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Future Activities

LECTURE
City Hall - Friday 1st August
Paper Offerings for the Worship of Tin Hau

One of the most vibrant aspects of life in contemporary Hong Kong is the celebration of traditional Chinese culture, one component of which is the material culture of everyday life. An especially significant category of everyday objects is the materials supporting popular religion and ritual practice and, more specifically, the repertoire of ritual paper offerings accompanying the worship of Chinese deities. Within the pantheon of deities deemed great and good is the goddess Tin Hau. A popular and beneficent deity, Tin Hau is offered a variety of splendid paper items, not only those characteristic of everyday, private worship, but also the spectacular flower cannons (*fa p'au*). Laden with elements culturally meaningful and spiritually significant, the flower cannons convey the hopes and gratitude of devoted worshippers, but simultaneously serve as physical embodiments of the contradictory social processes and patterns of worship.

Janet Lee Scott took her PhD in anthropology from Cornell University. She was a university professor in Hong Kong for twenty-five years before her retirement three years ago and is an Associate in Research at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University. Dr Scott has conducted research into the material culture of popular religion, and has formed a large collection of the paper offerings used in rituals directed to the gods, the ghosts, and the ancestors. She is the author of *For Gods, Ghosts, and Ancestors: the Chinese Tradition of Paper Offerings*, a volume in the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series.

Speaker: Dr Janet Lee Scott
Time/date: 6.30pm, Friday, 1st August
Venue: Activities Room, 8th Floor, City Hall High Block, Central
Cost: This event is free and open to the public with no booking required

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LECTURE
The Helena May - Friday 5th September
Beijing: City of Heavenly Tranquility

When the world descends on Beijing for the 2008 Olympics, it will find the results of a helter-skelter rush for modernization and wealth. In the course of a thousand years, temples and shrines, palaces and gardens had filled the walls of old Peking. Its narrow, twisting streets held the collective memories of five dynasties and turbulent events of the 20th century. It has now all been swept away to make way for a new city filled with dull, boxy high-rises, rows of shopping malls, office tower blocks and residential housing developments marching down uniform streets.

Based on his new book, *The City of Heavenly Tranquility*, Beijing journalist Jasper Becker explores how and why the Chinese buried their history and destroyed one of the world's most fabled cities, virtually extinguishing the culture of one of the greatest and oldest civilizations within the span of a single lifetime.

The author mixes his own experiences with poignant stories from those who tried to rescue something from the past. He also explains how those currently in power, Mao's former Red Guards, remain determined to modernize China by jettisoning the past and clearing space for the future, evicting over three million residents in Beijing alone.

Jasper Becker has been a foreign correspondent for 25 years, including 17 years based in Beijing, and has written three books on China, one on North Korea and another on Mongolia. His latest, *The City of Heavenly Tranquility*, is a history of Beijing which Penguin (UK) and Oxford University Press (USA) released this summer. Jasper Becker is the publisher of Asia Weekly which was launched in April 2007. The Hong Kong-based weekly news magazine is circulated in 15 countries.

Speaker: Jasper Becker
Time/Date: 6.30pm (cash bar from 6.00pm)
Venue: The Garden Road, The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central
Cost: Members \$50, guests \$70
Booking: Please send cheque and booking form on page 13 to Jenny Day

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Future Activities

LECTURE

The Helena May - Friday 19th September Hong Kong Internment 1942-1945 Life in the Japanese Civilian Camp at Stanley

Council Member Geoffrey Emerson's book is the third in the RAS Hong Kong Studies Series. It was published by Hong Kong University Press in March this year. Geoffrey will talk about his book, which attempts to answer the question, 'What happened to the non-Chinese civilians – men, women and children – who were caught in Hong Kong when Japan attacked the Colony in December 1941?' His talk will cover the internment at Stanley and also he will talk about writing such a book, finding material, interviewing survivors and putting it all together.

Speaker: Geoffrey Emerson
Time/Date: 6.30 pm, Friday, 19th September (cash bar from 6.00pm)
Venue: The Garden Room, The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Hong Kong
Cost: Members \$50, guests \$70
Booking: Please send cheque and booking form on page 13 to Geoffrey Emerson

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LOCAL VISIT

Saturday 27th September Stanley Internment Camp

The above talk will be followed a week later by a visit on Saturday morning, 27th September, to part of the internment camp site - St Stephen's College, Stanley, and the cemetery. The visit will begin at 10:30 and last approximately two hours, and it will be followed by a self-paying lunch in Stanley village. The size of the group will have to be limited, and all applicants will be notified if they are successful or not. If necessary, another visit will be arranged later, probably in October or November. Each member may sign up with only one guest. The group will meet at 10:30 a.m. at the top of the drive in front of the main hall of the College. Parking is available – please note your car license on the booking form.

St Stephen's College is located at 22 Tung Tau Wan Road, a 15 minute walk from Stanley bus terminus above the market. Go through the village, past Pacific Coffee and the police station, towards Stanley Prison. Where the road divides, just past the Post Office and St Anne's RC Church, go left toward the prison. The College is a five minute walk from the divide. On the right, go up the drive to the top. Note Geoffrey's mobile phones: 6012 0700 or 9078 2948.

Time/date: Saturday 27th September, 10.30am
Meeting place: St Stephen's College, 22 Tung Tau Wan Road, Stanley
Cost: Members \$50, guests \$70
Booking: Please send cheque and booking form on page 14 to Geoffrey Emerson

(Please note on the booking form if you will join the self-paying lunch.)

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OVERSEAS VISIT

21st-24th November Proposed Trip to Shanghai

In our last newsletter we announced that this trip was being postponed from the original September date due to problems with making reliable travel bookings. To date 23 members have expressed interest in going in November and so it very likely that this trip will go ahead as planned. 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. Full details and a booking form will be in the September newsletter.

Anyone interested in this trip is recommended to visit the website <http://www.historic-shanghai.com/?p=32>, where there is an article about the North China Branch of the RAS: "Resurrecting an old Shanghai Institution: the RAS".

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Future Activities

OVERSEAS VISIT
3rd-12th January 2009
Study Tour to Central Bhutan

Arrangements for the proposed study tour to Bhutan are proceeding well, and some 12 members have expressed interest so far. Tourism tariff in Bhutan has just been increased to US\$250 a night (in part to accommodate a depreciating US dollar), from 1st January 2009, but we hope to keep our costs to a minimum without sacrificing quality. The itinerary will be slightly revised, to have the group leaving Bangkok early on 31st December to go directly to Gauhati (Assam) and then travelling overland to enter Bhutan at Samdrup Jongkhar, thence moving up to Tashigang and westwards via Mongar, Bumthang, Trongsa, Punakha and Thimphu, to finally exit by air from Paro on 11th January for Bangkok. This will enable the group to see much of the scenic east on the way to the Trongsa festival, without having to retrace our steps over the mountain roads.

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OVERSEAS VISIT
27th September - 8th October
12-day Study Tour to Persia's Caspian Coast
with Brian and Felicity Shaw

Brian and Felicity Shaw are proposing a study tour to Iran at the end of September. Please note that, due to time constraints, this is trip is not being organised through the Society. Anyone interested should contact Brian (bcjshaw@gmail.com) or Felicity at fmshaw@hkucc.hku.hk. Brian states:

The proposed tour is appropriate for those who have already visited Iran's major attractions (Shiraz and Persepolis, and Esfahan) and wish to extend their knowledge of the history and architecture of more of the varied ethnic groups in traditional Persia. We will use two internal flights (from Tehran to Tabriz at the start and western end of the visit, and from Mashad in the east to Tehran on the final day, to connect with return flight to Doha and on to Hong Kong), but otherwise we will travel in comfortable "high-rise" buses with excellent viewing as we move from place to place. All chosen hotels are 4-star except at Mashad (5-star); all meals are included.

Departure from Hong Kong will be after midnight on Friday 26th September, i.e. 27th September, returning to Hong Kong at 2.25pm on 8th October. The total estimated cost will be in the region of \$25,500. For a full itinerary, booking form, map of the region, accommodation details and breakdown of costs please contact Brian or Felicity. Their email addresses are given above.

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Recent Activities

LOCAL VISIT St Andrew's Church *Reported by Peter Stuckey*



Watercolour by Lorette E. Roberts (www.loretteroberts.com)

On Saturday 17th May some 25 members and their guests visited St Andrew's Church at 138 Nathan Road, and the neighbouring Antiquities and Monuments Office. The building of St Andrew's Church, its old vicarage and church hall were all financed by Sir Paul Chater. I set the scene with a description of the life of Sir Paul, describing how he had been orphaned in Calcutta at the age of 8 in 1864 and yet had become "one of the most powerful and, what is more important, one of the most beneficent figures in the Empire" to quote a contemporary MP, Mr T P O'Connor. I also recounted how the Bishop, J C Hoare, who had laid the foundation stone to the church on 13th December 1904, had been tragically drowned after an evangelistic visit to Castle Peak in the typhoon of 18th September 1906, so that it is the Ven Archdeacon Bannister whose name appears on the stone commemorating the consecration of the Church on 8th October 1906. Several stories concerning the Japanese occupation included one that the Sunday collection taken on 7th December 1941 was still intact when the vicar, Rev H A Wittenbach returned from the Stanley Internment camp in September 1945.

The main theme of the visit, however, was a presentation by Dr Ken Nicolson of the maintenance and restoration work carried out mostly under his care in recent years on the Church as a Centenary Project. This work earned a UNESCO Asia Pacific 2006 Award of Merit. Ken is a professional town planner and landscape architect and an expert in heritage conservation. He has worshipped at St Andrew's for many years. He demonstrated that cleaning of bricks is best done with nylon type brushes and water, and not with steel brushes or chemicals which would damage the outer crust and leave fragments of iron in the brick which in turn would rust and damage the brick. Repair of the brickwork involved using a special mortar recipe (1 part cement to 3 parts lime to 9 parts sand) in which much of the cement usually incorporated in a typical mortar is replaced by lime. In this way the mortar is softer and would yield rather than cracking the brick in the event of movement. Chipped bricks would sometimes be turned around to maintain the outer appearance.

Recent Activities

A second feature of the work was the cleaning and restoration of the stained glass windows, particularly the East end window donated by Sir Paul. Again this was accomplished gently, often by cotton wool, water, and elbow grease! Two additional new windows, donated by the Shatin and Clearwater Bay "Resurrection" daughter churches were installed in the north and south transepts. Ken explained much of the symbolism in these windows, including the 17 doves representing the 17 vicars, so far, of St Andrew's. A third delight was the visit to the bell tower. This has been repaired structurally and the bell chimes balanced and brought back into fine resonant action.



Photo courtesy of Tim Ko

The visit concluded at the adjacent AMO building, a Declared Monument, formally the British School, and a gift of Sir Robert Ho Tung, opened in 1902. Here a different approach to conservation was used with an attempt to seal the bricks but this can only be regarded as temporary and lacked the freshness of appearance of St Andrew's Church.

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LECTURE

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

Reported by Geoffrey Emerson

On Friday 6th June, Peter Hibbard spoke to a nearly full house at the City Hall, the first lecture there for nearly two years. Peter, who is President of the RAS China in Shanghai, will be one of the leaders for our visit to Shanghai now scheduled for 21st-24th November, having had to be postponed from September because of the Olympics. Initially more than 25 people expressed interest in joining this trip. One of the purposes of Peter's talk was to give a preview of some of the things the group will see and also to stimulate interest and answer questions about the trip.

Using a wide variety of slides from his very well-illustrated and informative book, *The Bund Shanghai: China Faces West*, and from the Sowerby archives held at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, Peter first gave some historical background to the founding of the RAS in northern China with the aim of producing a Journal and building a museum and a library. Reflecting the title of his talk, Peter explained that the museum started with a collection of stuffed birds. In 1871, the first RAS building was built, which was demolished in 1930 after being eaten by white ants. The building which replaced it in 1933 is, very happily, still standing though derelict at the moment while the government decides what to do with it. There is wonderful detail in the building, including grillwork with stylised Chinese characters and an attractive staircase. The Rockbund project has marked the RAS building for protection and mention has been made of it becoming an art gallery.

The RAS collections are intact; the library having been increased when during World War II people gave their books to the RAS for safekeeping. The Shanghai Natural History Museum has many of the RAS stuffed animals. In May this year an event celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the RAS in Shanghai was planned to be held in the RAS building but at the last minute it was declared unsafe and the former Shanghai abattoir building, itself a fine 1930s monument now known as 1933, was used. In the space where the meeting was held a steak restaurant will be opened later this year. It is possible our group will be dining there in November!

For more information about the library as well as the building, see our Journals, Vol. 44, pp 83-90, an article written by Eric Danielson, *Shanghai's Lost Libraries Recovered.*, Vol. 28, pp 185-197, *The One Bright Spot in Shanghai: a History of the Library of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* by Harold Otness, and *Beyond 'sticks, stones and skeletons'* by Lindsay Shen (RAS China in Shanghai Honorary Secretary, in *That's Shanghai*, December 2007 (<http://shanghai.urbanatomy.com/thatssh/detail.cfm?aid=216>), as well as Peter Hibbard's book *The Bund Shanghai: China Faces West*.

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Recent Activities

MUSICAL EVENING

The Dizi – An Encounter with Chao Chin Chung

Reported by Jenny Day



Photo courtesy of Jenny Day

Despite the promise of yet more heavy rain, over forty people came to the Helena May on 13th June for a musical evening with Chao Chin Chung. An accomplished flautist who has won several prizes at music festivals, Chin Chung demonstrated five different flutes, accompanied by an ensemble of eight performers.

The *dizi*, a transverse flute (played horizontally) is usually made of bamboo as this produces the best resonance, but can also be made of jade, glass or porcelain. It generally has a range of two octaves but has no keypads like the western flute. It is believed to have been imported into China during the Han dynasty and there is evidence that it has been present in China for over 9,000 years. Chin Chung explained different kinds of *dizi*; crystal, *bangdi*, *dadi*, *qudi* and *bawu*, and told us about the regions they come from and their different qualities. After speaking about each type of *dizi*, he then performed a piece accompanied by either piano, plucked strings, or the whole ensemble.

These individual pieces clearly demonstrated the different resonances produced by each instrument.

Chin Chung's playing was superb, the music was captivating and the setting in the Garden Room at the Helena May was perfect for this evening event. It is only a pity that more members were not able to experience this very special musical presentation.

Other Recent Events

AWARD OF HONORARY FELLOWSHIPS PRESENTATION CEREMONY

Report by Valery Garrett

Former RAS President and long time member of the Society, Dr James Hayes added yet another accolade to his many achievements when he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on June 4th.

Along with three others receiving the award, James and his wife Mabel were invited to return from Australia where they now live, to attend the ceremony at HKUST. The Pro-Chancellor, Dr the Hon Sir Sze-Yuen Chung, conferred the award by presenting him with a gold medal. At James' invitation, several members of the RAS were in the audience to support and congratulate him. These included May Holdsworth, Dr Dan Waters, Tim Ko, Valery and Richard Garrett, and of course Suki and Tam Mito, James' daughter and son-in-law, among others.



James with Valery and Richard Garrett

Photo courtesy of Tim Ko

During the ceremony a citation for James was read in which it said, "In the field of Hong Kong studies, Dr James Hayes' works are among the most significant. To the indigenous people of the New Territories, Mr Hui Shu, his Chinese name, was (and is) a courteous and respectful government official who spoke their language, Cantonese, and valued Chinese traditional and local cultures. Dr Hayes is a scholar official."

Despite the downpour, the hall was packed with friends and supporters. After the presentation awards, all adjourned for drinks and a delicious buffet lunch. An award truly deserved, James, and we all wish you the very best.

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Other Recent Events

A Well Deserved Award for Past President Dr James Hayes

Written by Dan Waters, Past President

We were delighted, of course, when we learned that Dr James William Hayes was to be made an Honorary Fellow in recognition of his significant work in the field of Hong Kong Studies. This honour was conferred on him by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on Wednesday 4th June, 2008.

Past scholar-official *Hui Shu*, James's Chinese name, implies a courteous and respectful government official. He joined the Hong Kong Government in 1956 as a cadet officer and he served the people of Hong Kong well until 1988 undertaking many difficult development projects which affected people's lives. He came into contact with Chinese at the grass-roots level and he has remained good friends with a few of them ever since.

From 1957 to 1962 he was involved with the Shek Pik Water Scheme on Lantau Island. Here, two villages were resettled and another village chose to move to specially built apartment blocks in Tsuen Wan. The inhabitants were pleased that their communities were kept intact. Two Chinese temples were also relocated.

In the course of a busy career, from 1975 to 1982 James Hayes was Town Manager and District Officer of Tsuen Wan when his portfolio was to assist with the development of the New Town which, at that time, also comprised Tsing Yi and Kwai Chung. This complicated exercise involved settling not only indigenous villagers but also many thousands of immigrants mostly living in squatter areas. New villages were built for the village populations and immigrants were relocated in public housing estates. Some RAS members may recall James leading a visit to Tsuen Wan, in the late 1980s, as well as many other visits which he led to other parts of the territory. Some of these visits have been written up in our Journals.

Interestingly, between 1976 and 1982 Tsuen Wan became the first testing ground for Hong Kong's elected District Board system.

When James was posted elsewhere, in 1982 the Community made him the first 'Honorary Citizen of Tsuen Wan'. He was also named, 'The calligrapher of village names' on one occasion on a *pailau* (a ceremonial arch). His duties in the Home Affairs Department and the New Territories Administration took him to many districts of the Colony.

His curiosity regarding local history and culture not only led villagers to give him material which he could use for his research but this also, interestingly, helped those same villagers to appreciate more the essential worth of their own culture. Such valuable material included land deeds, genealogies and business accounts.

He became a member of the RAS in 1962 and, over the years, it would be difficult to find anyone who has contributed more, in so many diverse ways, to our Branch. He served as Vice President and for eight years he was our President. Between 1967 and 1980 he was the Honorary Editor of our prestigious Journal which has made a name for itself world wide. Countless students and scholars around the world are grateful to James for his help and advice regarding their research.

All the time during his government service James was a participant, an observer, a researcher and a recorder of Hong Kong culture and society during years of rapid change. By the time he retired from the Hong Kong Government, in 1988, he had already published two books about the New Territories together with countless articles and papers. Go through back numbers of RASHKB Journals. No one has published more articles than James. Look at the rare nuggets of knowledge, under 'Notes and Queries', which he has contributed. Since retirement, he has published four more books and many more papers.

Certainly James Hayes is no stranger to prestigious awards. In addition to his Masters and Doctorate degrees from London University, an Honorary Doctorate of Literature was conferred on him by Hong Kong University. He is a Justice of the Peace. He is also an Honorary Fellow of our own Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch. He is a Companion of the British Imperial Service Order.

Although he has been living in Sydney since 1990, all the time he has kept in contact with many of us RAS members in Hong Kong. 'More power to your elbow, James Hayes. Long may the world benefit from your chosen pursuits.'

* * * * *

BOOK REVIEW

“The Unequal Treaties: China and the Foreigner”

by Rodney Gilbert

(London, John Murray, 1929 – 244 pages)

Written by Robert Nield

That another of the author's books is listed as “What's wrong with China” (a statement, not a question) gives an indication of where Mr Gilbert's sympathies lay. He had been resident in China for 14 years and had travelled extensively, including to remote places in the interior. He had accumulated a fair knowledge of Chinese language and customs. His writing carries the weight and authority of one who knows his stuff.

The book is a description of the factors that gave rise to the many treaties that a total of 19 countries arranged with China during the 19th and early 20th centuries, and an analysis of the legacy of those treaties as it appeared in the late 1920s. A key factor in the first of the treaties, the 1842 Treaty of Nanking, is of course what came to be known as the First Opium War. However, Gilbert glosses over the military aspects of this conflict, as he does the further clashes that took place in the ensuing years; these are well documented elsewhere and, besides, are not germane to his analysis.

Having given a brief background to his subject, he sets out in balanced style what he calls “the Chinese case”, being a supposed narrative by a reasonably informed Chinese person of the West's doings in China. But this is only a small part of the whole. What follows is an immensely readable and fast-paced account of the various treaties and protocols, but with a common theme that all of them were necessary in order to counter the massive state corruption and inefficiency that the Western traders had to contend with.

Gilbert makes a good case for his view that the treaties were “a good thing” for China, but even as H E Morriss states in the foreword, “the last chapter ... may appear to spoil his case by its seeming one-sidedness and prejudice.” It should be remembered that the book was written at a time of enormous upheaval, danger and frustration, with the Nationalists exercising a flimsy control over the country. Not for the first time in her history, China's rulers took the opportunity to place the blame for the country's ills firmly on the shoulders of the foreigners, in this case in the form of “the unequal treaties”.

I recommend this book to anybody who has read about the battles and military comings and goings, and would now like to know more about why that bloodshed was inevitable.

The bookplate in the front of the book notes that it was a gift from Dr James Hayes.

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LIBRARY DONATIONS

Since March fifteen more donations have been received for the RAS Library. We thank everyone involved for their generosity.

From Leon Comber: Cheong, Damien. *Hong Kong Triads in the 1990: Resilience through Entrepreneurship*. Damien Cheong, with an introduction by Leon Comber. Clayton, Vic.: Monash University Press, c2006.

From Geoffrey Charles Emerson: Emerson, Geoffrey Charles. *Hong Kong Internment, 1942-1945: life in the Japanese civilian camp at Stanley*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2008.

From Patrick H. Hase: Hase, P. H. *The Six-Day War of 1899: Hong Kong in the Age of Imperialism*. Patrick H. Hase. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. London: Eurospan c2008.

From Instituto Cultural do Governo da R.A.E. de Macau: *The Canton-Macao Dagregisters, 1762*. Translation and annotation by Paul A. Van Dyke; revisions by Cynthia Viallé. Macau: Instituto Cultural do Governo da R.A.E. de Macau, 2006.

From Sean Olson: Olson, John. *Jons Jakobsson aka John Olson (1838-1918): The Hong Kong Legacy*. Dublin, 2008.

Library News

From UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education: *Hoi An Protocols for Best Conservation Practice in Asia*. Bangkok: UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, 2008.

From University of Hong Kong. Centre of Asian Studies: University of Hong Kong. Centre of Asian Studies. *Annual Report 2006-07*.

From Carol B. Waite: Briggs, Norman. *Taken in Hong Kong December 8, 1941: Memoirs of Norman Briggs, World War II Prisoner of War*. Compiled by Carol Briggs Waite. Baltimore, Md.: Publish America, c2006.

From Zhongxing Street Museum, Shenzhen: 中英街歷史博物館 館刊. 總刊四期 2007.

From Anonymous

Cheng, Christina Miu Bing. *Macau: a Cultural Janus*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, c1999.

Moss, Peter. *A Century of Commitment: the KCRC Story*. 百載流芳, 情繫香江. Written by Peter Moss; translated into Chinese by KCRC Corporate Affairs Department/Yao Shun Language Services Limited. Hong Kong: Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation, 2007.

Royal Government of Bhutan, Department of Tourism. *Icons of Awakened Energy: An Introduction to Bhutanese Iconography*. Bhutan: Royal Government of Bhutan, Department of Tourism, 2003.

Wilson, Dick. *The Long March, 1935: The Epic of Chinese Communism's Survival*. London: Hamish Hamilton, 1971.

李金強. 一生難忘: 孫中山在香港的求學與革命. *Sun Yat-sen's School Life and Revolutionary Activities in Hong Kong*. 香港: 孫中山紀念館, 2008.

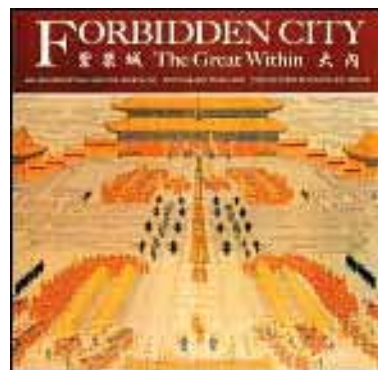
刘景莲. 明清澳门涉外案件司法审判制度研究 (1553-1848). [广州]: 广东人民出版社, 2007.

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OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Forbidden City: The Great Within

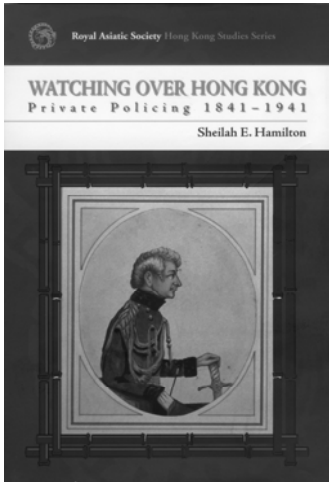
RAS members May Holdsworth and Caroline Courtauld's book was first published in 1995 to considerable acclaim. A second edition is now available with a new chapter on treasures collected, lost and recovered, and the creation of the Palace Museum. The book grew out of a 1994 discovery Channel documentary on the Forbidden City, for which May undertook the research and scriptwriting and comes with gorgeous photographs and illustrations, portraying five hundred years of imperial China. This second edition, published by Odyssey Books, is now on sale for \$195.



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Library News

HOT OFF THE PRESS RAS Hong Kong Studies Series Watching Over Hong Kong: Private Policing 1841-1941



The Society is delighted to announce the publication of yet another book in the Hong Kong Studies Series, the third to come out this year and the fifth in the series, *Watching Over Hong Kong: Private Policing 1841-1941* by RAS member Dr. Sheilah Hamilton. Sheilah is a forensic scientist and Adjunct Professor at the City University of Hong Kong. She has worked closely with the territory's public police and private security sectors for nearly forty years.

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.

"Watching Over Hong Kong is a welcome addition to the historical literature, plugging an important gap and providing a comprehensive and impressive account of the emergence of private security in Hong Kong. Sheilah Hamilton has undertaken some striking historical research and presents her findings in a highly readable and engaging style. The book will be compelling reading for anyone studying or with an interest in security, policing or the history of Hong Kong." – Dr. Mark Button, Institute of Criminal Justice Studies, University of Portsmouth.

"Watching Over Hong Kong admirably fills a gap in the history of policing in Hong Kong. Dr. Hamilton presents her story in a readable, well documented, and often amusing style. Her book is a case study in the interplay of forces inherent in public-private policing and clearly demonstrates how the foundation stones of today's structure of public-private policing in Hong Kong were laid down. It will be of great interest to police officers, criminologists and the general historian." - Offbeat, publication of the Hong Kong Police Force.

ORDER FORM RAS Hong Kong Studies Series Watching Over Hong Kong

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

I would like to order _____ copies of *Watching Over Hong Kong* at the discounted price of \$200 to RAS members, plus HK\$20 *per copy* for postage within Hong Kong. For overseas members the price would be £14.00 or US\$26. Postage would be £3 or US\$7 by surface mail and £6 or US\$12 by airmail. Please enquire for multiple copies to be sent overseas.

Name: Membership No:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone: (*daytime*)..... (*evening*).....

Email: (*please print*).....

Enclosed is my cheque for _____ which is made out to **"The University of Hong Kong"**.

Local Museums

When there is a gap in our activities, especially during the hot and humid spells, members might consider a visit to one of the local museums. Here is a selection to choose from:

Hong Kong Maritime Museum

This museum holds semi-permanent and special exhibitions tracing Hong Kong's growth into a major world port, and the contributions made by China and the West to the development of ships, maritime exploration, trade and naval warfare. Closed Mondays. G/F Murray House, Stanley Plaza, Stanley. Tel 2813 2322. www.hkmaritimemuseum.org.

The Law Uk Folk Museum

Law Uk, which means 'Law's House', after its original owner, is an 18th-century Qing dynasty Hakka village house, complete with furnishings and artefacts. It is the sole remaining architectural example of its kind in Chai Wan. An adjacent gallery holds cultural exhibitions. Closed Thursdays. 14 Kut Shing Street, Chai Wan. Tel 2896 7006. www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/History/en/branch_museums.php

Hong Kong Railway Museum

The former Tai Po KCR rail station is now a museum dedicated to trains and travel. The old station contains model trains for miniature enthusiasts, as well as several locomotives. Closed Tuesdays. 13 Shung Tak Street, Tai Po Market, New Territories. Tel 2653 3455. www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk/english/branch.htm

Hong Kong Heritage Museum

This modern museum features permanent exhibitions on the New Territories, Cantonese Opera and a Children's Discovery Gallery of natural and cultural history. Closed Tuesdays and public holidays. www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk/eng_main.htm

The Flagstaff House Museum of Teaware

Located in Flagstaff House, the oldest surviving colonial building in Hong Kong, the museum houses a prized Asian tea ware collection. The Museum holds regular demonstrations, tea gatherings and lecture programmes to promote ceramic art and Chinese tea drinking culture. Closed Tuesdays. 10 Cotton Tree Drive, Hong Kong Park Central. Tel 2869 0690. www.lcsd.gov.hk/ce/Museum/Arts/english/tea/intro/eintro.html

Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum

Housing a 2,000-year-old tomb with four chambers, this is one of the city's most fascinating monuments. Discovered in 1955, it now has an adjacent gallery that features items excavated during the construction of the Lei Chung Uk Resettlement Area. Closed Thursdays. 41 Tonkon Street, Sham Shui Po. Tel 2386 2863. www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/History/en/branch_museums.php

Museum of Art, Chinese University

Part of the Institute of Chinese Studies, the Art Museum has a wide range of artefacts from ancient and pre-modern China. It also arranges academic lectures, symposia and exhibitions for students, teachers and the public to gain firsthand experience of Chinese culture through art and archaeology. Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin. Tel 2609 7416. www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/amm

Hong Kong Museum of History

Heavenly Horse – the Horse in Chinese Art and Culture. Horse and man have been connected in a fruitful relationship for some 6,000 years. Not only did man tame the horse, he also invented equipment for steering and riding this powerful animal and harnessing its potential. It is no exaggeration to say that the emergence of the domesticated horse changed the course of human history and development. China has its own unique equine culture. Tracing that culture's fascinating development, this exhibition features approximately 60 artefacts from 28 heritage institutes in 14 provinces and autonomous regions. This is the first time that many of the artefacts will be displayed in Hong Kong, for example the Qin terracotta saddled horse, the gilt bronze steed and the post station pass from the Yuan dynasty. The Qing dynasty bronze horse head from Yuanmingyuan (the Old Summer Palace in Beijing) will also be exhibited. Held to coincide with Hong Kong's hosting of the equestrian events of the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games, this exhibition brings together a wonderful variety of artefacts from a number of mainland museums and offers visitors a rare opportunity to see them all under one roof. For museum information, call 2724 9042 or go to www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/History/en/aboutus.php.

The Museum of Coastal Defence

One of Hong Kong's oldest and best preserved British coastal fortresses dating from the Victoria period, this museum displays 600 years of the Territory's coastal defence. 175 Tung Hei Road, Shau Kei Wan. www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/Museum/Coastal/en/index.php

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