

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG

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NEWSLETTER

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March 2018



Year of the Dog 2018

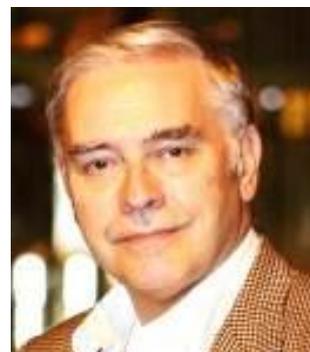
靈狗戲春

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President's Message

May I start this message by wishing all members of the Society a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year of the Dog! I hope all of you have had an enjoyable and relaxing Spring Festival. This year I was fortunate to be in London for the festivities, which included a Chinese style luncheon hosted by the 'Friends of the RASHK' in Soho's Chinatown. The event, which was held on the second day of the Lunar New Year, was attended by some thirty-one members and guests, including some from Hong Kong and Shanghai. It was a fine day in London and although the temperature was very cold spirits were high as many old friends got together for this annual event. I would like to thank the 'Friends', particularly their chairman, Paul Bolding for their hospitality and warm welcome. If you are visiting London or relocating in the U.K. their events are open to members from Hong Kong and you will be welcome to attend. An added incentive is that meetings organized by the 'Friends' usually take place in the headquarters of the Royal Asiatic Society in Euston, London.



The New Year has started with another varied and interesting programme, thanks to the efforts of Dr Helen Tinsley and her Activities Committee. A particularly interesting presentation, which was given during this period, was an oral history based on the life of Michael Wright, a former Director of Public Works, who is credited with being the 'father of Hong Kong's public housing'. The presentation was based on interviews conducted by Dr Chloe Lai and given by Wright at the age of 103 years! Sadly, Michael Wright passed away in London in late January at the age of 105 years. Dr Lai has been invited to give another talk to the Society which will be held at the Hong Kong Club. Although the Society has used the Club on previous occasions for AGMs and dinners I think this event will be the first time we have collaborated with them in presenting a talk. I am sure this will be an interesting evening and perhaps pave the way for similar events in the future. Details are also given in this edition of the next overseas trip which will be a five day visit to Shaoguan in Northern Guangdong Province. One of the primary reasons for selecting this destination was that it is an area of spectacular natural beauty, including Danxia Mountain and the Guangdong Canyon. I am sure that this visit will be one which members will find fascinating not only from the geographical perspective but also for the heritage of the area. The visit has been organized by RASHK members Rocky Dang and Peter Stuckey. I certainly look forward to this trip and I am sure that with Rocky and Peter organizing the itinerary we will have a very interesting and rewarding experience.

On a final note please mark your diaries with the date of the Annual General Meeting which will be held at the Hong Kong Club at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 25 April 2018. Details will be circulated concerning this event.

KUNG HEI FAT CHOY!

Michael Broom
President



Front cover: Chinatown, Soho, London – February 2018 (Photo courtesy: Michael Broom)

Future Activities

LOCAL VISIT

Visit to the Swire Hong Kong Archive Service



Swire HK Archive Service

Swire HK Archive Service works together with Swire's operating companies in Hong Kong and Asia to preserve and manage their historical archives.

The archive collections of Swire reflect its rich heritage in shipping, industry, aviation, beverages, trade and property and are comprised of a wide range of media, dating from the nineteenth century to the present day. Swire's principal operating companies are represented in the archives, including Swire Pacific, Swire Properties, Cathay Pacific Airways, and HAECO, as well as Swire's head office in Hong Kong, John Swire & Sons (H. K.).

The Host

Matthew Edmondson, a professional archivist, has been with Swire since 2013. He has previously worked with HSBC Archives, and Unilever Archives. He has been the President of the Hong Kong Archives Society since 2015.

The Supporting Host

Bonnie Sze, the head of Swire HK Archive Service, has been with Swire for over 24 years. Coming from Swire's Group Public Affairs, Bonnie established the Archive and now runs an operation with a team of five members.

Programme

Hosts:	Matthew Edmondson, Bonnie Sze
Date:	Sat, 3 Mar 2018
Assembly Time:	10:15 a.m.
Tour Starts:	10:30 a.m.
Assembly Point:	HK Archive Service, John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Limited, 9B Cheung Wah Industrial Building, 10-12 Shipyard Lane, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong
Admission:	Free-of-charge for members

Future Activities

Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place

N.B.: 25 pax.
Pre-registration required with names sent to Swire in advance

LECTURE

Everyday is International Women's Day in Mosuoland



To celebrate International Women's Day on the 8th March, we are delighted to have this lecture arranged for you.

The last matriarchal ethnic group remaining in China celebrates Women's Day everyday in their lives by Lugu Lake, where the Mosuo people continue their unique woman-centric way of life. All decisions and rights related to money, property, land and the children born to them rest with the Mosuo women, who live independently of husbands and fathers, with the grandmother as the head of each family. A unique practice is also enshrined in the Mosuo tradition – that of 'walking marriage', where women choose their own lovers from men within the tribe but are beholden to none. This book has recently won the Book of the Year of the Rooster awarded by asianbooksblog! Link to the book prize as follows: <http://www.asianbooksblog.com/2018/02/and-winner-is.html>

The Speaker

Choo Waihong is the author of the book, 'The Kingdom of Women: Life, Love and Death in China's Hidden Mountains', which recounts the incredible stories she gathered from her Mosuo friends whom she befriended through her living among their community over the last decade. She was a corporate lawyer before she took early retirement to travel and write.



Future Activities

Programme

- Speaker:** Choo Waihong
Date: Thu, 8 Mar 2018
Time: Reception opens 6:30 pm, talk starts 7:00 pm
Venue: Café 8, Roof Level, Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central Ferry Pier No. 8, Central
Admission: RAS Members \$150; Non-Members / Guests \$200
Welcome drinks/ light meal/ snacks at Café 8 are included
(please let us know on booking of any special diet needs)
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door

LOCAL VISIT

Guns, Graves & Geckos – Mount Davis Walk



David Bellis will take us on a walk around Mount Davis. We'll walk out from the city and enjoy the greenery and views out over the South China Sea. This is a variation on a much-appreciated walk we did back in February 2017, with the write-up on Page 22-23 of our March 2017 Newsletter.

Link to the article as follows:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55c6cfc1e4b0ac80892866af/t/58c00b576a4963f3a0a3a89c/1488980847440/Mar_Newsletter_2017_final_01.pdf

Future Activities

Route

Up through a little-known part of Kennedy Town to Pok Fu Lam Road, around Mount Davis Road, up to Mt. Davis Fresh Water Service Reservoir, then down along Victoria Road. The surface is paved throughout. Finish: We'll end up back at the Kennedy Town MTR Station.

Other Points to Note

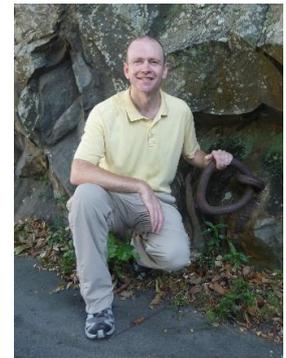
Duration: 5 km / 3 miles, 2.5 - 3 hours. (The walk will be 30-45 minutes longer than last year.) Please note there are several steep flights of stairs at the beginning of the walk, so a reasonable level of fitness is required.

Max. No. of Attendees: 12 pax.

Lunch: This walk will be followed by a self-paying lunch in Kennedy Town (Venue - TBC)

The Guide

The walk is illustrated with historic maps and photographs of the area. David runs the popular local-history website, Gwulo.com. It hosts over 20,000 pages about old Hong Kong, including over 10,000 photos. In 2014 he received the SCMP Spirit of Hong Kong Award for Heritage Preservation. David has lived in and around Kennedy Town for over twenty years and enjoys discovering and sharing its hidden history.



Programme

Guide: David Bellis
Date: Sat, 17 Mar 2017
Assembly Time: 9:15 a.m.
Walk Starts: 9:30 a.m.
Assembly Point: Meet outside Kennedy Town MTR Station, Exit A at street level
Admission: RAS Members \$150; Non-Members / Guests \$200
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay on the spot

FILM SHOW

Rhymes of Shui Hau

The village of Shui Hau is three hundred years old. The village is bounded by the Lantau Peak to the north and the South China Sea to the south. In Chinese, “Shui Hau” means the mouth of a waterway, which explains its geographic location. The village, or the island where it is situated, must be understood with an appreciation of the sea. Lantau Island is part of an archipelago separating the Pearl River and the open seas. The waterway connects Lantau to the Soko Islands, Cheung Chau, Peng Chau, Macau and other cities and

Future Activities

settlements in the Pearl River Delta. Recent human settlements in Lantau can only be understood from the perspective of the sea and its seafarers.

Rhymes of Shui Hau features three elderly ladies from the village. Their stories, and the rhymes they hum in *Wai Tau Waa*, an age-old dialect that many cannot comprehend, offer a glimpse of Hong Kong before its industrialisation and urbanisation. If their rhymes open a window to the city's past, they are also a peephole for our future. If development and urban expansion is given a free reign, we would soon forget the vernacular heritage that we have lost.

The Speaker

A journalist by training, Dr. Chloe Lai has long been covering issues pertaining to urban planning and development in English newspapers in Hong Kong. She currently runs a non-profit online platform called Urban Diary (Website: <https://www.urbandiarist.com/en/>, Facebook: ovalurbandiary) that promotes sustainable living in the city. Urban Diary is a collage of stories which features the actions and crafts of ordinary Hong Kong people that make the city vibrant, diverse and resilient. Dr. Lai uses journalism to narrate stories of everyday life. She firmly believes in discovering different way of living in the ruthlessly development-driven Hong Kong. Dr. Lai's work was turned into the bilingual publication titled *URBAN DIARY: Sustainable Future Hong Kong Tales*, which was named by academic groups such as the Hong Kong Urban Laboratory, and media outlets such as *Stand News*, as one of the top 10 books in Urban Studies for 2015. Dr. Lai obtained her PhD from the Department of Comparative Literature, The University of Hong Kong. Her thesis, *Journalism as part of the neoliberal urban redevelopment regime: the case of Hong Kong*, investigates the role of the press in Hong Kong's urban redevelopment regime, and analyses the impact of neoliberal governmentality on journalism.



Programme

Speaker: Dr Chloe Lai
Date: Wed, 28 Mar 2018
Time: 6:00 pm – Reception & Drinks
6:30 pm – Film show screening 'Rhymes of Shui Hau'
7:30 pm – Q&A with Chloe Lai
Venue: Harcourt Suite, The Hongkong Club, 1 Jackson Road, Central, Hong Kong
Admission: RAS Members, Non-Members & Guests \$150
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the reception desk

Future Activities

CROSS-BOUNDARY TRIP

Trip to Shaoguan

Visit to Northern Guangdong Province

Friday 13th April to Tuesday 17th April 2017.



Our next trip in the cross-boundary series of visits to Guangdong is to the northern regions. Here there is a splendid mix of fine scenery, delightful traditional villages, and significant historical sites. At Mei Guan Pass we can get a fine view into Jiangxi and walk across the boundary into this neighbouring Province. Travellers of old and migrants from central China would see their first glimpse of southern China here and nearby they set up a unique line of ancestral clan halls celebrating their many clans along the Zhuji Alley.

We travel by train to Shaoguan, which was known as Kukong during the second world war when it was the capital of Guangdong Province. Nearby we drive to a Tang dynasty temple, famous in Zen Buddhism, a Ming dynasty pagoda and a fine walled village.

At Dan Xia Mountain the richly red rock which formed in an inland basin, and which has eroded now into an amazing landscape has given its name to a particular kind of geological formation. With easy walking we can see the beautiful countryside in this UNESCO recognized geopark.

We return to Hong Kong using a High Speed train from Shaoguan to Shenzhen.

If you wish to join this tour please fill in the Booking Form as soon as possible and return it to the address shown on the Form, or if you have queries please contact rockydang@yahoo.com or peterstuckey@yahoo.com.hk

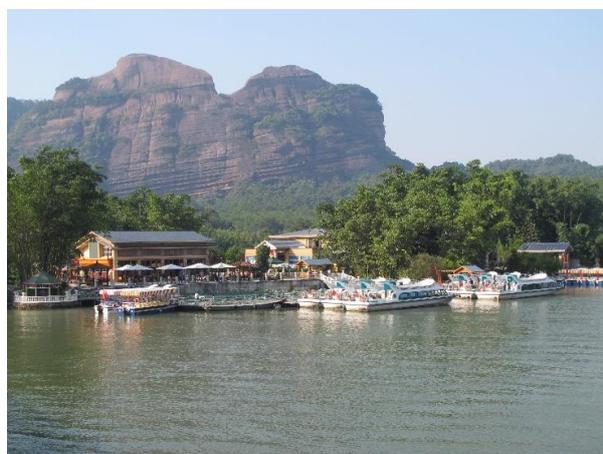
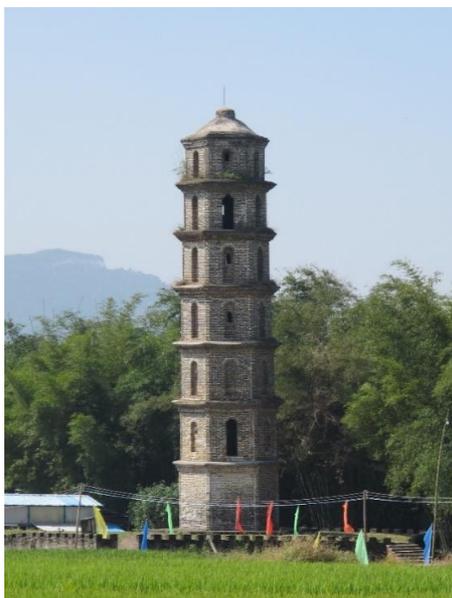
Future Activities

DRAFT ITINERARY

(subject to refinement)

Visit to Northern Guangdong, 5 days/4nights, 13th to 17th April 2018

Shaoguan, Nanhua Temple, Danxia Mountain, Nanxiong, Zhuji Lane, Meiguan Ancient Pass



Day 01 Friday 13 April: Hong Kong – Shaoguan

Participants make their own way to Lo Wu. The group assembles at Lowu on the Mainland side at 10:30 am. From Lo Wu we take the 11:00 am train (normal train) to Shaoguan (about 5 hours). Self-arranged lunch. Upon arrival at Shaoguan we are met and taken to dinner in Shaoguan city, and after taking in a night view of Shaoguan, transfer to our nearby resort hotel where we shall stay two nights.

Day 02 Saturday 14 April: Nan hua Temple, Shitang Hakka Village, Shuang Feng Fortress and Shek Hau pagoda.

After breakfast at the resort we drive to the Tang dynasty Nan Hua Temple (about 1 hour) a famous home of Zen Buddhism to see the temple, its many National treasures, historical relics and ancient trees. After lunch we drive (about 1 hour) to visit the ancient Shitang walled Hakka village, the Shuang Feng Fortress and the Ming dynasty Shek Hau pagoda. Dinner. We return to same hotel.

Future Activities

Day 03 Sunday 15 April: Nanxiong, Mei Guan Ancient Post Road and Zhu Ji Alley.

After breakfast we check out of the hotel and drive to Nanxiong (about 1 ½ hours) and then to the Mei Guan Ancient Post Road. The path takes us up to the border between Guangdong and Jiangxi with a good view into the neighbouring province. Lunch. Nearby is the famed Zhu Ji Alley, an historically significant street over a kilometre long lined with clan ancestral halls. These halls were built over time by those leaving central China and reaching the relative safety of southern China. Dinner. Overnight at a resort hotel.

Day 04 Monday 16 April: Dan Xia Mountain

After breakfast we drive about an hour to the Dan Xia Mountain.

This is a UNESCO World Heritage site with a geological landform that is recognized as the archetypal form of its kind. The conglomerate rock has eroded into amazing shapes and we shall take an optional walk along a well-formed track among these. We shall also take a boat trip along the river here. Lunch and Dinner. Hot spring bath. Overnight at same resort hotel.

Day 05 Tuesday 17 April: Shao Guan and return to Hong Kong.

After breakfast we check out of the hotel. We drive to Shaoguan and visit the museum. After lunch we take the 2:30 pm High Speed train to Shenzhen North (about 1 1/2 hours). Private car transfer to HK Island (dinner not included). Return to Hong Kong is estimated to be about 7 pm.

Estimated cost: HK\$ 4,800 per pax on a twin share basis.

Single supplement: HK\$ 1500.

This trip is open to Members of the Royal Asiatic Society of HK.

Non-Members surcharge of HK\$750 applies.

Numbers are limited. First come, first served.

Tour price includes transport, accommodation, all meals, entrance fees and tips.

Tour price does not include for visa, travel insurance or beverages.

For bookings and enquiries please contact

Rocky Dang at rockydang@yahoo.com or tel. 9182 3483

or Peter Stuckey at peterstuckey@yahoo.com.hk or tel. 9232 4284.

Future Activities

LECTURE

Taikoo Sugar Refinery and Company Town: Progressive Design by a Pioneering Commercial Enterprise



View of the Taikoo Sugar Refinery and company town circa 1903.

(Source: Swire Collection, Hong Kong History Museum)

Opening in 1884, Butterfield & Swire's Taikoo Sugar Refinery featured a modern and technologically advanced industrial plant with machinery and buildings including deep water docks and piers for ships, cranes, warehouses, manufacturing and processing buildings, store buildings, coal bins, a rail system and reservoir and water channel systems to collect and transport water from the mountains to the refinery enabling the production of a wide range and high volume of sugar products. Additionally, there was an accompanying company town with housing for local workers and European managers and their families that included social community facilities, schools, recreation facilities and fields and a sanatorium located on the mountains behind the refinery that was accessible by way of an aerial ropeway. Focusing on the design of the Taikoo Sugar Refinery company town housing and its specific geographical setting, this talk will demonstrate how between 1884 and the 1930s Butterfield & Swire proactively prepared for and responded to issues relating to disease, sanitation and building form for workers' housing in Quarry Bay. This company town was a hybrid form with company town and hill station components. The Taikoo Sugar Refinery and

Future Activities

company town was an early (and perhaps the first) example of a company town in Asia with advanced worker housing as well as an example of a Hong Kong company offering worker housing. This talk will discuss the important role of Taikoo in the diffusion and exchange of knowledge of advanced and modern building technology ahead of government building regulation in Hong Kong.

The Speaker

Jennifer Lang is an architectural historian and conservationist who has worked in the conservation field for 30 years. Currently, she is a Lecturer and the Director of MSc (Conservation) at the Architectural Conservation Programmes (ACP), The University of Hong Kong and President of HKICON (Hong Kong Institute of Architectural Conservationists). She has a PhD in Architecture from The University of Hong Kong, a MS in Conservation from The University of Hong Kong, a MS in Historic Preservation from Columbia University, and a BA in Art History from New York University. Her research interests include industrial architecture, hill stations, company towns, and cultural landscapes.



Programme

Speaker: Dr Jennifer Lang
Date: Wed, 18 Apr 2018
Time: Reception opens 6:30 pm, talk starts 7:00 pm
Venue: Centre for Visual Arts (CVA), 7A, Kennedy Road, Mid-Levels
Admission: RAS Members \$100; Non-Members / Guests \$150
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door

Future Activities

RASHK 58th Annual General Meeting & Cocktail Party

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Hong Kong Club on Wednesday, 25th April 2018. Similar to last year, the AGM will be followed by a cocktail party. In accordance with the Club's regulations, the event must be hosted by a member. The event is being hosted by RASHK member, Mr. Robert Nield, Past President. Notice at the venue will be in the name of "Mr Robert Nield", not the Society.

The General Meeting will begin at 6.30 pm, with cocktails and canapés to follow at 7.30 pm. Drinks may be purchased prior to the cocktail party at members' own expenses.

A booking form is provided at the end of this newsletter and should be mailed to the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong, GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong together with your cheque made payable to 'Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch'. If you only wish to attend the AGM, please inform the Administrator, Ms. Ivy Ho, so that seating can be arranged: <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk>.

Although the Club's regulations prohibit the sale of books, the Society is very keen to showcase any books that have been written or edited by members in the last twelve months or so. Note that this does not include books that have been published by members on a commercial basis. If you would like to promote a book that you have written or edited recently, please notify the Administrator and bring a copy to the AGM, together with order forms to allow members to purchase a copy if they wish.

If members wish to submit nominations for the Society's Council, they are asked to complete the nomination form at the end of this Newsletter and return it to the Hon. Secretary, Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch, GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong **not later than Wednesday, 18th April 2018**. Nominees, as well as their Proposer and Seconder, must be members of good standing. Election will be by a majority of members present as required by the Constitution of the Society. Members are reminded that the Council is a functional one. The standard of the Society's activities depends on having officers and members of the Council who are willing to take their part in the efficient management and control of the Society's affairs. Please note that a quorum of 20 members is required for any General Meeting.

Kindly note that the dress code for the event is Smart Casual. Smart Casual includes slacks and an open-necked shirt with collar. Shirts must be tucked in. Denim jeans, T-shirts, tracksuits, shorts, shoes for sports activities and flip flops are not acceptable.

Recent Activities

Visit to the Jao Tsung-I Academy

Written by Jennifer Eagleton



The Jao Tsung-I Academy, a complex of several buildings perched on a lush green hillside of Castle Peak Road, is named after the late renowned scholar and sinologist who was the first chair professor of Chinese at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Despite being opposite the tall towers of Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Hong Kong's first private housing estate, the grounds have a restful feel. The Academy's location suggests an intriguing history that tells of a changing Hong Kong.

Once a waterfront customs station, land reclamation swallowed it up in the 1960s to create Mei Foo, the buildings of the Academy have also hosted mainland labourers bound for mines in South Africa, and Victoria Prison inmates, when the jail became overcrowded in the 1920s. In the 1930s, it was a hospital for lepers and those with infectious diseases. With the epidemics of the 50s and 60s, patients from all over Kowloon and the New Territories were isolated here. It was also a psychiatric rehabilitation centre until 2000. In the Heritage Hall, there is an interesting display of the complex's life as a hospital with information boards, photographs, and oral histories of workers and patients who experienced it.

At the entrance of the Academy is a gallery devoted to the story and work of Jao Tsung-i. A painter and seal-carver as well as a sinologist, we were shown a display of his paintings and seals. As a devout Buddhist, Prof. Jao often painted lotuses and Ms Ho, our docent patiently explained the meaning behind one large work detailing eight lotuses, indicating the various stages of life and the interacting of East and West.

The Jao Tsung-I Academy was one of the first projects under the Hong Kong Government's Revitalizing Historic Buildings through Partnership Scheme of the Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government. The Hong Kong Institute for the Promotion of Chinese Culture, a non-governmental organization, is directly responsible for the restoration, revitalisation, and daily operation of the Academy. We were shown and given a rundown on some of the features of the buildings and how the restoration of facilities was carried out in order to give new life to it.



To fully appreciate the Academy, one would need to spend more time wandering around its three levels. After our one-hour tour, we had lunch in the restaurant in the middle zone of the complex. Some of us expressed surprise at finding this almost-hidden gem.

Recent Activities

Strong to Save

Written by Helen Tinsley

The Mariners' Club, situated in a building just behind the Sheraton Hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui, has closed for redevelopment. This building and its antecedents in various formats have provided a place of support and succour for generations of seamen from all over the world who find themselves in Hong Kong. It therefore was a fitting setting for members of the RAS HK and their guests to listen to Dr Stephen Davies recount the history of maritime missions in Hong Kong, with illustrated highlights drawn from his recently published book 'Strong to Save'. This book forms part of the RAS Hong Kong Studies Series.



In fact, from as long ago as 1822, many missionary organisations and various premises have been involved in providing seafarers with welfare and an opportunity to be saved from the various perils of waterfront life: loose women, loose money, various diseases and a lot of alcohol. This was in response to a growing nineteenth century missionary spirit in Britain and America. Despite the importance of maritime trade to Hong Kong's development, the various colonial governments of the day, and later, have relied on religious, charitable institutions and NGOs for the welfare of seamen. From the pictures shown, many of the buildings used in Sai Ying Pun, Central, Wanchai, Tsim Sha Tsui were of heritage quality but have not been saved. The focus also was very clearly on saving mariners of

Western origin and it was not until the 1970s that Asian and Chinese seaman were welcomed as well. Today's mission is ecumenical and will continue to provide support to seamen even while its new premises are redeveloped.

The talk was well attended with a chance to enjoy food and drinks in the nautically themed bar both before and after our lecture. The audience was also graced by the presence of the Mission's Senior Chaplain, the Rev. Canon Stephen Miller, who was able to answer many of the queries about the Mission's history in Hong Kong raised at the end of the talk – along with an opportunity to purchase a copy of the recently published book.

Recent Activities

The Wright Chronicle

Written by Dr. Helen Tonsley

A journalist by training, Dr Chloe Lai introduced the background and work of 'Urban Diary' – a not for profit bilingual NGO. Through storytelling and tales of everyday life both she and her contributors help us to understand and improve on contemporary living, as well as the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of Hong Kong's rich history.

This film show was a well-attended event for RAS members and their guests, as word had spread about this carefully crafted documentary, divided into 5 chapters, of the life and work of Michael Wright who was Hong Kong Government Director of Public Works from 1963-1969. In these interviews he talks freely and succinctly about good and bad times in Hong Kong and his own role in its extraordinary development, the people who had influenced him locally and whom he'd admired at the time. His story telling, carefully preserved photo albums, his own drawings of life in local prisoner of war camps brought his narrative vividly to life.



He was born in Hong Kong in 1912, attended primary school here, served in the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps. and fought in the battle of Hong Kong, seeing out the war in prisoner of war camps in Kowloon. Choosing to stay in Hong Kong and as a senior government architect, he was instrumental in developing the post war public architecture which has shaped Hong Kong's unique cityscapes and spatial experience. His public housing work for the Housing Society was guided by some humane basic principles regarding necessary facilities and living space in Hong Kong. At the end of the documentary the list of local projects which he initiated and oversaw was deeply impressive. He chose to retire from Hong Kong to UK where he continued to liaise on behalf of the Hong Kong Government as well as some London architectural projects. His married daughter continues to live in Hong Kong.

Dr Lai visited him in his London home and following extensive interviews, crafted this documentary which debuted in Sept 2016 on the eve of Wright's 104th birthday. Many of the RAS audience shared memories of him and his family as well as the importance of his contribution to Hong Kong's wellbeing and prosperity.

We were sad to hear of his passing, aged 105, a couple of days after this film showing and have passed on our sincere condolences to his family. For those who did not have the chance to attend this film show at the time in January 2018, a copy of 'the Wright Chronicle' DVD has been donated to our RAS librarian for archiving and loan.

Recent Activities

Visit to the Wan Jing Jai Temple (蘊貞齋) & Garden of Veronica Clibborn-Dyer

Written by Helen Tinsley

On this cool and cloudy Saturday, Hong Kong's urban areas, including nearby Fanling MTR station, were full of hustle and bustle in preparation for the coming New Year Festival holiday period leading up to the Chinese New Year of the Dog. However, about 30 RAS members and guests chose to take this special chance to accept Veronica Clibborn-Dyer's generous invitation and visit her beautiful temple based home and extensive gardens. These are situated in a quiet and peaceful New Territories setting, overlooking Starling Inlet (沙頭角海) and the start of the Wilson Trail, in the north east corner of Hong Kong not far from the border with mainland PRC. For most of us this was a first visit.



After some interesting car and taxi rides followed by a short walk along a path to reach our secluded destination, Veronica welcomed us warmly, with steaming mulled wine and open wood fire braziers in the courtyard. She then introduced us to the temple buildings (Kwun Yam (觀音) and Shing Wong (城隍) their gods and altars, and surrounding terraced gardens --with their history, along with the fascinating story of how she and husband, former policeman Ron, came to live there after 1996, initially with a menagerie of animals and birds. For years in the past the place had been used as a refuge- with very basic facilities- for retired amahs, once their working lives were over. Some of the Chinese character signage reflects this role. Wan Jing Jai (蘊貞齋) here 'Wan' means to gather/store/collect/accumulate/save/amass, 'Jing' means chastity, and 'Jai' means temple/ hall/ vegetariansim/ Buddhism. So putting them together, it literally means Gathered Chastity Temple.

After Ron passed away a few years ago, Veronica chose to stay on as custodian and continues to enhance this beautiful setting with help from her local gardener—truly a place of wonderful peace and tranquility. With some vivid story-telling and videos Veronica guided us around the buildings, before we enjoyed an informal but magnificent and delicious buffet curry lunch, catered by Shaffi's of Yuen Long.

Invigorated, a few of us took the chance to explore the local hillside further with a short car ride and then a brief hike over a stream and up a stone paved trail to a pavilion built in memory of Sir Edward Youde, one of Hong Kong's last governors, who died in office in 1986. This pavilion provides both shelter from sun/rain and magnificent views over Starling Inlet to Shau Tau Kok (沙頭角), the protected green border area, and the



Of General Interest

impressive and recent urban development just over the border in Mainland PRC. We lingered there for a while reflecting on a generation of change, before heading down the hill in time to thank Veronica sincerely for sharing her special place with us and her wonderfully generous hospitality.

Then it was time for various transport arrangements back to the busy urban part of our city of contrasts -- with its crowds in holiday mood, vibrant New Year lightshows, and noisy festive street life.

Obituaries

The President and Council record with profound regret the passing of the following member of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong.

In Memoriam

Mr. Chan Sui Jun
who passed away in Hong Kong following
a serious accident

27 Jan 2018

R.I.P.

Of General Interest

Friends of the RASHK – Chinese New Year Lunch

Members of the Friends of the RASHK Branch and their guests met on Saturday, 17th February, 2018 for a traditional Spring Festival gathering to celebrate the Chinese New Year of the Dog. The lunch was held in London's Soho District, at the Joy King Lau Restaurant.



St John's Cathedral Shop

Arrangements have been made with St John's Cathedral Bookshop for copies of RASHK journals Vols. 55 - 57 and the book 'Hong Kong Going, Gone' to be sold through the shop. It is hoped that Members will actively support this facility, and encourage others to purchase Society publications from the Bookshop. Their email address is: <bookstor@stjohnscathedral.org.hk>



2018 Membership Renewal

Members are reminded that renewals are due on 1st January 2018. If you currently pay by cheque and would prefer the convenience of paying by Direct Debit, please contact the Administrator for a Direct Debit Authorisation form on <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk>. Those of you who pay by Standing Order are requested to please ensure that the Order is for the appropriate amount.

Annual

Hong Kong Resident - Individual / Institutional	HK\$750
Hong Kong Resident - Joint / Family	HK\$1,100
Hong Kong Resident – Student*	HK\$50

* in full time education – please enclose a photocopy of your student ID.

Life

Life – Single	HK\$10,500
Life – Joint	HK\$15,400

Overseas

Overseas - Annual	HK\$450
Overseas - Life	HK\$6,300

Publications

PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

<u>Journals</u>	<u>Price HK\$</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Order</u>
Vols. 1 – 52	\$50.00 each	_____	_____
Vols. 53 – 57	\$200.00 each	_____	_____
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Hong Kong Going and Gone	\$120.00	_____	_____
A Sense of Place: Hong Kong West of Pottinger Street	\$300.00	_____	_____
<u>P&P</u>	<u>within HK</u>	<u>Overseas (surface/registered)</u>	
A Sense of Place: Hong Kong West of Pottinger Street	\$55.00	\$130.00	_____
Full set of Journals	\$260.00	price on request	_____
All other volumes (per volume)	\$25.00	\$65.00	_____
 TOTAL		HK\$ _____	

Please send the order & cheque, payable to Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, to RASHKB, GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong. **We accept US\$ or GBP cheques at exchange rates of US\$1=HK\$8 / GBP1=HK\$11, but please also add US\$15/ GBO10.50 per cheque to cover bank charges incurred in clearing your cheque.**

Publications

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Title	HK\$
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A Faithful Record of the Lisbon Maru Incident	
Full details of every title in the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Study Series are available on the RASHK website (see publications).	

Booking Form

AGM

RAS 58th Annual General Meeting & Cocktail Party

Hong Kong Club • Wednesday, 25th April 2018

Please reserve _____ places for members at \$395 each and _____ places for guests at \$395 each.

I enclose my cheque for \$ _____ payable to ‘**Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch**’.

Name(s) of Member(s): *(please print)*.....

Membership No.:

Name(s) of Guest(s):

Telephone: *(daytime)*..... *(evening)*

Mobile: Email: *(please print clearly)*.....

Please send cheque payable to ‘**Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch**’ with this form to:

Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch, G P O Box 3864, Hong Kong.

NOMINATION FORM

I would like to nominate Dr / Prof / Mr / Mrs / Miss

for election to the Council of The Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch.

I have ascertained that he/she is willing to stand for election.

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

Date:

Please return this form, **no later than Wednesday, 18th April, 2018** to:

The Hon. Secretary, Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch, GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong.

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