

Honorary Editor's Report for 2023-2024

Volume 63, the third for which I have held the role of Honorary Editor, was printed in September of last year at 367 pages (versus 291 for Volume 62), just about on schedule and almost within budget. It consisted of seven articles, five notes, thirteen book reviews, three obituaries, and all the usual reports.

The subjects covered by the articles and notes continued to be very diverse. They ranged from the development of Castle Peak Hospital to village scholars in the traditional New Territories, from the story of Vincent Jarrett to a case study of Happy Valley's Hindu Cemetery.

Thanks to everyone involved – and especially my predecessor Stephen Davies, and Colin Day, both of whom have again guided me along the way - the *Journal* now has an unbroken stretch of nine successive years of being published at a regular time (in the early autumn, midway between our Annual General Meetings).

The *Journal* has continued to demonstrate high professional standards for editing and proof-reading, and the Chinese translations (of titles, abstracts and keywords) by Ms Irene Chow have again been swift and accurate. The printing quality of the end product has been maintained or improved. For Volume 63 and onwards we have tightened the schedule a little, in that deadlines for content have been slightly brought forward so that the copy editing and proofing process at the end can be handled more comfortably. So far so good!

My focus is now on Volume 64. Currently I am predicting that this volume will have nine articles and five notes, and in fact nine of these are already in the copy-editing phase. The subjects will be as diverse as ever: Hotels on the Peak, Canadians in Stanley Internment Camp, Yung Tak-kam, French Guangzhouwan, and a variety of other topics. Hopefully this volume too will reach members' hands on time and on(ish) budget.

The other major event since the last AGM has been the creation and availability of our first complete soft copy single index for Volumes 1-63, all hyperlinked to the content on JSTOR. As we now have a template and a process for indexing each new volume and adding these to the master, there will be an annual update. Soon the index will be available on the RASHK website, and we are looking for other ideas on how to capitalise on it. One of those, I believe, should be to distribute copies to the Editorial Board and our International Editorial Advisory Committee.

Now that we have this index, I hope we will be able to implement some new ideas and new directions (always bearing in mind the history and focus of *JRASHK*), while better cataloguing, promoting, and even profiting from, our back issues.

Tony Banham,
Honorary Editor,
April 2024