putting the final touches to his book, *Hong Kong Internment, 1942-1945, Life in the Japanese Civilian Camp at Stanley*, a study based partially on interviews with 23 former Stanley internment camp internees as well as extensive archival resources. This book has just been published by Hong Kong University Press and is the third in the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series.

The bookstore price for this book is \$250 but it is being offered to RAS members at the discounted price of \$200. Complete the order form below and mail it to the RAS address and a copy will be mailed out direct from the publisher.



**“Hong Kong Internment 1942-1945 brings to life a little-known aspect of a hidden chapter in Hong Kong history. Drawing on a rich cache of artefacts and first-person accounts, Geoffrey Emerson has put together an illuminating account of life behind barbed wire at Stanley. Engrossing, well documented and amply illustrated, this book is an excellent history of Stanley Camp.” – Greg Leck, author of *Captives of Empire: The Japanese Internment of Allied Civilians in China, 1941-1945.***

**“Interweaving personal interviews and memoirs with factual details, Emerson reveals how these civilians adapted to and overcame the humiliation and the vicissitudes of internment camp life.” – Bernice Archer, author of *The Internment of Western Civilians under the Japanese 1941-1945: A Patchwork of Internment.***

## ORDER FORM

### ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY Hong Kong Studies Series

I would like to order ..... copies of *Hong Kong Internment 1942-1945* at the discounted price of \$200 to RAS members, plus HK\$20 for postage within Hong Kong. For overseas members the price would be £14.00 or US\$26. Postage would be £3 or US\$6 by surface mail and £6 or US\$11 by airmail.

NAME.....Memb. No.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

DAYTIME TEL..... EVENING TEL.....

EMAIL (please print).....

#### IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE PAYMENT DETAILS:

My cheque for ..... is enclosed, made out to Hong Kong University

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

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

### **Colonel H E R JAMES**

Mrs Patience Bagenal has sent us the following letter:

“... I am working on letters of my great-uncle Col H E R James who was stationed in Hong Kong from 1893-1896 at the time of the great outbreak of Bubonic Plaque, which he managed to stem. I gather from his obituary in the Times that he received the thanks of the Hong Kong government for his services and was mentioned in dispatches. He was then “lent” to the Chinese government during the Sino Japanese war (1894-1895) who conferred the order of the Double Dragon-third class for his work for the sick and wounded.

“I have been trying to find out more about him during this period and have written to the Public Records Office in Hong Kong but I have not yet heard from them. I would be grateful if you could let me know if you think the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences would have any information.

“My great uncle’s letters are rather patchy – there are no letters from him during the period he was working for the Chinese government but if it is at all possible for you to put me in touch with somebody who would be interested in helping me I would be very grateful.”

If anyone has information or a helpful suggestion, please write to Mrs Bagenal at **Leaside, Hertingfordbury, Hertford SG14 2LF, England, UK.**

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## **LIBRARY DONATIONS**

We thank the following contributors for the items donated to the RAS library over the past couple of months.

### **From Dan Waters**

- § Liu, Zhipeng. Tuen Mun Heritage. Xianggang: Tunmen qu yi hui, c2003.
- § Liu Zhipeng, Liu Shuyong. Xin'an Xian zhi : Xianggang shi liao xuan. Xianggang: He ping tu shu you xian gong si, c2007.
- § Bai zai tie dao qing / zuo zhe Jiu Guang tie lu gong si ; bian ji Jiu Guang tie lu gong si gong si shi wu chu, Jing ji ri bao chu ban she. Xianggang: Jiu guang tie lu gong si, c2006.
- § An English-Putonghua-Cantonese glossary of terms commonly used in construction industry (comprising vocabularies and jargon used in Hong Kong and Mainland China). Hong Kong: Construction Industry Training Authority, c2000.
- § 劉智鵬. 屯門歷史與文化 / 劉智鵬編著. [香港]: 屯門區議會, c [2007].

### **From Ruth Benny**

- § The Hong Kong Polytechnic University 70th anniversary dinner. 香港理工大學建校 70周年晚宴. Hong Kong: the University, 2007.
- § The Hong Kong Polytechnic University: A photographic portrait (1937-2007). 歲月留影: 香港理工大學七十年回顧. Hong Kong: the University, 2007.

The following audiocassettes have also been received from Dan Waters:

- § Focus of Hong Kong. 199-.
- § History of the Supreme Court, now Legislative Council Building. Hong Kong? 199-.
- § Star Ferry. 2006.
- § Interview. 1991.
- § Tai Fu Tai. Hong Kong? 199-.
- § Chinese funeral. 1994.
- § A case study of a Chinese funeral. 1995.
- § WW2 songs. 199-.
- § Greaves, Bill. Royal Asiatic Society on the Ping Shan Heritage Trail. 199-. (in audiocassette and CD format)

## RAS PHOTOS ON THE WEB

Our resourceful webmaster, Ruth Berry, has created a website where you can view RAS photos: <http://flickr.com/groups/rashkb/>. She has uploaded pictures of the RAS local visit on 1<sup>st</sup> March to the Closed Border Area and we hope to have other events up there soon. Any existing Yahoo! account holders may log in and submit photos. This will become an excellent gallery of our events for anyone to view.

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### FAQs

**Q. How can I find out whether the book I want is in the RAS Library?**

A. Go to the RAS website ([www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)) and click on Library. Further down under Usage of the Library there is a choice of a Chinese or English interface – click on one of these and you can then conduct a search.

**Q. How can I see the contents of the RAS Hong Kong Branch Journal on line?**

A. Again go to our website, then click on Publications, then on Journals of RASHKB. The contents of each journal are listed by journal volume number.

**Q. I can remember some details about an article in the Journal some time ago but cannot remember the title, author or date. How do I find it?**

A. On the website, click on Publications, then on Journals of RASHKB, then on Hong Kong Journals Online in the second paragraph. Enter a keyword or words in the Search box and select Journal of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society from the list of journals. This will bring up full details of each article containing those keywords. Select a title and the full text will be accessible.

**Q. I am an overseas member and my spouse would now like to join. Can we have a Joint membership?**

A. Up until this year there have been only single memberships for overseas members but we hope to be able to offer Joint Overseas Memberships in the near future.

**Q. My spouse and I would both like to be Life members. Do we each pay the full membership fee?**

A. At present there are only single Life memberships but Joint Life Memberships are being considered for future years.

**Q. Why do I have to write a separate cheque for each event when it would be so much easier to total everything on one cheque?**

A. After each event cheques are submitted for banking with the total taken for that event and if a cheque covers future events this makes for more complicated bookkeeping. If you cancel an event and tell us ahead of time we can destroy or return your cheque. Also, if you are successful in your booking for one event but not for another, we would either have to ask you for another cheque or issue you one as a refund. So basically, separate cheques make administration much, much easier for everyone concerned.

**Q. Can I bring a friend to RAS Meetings?**

A. Of course! Non-members are always welcome, although some special events are reserved for members only. In that case your friend can come - if they become a member!

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## 2008 MEMBERSHIP DUES – please!

Time is ticking and there are still many members who have not yet paid their dues for 2008. If you do not pay through autopay, and have not already sent in your cheque please do so as soon as possible in order to maintain your membership and continue receiving the newsletter. Anyone who has not paid will be taken off the mailing list if dues remain unpaid for much longer. Cheques should be made out to **Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch** and sent to GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong.

NEW BOOK ON THE TURIN SHROUD -- Local archaeologist William Meacham describes the C14-dating and 'restoration' fiascos. For summary, excerpts and reviews see: <[www.lulu.com/content/144747](http://www.lulu.com/content/144747)> Major discount for RAS members. Contact the author: [wmeacham@hkucc.hku.hk](mailto:wmeacham@hkucc.hku.hk)

# ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008

The Annual Dinner will take place after the Annual General Meeting at the Harcourt Suite, 1/F, Hong Kong Club, Central. The AGM will start at 6.15pm and dinner will be at 7.30 for 8.00pm.

This has always been a popular occasion and we do hope you will be able to attend. Guests are welcome at the dinner but priority will be given to members.

This year we are very fortunate that Richard Engelhardt, Regional Advisor in Culture in Asia and the Pacific at UNESCO, has agreed to be our speaker. His talk will be 'Asian Values in Heritage Conservation: The Search for an Asian Vocabulary of historical authenticity within the context of renewal and globalisation'. Mr Engelhardt was educated in anthropology, archaeology, and the history of East, South, and Southeast Asia at Yale and Harvard Universities and at the post-graduate Population Institute of the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii. For the past 25 years, he has directed archaeology and heritage conservation projects throughout Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. With all the prominence currently being given in Hong Kong to heritage conservation and urban renewal, Mr Engelhardt's talk will be very timely.

The cost per person is HK\$325 for members and HK\$375 for non-members, which includes a full buffet dinner and two bottles of wine per table during dinner. Any further drinks will be at members' own expense. Please fill out the booking form below and return it, together with your cheque in payment, **no later than Friday 18th April.**

*\*\*Please note: The Hong Kong Club has a strict dress code which requires that gentlemen wear a tie. No jeans, any garment in denim, or trainers are allowed. Please note also that the event will be booked and signposted in the name of Hong Kong Club member Mr. Robert Nield.*

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## BOOKING FORM

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for members (\$325) and \_\_\_\_\_ places for guests (\$375) at the Annual Dinner at a total cost of HK\$ \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque payable to **The Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch.**

Name(s) of member(s) .....

Name(s) of guest(s).....

Address .....

.....

Daytime Telephone No. ....Evening Telephone No. ....

E-mail address.....

Please return this form, together with your cheque made payable to The Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, **no later than Friday 18th April** to:

Jennifer Day  
36C, Block 3  
10 Robinson Road  
Mid-levels, Hong kong

## Booking Form

Lecture at the Helena May

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

### Vice Admiral Nagumo & the British Eastern Fleet: April 1942

Please reserve ..... places for members @ \$80 and ..... places for guests @ \$100 each, including tea

My/our membership number is .....

I enclose my cheque for \$ ..... payable to the **Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch** (Don't forget to add 'Hong Kong Branch')

Name(s) of member(s) (please print).....

Name(s) of guest(s) .....

Daytime tel. no. .... Evening tel. no. ....

Mobile tel. no. ....

Email (please print) .....

Enquiries: [emerson@netvigator.com](mailto:emerson@netvigator.com) Phone: 2550 4374

Please send cheque with this form to:

Geoffrey Emerson  
GPO Box 3605  
Hong Kong

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## Booking Form

Lecture at the Helena May

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May

### What is Shanghai Style?

Please reserve ..... places for members @ \$50 each and .....places for guests @ \$70 each

My/our membership number is .....

I enclose my cheque for \$ ..... payable to the **Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch** (Don't forget to add 'Hong Kong Branch').

Name(s) of member(s) (please print).....

Name(s) of guest(s) .....

Daytime tel. no. .... Evening tel. no. ....

Mobile tel. no. ....

Email (please print) .....

Please send cheque with this form to:

May Holdsworth  
27/F, 46 Baguio Villas  
550 Victoria Road  
Pokfulam, Hong Kong

## Booking Form

**Local Visit**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May**

### Visit to St Andrew's Church

Please reserve ..... places for members @ \$50 each and ..... places for guests @ \$70 each

My/our membership number is .....

I enclose my cheque for \$ ..... payable to the **Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch** (Don't forget to add 'Hong Kong Branch').

Name(s) of member(s) (please print).....

Name(s) of guest(s) .....

Daytime tel. no. .... Evening tel. no. ....

Mobile tel. no. ....

Email (please print) .....

Please send cheque with this form to:

Peter Stuckey  
Flat 12D, London Court  
Realty Gardens  
41 Conduit Road  
Mid-levels, Hong Kong

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## Expression of Interest

**Overseas Trip**

**5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September**

### Visit to Shanghai

Yes, I am interested in coming on this trip.

Member's name(s).....

Guests' name (one guest per member).....

Daytime tel. no. .... Evening tel. no. ....

Mobile no. ....

Email (please print) .....

Please mail this form, **to arrive before 15<sup>th</sup> April**, to:

Jennifer Day  
36C, Block 3  
10 Robinson Road  
Mid-levels, Hong Kong

## Booking Form

Overseas Visit

19th-24th June 2008

### Visit to North China

Please reserve ..... places for members @ \$8,000 and ..... places for non-members @ \$8,500.  
\$1,500 deposit should be sent with this form (\$500 non-refundable) for each participant. The  
balance is due by 15<sup>th</sup> May.

My/our Membership No. is/are .....

I enclose my deposit cheque for \$..... payable to **Ting Sun Pao Joseph**.

Please send, **by 15<sup>th</sup> April**, to:

Dr Joseph Ting  
Department of History  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Shatin, New Territories

Name of member for contact: ..... Mobile tel. no. ....

Daytime tel. no. .... Evening tel. no. ....

Email: ..... Address: .....

.....

For each participant, please give here or on a separate piece of paper:

1. Name (English) as on passport (and contact information)
2. Name (Chinese) if applicable
3. Sex (M/F)
4. Date of Birth (D/M/Y)
5. Nationality
6. Passport Number
7. Kind of Passport
8. Expiry Date of Passport
9. Single Room if needed (payment, \$1300, by 15<sup>th</sup> May)
10. Person to contact in an emergency: name, relationship, phone number, email, etc.  
(a non-participant on this trip)

Inquiries: Dr Joseph Ting at [jspting@gmail.com](mailto:jspting@gmail.com) or by phone: 9169 8463

## **Contact Details for Council Members and Others**

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Fax</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
President	Mr Robert Nield	2540 0722	2335 5470	<a href="mailto:hiflyer@netvigator.com">hiflyer@netvigator.com</a>
Vice President	Dr Elizabeth Sinn	2859 2461	2559 5884	<a href="mailto:hrahsyy@hkucc.hku.hk">hrahsyy@hkucc.hku.hk</a>
Vice-President	Mr Peter Stuckey	2548 6724		<a href="mailto:peterstuckey@yahoo.com.hk">peterstuckey@yahoo.com.hk</a>
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