



Telephone/Fax : 2813 7500
e-mail address : membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk
web address : www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk

JANUARY 2010

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Future Activities

LOCAL VISIT The China Light and Power Company Archives Saturday 6 February

Due to popular demand, we are repeating this visit. Ms Amelia Allsop has agreed to spend part of her Saturday with us.

Our Home, Our History – The Hong Kong Heritage Project (HKHP) is a non-profit undertaking initiated in May 2007 by Sir Michael Kadoorie, whose own family connection to Hong Kong stretches back to 1880 when Sir Elly Kadoorie first arrived in the Far East from Baghdad. The impetus behind the establishment of the HKHP was to preserve Hong Kong's history through the collection of oral history testimonials and to house these in a public archive facility alongside Kadoorie related documents, before those who had witnessed the seminal changes of the twentieth century in Hong Kong disappeared. The project is the first of its kind in Hong Kong.

The Project's mission is local heritage preservation. Hong Kong's current lack of archival law makes this task all the more urgent. The Project also aims to promote education, original academic research and enrich Hong Kong's existing archival collection with our written records, which relate to the occupation of Hong Kong and its post-war reconstruction, the Jewish communities of Shanghai and Hong Kong, the history of the Kadoorie Family as well as Hong Kong's business development through the lens of the China Light & Power and Hongkong Shanghai Hotel companies.

CLP has collected over 300 filmed interviews, which include testimonials from Szeto Wah, Lord David Wilson and Elsie Tu. We believe that *living history* complements, strengthens and provides alternative vantage points to the written records.

CLP hopes to raise public awareness and interest in history for its own sake through the website, which you can check out at www.hongkongheritage.org. The archive has recently opened to the public and the oral history interview collection continues apace.

Date/Time: Saturday 6 February
Venue: China Light and Power Archives, Mong Kok
Cost: Members \$50, Non-members \$70
Booking: Please send cheque and booking form on page 10 to M. B. Broom

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Future Activities

LOCAL VISIT

Visit to the Battlefield Sites of the Six-Day War of 1899

Saturday 6 March

Further to his talk to the RAS on the Six-Day War which broke out between the New Territories villagers and the British Army on the takeover of the New Territories (April 1899), the Immediate Past President of the RAS, Dr Patrick H. Hase has arranged a visit to the battlefield sites of the War. The battlefield sites are all very different today from what they were in 1899 (covered in trees today, while bare hillsides then, and scarred by various forms of recent development in each case) so that a certain amount of imagination is needed to picture them as they were then.

The sites of each of the three battles of the War will be visited:

- Flagstaff Hill in Tai Po, to include the site of the British firing line adjacent to the Old District Office at Tai Po, and site of the villager entrenchment and cannon-emplacement at Tai Po Tau
- Battle of Lam Tsuen Gap where the probable site of the villager entrenchment and cannon-employment will be visited, near today's Kadoorie Farm (walking to this site is rather rough)
- Battle of Shek Tau Wai at Sheung Tsuen, where the site of the British firing line will be visited.

The visit will also go to the Communal Grave near Fung Kat Heung, where some one or two hundred of the dead from the fighting (especially the fighting at the Battle of Lam Tsuen Gap) are buried. The Communal Grave is located adjacent to a small nunnery build by the Kam Tin villagers so that the nuns could pray for the souls of the dead, something they still do three times every day. The nunnery will also be visited

Speaker: Dr Patrick H. Hase
Date/Time: Saturday 6 March, 9.15 am meet behind the Peninsula Hotel, Kowloon
Venue: various areas in New Territories
Cost: Members \$200, Non-members \$250
Booking: Please send cheque and booking form on page 10 to Dr Patrick H. Hase

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LECTURE

Footbinding in Chinese Culture and Psychology

Helena May • Friday 12 March

The Golden Lotus is the deceptively lovely name given to the tiny, mutilated and deformed bound feet of women in traditional China. During the thousand years that footbinding was in practice, the young girl's mother bound her feet – an excruciatingly painful practice that debilitated her, restricted her movement and grotesquely deformed her feet. This practice was carried out *by* the mother but *for* the father – to ensure that his daughter would be a valuable, marriageable, physically beautiful bride, in other words, so that she would fit into and be, quite literally, confined by the strictures of an extremely patriarchal society. Although this practice was abolished in the early days of last century, older women with bound feet can still be seen in China today and their number is dwindling fast due to old age.

In this lecture, Dr. Shirley See Yan Ma will provide a Jungian psychoanalytic perspective on the Chinese tradition of footbinding and considers how it can be used as a metaphor for the suffering of women and the repression of the feminine, as well as a symbol for hope, creativity and spiritual transformation.

Drawing on personal history, popular myths, fairy tales, poetry, art and work with patients, she will discuss how modern women feel their feet bound symbolically, as though by this ancient practice. Detailed case studies from Western and Asian women demonstrate how these psychological bindings can be loosen in their self-realization, allowing the client to reconnect with the feminine archetype, discover their own identity and take control of their own destiny.

Future Activities

Shirley Ma holds the distinction of being the first Chinese Jungian Analyst to graduate from the Carl G. Jung Institute in Zurich, Switzerland (1984-1989). Born in Hong Kong, Dr Ma received her Diploma in Analytical Psychology from the C. G. Jung Institute after obtaining two degrees from the University of Toronto, a B.A. Honors in Sociology and Psychology, and a Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning. In 1990, Dr Ma returned to Toronto from Zurich and has been in private practice ever since. In 2006 Dr Ma relocated to Hong Kong and set up her analytic practice there.

Speaker: Dr Shirley S. Y. Ma
Date/Time: Friday 12 March, 6.30 pm (cash bar available from 6:00 pm)
Venue: The Garden Room of The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central
Cost: Members \$50, Non-members \$70
Booking: Please send cheque and booking form on page 11 to Katherine Fenton

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LECTURE **Clouds and Birds** City Hall • Tuesday 23 March

As a small boy Lam Chiu-ying developed a fascination for watching stars and tracking typhoons. This interest ultimately led him to take up meteorology as a profession resulting in his becoming the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory until his retirement in 2009. Added to his passion for weather and astronomy was an interest in birdwatching, an interest he admits has helped him “*get out of the mindset of a city-dweller*”.

Most people see climate change as the weather getting warmer by a couple of degrees, that is, purely as a physical phenomenon. But it is much more than this. It is about life and death. While the Earth’s climate has always been changing since geological times like the atmosphere of our sister planets Venus and Mars, the course of events on Earth has been drastically different owing to a unique factor viz. life. The Earth’s atmosphere is in a delicate balance, reflecting the close and complex relationship between the physical world and the living world. Mr Lam will talk about how the atmosphere has arrived at its present state and what human beings are doing to it.

As a meteorologist, Mr Lam will explain the physical aspects of climate change and why agriculture and industry are culprits of recent changes. As a bird-watcher and naturalist, he will discuss what he has personally observed in Hong Kong as birds and trees react to local climate change. As a global citizen he will also ponder about the role of consumerism and globalization in driving the Earth’s climate to a state which is hazardous to human beings and whether it is time to “turn back”.

Lam Chiu-ying was born and educated in Hong Kong. He studied physics at the University of Hong Kong and subsequently meteorology at Imperial College in London. He is a Chartered Meteorologist and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. From 2003-2009 he was the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory and Chairman of the Hong Kong Meteorological Society. From 2003 to 2008 Mr Lam was the Vice President of the Asian arm of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and has also been invited by the WMO to lead various expert and consultant missions. Mr Lam has contributed to the global climate change debate and was a contributing author of the *4th Assessment Report (2007)* of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. As a highly respected meteorologist, Mr Lam lectures widely on the subject of climate change, with the aim of raising public awareness about environmental protection.

In his leisure time, Mr Lam is a keen birdwatcher and served as the Chairman of the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society for seven years; he is now the Honorary President of that society. He is a co-author of the definitive volume on Hong Kong birds entitled *Birds of Hong Kong and South China* first published in 1977 and now in its eighth edition. He has worked enthusiastically for many years to promote birdwatching among the local community and ran the first Chinese-speaking birdwatching classes in Hong Kong. When time permits he undertakes birdwatching trips to China and overseas destinations.

Date/Time: Tuesday 23 March
Venue: City Hall High Block 8th Floor, Central
Booking: This lecture is free and open to the public, with no booking required

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Future Activities

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Hong Kong Club Friday 16 April

Please mark your calendars. Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Hong Kong Club. More information and details of the speaker, together with a booking form, will be provided later, but meanwhile, make a note of the date of this always popular event.

If members wish to submit nominations, they are asked to complete the nomination form below and return it to the Hon Secretary, Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch, GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong not later than Friday, 9 April 2010.

Nominees, as well as their Proposer and Secunder, must be members of good standing. Election will be by a majority of members present as required by the Constitution of the Society. Members are reminded that the Council is a functional one. The standard of the Society's activities depends on having officers and members of the Council who are willing to take their part in the efficient management and control of the Society's affairs.

Please note that a quorum of 20 members is required for any General Meeting.

NOMINATION FORM The Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch

I would like to nominate the following member for election to the Council of The Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch.

Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss

I have ascertained that he/she is willing to stand for election.

Proposer:

Secunder:

Date

Please return this form, no later than Friday, 9 April 2010, to:-
The Hon Secretary
Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch
GPO Box 3864
Hong Kong
Fax: 2103 5996

Council is also grateful to have members to participate in many of the sub-committees which organize the RAS's business, including the Activities and Publications committees, the Editorial Board and the Ride Fund. Volunteers may contact the Administrator, Katherine Fenton, or any other Council member.

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Recent Activities

LECTURE

Collecting Hongshan Jade: A Window on China's Neolithic Past

Friday 23 October

Reported by Katherine Fenton

An avid collector of jade pieces, Dr David Anderson spoke to the RAS about this beautiful mineral. The various colours of jade which we see occur due to the minerals and amount of iron mixture within the jade. Jade is a hard material, but can be “worked” to form various shapes and sizes.

Dr Anderson focused mainly on pieces from the Hongshan culture, which flourished in Liaoning and Inner Mongolia around 5,000 years ago. He spoke of his visits to the excavation sites in Niuheliang and pieces discovered there. While jade is “worked” to form various shapes and sizes, it is the chemical weathering process which causes quite a controversy. Some experts believe that nephrite jade never alters, but Dr Anderson disagrees. He informed us of a chemical principle called “Goldsmith’s Weathering Series”, which says that the higher the temperature and pressure under which a mineral was formed, the more susceptible it is to chemical weathering. Nephrite lies far up the reaction series. It is affected by water, other minerals, acids, and time.

Hongshan jade pieces have been shaped to form C-dragons, pig-dragons, insects, discs, birds and other Hongshan icons. Enormous numbers of Hongshan jade carvings have been flooding out of China.

Over the past ten years, Dr Anderson has been able to collect and develop his collection. He was kind enough to bring several pieces to share with us.

Dr Anderson’s talk is available for viewing on www.youtube.com. After accessing the website, type in *David Anderson Hongshan lecture*. It is in six parts.

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LECTURE

Flight of the One-Legged Admiral: Re-enacting the Christmas Day 1941 Escape from Hong Kong

City Hall • Friday 8 January

Reported by Peter Stuckey

On Friday 8th January Tim Luard gave a fascinating and splendidly illustrated description of the Christmas Day 1941 escape from Hong Kong of 68 officers and men. His talk covered the exciting details of the escape as well as the characters involved and also referred to the re-enactment that he and some 70 descendants had recently accomplished.

Tim explained that the escape had been pre-planned with official sanction in the event of surrender. He described the escape by car from Central and the daring escape under enemy fire, involving some swimming, to reach the waiting motor torpedo boats. Tim had evidently undertaken much original research of diaries and records, and enlivened his talk with anecdotes such as one where an officer was approaching the waiting boat and called out that there were 10 chaps just behind him. The waiting allied soldiers immediately opened fire and only desisted when the officer explained he had said “chaps”, not “Japs”.

Tim was one of the leading lights in HERO, the Hong Kong Escape Re-enactment Organisation. He, along with the party of descendants, had travelled to Ap Lei Chau and East Ping Chau, and then crossed the border to reach Nanao and journeyed to Huizhou. There they had been able to take a group photograph in the format of the celebrated photograph taken 68 years earlier in front of the Wai On mission (now People’s) hospital. Tim had continued with a smaller group, descendants of Harry Owen Hughes, to Longchuan and Shaoguan (KuKong) where they visited the mission hospital where Dr Moore had treated the bullet wounds suffered during the escape by one-legged Admiral Chan Chak, Chief of the Chinese Liaison office.


Tim discussed many of the escapees, including Ronald Ashby, Les Barker, Chan Chak, John Collingwood, G.H. Gandy, Buddy Hide, Alexander Kennedy, David MacDougall, Colin McEwan, Max Oxford, Ted Ross and Gilbert Thums whose descendants have all contributed to an exhibition recently opened at the HK Museum of Coastal Defence.

Recent Activities

We were pleased also to welcome Alison, Tim's wife, and the daughter of Major Colin McEwan of the Special Operations Executive and later of BAAG, and Donald Chan, son of Admiral Chan Chak who were in the audience and all were willing to answer questions after the talk. These paragraphs are too brief to do justice to Tim's talk, but further details can be found on Tim's blog, *timalisonontour.blogspot.com*, the 2005 RASHKB Journal, Tim's article in the March 2009 RAS Newsletter and at the exhibition running for two years at the Museum of Coastal Defence. Tim is also working on a book and we look forward eagerly to its publication.

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Of General Interest



Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences Society
Third Meeting of Medical History Interest Group

6th February 2010 (Saturday)
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
at Li Shu Pui Professional Educational Centre, Hong Kong Medical Association
2/F, Chinese Club Building, 21-22 Connaught Road Central

Guest Speaker and Topic:

History of Public Health in Hong Kong

Professor Lee Shiu Hung
Professor Emeritus, Department of Community Medicine
School of Public Health, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Former Director of Health, Hong Kong Government

ALL ARE WELCOME

Light refreshments from 3:30 p.m.
Meeting attendance is free. Please register by
Phone: 2549 5123 or info@hkms.org.hk

CME points approved
(1 point: Anaesthesiologists, Community Medicine, Dental Surgeons, Orthopaedic Surgeons, Paediatricians,
Pathologists, Psychiatrists, Surgeons, MCHK CME Programme; for 0.5 point: Otorhinolaryngologists)
Others under application

Supporting Organization: Hong Kong Medical Association

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Of General Interest

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG BRANCH
Chinese New Year Lunch
Saturday 13 February

Our Chinese New Year lunch this year will be held on Saturday 13th February. As usual, we have a delicious meal organised for you, at an all-in price of £25.50 per head, including tea and service charge. Other drinks will be at members' own expense. As last year, the lunch will be held at 12:30 p.m. at Joy King Lau restaurant, 3 Leicester Street, London WC2H 7BL. Tel: 0207 437 1132. Please complete the form below and return it asap to Kirsty Norman.

BOOKING FORM
Chinese New Year Lunch
Saturday 13 February

Please reserve _____ places for members/guests at £25.50 each to include tea and service charge.

I/We enclose my/our cheque for £_____ payable to the Friends of the RASHKB.

Name/s:

Address:.....

Daytime Tel. No.:..... Email:.....

Please return to Kirsty Norman, 30 De Beauvoir Square, London N1 4LE as soon as possible and no later than 8th February. Tel: 0207 684 5811.

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FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG BRANCH
Bus Trip in connection with the Chinese Labour Corp in Europe in World War One
May 2010

The Friends of the RASHKB will have some places on a bus for the following trip next May, in case any of your members should be interested in joining us. The visit is in connection with the Chinese Labour Corp in Europe in World War One. The Flanders Field Museum in Ypres will have a special exhibition on the subject; a plaque remembering the Corp will be unveiled at a cemetery near Ypres on the Saturday and a "special" last post sounded at the Menin Gate that evening. Noyelles-sur-Mer, designed by Lutyens, is the main Chinese WW1 cemetery with 838 graves.

We will visit the major war cemetery at Thiepval on the way. The *RAS Journal* Vol 40 of 2000 has a paper on the subject of the Chinese Labour Corp.

The cost of transport will be about £180 per person including ferry; hotel and other costs are for the member's own account. The Ibis Abbeville is 73 euros per night including tax per room (single or double). The Ibis in Kortrijk has not confirmed my booking at the time of writing.

May 31 is a UK bank holiday.

Please contact Paul Bolding paul@paulbolding.org.uk in the first instance if you are interested.

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Of General Interest

HERITAGE ALIVE

Hong Kong Winning Projects of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation Exhibition

This exhibition, aims to provide an overview of the UNESCO Heritage Awards and to introduce the 12 winning projects from Hong Kong. Some building components, measured drawings, documents and models of the winning projects are also displayed. By showcasing the efforts and achievements of the government and local community groups, it is hoped that public's awareness in heritage preservation could be aroused and enhanced. The exhibition to be held in Thematic Exhibition Gallery, Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre, Kowloon Park, Haiphong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon will run from 22 November 2009 to 17 February 2010. Additional information can be obtained at website: www.amo.gov.hk.

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一個另類的展覽，一次另類的旅程。

*An exhibition unlike any other.
A journey out of the ordinary.*

THE ULTIMATE SOUTH
CHINA TRAVEL GUIDE
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CANTON
洋人旅粵指南
-
廣州自助遊全攻略
展期至28.3.2010

展覽詳情 For more information : <http://hk.art.museum>
香港藝術館三樓 專題展覽廳 (2) · 九龍尖沙咀梳士巴利道十號
Special Exhibition Gallery (2) · 3/F, Hong Kong Museum of Art
10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

香港文化遺產發展委員會
Cultural and Heritage Development Commission

香港藝術館
HONG KONG MUSEUM OF ART

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