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JANUARY 2012

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VISIT

The Nan Lian Garden – Diamond Hill, Kowloon Saturday • 11 February 2012

Nan Lian Garden is a Tang dynasty style landscaped Chinese garden based on the famous Jiangshoujiu Garden in Shanxi Province. The garden covers an area of 3.5 hectares and was opened to the public in November 2006. It was jointly developed by the Hong Kong SARG and the Chi Lin Nunnery.

The garden is characterised by the four main elements of Tang-style gardens and contains artificial hills and bizarre rock clusters, water features, timber structures and rare old trees. The rocks were transported to Hong Kong from various locations in China, mostly Sanjiang County but also from Heshan, Laibin and Qinghua. Water features include the Spring Lotus Pond, Blue Pond and Pine Brook. There are several outstanding timber structures which include pavilions, terraces, storied pavilions and bridges constructed in the Tang dynasty style. The garden is particularly noted for its collection of trees including Buddhist Pine, Japanese Black Pine, Cypress, Pagoda, Silver-back Artocarpus and Common Crape Myrtle.

The garden is designed with the intention that visitors, starting at the Black Lintel gate, follow a one-way route through different landscapes. The landscaping is based on the traditional Chinese techniques such as 'borrowing scenes', 'concealing scenes', 'sheltering scenes' and 'penetrating scenes' to create space.

Although the location of the Garden is in urban Kowloon this is a truly beautiful, colourful and scenic place with a tranquil and serene atmosphere. The tour of the Garden will be conducted by a Nan Lian Garden volunteer who it is hoped will be able to give a detailed briefing on the creation and design of this unique garden. Following the guided tour, members will participate in a vegetarian lunch which is included in the cost.

Speaker: The event is co-ordinated by Ms Davina Lee (RASHKB member)

Date: Saturday, 11 February 2012

Time: Meet 9.45 am at Exit C, Diamond Hill MTR Station

Booking: Booking is essential. Please return the booking form to Ms Davina Lee.

* * * * *

LECTURE

The Rev Frederick O'Neill – An Irish Presbyterian Missionary in Manchuria LCSD Central Library, Causeway Bay Tuesday • 14 February 2012

The Rev Frederick O'Neill was born in Belfast, Ireland in 1870. As a young man he felt 'called by God' and entered the ministry. He studied at the Assemblies' College in Belfast which was the principal training college for the Presbyterian Church of Ireland (PCI). The PCI had established a mission in Manchuria and was keen to recruit ministers to go to China to spread its gospel. The young Rev O'Neill answered the call enthusiastically and in 1897 set sail for the two month journey to China.

O'Neill's ministry was in the far north of China, in Manchuria (including present day Liaoning Province). His congregation were ordinary Chinese country folk but it was here that he would spend most of the next forty-five years of his career. In 1902 he married Annie O'Neill, whom he had met while a student in Belfast. They were married in Shanghai and were to have five children, two of whom died in childhood. Despite the hardships of living in Manchuria the family was permitted to take home leave but only every seven years!

In 1917, during World War I, The Rev O'Neill went to France where he worked with the men of the Chinese Labour Corps (CLC). For his meritorious service he was awarded the Order of the Striped Tiger by the Chinese Government. Following the war O'Neill returned to China to resume his work as a minister. By the mid 1930's danger again threatened in the form of the Japanese invasion of Manchuria resulting in the arrest and detention of the O'Neill's at their home in Faku in 1941.

Future Activities

Mark will describe his grandfather's extraordinary life, which included the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, the Great Manchurian Plague of 1911 that killed 60,000 people, the end of the Qing dynasty, 20 years of rule by a warlord and his son, and the final years under Japanese military occupation. He also served for two years with the Chinese Labour Corps in France during World War One. The book is based on personal reports, letters and diaries of his grandfather, grandmother and other missionaries in the field. It includes a final chapter on how the Protestant church in China is one of the fastest growing in the world – while it is shrinking in the countries that sent the missionaries.



Mark O'Neill was born in 1950 in Britain. He was educated at Marlborough College and New College, Oxford where he graduated with a degree in English Language and Literature. He worked in Washington DC, Manchester and Belfast before moving to Hong Kong in 1978. He has lived in Asia since then, working in Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, China and Japan for Reuters News Agency and the South China Morning Post. He now lives in Hong Kong and works as a journalist, writer and university lecturer. He speaks French, Mandarin, Cantonese and Japanese. His book will be published in English and Chinese by Joint Publishing of Hong Kong in the first half of 2012.

Speaker: Mr Mark O'Neill

Date: Tuesday, 14 February 2012

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: LCSD Central Library, Causeway Bay (opposite Victoria Park)

Booking: Admission is free for this talk, and seating is on a first come first serve basis. The point of contact is Mr Michael Broom, contact tel no 2719 4974

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LECTURE

Midnight in Peking

Shining Light on Those Who Sought to Hide in the Shadows

Duke of Windsor Social Service Building

Tuesday • 21 February 2012

In his best-selling book *Midnight in Peking*, historian and author Paul French recreates the two key locations of foreign Peking in the 1930s - the European style sanctuary of the Legation Quarter and the once notorious but now little remembered Badlands of sinful night-time pleasure. Yet more of a challenge for the author was to recover from history the characters of the Quarter and the shady denizens of the Badlands. The former are better known - the diplomats, scholars, journalists and businessmen - though many of their more scandalous activities have been whitewashed from their memoirs and biographies. Meanwhile the foreign 'driftwood' who worked and played in the Badlands are seemingly lost to history – prostitutes, pimps, petty criminals and scam artists who hid from official eyes. Recovering their stories was a challenge of a higher order. In his illustrated presentation French will talk about how to get beyond the official histories and authorised biographies to the real men and women of Peking while discussing how to trace and uncover those who sought to evade history and disappear.

Members may wish to note that this is a new talk and not a repeat of the talks Paul French gave in Hong Kong during his visit in September 2011.

Paul French was born in Enfield, England in 1966. He gained a M.Phil from the University of Glasgow and studied Chinese at the City Literary Institute. Following a brief period working on a magazine, he co-founded the research firm Access Asia, a company specializing in Chinese consumer and retail markets. French is a regular columnist for several leading China economic journals. He is currently a member of the editorial board for Anthem Press's 'China in the Twenty First Century' series. He is a former board member of the Shanghai Foreign Correspondents' Club and is currently the Honorary Research and Publications Director of the RAS – China Branch. He has written and co-authored several books on the rise of China as an economic power and also on North Korea (*The Paranoid Peninsula*, Zed Books 2005). Other works include a study of foreign correspondents in *China Through the Looking Glass* (HKUP 2009) and a definitive biography on the life of Carl Crow an American journalist *Carl Crow: A Tough Old China Hand* (HKUP 2006).

Future Activities

Speaker: Mr Paul French

Date: Tuesday, 21 February 2012

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: 2/F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai

Booking: Please complete the booking form and return it to Mr M.B. Broom, tel no 2719 4974

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VISIT

Hong Kong University Museum and Art Gallery

Saturday • 25 February 2012

For members who were not able to attend the very interesting trip to the Museum in October 2011, a further visit has been arranged to look around the Fung Ping Shan Building and particularly have a close look at some of the prized exhibits. The University Archives and the University Museum and Art Gallery are presently holding an exhibition titled "HKU Memories from the Archives", covering the history of the University through the collections of the University Archives, as part of the Centenary celebrations. A private visit has been arranged for RAS Members, led by RAS Council Member Stacy Gould (HKU Chief Archivist) - the exhibition introduces the development of the University from its founding in 1911 to the present day. Over 100 archival records and artefacts are displayed. Some are provided by the Museum and student groups. Many of them have not been exhibited before. The rare items include the Mace, silver inkstand and ceremonial trowels as well as the 1912 silver model of the Main Building and its original architectural drawings given to Governor Sir Frederick Lugard in 1916. As the first exhibition to feature the collections of the University Archives, it will also foreground the important role that archives play in preserving both personal and institutional histories, and some of the conservation concerns in taking care of artefacts of the past.

Named after its donor, the Fung Ping Shan Building was opened on 14 December 1932 and was first used to house the University's Chinese book collection which was considerably augmented by a book donation from Fung Ping Shan himself. The University's Museum of Chinese Art and Archaeology was established in 1953 to serve teaching and research purposes. With the opening of a new library building, the Fung Ping Shan Library was reunited with the University's main book collection in early 1962. From then on, the building was also used to hold exhibitions and renamed the Fung Ping Shan Museum and opened to the public on 31 January 1964. For many years it was not only a museum, but part was used as offices of the University's Fine Arts Department and then for the Hong Kong University Press. It is designated a Grade 1 historic building due to its architectural and historic value.

Speakers: Stacy Gould, Chief Archivist, HKU and Tina Pang, Curator

Date: Saturday, 25 February 2012

Time: 10.30 am to approximately 12.15 pm

Venue: Fung Ping Shan Building, 94 Bonham Road, Pokfulam

Booking: Please complete booking form and fax to Bill Greaves at tel no 3691 8185

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Future Activities

LECTURE

The Making of the *Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography* Friday • 2 March 2012

The *Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography* is the first dictionary of lives spanning the whole of Hong Kong history. It contains more than 500 specially commissioned entries. Many of them recount the lives of well-known and usually successful figures who have left their mark on Hong Kong: people from politics, government, business, education, religion, sport, the professions, literature, entertainment and the arts, and the army and navy. But the Dictionary also tries to highlight the experiences of those, like most of the population, who are not wealthy or powerful or distinguished — minor and obscure people who are included both for their representativeness and for balance. Other entries feature the more unsavoury characters from the past such as pirates, gangsters and other scoundrels — and even a few eminent failures. Naturally, a large number of the entries are about Chinese people, who have always formed the majority of Hong Kong's population. Many others are British, who governed the colony for more than 150 years. Reflecting Hong Kong's cosmopolitan character and its function as a port-city, many subjects are people from other parts of the world. The collective story of this diversity of people and their struggles and achievements over several centuries contribute to an understanding of what made Hong Kong the remarkable place it is today.

Published in 2011 by Hong Kong University Press in a single, illustrated volume, the Dictionary has been many years in the making. In this talk the Editors May Holdsworth and Christopher Munn will touch on the background to the project — how it came into being, who were involved, what criteria were adopted to determine the scope and selection of names, how widely the net was cast for writers, and what modifications might be made to the Dictionary in the future. Two contributors to the Dictionary will also participate in this lecture: Elizabeth Sinn, a former Vice-President of the RAS and chair of the Dictionary's Editorial Board, and Libby Halliday Palin, documentary film director and writer, will discuss a few of their favourite characters in the Dictionary.

Speakers: May Holdsworth, Christopher Munn, Elizabeth Sinn, and Libby Halliday Palin

Date: Friday, 2 March 2012

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: The Garden Room, The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central

Booking: Please complete the booking form on page 15 and send it to: May Holdsworth
27th Floor, 46 Baguio Villas, 550 Victoria Road, Hong Kong

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VISIT

Lui Seng Chun, Restored Historic Shophouse Saturday • 10 March 2012

Lui Seng Chun was constructed in 1931 by Mr. Lui Leung, one of the founders of the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Ltd, with local architect W.H. Bourne, who specialized in designing shophouses ("Tong-lau"). The ground floor was originally a Chinese bone-setting medicine shop, while the upper floors were living quarters for Lui's family. Mr. Lui Leung, who practised Chinese medicine, died in 1944 and the ground floor was subsequently rented out for tailor shops. As the Lui family flourished, the residence was inadequate for the expanded family, so members began gradually to move out, leaving the building vacant for over twenty years. In 2003, the Lui family donated the building to the Government. Lui Seng Chun is a typical "Tong-lau"



(Chinese tenement) and reflects a local Neo-Classical style, characterized by a regular structural frame and elevations, with decorative balustrades and deep verandahs, typical architectural features of 1930's Chinese tenements. The distinctive stone name plaque at the top of the building 雷生春 (thunder, alive, spring) is also a characteristic of the period. The lower external walls are of an attractive red terrazzo with granite columns and

Future Activities

reinforced concrete beams. Lui Seng Chun is regarded as a representative “Kee-lau” of 1930’s Hong Kong and it is designated a Grade 1 historic building due to its historic value and architectural rarity.

Mr Tony Lam, Director of AGC Design Ltd., is an architect and heritage consultant specialising in historic building restorations. He is a council member of the RASHKB, member of the Antiquities Advisory Board, HKICON and HKIA (Chairman Conservation Committee). Apart from this project, he is also involved in the revitalization of Central Market and Former Explosive Magazines.

Speaker: Mr Tony Lam.

Date: Saturday, 10 March 2012

Time: 10.30 am to approximately 12.15 pm

Venue: Meet at Prince Edward Road MTR Station and walk to 119 Lai Chi Kok Road (some other 1930’s shophouses can be viewed along Un Chau Street on the way)

Booking: Please complete the booking form and fax to Bill Greaves at tel no 3691 8185

* * * * *

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Hong Kong Club Thursday • 26 April 2012

Our Annual General Meeting and Dinner will be held at the Hong Kong Club on Thursday, 26 April 2012. This is always a popular event, so please mark your calendar and plan to be there. Further details and a booking form will be provided in the next newsletter.

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**Any member who would be willing to write a review of these talks for the Newsletter,
please contact Mr Michael Broom, Hon Activities Co-ordinator.
His e-mail is stgeorge_hk@yahoo.co.uk and telephone number is 2719 4958.**

* * * * *

Recent Activities

Remembrance Sunday Ceremony 13 November 2011

Written by Dan Waters

As was to be expected there was a splendid turnout at the Hong Kong Cenotaph which is a slightly smaller version of the memorial in Westminster, London. As the sun shone that morning in Statue Square well over 100 wreaths were laid, in a few cases by adults accompanied by their children. Prayers and Recitations of Remembrance were said by Anglicans, Buddhists, Confucian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Roman Catholic and Taoist clerics and leaders.

Elizabeth Ride was rightly proud to wear the resplendent medals of her late father, Sir Lindsay Ride. Colonel Ride was Commanding Officer of the British Army Aid Group (BAAG) which operated in South China during the Second World War. After hostilities ceased he became Vice-Chancellor of Hong Kong University and President of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch.

Few veterans of World War Two are left today but Mark Nunns and Dan Waters, both RASHKB members, 'were soldiers once and young'. Most Britons of their generation were called to the Colours and served King and Country. At the recent memorial service Dan Waters laid the wreath on behalf of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch. Dan was also interviewed and this was broadcast on Radio Hong Kong, Channel 3.

'... at the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them!'

* * * * *

A Visit to the Aberdeen Tin Hau Temple Saturday, 19 November 2011

Written by Dan Waters

An interesting visit was organized and led by RAS Council Member Bill Greaves to the Temple at 182 Aberdeen Main Street. It has been estimated by Keith Stevens ('Chinese Monasteries, Temples, Shrines and Altars in Hong Kong and Macau', RASHKBJ, vol. 20, 1980) that there are about 396 temples and monasteries in Hong Kong and 78 of these are Tin Hau Temples. Tin Hau is well known for protecting seafaring folk from storms and other disasters.

The Aberdeen Temple consists of two halls with a courtyard between. As Tin Hau is very much concerned about her appearance, in this Temple she is provided with a four-poster bed, a dressing table and a washbasin in her very own bedroom. She can thus 'refresh' herself whenever she wishes. But there are other gods in the temple as well. On Tin Hau's right are the Goddess of Mercy and Choi Baak, a God of Wealth. On her left are Wah Tor and Wong Tai Sin, both gods of medicine. Of course, Tin Hau is ably assisted by her two stalwarts, 'Thousand Li Eyes' and 'Favourable Wind Ears'. The Taoist symbols of the 'Eight Immortals' are also on display.



Members of RASHKB gather at the end of the Remembrance Service in Statue Square. They are, from the left: Mark Huang, Geoffrey Emerson, Mark Nunns, Dan Waters, David McKellar, and Peter Cunich.

Photograph courtesy Mark Huang.

Recent Activities

A Chinese temple is not a place where services are held, as in a western church, but it is rather a 'home for the gods' and a place where people go to pray to the god of their choice. And, if that god does not deliver, next time they try another god. The Aberdeen (or the old name, Shek Pai Wan {Rocky Bay}) Temple, with reclamation having taken place, is no longer situated near the coast. It is said to have originally been built by seafaring folk in 1851. Many temples have been altered or rebuilt so how do you tell their age? The answer is, you look at the date on the bell, or the date on the ancestral tablet of the founder, or a date on a plaque near the entrance. One of these can frequently provide some indication. But a word of warning: that date will be according to the Chinese calendar.

The original Temple is supposed to have been completed in 1851, but the date on the bell is 1726! Villagers were said to have prayed on this site before the old Temple was built. As with many temples in Hong Kong it was probably preceded by a shrine.

November 2011, was the first time I had been back to the Aberdeen Temple since I visited it in 1997 as a member of the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB). The problem at the time was that the land around the temple over the years had been 'made up' and every time there was heavy rain the Temple became flooded. We, the AAB, had a meeting with the Chinese Temples Committee. Eventually we decided the Aberdeen Temple should be demolished and rebuilt. Work was completed in 1999.

There were, however, differences of opinion as to what form the rebuilding should take. The conservationists wanted the Temple rebuilt to as closely resemble the old Temple as possible. This contrasted with others living in Aberdeen who expected to have a more 'modern' temple. Some of course were in favour of leaving the old Temple as it was and not demolishing it. Eventually an agreement was reached.

I was pleased to see, during our recent November visit, that, by and large, effort had been made to save as much material from the old temple as reasonably possible. This included the stone columns and the impressive Shek Wan (Shi Wan) ceramic ridge which consists of figurines based on Chinese folk-story motifs. When fresh materials were required for the rebuilding, sound 'reclaimed materials' had been used which had come from demolished buildings. Often, for conservation work when local craftsmen are not available, skilled tradesmen are brought in from Mainland China. Relics from the old Temple had also been saved and these include the Qing Dynasty bell, mentioned above, which was donated by fishermen,

The RASHKB is grateful to Chartered Building Surveyor, RAS Council member Bill Greaves for organizing this successful visit.

* * * * *

Strangers on the Western Front: Chinese Labourers in the Great War

Friday, 11 November 2011

Written by Jonathan K. H. Luk

On Armistice Day, the Society was delighted to have Prof. Xu Guoqi, Associate Professor of History, University of Hong Kong, deliver a very fittingly-themed lecture on the lives and experiences of the Chinese labourers on the Western Front. The attendees were thus able to hear about a fascinating aspect of the Great War which seldom receives any mention.

By 1916, the war of attrition on the Western Front proved so costly to the Allies in terms of manpower that military planners were desperate for a solution. A suggestion was made, first followed by the French, then quickly by the British in 1917, to source labourers from China. Upon learning of the news, the diplomats and officials of China almost leapt at the offer. For a fledgling republic which yearned to debut on the world stage, sending labourers to the Western Front was almost as good as actually fighting for the Allied cause. Recruitment of Chinese, mainly those of Shantung stock whose physique and loyalty were valued, was quickly organized mainly through the British concession of Weihaiwei.

A total of about 140,000 Chinese labourers were sent to France where they found themselves strangers to an even stranger landscape – a landscape of trenches, craters and barbed wire, of bloodshed on an industrial scale which was beyond the wildest imaginings of an average rural Chinese.

Recent Activities

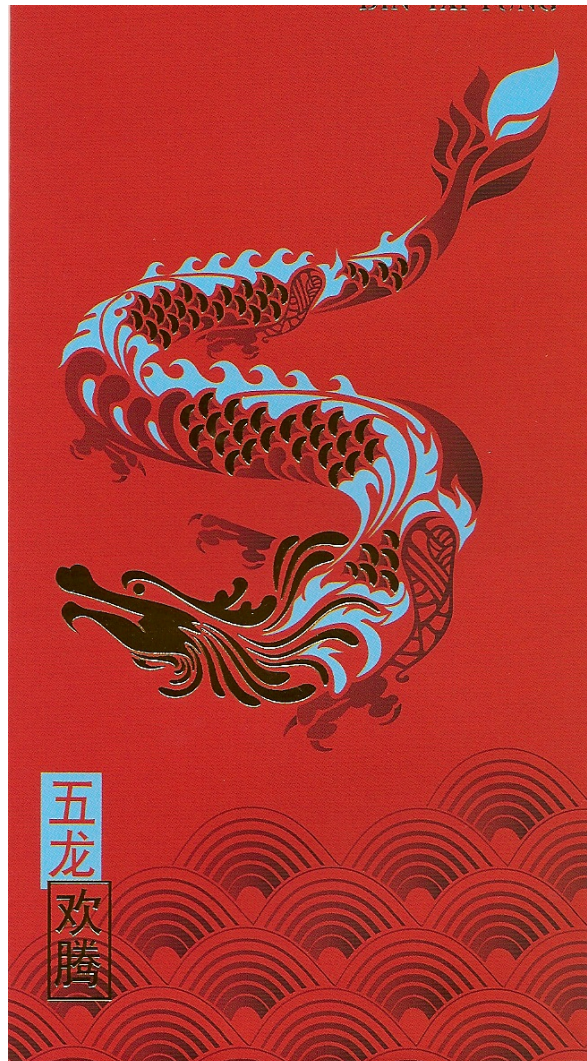
With an ample supply of anecdotes, Prof. Xu was able to recount the experiences of a Chinese labourer, which was a life of hard physical exertion, but not without its funny moments, with of course, in a time-honoured Chinese tradition, a lot of insatiable gorging and gambling in between.

As the War progressed, the Chinese labourers were entrusted with more and greater responsibilities, even to the point when they were allowed to repair Allied tanks and aircraft, both closely guarded military secrets at the time. Despite these early exposures to the Western technology, the hearts and minds of the labourers were still much defined, not by the flags, but by the clans from which they came. Brawls sometimes broke out amongst countrymen from different clans, or even between the Chinese and their Western paymasters. Being non-combatants also did not prevent the labourers from shooting at enemy aircraft, or lobbing a few hand grenades on some German POWs, not for patriotic reasons, but in protest of sometimes being forced to work in combat zones.

War inevitably claims its victims and some 2,000 Chinese labourers lost their lives during the course of the conflict and were accorded war burials in the Flanders fields where their graves still stand today. Despite these losses, the Chinese labour corps was largely able to stay away from trouble and survived the Great War with characteristic pluck and good humour. Most returned to China, taking home generous pay packets. Some 80,000 of them continued in service until 1919, assisting in the clearing-up work in the aftermath of the devastation of the War, and a few even managed to settle in Europe with their French wives – which was no small feat in itself, given that most of the labourers could not even read and write in their own language.

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KUNG HEI FAT CHOI HAPPY YEAR OF THE DRAGON



Of General Interest

RAS Pre-orders for the *Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography*

The RAS has negotiated a special deal with the Hong Kong University Press for you, our members. If you order copies of the *Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography* you will get the volume for \$370, a 25% discount, and your Society benefits, too. Please use the Order Form on the next page to take advantage of this offer as well as show your support for your society.

Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography (香港歷史人物誌)

*Edited by May Holdsworth and
Christopher Munn*

Hong Kong's history is rich in colourful characters and fascinating life stories. This illustrated dictionary collects in one volume a lively cross-section of the personalities who have made the city the cosmopolitan place it is today. The cast of characters includes men and women from different parts of the world, diverse cultural traditions and all walks of life. The great and the good are here: governors, admirals, film stars, taipans, writers, revolutionaries and other famous names. But there are surprises too: long-forgotten movers and shakers of their day; ordinary folk who illustrate some aspect of Hong Kong history; gangsters and scoundrels – even a few eminent failures. In short, the *Dictionary* is a kaleidoscope through which Hong Kong's many faces are revealed.

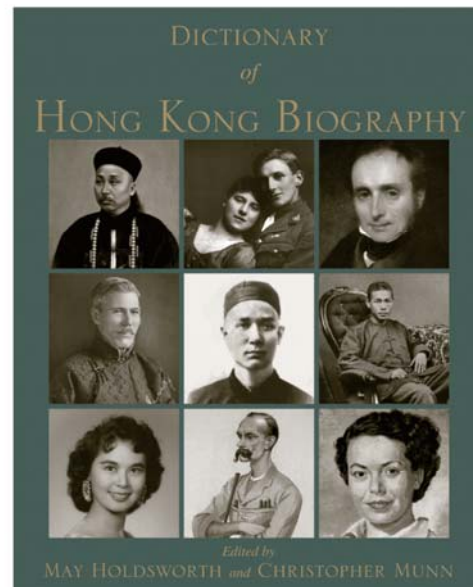
This collection of more than 500 specially commissioned entries is the first dictionary of lives spanning the whole of Hong Kong history. Ninety contributors, including prominent academics, journalists and other experts, have crafted entries.

May Holdsworth's books include *Foreign Devils: Expatriates in Hong Kong*, and *The Palace of Established Happiness: Restoring a Garden in the Forbidden City*.

Christopher Munn is the author of *Anglo-China: Chinese People and British Rule in Hong Kong, 1841-1880*.

"Hong Kong has always had its full measure of remarkable people. Both saints and sinners, they have come from all the ethnic groups in Hong Kong's ebullient population. What has been missing is an accessible record of who these people are and what they did. Their stories will now come to life again in the *Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography* and, let us hope, be joined by new entries in the years to come."

— **David Wilson** (Lord Wilson of Tillyorn), Governor of Hong Kong, 1987-92



Reference / Biography

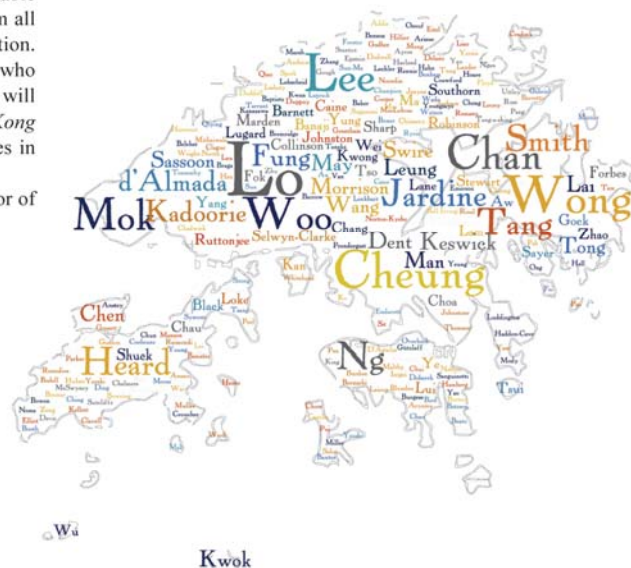
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Of General Interest

ORDER FORM

I wish to order _____ copies of *Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography* edited by May Holdsworth and Christopher Munn at the special rate of \$370 each, plus postage (postage: within Hong Kong: \$30 / outside of Hong Kong: \$150). If using a foreign currency cheque for payment, please include an additional HK\$100 to cover fee charged by the bank for each cheque. Please send this form with cheque payable to 'Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch', and mail to: Administrator (Dictionary of HK Biography), The Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch, G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Number: _____ RAS Member # _____

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A NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Please welcome our new Administrator, Liz Hamerton. Liz has started working with the RAS in January, and I am sure you will see her at upcoming events and hear from her by e-mail. Liz can be contacted via the RAS e-mail address: royalasiaticsoc@aol.com.

Liz has been in Hong Kong for 23 years and previously worked as Membership Manager at the Hong Kong Club for 13 years. Since retiring from the Club four years ago, Liz has pursued other interests and has been working freelance on various projects. She is pleased to be joining The Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch as Administrator and is looking forward to meeting Society members and also discovering more about Hong Kong and Asia. Her leisure activities include sailing locally and in international competition, tennis and reading.



* * * * *

A battlefield tour to visit sites of the Six Day War of 1899 will be held on Saturday 3rd March, conducted by Dr. Patrick Hase. This is a repeat visit of a similar event held in 2010, and is being conducted jointly with the Orders and Medals Research Society, Hong Kong Branch ("OMRS"). Places on the tour are limited by the size of the minibus and members are encouraged to sign up before 12 February 2012. Bookings may be made online by visiting the OMRS website events page at: <http://www.omrs-hk.org/events>. Further details may be obtained by reading the document linked at the top of the OMRS website events page.

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Of General Interest

The Shenzhen Asian Culture Society (SACS, www.shenzhenacs.com) is a “non-profit organization working to strengthen relationships, promote understanding and provide cultural enrichment for the Shenzhen community. They seek to increase knowledge, enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression and generate new ideas across the fields of Asian culture, encompassing History, the Arts, Economics and Education. Both local and expatriate members are welcome.

Interestingly they have a Supper Club which offers members and guests the opportunity to sample regional Chinese and other Asian cuisines with a like-minded group of people, a bit of guidance, and the answers to questions such as ‘Why is Sichuan food traditionally so spicy?’ ‘What do they eat in Beijing?’ And, most importantly, ‘What dishes did we eat at that restaurant and how can I ask for them again when I go on my own?’ They have occasional ‘Mix & Mingle’ evenings (which are ‘casual networking nights’); overseas trips (recently they visited northern Thailand); within-China trips (they had a 5-day 4-night sightseeing and skiing trip in Harbin at the Lunar New Year) and more local short trips (in November they had a hike up Maluan Mountain, in December a Haizhu Bio Island Bike Trip). The lectures appear to be less often – the last one on the website is on ‘Chinese Antique Furniture’ and was in November.

These events are near enough to ‘home’ for our members to take part in, particularly if they have the ‘return to village’ card or a multi-entry visa. From Saikung it takes only slightly longer to get to Shenzhen by public transport than to Central!

* * * * *

Library News

The following items have been received, and our thanks go to those making these donations:

From Bill Greaves

- Atwell, Pamela. British mandarins and Chinese reformers : the British administration of Weihaiwei, 1898-1930, and the territory's return to Chinese rule. Hong Kong : Oxford University Press, 1985.

From Prof. Lap-Chee Tsui, Vice-Chancellor, University of Hong Kong

- Matthews, Clifford and Oswald Cheung, ed. Dispersal and renewal: Hong Kong University during the war years. Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 1998.
- Chan Lau, Kit-ching, and Peter Cunich, ed. An impossible dream: Hong Kong University from foundation to re-establishment, 1910-1950. New York : Oxford University Press, 2002.
- ---. Growing with Hong Kong : the University and its graduates: the first 90 years. Hong Kong: University of Hong Kong, 2002.

From University of Hong Kong Libraries

- Kua, Paul. Scouting in Hong Kong, 1910-2010. Hong Kong : Scout Association of Hong Kong, 2011.
- Hui, Desmond. Selected historic buildings and sites in Central District. Hong Kong: Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Leisure and Cultural Services Dept., 2004.

From Anonymous

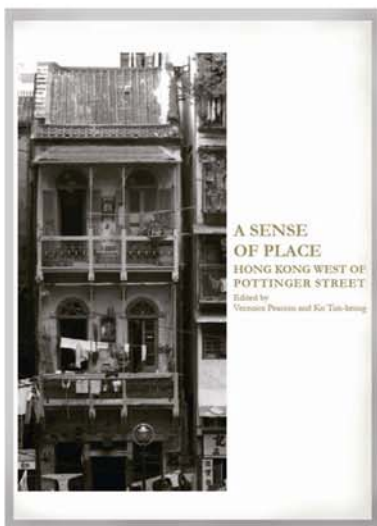
- Donovan, Edward. An epitome of the natural history of the insects of China. London: printed for the author by T. Bensley, 1798.

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