

Honorary Editor's Report for 2020-2021

As this is my first annual report as Honorary Editor, and as I took that role only after volume 60 was published, I can take no credit for its very high standards. All credit for that goes to my predecessor, Stephen Davies, with Colin Day, the authors and Editorial Committee, and of course Corporate Press.

Volume 60, our Diamond Jubilee issue, came in at a fraction under 300 pages, and was produced ahead of schedule and within budget (even with the additional costs of several colour illustrations). It consisted of three special articles dedicated to sixty years of the *JRASHK*, five standard articles, a biographical note, and two standard notes.

The former group consisted of articles by Elizabeth Sinn, Hugh Baker, and Stephen Davies, looking at past authors of the *Journal* and its standing in history. The standard articles, as always, ranged widely: from wartime Macao to an ex-Hong Kong and Shanghai consul's wife in Thailand in the mid-19th century. Then there were the usual book reviews, obituaries, and reports. In all, the Diamond Jubilee issue is a very representative example of what has made the *JRASHK* a respected vehicle for our understanding of our home city for over two generations.

Thanks to everyone involved, the *Journal* now has an unbroken stretch of six successive years of being published on time (in the early autumn, midway between Annual General Meetings). It has also been produced under budget for seven successive volumes.

All focus is now on Volume 61. The aim for this volume is eight articles and three notes, and in fact the majority of these have already passed through the copy-editing phase. The subjects, as I believe should always be the case, continue to be very diverse. They range from wildlife management in Hong Kong to the history of The Female Diocesan School, from sub-soil land-holding rights on Tung Lung, to the response of Hong Kong's Macanese community to the challenges of the Japanese occupation.

Hopefully this volume too will reach members' hands on time and under budget.

Clearly in recent years the *Journal* has benefitted from solid management. The production timetable has been rigorously adhered to, the editing and proof-reading has reached high professional standards, Chinese translations (of titles, abstracts and keywords) have been swift and accurate, and the printing quality of the end product has been maintained or improved.

For all this I have my predecessors to thank, and of course our Editorial Board colleagues: Cecilia Chu, Colin Day, Kwong Chi Man, Eric Mok, Christopher Munn, Robert Peckham, Davina Kwok-yu Lee, and Carol C.L. Tsang. I should also recognise the contribution of 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. Last but not least we have Ms Irene Chow, our translator, and Corporate Press.

My focus for the current year is simply to ensure that all the good work that has gone before is carried forward. After the production of volume 61 this autumn, I shall be starting to consider new ideas and new directions (always bearing in mind the history and focus of *JRASHK*) and hopefully learning a great deal on that enjoyable journey.

Tony Banham,
Honorary Editor,
April 2021