

# ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG

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NEWSLETTER



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## November 2018



*Photo by and courtesy of Ivy Ho*

**Mid-Autumn Lantern Exhibitions at Victoria Park**  
維園中秋綵燈展

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# Note from one of your Vice Presidents

## THE VARIED PLEASURES OF LISTENING

Hong Kong offers many opportunities to listen!

In a new departure, on 10 October, members of the Society attended a Royal Commonwealth Society (Hong Kong Branch) (RCSHK) cocktail party and illustrated talk given by two of our RASHK Life-Members, Dr Gillian Bickley and Dr Verner Bickley, MBE. The title of the talk was, “The Secret Diaries of an American in China During the Second Opium War”. In a brief report, the RCSHK website describes the talk as, “a colourful evocation of Hong Kong and China in the 1860s”.

In more modern history, “Opera Hong Kong 15th Anniversary” presented Puccini’s *Turandot* (set in Ancient Beijing) at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre from 10-14 October. The excellent programme notes by Peter Gordon summarise the plot and trace the roots of the story back several centuries, including to Marco Polo; and explain that a good portion of the music is based on Chinese melodies. Gordon attributes this feature to the fact that, “Puccini had been given a music box by a former Italian diplomat to China”, and identifies the song, “Mo Li Nua” (“Jasmine Flower”), sung by the children’s chorus in the first act, as a notable example.

Gordon correctly describes the ending of *Turandot* as ambivalent; in me it evoked indignation that the hero, Prince Calâf, did marry the cruel Princess Turandot, who crowned many past executions and tortures with the torture of the faithful slave-girl, Liù. As unanimously agreed, the best music is given to Liù, whose role is immensely sympathetic. Liù has faithfully cared for King Timur, Calâf’s blind exiled father, attributing her devotion to the fact that Prince Calâf, long ago, once smiled at her in his father’s palace. Calâf should have refused the princess and married the slave-girl! A search of *Wikipedia* revealed that others have taken a somewhat similar view, finding the ending unconvincing. Two critics consider it was an inability to resolve the tension between story and response which contributed to Puccini’s inability to complete the opera. As an interesting bit of more recent history, *Turandot* was performed in China for the first time in 1998, with soldiers from the People’s Liberation Army as extras.

If you sometimes like to listen at home, Annemarie Evans’ Radio Three programme, “Hong Kong Heritage” is well worth taking the time to do so. The website announces that she, “explores Hong Kong and digs up many aspects of our social, cultural, architectural and artists heritage.” Saturdays, 7:30 – 8:00 a.m., repeat, Sundays, 6:15 – 6:45 p.m. Podcast: Weekly update and available after its first broadcast. Members of RASHK are sometimes her guests.

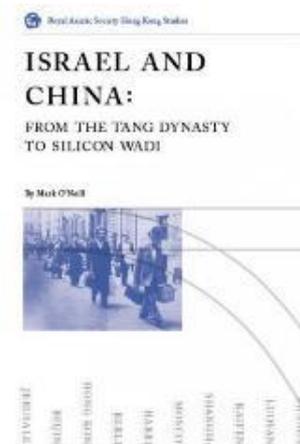
Happy listening -- to talks, operas, broadcasts!

Gillian Bickley  
Vice-President

# Future Activities

## LECTURE

### Israel and China: From the Tang Dynasty to Silicon Wadi



The early existence of Jews of China is one of the most extraordinary and little-known circumstances of China's history. Their story begins in the Tang dynasty in the eighth century when the first Jews from the Middle East followed the overland Silk Road and settled in central China. It runs until today, with a flourishing Jewish life in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou and other major cities. Relations between China and Israel, established in 1992, are flourishing in many sectors, including education, high technology, medicine, agriculture, commerce and the military.

Judaism and China share much in common; importance of family, education and community life, veneration of ancestors and importance of harmony and social order. China is one of the few countries in the world that has never persecuted Jews. This has given it a status and esteem among Jewish people. In December 1918, the Republic of China was one of the first countries to support a Jewish national home in Palestine, just one year after the Balfour Declaration by the British government in favour. That same year, the Japanese government also declared its support for a Jewish national home. Between 1931 and 1945, Japan controlled large areas of China which provided a home to tens of thousands of Jews; it treated them in the same way as it did other foreigners and refused pressure by its Nazi ally to follow its example.

The late S.J. Chan, faithful RASHK member, was an expert on this topic.

RAS has recently organised local Hong Kong visits to the Ohel Leah Synagogue in Robinson Road as well as the Jewish Cemetery in Happy Valley, so this talk will further enhance our understanding of the rich history of Jews in China

# Future Activities

## The Speaker

Mark O'Neill, a British journalist, has worked in Britain, Hong Kong and Taiwan. He joined Reuters, the world's leading news agency, in 1983. During his 13 years with Reuters he spent time in Hong Kong, New Delhi, Beijing, Shanghai and Tokyo. After his time with Reuters, Mr O'Neill joined the *South China Morning Post*, working in Beijing and Shanghai. Since 2007 he has lectured in journalism at Hong Kong Baptist University, The University of Hong Kong and the United International College, Zhuhai. He continues to be a freelance journalist for various publications including the *South China Morning Post*.



His past work includes a biography of his grandfather Rev Frederick O'Neill, an Irish Presbyterian missionary in China, a book about the Chinese Labour Corp in Europe, and the Chinese in Russia during the first World War. He has also written about 12 outstanding people of Xiangshan in the late Qing and early Republican periods.

Mark is a frequent lecturer for the RAS and many members will recall his excellent talks which included a talk on the two Palace Museums in Beijing and Taipei, "The Miraculous History of China's Two Palace Museums" "兩故宮的世紀傳奇".

In this lecture he will be speaking about his latest book "Israel and China: From the Tang Dynasty to Silicon Wadi".

## Programme

- Speaker:** Mark O'Neill  
**Date:** Thu, 1 Nov 2018  
**Time:** Reception opens 6:30 pm, talk starts 7:00 pm  
**Venue:** Café 8, Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central  
**Admission:** RAS Members \$150; Non-Members/ Guests \$200 (incl. snacks & a complimentary drink - please advise us of any special diet needs)  
**Booking:** Please email <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door

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# Future Activities

## LOCAL VISIT

### Refilling the Interregnum: Newly Discovered Imperial Porcelains from Zhengtong, Jingtai and Tianshun Reigns (1436-1464) of the Ming Dynasty

The twenty-eight-year period following the Tumu Crisis, from 1436 to 1464, was among the most politically unstable times of the Ming Dynasty. Scholars have attributed this chaos to the constant change in rule, from the Zhengtong reign to the Jingtai reign to the subsequent Tianshun reign. This political confusion marked almost every aspect of society, including that of imperial porcelain production. During this period, imperial porcelain wares did not bear the formal year mark, as they had during the earlier Xuande period. This lack of detail has created a significant obstacle in dating these objects and therefore in conducting in-depth studies on them. Scholars have reflected this limitation of knowledge by naming this short period “The Interregnum”.



In 2014, the Jingdezhen Ceramics Archaeological Institute discovered an unprecedented number of imperial porcelain objects in the northern foot of Pearl Hill, Jingdezhen, Jiangxi Province, dating from the Zhengtong, Jingtai, and Tianshun reigns. The rich diversity and refined craftsmanship of the discovered pieces have greatly enriched our understanding of the Interregnum.

This exhibition is jointly presented by the Jingdezhen Imperial Ware Museum and the Art Museum, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. As a continuation of the 2012 exhibition, “Filling the Interregnum: Ming Mid-15<sup>th</sup> Century Ceramics from Jingdezhen,” this exhibition features 158 selected items from the collection of the Jingdezhen Imperial Ware Museum, including not only the latest archaeological discoveries but also pieces from the Yongle, Xuande, and Chenghua reigns which serve as primary pieces for comparison. These objects have undergone extensive conservation, and many are exhibited outside China for the first time.

Meticulously carved and beautifully decorated, this group of works represents the finest porcelain the Jingdezhen kilns made during the Zhengtong, Jingtai and Tianshun reigns. It is from this selection of objects that scholars have uncovered the likelihood that artistic innovation and experimentation not only survived but thrived during this period of political instability.

#### Programme

- RAS Coordinator:** Connie Carmichael  
**Docent:** Dr Samantha Wang, Curator  
**Date:** Sat, 3 Nov 2018  
**Venue:** Gallery I, Art Museum, The Chinese University of Hong Kong  
**Time:** 9:45 a.m. - Assemble at Democracy statue, next to CUHK MTR Station.  
 Catch a 10:00 bus to the Art Museum.  
 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. - Tour of exhibition ‘Refilling the Interregnum’  
 11:30 - 12:00 noon - Time to view other exhibits  
 12:30 lunch at Lee Wo Sing College a short walk from the Art Museum -  
 Self-pay lunch on campus
- Admission:** RAS Members & Guests \$100  
**Booking:** Please email <[connie.carmichael@gmail.com](mailto:connie.carmichael@gmail.com)> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door

# Future Activities

## LECTURE

### A Historian Looks at the Rise of China



*As someone who has studied history for much of my life, I have found the past fascinating. But it has always been some grand and even intimidating universe that I wanted to unpick and explain to myself.*

Wang Gungwu is one of Asia's most important public intellectuals. He is best-known for his explorations of Chinese history in the long view, and for his writings on the Chinese diaspora. With *Home is Not Here*, the historian of grand themes turns to a single life history: his own.

In this volume, Wang talks about his multicultural upbringing and life under British rule. He was born in Surabaya, Java, but his parents' orientation was always to China. Wang grew up in the plural, multi-ethnic town of Ipoh, Malaya (now Malaysia). He learned English in colonial schools and was taught the Confucian classics at home. After the end of WWII and Japanese occupation, he left for the National Central University in Nanjing to study alongside some of the finest of his generation of Chinese undergraduates. The victory of Mao Zedong's Communist Party interrupted his education, and he ends this volume with his return to Malaya.

Wise and moving, this is a fascinating reflection on family, identity, and belonging, and on the ability of the individual to find a place amid the historical currents that have shaped Asia and the world.

"A charming intimate modest autobiography of the childhood and schooling of a great historian of China, justly acclaimed in Malaysia, China, England, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore. How a wise Chinese mother and a headmaster in Ipoh, Malaysia taught their only son to love learning in and out of China in transition."

– Ezra Vogel, Harvard University

### The Speaker

Wang Gungwu, formerly vice chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, is emeritus professor at Australian National University and university professor at the National University of Singapore. He was awarded the Fukuoka Asia Culture Prize in 1996. He is the author of some 20 books, including *The Chinese Overseas*, published by Harvard University Press.

### Programme

- Speaker:** Prof. Wang Gungwu  
**Date:** Fri, 9 Nov 2018  
**Time:** Complimentary drinks reception starts 6:30 pm, talk and Q&A session 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, followed by a book signing session from 8:00 p.m.  
**Venue:** 5/F, Wesleyan House, 271 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong (*Wesleyan House is at the corner of Queen's Road East & Kennedy Road. Building entrance is on Queen's Road East*)  
**Admission:** RAS Members & Guests \$130 (incl. a complimentary drink)  
**Booking:** Please email <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door

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# Future Activities

## LOCAL VISIT & LUNCHEON

### Crown Wine Cellars



*“Little Hong Kong” photographed by the Japanese occupying forces in December 1941*

*(Photo courtesy Crown Wine Cellars)*

The Central Ordnance Munitions Depot was built in 1937 by the Royal British Engineers to serve as a secure military facility for ammunition and weapon storage in preparation for World War II.

Originally, it was composed of a small depot headquarters, a sentry box and 12 pairs of underground bunkers located approximately 20 meters below ground with one-meter-thick concrete walls and 12-meter-long entrance passages. After the British military ceased use of the depot in 1977, the site was used as the Police Driver Training Facility and subsequently used by the HK Geotechnical Department for Rock Core Storage. However, it gradually fell into disrepair and some components of it were demolished.

In 2002, Jim Thompson (Chairman, Crown Worldwide Group) and Gregory De 'Eb (A Career Diplomat) proposed to convert the unused but historically significant site into Asia's first professional wine cellar for fine and rare wine collections, as well as a private clubhouse with a newly constructed conservatory. After the preservation, restoration, and adaptive reuse of the Depot with an innovative and creative business model of using the site for a wine cellar, the site reopened in 2004 and continues to successfully function today as Crown Wine Cellars. Crown Wine Cellars received a UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation Award of Merit in 2007 for the innovative adaptive reuse of the site. This site visit will include a talk about the history of the site and “Little Hong Kong”, its use during WWII as well as a behind-the-scene visit to the wine cellars and clubhouse facilities that were adaptively reused from the former munitions storage facility.

# Future Activities

## The Speaker

Gregory served as a career diplomat until 2002 in a variety of locations including Taipei, Beijing and Hong Kong/Macau where he ultimately held the position of Head of Mission. He then left the Foreign Service and located permanently to Hong Kong where he joined the Crown Worldwide Group to start, develop and oversee Crown Wine Cellars Ltd. CWC is located in a UNESCO recognised, former military facility in Shouson Hill.

He is involved in all aspects of the Hong Kong wine industry, as well as architectural heritage preservation, and wide-ranging charity, community and education-related projects. He serves on a number of public and private panels, is a professional member of the Hong Kong Institute of Conservation Architects, a founding member of the HKQAA wine certification board, and a member of the Vision 2047 Think Tank.



## Programme

- Speaker:** Gregory De 'Eb, Principal, Crown Wine Cellars  
**Date:** Sat, 17 Nov 2018  
**Tour Start Time:** 11:00 a.m.  
**Lunch Start Time:** 12:00 noon  
**Venue:** Crown Wine Cellars, 18 Deep Water Bay Drive, Shouson Hill, Hong Kong  
**Admission:** **TBC**  
**Booking:** Please email <[fulttins@netvigator.com](mailto:fulttins@netvigator.com)> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door  
**N.B.:** **This event is capped at 30 pax**  
**Please inform us of any special dietary needs as you make your booking**

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# Future Activities

## LOCAL VISIT

### Guided WW2 Battlefield Walk - Wong Nei Chung Gap



*British Military Pillbox (Photo courtesy Philip Cracknell)*

Our visit begins with an examination of a 3.7-inch howitzer battery on what was Stanley Gap Road, now Tai Tam Reservoir Road. We will also go inside one of the battery buildings. We next visit the Stanley Gap area and see the remains of the mess hut where prisoners captured during the fighting in this area were kept in black-hole conditions. We will view the QMS Stores shelter where surrendered prisoners were beaten and killed. We will examine the remains of the 3.7-inch AA Battery and then proceed to the two pillboxes on the western slopes of Jardine's Lookout (PB 1 and 2).

We will then look at a Japanese defense tunnel before descending the hillside to Sir Cecil's Ride. We will finish at Wong Nei Chung (WNC) Gap where we will see the remains of West Brigade HQ including Brigadier Lawson's bunker. Our final stop is PB 3 at Black's Link, which we can go inside, it is one of the better preserved PBs on the Island, complete with Vickers machine gun mounting and swivels.

We will be exploring the battlefields around Stanley Gap, Jardine's Lookout and Wong Nei Chung (WNC) Gap and the fighting that took place on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 1941, the day after the Japanese landings took place on HK Island. This was the critical battle for Hong Kong.

Your guide will explain what happened at each location, provide context with an overview of the Battle for Hong Kong and will answer any questions about the battle and WW2 in Hong Kong. This visit is very similar to an earlier well-attended visit arranged by RAS last year, but this year may be enhanced by the playing of a bagpipe lament. Numbers will also be more limited.

# Future Activities

## The Speaker

Your guide for the walk is Philip Cracknell, a former banker who first came to Hong Kong in 1985. He retired from banking in 2013 to follow his interest in researching WW2 history in Hong Kong. He is author of the blog <[www.battleforhongkong.blogspot.hk](http://www.battleforhongkong.blogspot.hk)>.

He has conducted guided tours for Hong Kong Club, Aberdeen Marina Club, and for schools, charities and veterans. Some of his research is carried out on the battlefields using a metal detector to better understand where fighting occurred and who was where on the battlefield. He has been active in campaigning to preserve war structures and historic sites in Hong Kong.



## Programme

**Guide:** Philip Cracknell  
**Date:** Saturday, 1 Dec 2018  
**Start Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Start Point:** Barrier to Tai Tam Country Park (near entrance drive to Parkview)  
**End Time:** 12:30 p.m.  
**End Point:** Bottom of Black's Link (with easy access to buses & taxis)  
**Admission:** RAS Members \$100; Non-Members/ Guests \$150  
**Booking:** Please email <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)> in advance to reserve your place and pay on the day. Suitable clothing, footwear and a moderate level of fitness are advised.

**N.B.:** This event is capped at 20 pax.

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# Future Activities

## LECTURE

### The Free French in Hong Kong During WW2: Grandeur & Decadence

The situation of the French nationals in Hong Kong after June 1940 was very peculiar: the whole community was behind De Gaulle, starting with the French consul. However, the Ambassador in Beijing and the Governor General in Hanoi were pro-Vichy.

As the Free French network started to grow in Europe, volunteers from all places in the Far East needed to find a safe place to train before being sent to the Western Front. Hong Kong was an ideal harbour, but the story that followed is epic and disastrous at the same time: infighting and battles of ego undermined all efforts.



In December 1941, when the Japanese attacked, some French took part into the battle of Hong Kong. Their individual stories are edifying, and worth being told, especially for their contemporary consequences!

#### The Speaker

Dr François Drémeaux is a Research Engineer at the University of Le Havre-Normandie (France) and Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Hong Kong. He also teaches at Sciences-Po Paris (Le Havre campus). He studied the evolution of the French community in Hong Kong before extending his work on French nationals abroad outside the imperial process.



#### Programme

**Speaker:** Dr François Drémeaux  
**Date:** Tue, 4 Dec 2018  
**Time:** Reception opens 6:30 pm, talk starts 7:00 pm  
**Venue:** Café 8, Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central  
**Admission:** RAS Members \$150; Non-Members/ Guests \$200 (incl. snacks & a complimentary drink - please advise us of any special diet needs)  
**Booking:** Please email <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door

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# Future Activities

## LECTURE

### The Delano Family in Hong Kong and on the China Coast



*Christening photograph of Frederic Adrian Delano, born at Hong Kong on the 10th September, 1863, taken at Rose Hill, Hong Kong. Standing next to the baby is his mother Catherine Robbins Lyman Delano, grandmother of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The name of the Chinese servant is not known. (Photo courtesy Frederic Grant, Jr.)*

Members of the Delano family of Fairhaven, Massachusetts were active on the China coast from the arrival of Warren Delano II at Canton in 1834 through the death in Beijing of Louise Delano Cheney in 1923. Frederic Delano Grant, Jr., great grandson of the baby seen in the 1863 photograph, will discuss the activities of various family members in Hong Kong and on the China coast and the significance of this history beyond the somewhat understood connection of Franklin Delano Roosevelt to his immediate family heritage.

#### The Speaker

Frederic Grant, Jr., a Boston, Massachusetts based lawyer, holds a J.D. from Boston College Law School (1983) and a Ph.D. in history from Leiden University (2012). He is the author of *The Chinese Cornerstone of Modern Banking: The Canton Guaranty System and the Origins of Bank Deposit Insurance 1780-1933* (Studies in the History of Private Law, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Brill, Netherlands, 2014) and has written and lectured extensively about the business and legal history of foreign trade with China during the time period of the immediate past trading boom. Mr. Grant is a member of the Society and has contributed book reviews to its journal.



## Future Activities

### Programme

**Speaker:** Frederic Delano Grant, Jr.

**Date:** Mon, 17 Dec 2018

**Time:** TBC

**Venue:** TBC

**Admission:** TBC

**Booking:** Please email <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door.

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### OVERSEAS TRIP

#### **Trip to Northern Thailand & Laos**

*Friday 11 January to Friday 18 January 2019*

There has been an enthusiastic response; the trip is going ahead and is now fully booked.

The organisers thank Members for their prompt responses.

A waiting list has been started for anyone who still wishes to go but has not yet confirmed, so that if a vacancy occurs their application can be considered. Should you wish to have your name added to the wait list, please contact <[eugenia@phoenixtrvl.com](mailto:eugenia@phoenixtrvl.com)>.



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# Recent Activities

## Visit to Tai Kwun

*Written by Helen Tinsley*



*RASHK Group at Tai Kwun on Sat, 15 Sep 2018. Photo by and courtesy of RASHK*

Hong Kong's Tai Kwun is a significant revitalisation and heritage project, undertaken by the Hong Kong Jockey Club in collaboration with the Hong Kong Government, involving the restoration of the former Central Police Station, Magistracy (ongoing), and Victoria Prison in the heart of urban Hong Kong. It has been open to the public for only a few months, so there was much interest from RAS members to attend our visit.

Our group of >30 was fortunate to be led by Guy Shirra, who retired as a Superintendent from the Royal Hong Kong Police in 1997, is the author of *The Accidental Prawn* local storybook, and leader of an energetic police retirees group known as 'Old and Bold'.

Tai Kwun is rapidly becoming a major destination site in Central with a variety of arts events facilities, eateries, museums, exhibition space and retail outlets. Beautifully renovated and retaining much of the former architecture, this is now a large and generous public space where formerly there was none.

RAS members gathered on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 under the mango tree on the edge of the large square, formerly the parade ground. The mango tree provided welcome shade on a hot day. It was said to be planted by members of the police force recruited from SE Asia who missed eating mangoes as in their home countries. The compound was busy with many other visitors and groups.

First, we were briefed by Tai Kwun staff and then Guy, who proved to be a highly knowledgeable guide, led us around some of the former police sites, now converted into other facilities. After a short history of the site and station itself from the early beginnings of Hong Kong as British colony, Guy guided us around various sites. At each he had a story to tell of events and people, during the time when it functioned as a police station, culminating in the door of the office which he himself, as a senior police officer, had occupied. At the end of the visit our group sincerely thanked Guy for so generously sharing his expert knowledge and memories with us.

## Recent Activities

Conversion of the Magistracy section of the compound is not yet complete but once opened should form the basis of another RAS visit. In fact, there are many aspects of this new public space which are well worth another visit—exhibitions, and details of the architectural renovation - something to consider in our future RAS activities plans perhaps.



## Recent Activities

### Arnholds: China Trader

Speaker: Vaudine England

Date: Wed, 19 Sep 2018

Venue: Harcourt Suite, The Hong Kong Club, 1 Jackson Road, Central, Hong Kong



*Photos by and courtesy of Helen Tinsley*

# Recent Activities

## 100 Years of Columban Mission in China

*Written by Michael Broom*



The Society welcomed Fr Dan Troy as our guest speaker on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Fr Troy is a member of the Missionary Society of St Columban (SSC) and was in Hong Kong to talk to the Society about the history and work of the Columbans who, this year, celebrate the granting of approval by the Vatican in 1918.

In his talk entitled ‘China’s Encounters with Catholic Missionaries – Insights from 100 years of Columban Mission’, Fr Troy outlined the history of the Society and the vision and persistence of its founder the Reverend (later Bishop) Edward Galvin (1882-1956). Galvin was an Irish priest from Cork who went to work in Brooklyn, New York. A subsequent meeting with a Canadian priest, Fr John Fraser led to a deep interest in China and in 1912 Galvin travelled to Zhejiang with Fraser. Moved by the poverty, both material and spiritual, which he encountered and encouraged by friends and colleagues Galvin resolved to establish a new group to work in China. He was joined by another priest, Fr John Blowick and together they formed the Maynooth Mission to China founded in 1916 and formally approved by the Vatican in 1918.

Fr Troy’s presentation was both candid and interesting and drew on a wealth of archival material to illustrate his talk. Of particular interest were archive video clips of the Columbans filmed in the 1920s and 1930s. Following the talk, members and guests generated an interesting question and answer exchange. Two small books were available for sale at the talk, these were, ‘History of Hanyang Diocese’ by Anthony Wang and ‘Columban Missionaries in Hong Kong’ by Joseph Houston. On a final note, members may wish to note that a Centenary Mass will be held at the Roman Catholic Cathedral on at 4 p.m. on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018.



*Photos by and courtesy of Helen Tinsley & RASHK*

# Recent Activities

## Visit to the Jewish Cemetery in Happy Valley

*Written by Connie Carmichael*



About 36 RAS members gathered on the afternoon of Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 for a visit to the Jewish cemetery. Our guide, Howard Elias, had a back story for most of the 350 or so graves in the cemetery. He brought "to life" these individuals with stories of their families and their businesses. In some cases, he told private anecdotes which the deceased may not have wanted publicly known.

The ground for the cemetery was purchased from the British Crown on a 999-year lease in 1855 by David Sassoon. The marker stone set into a backwall states "...a gift of our mistress the Queen".

Those buried in the cemetery came from all over Alexandria, Egypt to Irkutsk on Lake Baikal, Bucharest to Harbin, Baghdad to Shanghai. Jewish people came to Hong Kong for many reasons: Iraqi Jews for business, some as a refuge from turmoil in their home countries of Russia and Central Europe, in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century many came to Hong Kong fleeing war in Europe and revolution in China.

I think most members would agree that the afternoon was informative and enjoyable with Howard's enthusiastic and knowledgeable guidance.



*Photos by and courtesy of Connie Carmichael*

# Of General Interest

## Greater China Legal History Seminar Series 2018-19



Members of the RASHK are invited to attend this series of seminars coordinated by Professor Steven Gallagher of the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Law. There is no charge but registration is required. The venue is at the Warren Chan Moot Court, Graduate Law Centre, 2/F, Bank of America Tower, Central.

The Greater China Legal History Seminar Series begins in September 2018. The seminars aim to serve as a forum to discuss the historical development of a great variety of legal issues of interest in the Greater China region. The topics are in many cases the basis of the law and its application as of today and will therefore offer the opportunity to explore the respective contextual status. The seminars will be conducted by experts in their respective fields but are meant to cater to the legally interested general public.

The events usually comprise presentations by one or more speakers (up to 60 minutes) followed by a Q&A session (up to 30 minutes).

### Seminars schedule 2018-19

All seminars will be held at the Warren Chan Moot Court, Graduate Law Centre, 2/F, Bank of America Tower, Central.

Date	Details
9 November 2018 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	America's China Spymaster: The life and times of Norwood Allman Speaker: Mr. Douglas Clark, Barrister
11 January 2019 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	The Currency of China Trade in Asia from the 15th Century Speaker: Prof. Judith Sihombing, Adjunct Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, CUHK
22 February 2019 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Chinese Shipwrecks, Treasure Hunters and the History of Underwater Cultural Heritage Regimes Speaker: Prof. Steven Gallagher, Associate Professor of Practice & Associate Dean (Academic Affairs), Faculty of Law, CUHK
8 March 2019 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	The Development of Legal Compliance – the Hong Kong Perspective Speaker: Prof. David Donald, Faculty of Law, CUHK

For further details, please click on this link:

<https://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk/en/events/greater-china-1819/>

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# Of General Interest

## **Remembrance Day**

*Sunday, 11 November 2018*

The Hong Kong and China Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding their Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Cenotaph, Chater Road, Central at 10:45 a.m.

Our immediate past president, Michael Broom, will attend and lay a wreath on behalf of the RASHK.



*Photo by and courtesy of Connie Carmichael*

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# Of General Interest

## Proverse Autumn Reception

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 7.00-9.00 p.m. Blue Room, Helena May, 35 Garden Road.

Royal Asiatic Society members are cordially invited to the Proverse Autumn Reception where launching authors will introduce and sign their books, four of which have significant Hong Kong content: Chi-shun Feng, *Three Wishes in Bardo* (novel); Wayne Furlong, *Buddha is a Punk Skater* (autobiography, education); Sergio Monteiro, *Enoch's Muse* (novel); Damon Rose, *The Handover Murders* (novel); Gillian Bickley (editor), *Journeys with a Mission* (travel writings of the first Anglican Bishop of Victoria, George Smith (1815-1871)).

The Proverse Prize for unpublished fiction, non-fiction or poetry 2017 will be announced and awarded. Proverse Prize semi-finalists for 2018 and Winners in the Proverse Poetry Prize 2018 will be announced.

Registration from: <[http://www.proversepublishing.com/15\\_november\\_2018\\_event\\_register](http://www.proversepublishing.com/15_november_2018_event_register)>

HKD190 includes entry and complimentary canapés. There will be a cash bar.

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## Tangkou Community Project, Kaiping

RASHK Members, Peter Stuckey and Rocky Dang, would like RASHK members to be aware that during the weekend of Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, Rocky's Project, the Tangkou Community Project in Kaiping, Guangdong is hosting expert performances of traditional Chinese instruments, such as Pipa, Sao, Yangching, Guching etc. given by experienced musicians from various parts of China including Hong Kong.

As well as a workshop with "hands-on" opportunities, the repertoire will include some more modern music as a crossover so that we can enjoy fun evenings at Tangkou on both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. This is the area known as "Hometown of Overseas Chinese" and is rich in architectural and historical interest.



Should anyone wish to take this opportunity to visit Kaiping, Rocky and Peter will also be arranging transport, accommodation and meals and a daytime programme to introduce visitors to this beautiful part of Guangdong, with its unique "diaolou" watchtowers, and charming villages.

We are also hoping to arrange a more structured visit for Members during the second quarter of 2019. If you wish to know more about the December event or the possible visit in Q2 of 2019, please contact <[peterstuckey@yahoo.com.hk](mailto:peterstuckey@yahoo.com.hk)>

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# Of General Interest

## 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](mailto:bookstor@stjohnscathedral.org.hk)>



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## 2019 Membership Renewal

Members are reminded that renewals are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. If you currently pay by cheque and would prefer the convenience of paying by Direct Debit, please contact the Administrator for a Direct Debit Authorization form on <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto: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

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## Welcome to New Members

**New members should receive, shortly after joining, a new member's pack which includes a copy of the latest journal and a membership card. If you have recently joined and have not received your welcome pack, would you please contact our administrator, Ivy, using email. The email is: <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)>**

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# Publications

## PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

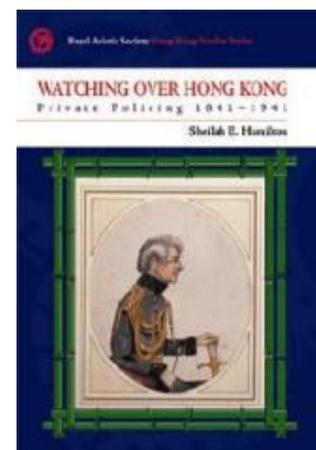
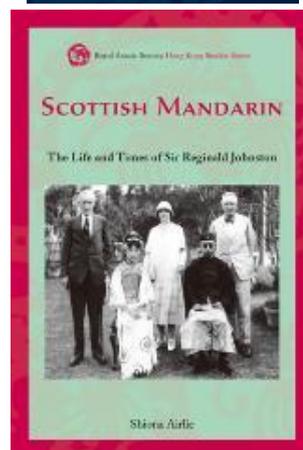
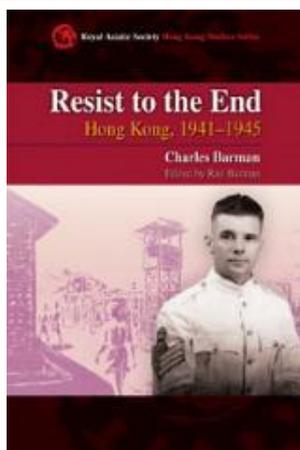
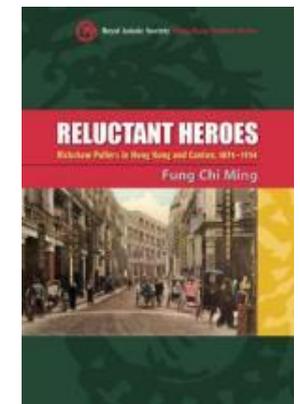
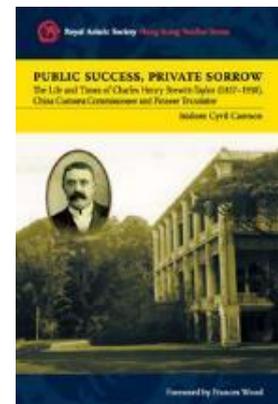
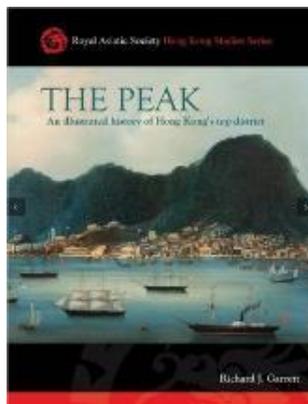
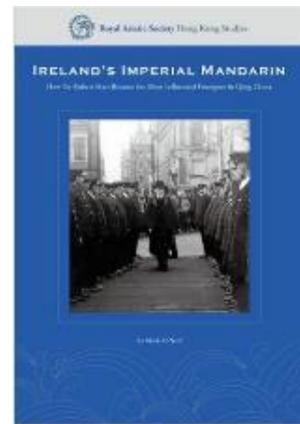
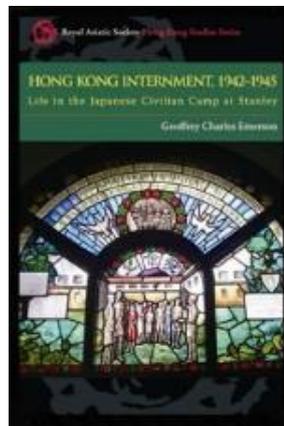
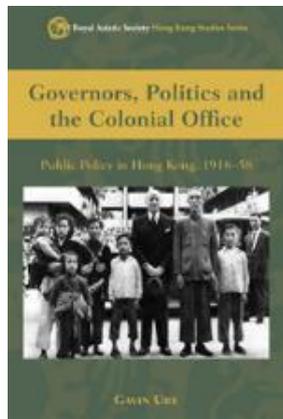
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Please send the order & cheque, payable to Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, to RASHKB, G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong. **We accept US\$ or GBP cheques at exchange rates of US\$1=HK\$8 / GBP1=HK\$11, but please also add US\$15/ GBO10.50 per cheque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

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# Publications

## ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG STUDIES SERIES



There are now twenty-six titles in the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series. The above is a small selection of the titles available. For full details, please see our website [www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk) and Ride Subsidy Fund <http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk/sir/> by clicking on these links.

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