

## Honorary Editor's Report for 2021-2022

Volume 61, the first for which I held the role of Honorary Editor, was printed in September of last year at 295 pages (just two fewer than our Diamond Jubilee Volume 60), ahead of schedule and almost within budget. It consisted of eight articles, three notes, ten book reviews, and three obituaries.

The subjects covered by the articles and notes continued to be very diverse. They ranged 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.

Thanks to everyone involved – and especially my predecessor Stephen Davies, and Colin Day, both of whom guided me along the way - the *Journal* now has an unbroken stretch of seven successive years of being published on time (in the early autumn, midway between Annual General Meetings). And while for the first time in eight successive volumes we went slightly over budget, I was cheered to discover that *Journal* article royalties via JSTOR (for which I can claim no credit) had in fact not only reversed that, but helped the Society end the year in the black.

It is clear from this experience that I inherited a well-oiled machine when I took this role. The *Journal's* production timetable has been rigorously adhered to, the editing and proof-reading has reached high professional standards, Chinese translations (of titles, abstracts and keywords) by Ms Irene Chow have been swift and accurate, and the printing quality of the end product has been maintained or improved.

My focus is now on Volume 62. At the moment I am predicting that this volume will have ten articles and two notes, and in fact a slight majority of these are already going through the copy-editing phase. The subjects will be as diverse as ever: the story of the silver mine at Silvermine Bay, Chai Tong, the Hong Kong Singers, and so forth, and we are considering a slight evolution of the publication's look and feel. Hopefully this volume too will reach members' hands on time and under budget again.

I confess that, although admittedly I had both the pandemic and a broken leg as an excuse, I did not call a meeting of the Editorial Board (Cecilia Chu, Colin Day, Kwong Chi Man, Eric Mok, Christopher Munn, Robert Peckham, Davina Kwok-yu Lee, and Carol C.L. Tsang) this year. I will remedy that before Volume 62 is finalised, and will also schedule at least a call with 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).

After the production of volume 62 this autumn, I shall be starting to consider and discuss some new ideas and new directions (always bearing in mind the history and focus of *JRASHK*), while hopefully finding more time to properly index, analyse, and document our earlier volumes. I also hope to look into further ways of promoting the *Journal's* content, hoping that we can repeat those royalty payments from JSTOR!

Finally in this annual summary I should note that Peter Chang of Corporate Press, who has printed the *Journal* for us since 2015, is retiring this year. We have greatly appreciated his help and look forward to working with his successor.

Tony Banham,  
Honorary Editor,  
April 2022