Hon. Editor’s Report for 2017-2018

There is little new to report for this most recent year of the Society’s Journal.

Volume 57 came out on time towards the end of September 2017 and has been generally well-received. With the help of the Editorial Board, and especially that of my Deputy Editor, Dr Colin Day, and our excellent printers, Corporate Press Ltd., we managed yet again to come in under budget, the Journal now having managed that feat since volume 53.

We are now in full flood with volume 58, all articles having been peer reviewed and returned by their authors with just a final look through needed before they go for copy editing. In the meantime the titles, abstracts and keywords will go to our swift and efficient translator, Ms Irene Chow. The final files will go to the printer in August and we expect to have the volume in members’ hands as usual by late September or early October.

This year, thanks to some hard work by Colin Day and May Holdsworth, we have for the first time a fully polished style sheet and set of mark-up procedures for working with the Journal’s printer. The hope is that this will solve a number of time-consuming glitches that seem inevitable as copy is moved from the MSWord format used by authors and the editorial team into the InDesign software used by most printers. In the most recent volumes these glitches have resulted in anything up to seven rounds of proof reading. With luck Colin and May’s hard work will mean a far smoother and easier ride for volume 58 and all subsequent volumes.

The contents of this year’s volume are again typical of the eclecticism of the *JRASHKB*, offering, we hope, something of interest to all readers, as well as continuing to make the Journal the excellent repository of source material on Hong Kong and its region that it has established itself as being.

On that thought, a new focus that has emerged over the last year for the Editorial Board has been the upcoming Diamond Jubilee year of the Society and, accordingly, the Diamond Jubilee number of the *JRASHKB*. Looking back over the years of annual reports by the Society’s Presidents, Colin Day has noted how very frequently the Journal is singled out. Typical comments have been:

“our major permanent contribution to knowledge of the Hong Kong Region and further afield”

“a very important part, if not the most important part, of our activities”

“One of the strong points of our Society has always been the Journal…”

“the premier academic periodical for Hong Kong studies”

Exactly how celebrating the Journal’s Diamond Jubilee will work will be established in discussion with your Council, but in the interim we have identified two key themes that the Jubilee volume will address and have managed to persuade Dr Robert Bickers to be the Guest Editor. We hope to have more detail to share with members at our next AGM.

I am indebted as ever to the support and help of my Editorial Board colleagues, Cecilia Chu, Colin Day, Kwong Chi Man, Eric Mok, Christopher Munn, Robert Peckham and our Hon. President, Michael Broom, who attends the Committee *ex officio*. It is with pleasure that in this year’s report I can for the first time also thank for their support our International Editorial Advisory Committee, Hugh Baker, Robert Bickers, Paul A. Cohen, Patrick Conner, Poshek Fu, Iona Man-Cheong, Elizabeth Y.Y. Sinn, Paul A. Van Dyke, James L. Watson, and Winnie Wong.

Stephen Davies,

Hon. Editor.