

The Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride Memorial Fund

The Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride Memorial Fund subsidises the publication of serious works on Hong Kong history, society and culture which would otherwise not be commercially viable. These are published under the imprint of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series.

The Fund also provides limited financial assistance to independent authors for research projects which fall within the Society's range of interests. The Fund was established in 2003 by the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong and is named after the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong 1949-1964 and his wife, both founder members of the RASHK. The initial funding by the branch was supplemented by a generous donation from Lady Clague, wife of the late Sir Douglas Clague.

The Ride Fund currently needs financial assistance. Stephen Davies, our Vice President, has written the testimonial below on their behalf to address this.

The very last page of this Newsletter is a donation form, which details how you can donate to the Ride Fund. It can be printed out, or just used as instructions, if you wish to do so.

The Ride Fund

No, not the cash squirrelled away to repay Council members for out of pocket costs incurred getting themselves to meetings and suchlike. Rather, in its quiet way, one of the core and enduring contributions the RAS Hong Kong has made, is making and with your help will continue to make to the world's knowledge of Hong Kong and its region.

The reason we're about to tell you more about it now is because the Ride Fund needs our help. My job is to show you why that help will be help well given.

Scholarly publishing, mainly in English, about a small town on the south coast of China is not a big money spinner. Indeed, it's as often a loss leader! So, if furthering our understanding of our unique home matters, and it does, keeping the Ride Fund subventions going is vital.

You can find out the basic facts by going to the Society website at <http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org/hk/sir> or, when you have finished reading the annual *Journal* – the Society's other core and enduring contribution – you can read the back cover.

The Deed of Trust states plainly what the fund is for. It's rather wordy, so here we'll summarise it by saying the fund exists to support Hong Kong based scholars in their researches and in publishing the results. But words and aims can never really reveal to you the sheer *heft* of what, to give the full name, the Sir Lindsay and Lady May Memorial Fund has achieved since its founding in 2003.

So far, the Ride Fund has subvented the publication of thirty books, with at least four more in the pipeline as I write. That's nearly two books a year, every year since the Ride Fund was created. All up the thirty titles run to some 3.8 million words, or 11,129 pages that occupy almost 1.5m of shelf space. Exact numbers are not possible, but given standard print runs for such books, that also means up to ten thousand or more books about Hong Kong now in homes and on library shelves around the world.

Without financial support few if any would ever have made it into print. The range of subjects they have covered, as the run of titles reveals, is large. It goes from Chinese ritual paper offerings, to the previously little known 1899, six-day war in the New Territories; from the life of a comparatively obscure but fascinating Scots employee of the Chinese Maritime Customs, to the notorious and deeply sad death of Inspector John MacLennan of the RHKP; from a welter of intriguing detail about the graves in the Hong Kong Cemetery, to private policing in pre-WW2 Hong Kong; from the privileged world of The Peak, to the detail of traditional land law in the rural New Territories...and more and more.

The money to subvent this cornucopia depends on the income derived from the trust fund's capital and the capital itself. None of you will need telling that investments have not been performing well recently. Scholarship, however, is less subject to the ups and downs of the economic system and Hong Kong is a bottomless well of fascinating stories yet untold. Thus, demand for the Fund's help remains robust. It follows that a gap has opened between demand and the Fund's ability to supply. And that is where you come in.

Letter from the RASHK President

Dear Members,

In 2003 the Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride Memorial Fund was established by your Society to subsidise the publication of serious works on Hong Kong history, society and culture which would otherwise not be commercially viable. These are published under the imprint of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series.

The Ride Fund has been a great success and we now have 30 books in the Series which you can view on our website. Recently we have received many applications to subsidise new books in the Series. The Ride Fund is however running out of funds and we require your help to replenish the Fund so that we can continue developing this valuable resource.

The Government has commenced distributing to Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card holders a handout of HK\$ 10,000. I write to ask if you would be willing to donate part or all your handout to the Society to be earmarked for the Ride Fund? We undertake

that such donations will be designated for use by the Ride Fund. Since we have charitable status any donation over HK\$100 is tax deductible.

Please complete the attached reply slip on the last page of this newsletter. You may also find a reply slip on our website at www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk.

I take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your generosity.

Kind regards,

Helen Tinsley,
President.

DONATION

Date: «DATE»

«INV_NO»

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY – Hong Kong Branch

Name: «NAMES»

Membership No.: «MEMBER_ID»

I would like to donate \$ _____

I require a receipt to be sent to my email address which is:

Payment arrangements

1. I attach a cheque payable to: “Royal Asiatic Society HK Branch” or E-transfer or telegraphic transfer (TT) – details below.

Please pay by:

1. **Cheque** – Please make cheque payable to “**Royal Asiatic Society HK Branch**” and send it to the **Administrator, Royal Asiatic Society, G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong.**

2. **Direct deposit or transfer to RAS bank account at HSBC** - Account no.: **002 241297 001**. Name of Account: **Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch**. Swift Code: **HSBCHKHHHKH**. Please quote your membership no. and full name in the reference when paying. Please provide us with a copy of your receipt or deposit slip for our reference – this should be sent by email to membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk