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Future Activities

LECTURE **Hong Kong's POWs and Internees** City Hall • Friday 5 June

At the fall of Hong Kong on 25 December 1941, some 11,000 military personnel and 3,500 civilians fell into Japanese hands. While between them they had some 14,500 individual experiences, the timbre of each experience depended very much on which of sixty or so camps they were in. This talk aims to describe those camps, and the movements between them, and give an impression of the daily life therein. While the theme of a POW's experience could be summarised under four categories: hunger, boredom, disease and death, the majority survived to liberation and an often complex homecoming in the chaos of the second half of 1945. However, around 2,500 never returned, and this presentation also will illustrate their fates.

Tony Banham is a long-term resident of Hong Kong, having arrived in the 1980s. He has been studying the Battle of Hong Kong for over two decades, has written extensively on the subject, aided in the production of numerous television documentaries and helped many children of veterans in their researches into the fathers' war years. He has spoken twice before to our Society. His two previous books, *Not the Slightest Chance: The Defence of Hong Kong 1941*, and *The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru: Britain's Forgotten Wartime Tragedy* were published by HKU Press, as is his latest book, *We Shall Suffer There: Hong Kong's Defenders Imprisoned, 1942-1945*, which came out this year. This last book is now available in Hong Kong bookshops, including Dymock's, and members are welcome to bring copies which Tony will be happy to sign.

Speaker: Mr Tony Banham
Date/Time: Friday, 5 June, 6:30 pm
Venue: City Hall, 8th Floor, High Block, Central
Booking: This lecture is free and open to the public, with no booking required

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LECTURE **Devils and Desperadoes: Portraits from Early British Hong Kong** The Helena May • Friday 19 June

Nineteenth-century Hong Kong was celebrated as an island 'bespread with palaces, a beautifully and well ordered city, a miracle of British enterprise and dormant power' at the edge of a decaying Chinese Empire. In its first few decades, however, it was also a struggling frontier settlement in a troubled region, a magnet for criminals and runaways, and a by-word for scandal and misgovernment. This lecture examines some of the challenges that faced Hong Kong's early inhabitants and explores the lives of some of its more colourful characters.

Our speaker, Dr Christopher Munn, is the author of *Anglo-China: Chinese People and British Rule in Hong Kong, 1841-1880*, which has just been reprinted in paperback form by the Hong Kong University Press. *Anglo-China* examines the turbulent relations between people and government in the early decades of colonial Hong Kong: 'no previous writer has documented the darker side of British imperialism in Hong Kong in such detail,' observes Norman Miners in a review of the book. Christopher was an administrative officer in the Hong Kong Government in the 1980s and completed a doctorate at the University of Toronto in 1997. He now works for the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and in his spare time is co-editor, with May Holdsworth, of the *Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography*.

Speaker: Dr Christopher Munn
Date/Time: Friday, 19 June, 6.30 pm (cash bar from 6.00)
Venue: The Garden Room, The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central
Cost: Members \$50, Guests \$70
Booking: Please send cheque and booking form on page 8 to May Holdsworth

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Future Activities

LECTURE

Through The Looking Glass: China's Foreign Journalists From Opium Wars To Mao City Hall • Friday 26 June

The men and women of the foreign press in China, from newspapers produced in European factories in Canton in the 1820s right up to 1949, had front row seats for every major convulsion and development in China's modern history. They reported on the Opium Wars and the Taiping Rebellion, the burning of the Summer Palace and the Boxer Rebellion, the death of the Qing dynasty and the difficult birth of Nationalist China. They charted the rise of the Communists, Japanese aggression in Manchuria, the fall of Shanghai, the onset of total war, and then revolution. The old China press corps was witness and primary interpreter to millions globally, and was itself a cast of fascinating characters. Like journalists everywhere, they took sides; they carried prejudices and assumptions that led them to get the story completely wrong nearly as often as they got it partially right. They were a mixed bunch of adventurers, glamorous tourists, drunks, philanderers, scoundrels, and missionaries of one shade or another. But most did their jobs ably and professionally, and some did so with flair and touches of genius. Mr Paul French will speak to us about this captivating history.

Mr French, an Englishman has worked and lived in Shanghai for many years and is founder of Access Asia. He is an Economist who received his BA in East Asian Studies and Chinese Language from London University and M.Phil in Socialist Theories and Economics from Glasgow University. Mr French is the author of several books, including the 2006 biography of legendary Shanghai adman Carl Crow. His newest book, *Through the Looking Glass: China's Foreign Journalists from Opium Wars to Mao* has just recently been published by the Hong Kong University Press.

Speaker: Mr Paul French

Date/Time: Friday, 6.30pm

Venue: 8th Floor, City Hall High Block, Central

Booking: This lecture is free and open to the public, with no booking required.

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Recent Activities

LECTURE
'Solomon Bard Remembers'
Friday 20 March
Reported by Michael Broom

Dr Solomon Bard, an Honorary Fellow of the RASHK Branch, visited Hong Kong in March ostensibly to conduct the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra. By his own admission he does not like the word 'lecture' but at a packed meeting of the Branch on the 20th March 2009 in the City Hall library, he spoke to an audience of RAS members and the public on the subject of his early life. His talk, entitled 'Solomon Bard Remembers', drew on his recently published autobiography *Light and Shade Sketches from an Uncommon Life*.

Without doubt, Dr Bard's life can certainly be described as 'uncommon' which is something of an understatement. Born in 1916 in the town of Chita in Siberia, then part of Tsarist Russia, Solomon Bard's life has been one of extraordinary courage and achievement in the face of war, revolution and political and social upheavals, which for almost a century he has witnessed at first hand.

His autobiography, which is presented in the form of a collection of essays, traces his childhood growing up in a reasonably prosperous Russian Jewish family and follows his experiences in Harbin after his family decided to leave Russia following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. This was followed by education in the Shanghai and Hong Kong of the 1920's and 1930's. The book also includes chapters on his experiences as a soldier defending Hong Kong in World War II and his subsequent captivity as a POW, followed by his post war medical career in Hong Kong and service from 1983 to 1987 as the Executive Officer of the Antiquities and Monuments Board and a period as the Assistant Music Director of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra.

The theme of Dr Bard's talk dealt with his early childhood in Russia and his subsequent education in Harbin where a substantial White Russian émigré community was established in the wake of the Russian revolution. It was here; encouraged by both a liberal educational system and the support of his uncle and grandfather that he became an accomplished violinist and flautist. Notwithstanding the fact that Dr Bard speaks faultless English, he reminded us that Russian was the first language he spoke, which he demonstrated by reading a childhood poem in Russian. Although his early life was set against a backdrop of momentous historical events the endearing quality in his talk was an ability to recollect with amazing clarity the ordinary daily events of his childhood and youth and the simple pleasures set in far off lands which have changed forever. This was nicely illustrated when he recounted a return visit to Harbin in 1978 and was able to visit his old home and school. He recalls that the Chinese he met, many of whom had not met a foreigner before, were astonished to learn that he had lived in Harbin many years before.

At the conclusion of his talk, several members joined Dr Bard for dinner at a Central restaurant where he continued to fascinate those present with his recollections of a full life. One very much hopes that it will not be another four years before the Branch has the pleasure of listening to Dr Bard again.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Friday 24 April

On 24 April at the Hong Kong Club, our Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held. Our President, Mr Robert Nield addressed the members in regards to the status and activities of the RAS during the past year. For those members not able to attend the meeting, his report and the financial statements are available for your information by contacting the Hon Secretary. Election of new Council members completed our meeting; the updated list of Council members is listed below:

Election of Officers and Members of Council 2009/2010

Office Bearers:

President	Mr Robert Nield
Vice President	Dr Elizabeth Sinn
Vice President	Mr Peter Stuckey
Hon Secretary	Mr David McKellar
Hon Treasurer	Dr Peter Halliday

Recent Activities

Hon Editor
Hon Librarian
Hon Activities Co-ordinator

Dr Peter Cunich
Miss Julia Chan
Mr Michael Broom

Non-Constitutional Officer Bearers:

Convenor/C-in-C RAS Heritage Interest
Group (a.k.a. The Volunteers)
Hon Archivist

Mr William Greaves
Ms Stacy Belcher Gould

Other Council Members:

Mrs Valery Garrett
Mr Tony Lam
Dr Gillian Bickley
Prof Mark MacAlpine
Mr Alain le Pichon

Immediate Past President, ex officio Member
Past President, ex officio Member

Dr Patrick Hase
Dr Dan Waters

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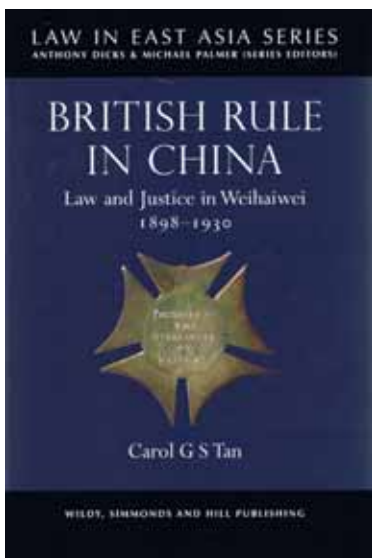
LECTURE

“A Good Thing”? British Rule and the Law in Weihaiwei

The Helena May • Tuesday 5 May

Reported by Robert Nield

An impressive number of people came to The Helena May on 5 May to listen to Dr Carol Tan – impressive because this was a Tuesday, and not our usual Friday. Carol has been studying for some time the former British territory of Weihaiwei in Shandong Province, and has become an acknowledged expert on the subject, in particular its legal system. In a lavishly illustrated talk, Dr Tan clearly demonstrated her knowledge of and passion for her chosen field. Weihaiwei is of particular interest to us in Hong Kong as it was not a colony but a leased territory, with the lease beginning at about the same time as that of the New Territories in 1898. There are therefore a number of similarities between the two places, but perhaps more differences. The main focus of Carol’s presentation was the question of whether or not the British period in the history of this part of China left any lasting legacy of law. The answer is that it did not. Whilst working within a framework of English law and legal procedures, in fact, in most disputes between the Chinese, pre-existing laws and practices were applied. The lease of Weihaiwei to Britain was always of an indeterminate nature, initially being only for as long as the Russians remained at Port Arthur across the Gulf of Chihli. For this and other reasons, foreign trade and commerce did not really develop and so there was no pressing need for the greater use of English commercial, banking or company laws.



Carol Tan’s brand-new book “British Rule in China: Law and Justice in Weihaiwei: 1898-1930” has just been published by Wildy, Simmonds and Hill. It is well worth a read for anybody interested in looking further into this unusual aspect of Britain’s experience in China. So that members who did not manage to get to the talk can find out more, a copy has been donated to the Library. For those members who wish their own, copies can be obtained through the RAS at the specially discounted rate of \$350.

Recent Activities

LECTURE

Duck Hunting on the Yangtze River, 1910 to 1912 ~ and other matters

Friday 8 May

Reported by Colin Davidson

On Friday 8 May, at the City Hall, Mr Kim Salkeld gave a highly entertaining lecture, well-structured and well-illustrated with PowerPoint slides, on a fascinating period of Chinese history when colonial gunboat diplomacy was the order of the day. When a shooting diary and album of faded photographs from the beginning of the 20th century were passed to him by a distant relative, Kim set about discovering the story behind the pictures. Initial enquiries drew little result. However, on a visit to London, and with special permission from his family to spend several days away from them at the Public Records Office, he began to find traces of information which would eventually reveal the characters and events of the period. His great-uncle, Surgeon Lieutenant Bertram Bickford, served aboard HMS Thistle on the Chinese station in the years prior to the First World War, when the great powers were jockeying for position and China was suffering much internal strife.

Kim went on to give detailed accounts of the Hankow Riots of early 1911 and the Wuchang Uprising of October 1911. The order of battle of the latter was particularly interesting, involving the Imperial forces, the rebel armies, and the colonial powers observing and avoiding involvement from the safety of their naval vessels moored on the Yangtze River. Accounts in official records were found to be much at variance with the newspaper reports of the time, which were very negative about the Chinese.

Lieutenant Bickford was involved in humanitarian actions in aiding the victims of the Wuchang conflict. There was some debate as to whether this was officially sanctioned by the Admiralty. However, as a consequence Lieutenant Bickford was subsequently awarded a medal and citation by the ruling Chinese authorities for his assistance to the wounded during this conflict. On the duck hunting, it appeared this was a pursuit enthusiastically taken up by the ship's officers, but probably much less appreciated by the lower ranks tasked with supporting the shooting parties and collecting the game. The spoils of the expeditions were meticulously recorded in Lieutenant Bickford's shooting diary.

This was the second lecture Kim has given to the Society and we look forward to more interesting lectures from him.

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LOCAL VISIT

Holy Spirit Seminary, St Anne's Church, The Maryknoll House

Reported by Geoffrey Emerson and Dr Dan Waters

Saturday, 16th May, two buses with RAS members and guests headed for Aberdeen and Stanley. The first stop was the impressive landmark building on the hill overlooking Aberdeen harbour, today the Holy Spirit Seminary College. We were very warmly received by the Rev. Peter Choy Wai Man, Director of the Theology Division of the College, and Father Sergio Ticozzi of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions, who has worked in Hong Kong since 1969. After we were welcomed by Father Peter and Father Sergio, our former President, Dr Dan Waters, spoke about the history of the site. He reported that Archbishop Constantine selected the imposing site on a headland, separated by a creek from Aberdeen, overlooking Ap Lei Chau (duck's



Picture provided by Geoffrey Emerson

Recent Activities

tongue island). The Seminary with its curved roofs, Chinese roofing tiles and finials is a good example of Neo-Chinese architecture. It is an inspiring building exemplifying Christian thought, designed by Dom Gresnight O.S.B, a Benedictine Father. It was completed in 1931 and dedicated to 'Our Lady Queen of China'. But because of the financial depression at the time, it had to be reduced in size. A new wing was opened in 1967.

During the three-years and eight-months long Japanese occupation the Seminary continued to function and priests were ordained. This was because of the relationship of the German, Italian and Japanese Axis and the fact that Ireland, from where the priests came, was a neutral country. After Dr Waters spoke, an interesting PowerPoint slide presentation narrated by Father Peter followed and then a tour of the buildings and lovely site. A very pleasant dim sum lunch was enjoyed on the Jumbo restaurant just below the Seminary, and we were very pleased that Father Sergio was able to join us.



Dr Dan Waters and Fr Wurth
Picture provided by Geoffrey Emerson

We then went on to Stanley and first visited St Anne's Church in the village. There two Maryknoll priests, Father Mike Sloboda, and Father Elmer Wurth, welcomed us and Father Elmer told us about his history as well as the history of St Anne's.

Our final stop was at the beautiful Maryknoll House in Stanley where we toured the house and gardens. Here again Dr Dan Waters provided information about the building. The attractive building, with its red-brick walls, green glazed roof tiles and Chinese architectural style, is situated atop a knoll on the hill above the village with a splendid view of Stanley bay.

The building completed in 1935, was built to be the headquarters of the Maryknoll fathers in South China, a language school for newly arrived priests and as a rest house for priests. When hostilities started in December 1941 and, with the Japanese attack, many refugees appeared seeking shelter. The House was in the front line of the final phase of the 'Battle for Hong Kong'. After being captured and suffering various horrors, two days later the priests were released and allowed to go back up to the House which had been occupied by the Japanese. The priests were finally interned in Stanley Camp. For the rest of the war the House was occupied by the Japanese Secret Police and, for that reason, fortunately, it was not looted. The chapel and sacristy were closed and not a thing was touched for the occupation.

After the war the House resumed its original purpose, namely Headquarters, Language school and Rest house. When the Communists took over China, in 1949, many priests who came out of China stayed at the House. The rear portion of the site was later sold off for the 'Stanley Knoll' housing project but the House still has a spectacular sea view to the south.

We were reminded that the House is open to the public during the Christmas season when a very large display of nativity sets from around the world is set up. Last Christmas, they were set out in many rooms and there were even a few, almost life-size figures, on the front lawn. Many exhibits were labelled with the country's name from which they originated. Apparently this exhibition is mounted every year and RAS members are encouraged to visit then. No booking is needed and the House is located at 44 Stanley Village Road.

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Of General Interest

NAKED LUNCH

Our RAS member Paul Harrison usually appears on the Wednesday ‘Naked Lunch’ within the Sarah Passmore show amongst the music. He says fortunately he gets to keep clothed during the 1.15-3pm show. Usually Paul is after the 2 pm news but can appear any time in the show and sometimes even on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. He records 3 shows at a time — just pretends he is live. He is meant to talk about a place in the Pearl Delta, but often digresses in that he can do a show on Caine of Caine Road fame. If you wish to “see” Paul, the easiest way is to google paul harrison hk.

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EDUCATION AND HERITAGE

The Conference and Exhibition “EDUCATION AND HERITAGE”, will be held at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, Tai Po Campus, on 26-27 June this year. Former RAS (HK) Council Member and RAS (HK) Honorary Fellow, Dr. Joseph S.P. Ting is one of the keynote speakers. RAS (HK) Council member, Dr Gillian Bickley, will speak on the topic, “Know your history! An account of the early days of Hong Kong education & how knowing this history is relevant to all teachers and students today”.

For further details about the conference, visit the Conference website <http://www.ied.edu.hk/ceeh2009>) or contact the Conference Secretariat by e-mail (ceeh2009@ied.edu.hk) or by phone at 2948-8617

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LECTURE

“An Archaeological Review of the Jingdezhen Transitional Ceramics Industry: Recent Kilnsite Discoveries” Hong Kong Club • 23 June

The Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong Ltd is pleased to announce a lecture by Professor May Huang of the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute — “An Archaeological Review of the Jingdezhen Transitional Ceramics Industry: Recent Kilnsite Discoveries” on Tuesday, 23 June 2009 at the Hong Kong Club. Reservation details: Time: 18:30 Drinks; 19:00 Presentation; 20:15 Dinner Cost: Lecture HK\$100 for non-members Dinner HK\$450 (members); HK\$500 (guests) Please make your cheque payable to: The Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong Limited, GPO Box 6202, Central, Hong Kong. For enquiries, please email or leave a voice mail message on Tel: (852) 2527 0696 or email: ocs@orientalceramics.org.hk.

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BOOKS SEEKING A HOME

The China Coast Community maintains an English language library and is accepting donations of paperback books or magazines. Any donations can be dropped off or arrangements can be made for pickup. Please contact Rebecca Wong at 2368 8261.

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DONATIONS February–May 2009

From Columbia University Press

Adrade, Tonio

How Taiwan became Chinese : Dutch, Spanish, and Han colonization in the seventeenth century. New York: Columbia University Press, c2008.

From Harold Naylor

Morrissey, Thomas J.

Jesuits in Hong Kong, South China and beyond : Irish Jesuit mission : its development 1926-2006. Hong Kong : Xavier Publishing Association Co. Ltd., c2008.

From RASHKB

Pearson, Veronica and Ko Tim-keung

A Sense of Place : Hong Kong West of Pottinger Street. [Hong Kong] : Joint Publishing (H.K.) Company Limited, 2008.

From Wildy, Simmonds & Hill Publishing

Tan, Carol

British Rule in China : Law and Justice in Weihaiwei 1898-1930. [S.l.] : Wildy, 2008.

From Peter Yeung

楊國雄

香港身世, 文字本拼圖. 香港 : 香港各界文化進會, 2009.

From Anonymous

Fading Impressions: Macao watercolour scenery. Macau : Museu de Arte de Macau, 2007.

Gunn, Geoffrey C.

Encountering Macau: a Portuguese city-state on the periphery of China, 1557-1999. Macau:Tipografia Macau Hung Heng Ltd, 1998.

Kojima, Sagimaro

View and Custom of North China. Tien Tsin, China ; [Tokyo] : S. Kojima, Yamamoto Photographic Studio, 1909.

Le Palud, AM

The Yangtze gorges in pictures and prose: a souvenir of the Yangtze gorges illustrated with fifty-seven photographic studies . Shanghai ; Hong Kong ; Singapore : Kelly & Walsh Limited, 1934.

Morga, Antonio de

History of the Philippine Islands: from their discovery by Magellan in 1521 to the beginning of the XVII century, with descriptions of Japan, China and adjacent countries. Volume 1 and 2. Charleston, SC: BiblioBazaar, 2006.

Sinclair, Kevin, 1942-2007

Tell me a story : forty years newspapering in Hong Kong and China. Hong Kong : SCMP, 2007.

Yi zhan Hua gong guo ji xue shu hui yi (2008 : Weihai Shi, China)

International Conference on Chinese Labour Corps During the Great War : the collection of essays / Organizing Committee of ICCLC. China : Yi zhan Hua gong guo ji xue shu hui yi chou wei hui, 2008?

余安邦

本土心理與文化療癒 : 倫理化的可能探問 / 余安邦主編
台北市 : 中央研究院民族學研究所, 2008.