

ROYAL ASIATIC

SOCIETY

HONG KONG

皇家亞洲學會香港分會
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NEWSLETTER

January 2020

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Jinjiangli Village Diaolou, Kaiping

Photo Courtesy: Veronica Pearson

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Message from your Vice President, Helen Tinsley

Welcome to our January 2020 RASHK Newsletter

As those of you who live here in Hong Kong will know, local civil unrest has continued. Global and social media tend to report the most extreme images and language without much context and this can be quite shocking for friends and family based overseas. Recently there have been more days of comparative peace with fewer street confrontations, and we were all relieved to see that our local District Council elections went ahead as planned in November with a huge turnout and long well-behaved queues. Let us hope that calm and wise heads prevail.

Many of the confrontations between opposing groups have been localized and signaled in advance on social media. Most people have been doing their best to get on with their daily lives and avoid anticipated trouble spots. Nonetheless many social, academic and regular annual highlights for us have been cancelled or deferred for fear of targeted protests and transport difficulties, especially in the evening. Several of our main tertiary academic campuses have closed, with access strictly controlled. Local tourism, retail and catering industries have been significantly affected, and RASHK activities have not been spared. Two of our November events were postponed because of safety concerns at the time, but fortunately have now been rescheduled for January and March 2020 respectively. Other November and December events have gone ahead as planned.

We have recently enjoyed two wonderful illustrated talks linked to photographic exhibitions at a new venue, the Blue Lotus Gallery on Pound Lane in Sheung Wan. Continuing the photographic theme, there was a visit to F11 Foto Museum in Happy Valley and HKU's UMAG exhibition of photographs taken by a Hungarian traveler in China 100 years ago. Another highlight was the November talk on Chinnery by subject expert Patrick Conner, made even more special by the presence in the audience of one of Chinnery's direct descendants. In December Angus Forsyth shared his expertise and love of jade through his talk on 'Ships of the Silk Road'. Local military historian Philip Cracknell reminded us of a December anniversary in his talk on the 'Battle for Hong Kong in December 1941'. We were delighted to see that both lectures attracted interest from a broad community outside our immediate RASHK membership, with a wide exchange of comments and queries. Both lectures were linked to sale of book publications authored by our speakers.

Later in the Newsletter you can read in a bit more detail some reports of these events, as well as a report of the December over –the- border trip so ably arranged and hosted by Peter Stuckey and Rocky Dang.

Please take the chance to have a look at the activities which we have planned for January and February next year and we hope to see you there. As always contacts and ideas for future activities are most welcome.

2020 is an important year for our RASHK Journal –it is the 60th Jubilee Issue for which work is already in progress but there is still time to submit an article to the Editors for consideration of inclusion in this special edition. Another initiative – a few of our members have been working hard on preparing our RASHK Wikipedia entry which we hope soon to see uploaded. Your comments and feedback will be most welcome.

I also take this opportunity to mention that membership renewal is falling due with relevant reminders being sent out soon. In the meantime, best wishes to you all for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year in 2020.

Best wishes to you all and we look forward to seeing many of you at our planned events.

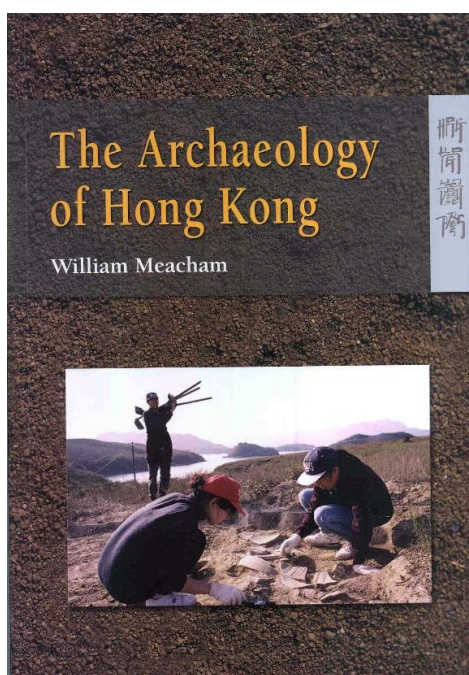
Helen Tinsley
VP, RASHK and Activities Committee Coordinator
January 2020

Future Activities

LECTURE

60 Years of Archaeology in Hong Kong

Friday • 10 Jan 2020



The Lecture

In the theme of the 60th Jubilee of the RAS HK Branch, Mr William Meacham has been invited to present a review of the last 60 years of archaeology in HK. The talk will describe the great expansion of our knowledge of HK prehistory and early history, resulting in a well-documented chronological sequence of human occupation dating back to 5000 BC. It will also touch on the evolution of government policy and how it has affected the development of local archaeology.

Everyone attending the talk will receive a copy of Mr Meacham's recent e-book on CD "40 Years an Archaeologist in Hong Kong." Its 1,800 pages contain all his major archaeological writings, with many unpublished site reports submitted to the Government, plus major articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

The Speaker

William Meacham is an archaeologist specializing in Hong Kong and the adjacent regions. He has written or edited 10 books on archaeology and published 51 articles on various aspects of Hong Kong, South China and Southeast Asia archaeology.



Born in Nashville, Tennessee, Meacham was educated at Tulane University in New Orleans, the Sorbonne in Paris and the Gregorian University of Rome. He has lived in Hong Kong since 1970, holding positions previously at the Hong Kong Museum of History and the Christian Study Centre on Chinese Religion and Culture. He was Editor of the Hong Kong Archaeological Society 1973-85 and Chairman 1985-96. From 1980 to 2012 he was Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre of Asian Studies, HKU. Meacham has directed 30 major archaeological excavations in Hong Kong and two in Macau.

Programme

Speaker: William Meacham

Date: Friday, 10 Jan 2020

Time: Reception desk opens at 6:30pm; talk starts at 7:00pm.

Venue: LT4, Centre for Visual Arts, 7A Kennedy Road, Mid-Levels

Admission: RAS Members \$100; Non-Members / Guests \$150

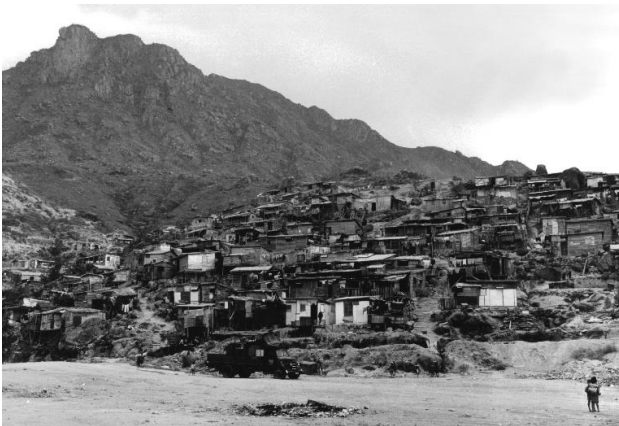
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door.

Future Activities

LECTURE

On the Verge of Metropolis: Squatters in Hong Kong

Sunday • 19 January 2020



1965 Ma Tsai Hang



1969 Shau Kei Wan

Credit: Ko Tim-keung

The Lecture

This talk will be conducted by two speakers: Dr. Patrick Hase and Mr. Ko Tim-keung.

Pat Hase's part of the talk is based on historical research into two squatter areas: the Hau Wong San Tsuen, outside Kowloon City, and Kwu Tung, between Sheung Shui and Yuen Long, an area typical of the more dispersed type of squatter settlement typical of the New Territories.

Ko Tim-keung will talk about how the squatters dominated the city scene between the 1950s and 1970s. He will also share with the audience some stories about life in squatters in those unforgettable years.

Undesirable as it might be, squatting was one of the most prominent features of post-war Hong Kong housing development and an important common experience shared by many Hong Kong people. Illustrated with rare and striking historical photos, the speakers will share with the audience the story of post-war squatting, a time before Hong Kong emerged as the high-rise financial hub we know today.

This seminar will also be open to those invited by University of Chicago Yuen Campus in Hong Kong.

The Speakers

Dr. Patrick Hase

Dr Patrick Hase has studied the history and traditional life of the New Territories and its people for over forty years. He is the author of several books and numerous articles on the history of the New Territories, including *The Six-Day War of 1899*, *Hong Kong in the Age of Imperialism* and *Forgotten Heroes: San On County and its Magistrates in the Late Ming and Early Qing*. He is a past president and honorary fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong, and serves as honorary advisor to several museums in Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Kaiping.

He was President of the Royal Asiatic Society (Hong Kong Branch) for four years, up to 2005, and is an Honorary Fellow of the Society. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (F.S.A), and an Honorary Adviser (Local History) to the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of the Government of Hong Kong, to the Zhongying Street Historical Museum, Sha Tau Kok and to the People's Government of the Municipality of Kaiping, Guangdong.

Mr. Ko Tim-keung

Mr. Ko Tim-keung was formerly council member of Royal Asiatic Society (Hong Kong Branch) and member of Antiquities Advisory Board. At present, he serves as museum expert adviser for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and advisor of the Collection Committee of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum. He has written extensively on various aspects of Hong Kong history.

Programme

Speakers: Dr. Patrick Hase and Mr. Ko Tim-keung

Date: Sunday, 19 January 2020

Time: Registration starts 2:30pm, Event starts 3pm; this event will end at 4:30pm

Venue: The Hong Kong Jockey Club University of Chicago Academic Complex |
The University of Chicago Francis and Rose Yuen Campus in Hong Kong

Admission: Free of charge, Open to the public

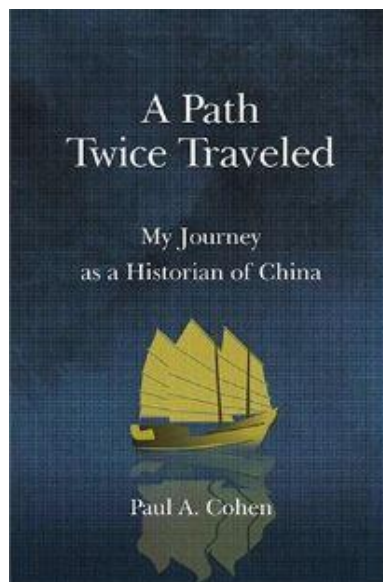
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place.

Future Activities

LECTURE

A Path Twice Traveled: My Journey as a Historian of China

Wed • 22 Jan 2020



*Book Cover 'A Path Twice Traveled: My Journey as a Historian of China'
Fairbank Centre for Chinese Studies, Harvard University
(Photo Courtesy: Paul A. Cohen)*

In this memoir Paul A. Cohen, one of the West's preeminent historians of China, traces the development of his work from its inception in the early 1960s to the present, offering fresh perspectives that consistently challenge us to think more deeply about China and the historical craft in general.

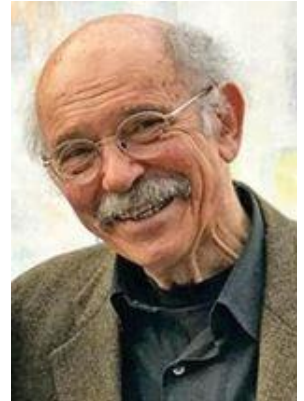
The book's title reflects the crucially important disparity between the past as originally experienced and the past as later reconstructed historically, by which point the historian and the world in which he or she lives have both undergone extensive change. This distinction is very much on Cohen's mind throughout the book.

The Speaker

Paul A. Cohen began his teaching career at the University of Michigan and Amherst College. He then taught for thirty-five years at Wellesley College, where he is Edith Stix Wasserman Professor of Asian Studies and History, Emeritus.

He is also a long-time Associate of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University.

Cohen's books include *Discovering History in China: American Historical Writing on the Recent Chinese Past* (1984); *History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience, and Myth* (1997); *Speaking to History: The Story of King Goujian in Twentieth-Century China* (2009); and *History and Popular Memory: The Power of Story in Moments of Crisis* (2014).



History in Three Keys was the winner of the 1997 New England Historical Association Book Award and the American Historical Association's 1997 John K. Fairbank Prize in East Asian History. Cohen's work has been translated into Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.

Programme

Speaker: Prof. Paul A. Cohen
Date: Wednesday, 22nd January 2020
Time: Reception desk opens 6:30 p.m.; talk starts at 7:00 p.m.
Venue: LT4, Centre for Visual Arts, 7A Kennedy Road, Mid-Levels
Admission: RAS Members \$100; Non-members \$150
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door

Future Activities

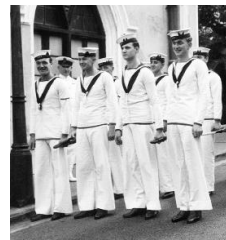
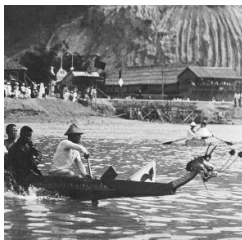
LECTURE

In, On, Under & Around Hong Kong's Harbour

Saturday • 8th February 2020

David Bellis first presented this lecture to the RAS in 2016. We've asked him back for a repeat performance as he recently published a new book, Volume 3 of *Old Hong Kong Photos and The Tales They Tell*, that was based on this lecture.

He will use photos from his collection to show us Hong Kong's famous harbour through the eyes of several very different groups. The Royal Navy, local fishermen, dragon boat racers, visiting tourists, swimmers, and sailors are just some of the people we'll meet.



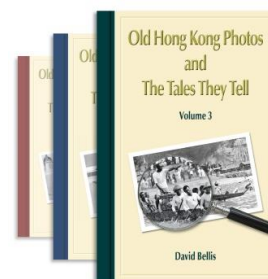
(Photos courtesy of David Bellis)

Most of the photos were taken in the early years of the 20th century and show a Hong Kong that has long since disappeared. They have been scanned at high-resolution and digitally restored, so David can zoom in to show us their details and uncover their hidden stories.



The Speaker

David runs the popular local-history website, Gwulo.com. It hosts over 34,000 pages about old Hong Kong, including over 20,000 photos. In 2014 David won the SCMP's Spirit of Hong Kong award for Heritage Preservation, for his work on Gwulo.com. He has published three collections of old Hong Kong photos and their stories.



Programme

Speaker: Mr. David Bellis
Date: Saturday, 8th February 2020
Time: Reception desk opens at 10:30am; talk starts at 11:00am.
Venue: Auditorium, LT4, Centre for Visual Arts, 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

LECTURE

Lecture at Café 8

Friday • 14 February 2020

Details to be confirmed.

Programme

Speaker: To be confirmed
Date: Friday, 14th February 2020
Time: Reception desk opens 6:30 p.m.; talk starts at 7:00 p.m.
Venue: Café 8 at Pier 8, Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central
Admission: RAS Members \$150; Non-members \$200 including snacks and a complimentary drink - please advise of any special dietary needs
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door

Future Activities

LOCAL VISIT

Julie & Jesse / Latitude 22N Ceramics Studio

Saturday • 29th February 2020



Photo credit: Julie Progin / M+ museum

Latitude 22N Ceramics Studio is an art/design studio established in Hong Kong & Jingdezhen by designer Julie Progin (CH) and artist Jesse Mc Lin (US).

The duo's practice straddles between the fields of design, craft and art using function as a pretext for visual discourse and ceramic experiments as a method.

Training in art and different disciplines of design allows them to bridge conceptual and emotional narratives with meticulous making technique.

Julie & Jesse's work manifests research into materials and follows a consistent conceptual path to capture a moment in time and place.

They embrace a unique approach to each project, inspired by its cultural, historic and economic context as well as resources available at hand.

From capturing the movement of clay during firing to archiving the break and decay of distressed production moulds the key attributes of their work are time, context and transformation.

Julie & Jesse's projects have been shown at institutions such as M+ Museum, Design Society, the Triennale Di Milano & Chicago Design Museum. Their works are held in private and corporate collections as well as public permanent collections at the China Ceramic Museum in Jingdezhen, China, M+ Museum for Visual Culture, Hong Kong. They also work in close collaboration with international design companies such as COS to create unique installations

They have kindly invited the RAS to visit their Chai Wan studio and examine their beautiful and extensive ceramic collection. Find out more on their websites www.juliejesse.com and www.latitude22n.com

Company Founders

Julie Progin

Julie was born and raised in Hong Kong by her Swiss parents before heading to Paris to study textile design, and then to New York to explore product design. After a few years working in New York, she came back to her Hong Kong roots in 2008 to launch a ceramic studio with Jesse. Spending most of her life in Hong Kong has not only taught Julie how to perfectly dodge passers-by on the sidewalk, it has also given her a taste for the eclectic, for patchwork and for the bits and pieces that make up this incredible city. She finds inspiration in cultural crossovers to collate and collect the colours and patterns that fuel her thoughts.

Jesse Mc Lin

After a childhood spent exploring the redwoods of Northern California, Jesse ventured out to Kansas City then New York to study art and ceramics. There he met Julie and decided to move to Hong Kong to be closer to the birthplace of porcelain. His strong artistic background, coupled with experience teaching design in New York, have led Jesse to first consider the concept of the pieces he creates. Finding the point where fine art and design meet is what makes Jesse tick – a product must respect its material and the history of its form, while always having something new to say.

Programme

Date: Saturday, 29th February 2020
Time: RAS Group gathers at 10:20 am; visit starts at 10:30am
Venue: Unit 16B, Man Foong Industrial Building, 7 Cheung Lee Street,
Chai Wan
Admission: RAS Members \$100; Non-members \$150
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door

Future Activities

LECTURE

Along the Southern Boundary

Wednesday • 04 March 2020



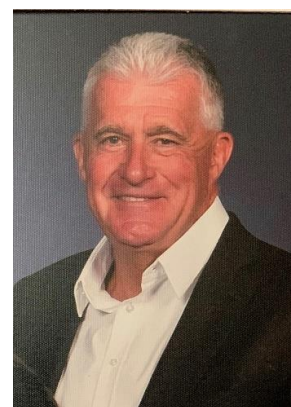
The Lecture

The subject of this lecture is former Marine commander Les Bird's photographic account of the tens of thousands of Vietnamese who arrived by boat at Hong Kong's southern sea boundary between 1979 and 1989 and how the Marine Police were tasked with bringing them in safely. This included providing emergency help for cholera cases, assessing often dehydrated children and processing everyone, who came into the city.

For the purposes of this talk, Les will focus on two specific years: 1979, when more than 68,700 people arrived at Hong Kong's sea border; and 1989, a time when all 13 Vietnamese boat people camps in Hong Kong were declared full, and Les and his colleagues were directed to put all new arrivals on the remote island of Tai Ah Chau, which, at the outset, was devoid of facilities. Within a week they had more than 3,000 people to look after.

The Speaker

Originating from Staffordshire in the UK, Les Bird joined the Hong Kong Marine Police in 1976. For more than 10 years he patrolled the waters to the south of Hong Kong, intercepting vessels that had crossed the South China Sea, the Vietnamese boatpeople on board hoping to start a new life. Throughout his maritime career Les carried a camera in his kitbag and, when circumstances permitted, he photographed the vessels and the people caught up in this exodus in the aftermath of the Vietnam War.



Les was with the Marine Police until 1997. As well as his work involving the influx of Vietnamese, he also headed Marine's fast pursuit unit, intercepting smugglers in speedboats or *daai feis*, in the early 1990s attempting to take stolen cars and electronic goods, among other items, across to the mainland. His recently published memoir covers those 21 years in the lead-up to the handover. 'A Small Band of Men: An Englishman's Adventures in Hong Kong's Marine Police' will be available for sale at the talk. Les is also a founding member and chairman of Asia's Rhinos Rugby Football Club. He is married with two daughters.

Programme

Speaker: Les Bird

Date: Wednesday, 04 March 2020

Time: Reception desk opens at 6:30pm; talk starts at 7:00pm.

Venue: LT4, Centre for Visual Arts, 7A Kennedy Road, Mid-Levels

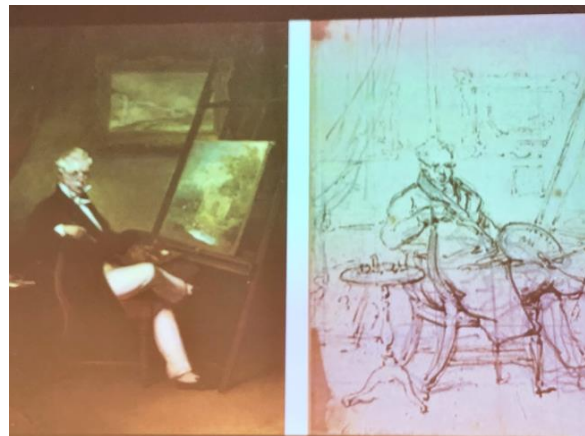
Admission: RAS Members \$100; Non-Members / Guests \$150

Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door.

Recent Activities

George Chinnery - Friends, Fictions and Finances

Speaker: Patrick Conner
Date: Fri, 8 Nov 2019
Venue: LT4, Centre for Visual Arts, 7A Kennedy Road, Mid-Levels



George Chinnery expert, Patrick Conner, treated us to an absorbing history of Chinnery's life and work, accompanied by some wonderful pictorial images. Chinnery gin is now produced in Dublin.

His talk was enhanced by the presence of a Hong Kong resident in the audience, a Chinnery descendant through George's sister, Francis Duncan. The image of a Chinnery sketch, held privately within this branch of the family, has been generously shared with us.

Photos courtesy Caroline Kremer

Recent Activities

Lecture: **City of Darkness: The Walled City of Kowloon**

Speaker: Ian Lambot
Date: Sat, 16 Nov 2019
Venue: Blue Lotus Gallery in Pound Lane, Sai Ying Pun---hosted by gallery owner Sarah Greene
Prepared by: Helen Tinsley, November 2019

Demolished in 1994, the Walled City of Kowloon continues to fascinate many years later.

Despite the current social unrest and transport uncertainties in Hong Kong during November 2019, > 15 RAS members climbed up/down steps in the old part of Hong Kong to find the Blue Lotus Gallery, stepped over an aerial photo of the walled city and sat down to look, listen and share Ian's masterly retelling of the story of this city within a city. Together with Greg Girard, they both photographed and documented life in this dark and densely populated corner of Hong Kong producing in 1993 a book which up until now has sold > 25,000 copies. On display in the Gallery exhibition space were some of the choice photos from this book.

The city's legal status was sensitive and there was little regard for basic services such as water, electricity and waste disposal, planning or regulation of building standards but over 50 years building and community growth continued to develop organically and thrived. Neither the British, colonial or Chinese governments were willing to disturb the delicate legal status. At its peak there were 35,000 residents whose basic and constantly changing needs were met with often labyrinthine access-- there were residences for living, small factories for work, health /dental services, and religious support, but it was dark with very little natural light and the children living there migrated to the roof tops to play. It was said that the only person who fully understood access through all the passageways and linking staircases was the city's postman. And despite the lack of building regulations it was also said that there was no building collapse documented.

There were many questions, as well as thanks, for Ian from an appreciative audience, who then migrated to explore the pictures on display in the gallery. We must thank Sarah Greene who generously hosted this talk in the lecture space next door to her Gallery.



Photos courtesy Helen Tinsley

Recent Activities

Lecture: Photographic Exhibition: The Way We Were

Speaker: Keith Macgregor
Date: Sat, 30 Nov 2019
Venue: Blue Lotus Gallery, Pound Lane, Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong
Prepared by: Helen Tinsley, September 2019

Keith 's family have a long historical link with China and Hong Kong and he himself has been photographing Hong Kong's colourful scenes and its people from land, sea and air for nearly 50 years. His books, calendars and postcards are well known to Hong Kong residents and for many of us in the audience that day his wonderful display of Hong Kong photographs was a trip down memory lane, as we were reminded what was and what is today. His talk and presentation had many themes- the importance of his own family history and love of Hong Kong, rapid changes which have taken place in the local waters, street life and festivals. He particularly lamented the loss of brightly coloured neon signage which lit up our urban streets at night.

There were so many beautiful images to stir memories, reflecting Hong Kong's remarkable diversity and positive outlook. These photos were the favoured and best from Keith's vast collection of images. At the end of the talk which went on longer than intended to our attendees' delight, there were many questions and we were assured that there is a book to look forward to in the pipeline , which will be published next year -" 50th Anniversary of Photographing Hong Kong"

Again, we thank Sarah Greene for generously hosting this event at her Gallery. Despite the concerns about possible civic disturbance as a result of demonstrations, the event was well attended, filling the available seats in the lecture space next to the Gallery.



Photos courtesy Helen Tinsley

Recent Activities

Lecture: Ships of the Silk Road

Speaker: Angus Forsyth
 Date: Wed, 4 Dec 2019
 Venue: LT4, Centre for Visual Arts, 7A Kennedy Road, Mid-Levels
 Prepared by: Juan José Morales, November 2019

Angus Forsyth stands as one of the veteran residents in Hong Kong who have left a mark in the city. As a lawyer with a distinguished career, he has contributed to Hong Kong's status as an international business hub. With his pro-bono work he has been instrumental in the foundation and thriving of Hong Kong's most important cultural institutions. As a collector of Asian art, and of jade, he has advanced knowledge on this arcane subject and made it available to a larger audience. His book, 'Jades of China', written with Brian McElney for the Museum of East Asian Art in Bath, is an obliged reference on the subject. His latest book, 'Ships of the Silk Road: The Bactrian Camel in Chinese Jade', was the topic of a most intense talk where he showed more than one hundred pictures of artefacts, mostly drawn from his own collection, and his photographs retracing the ancient routes taken in his travels. From his earliest dated camel-shaped jade, c.800 BC, to the latest, of 1988, Forsyth gave a fresh explanation of the fable networks which linked China to the Mediterranean across Central Asia for more 2000 years. The talk was well attended by a keen audience that made many interesting questions, which Forsyth replied with the wit for he is also well known.



FIG. 53. Loaded camel, ceramic, Tang dynasty period ad 618-907 [L. 40 cm]

If nephrite jade is central to Chinese civilization since the Neolithic, its main source being in East Turkestan, a faraway region only reached through arduous terrain, it follows that the means of conveyance, the camel only, was critical to its success story. However, this has not been made self-evident until now. Forsyth's study is the first to focus on the jade representations of the camel, a vantage point that helps to understand this route, maybe not so properly named "silk", and the exchanges -material culture, religion, technology - it entailed.

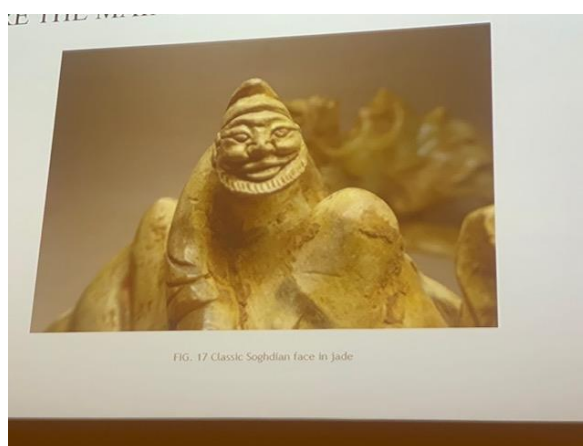
Indeed, the sturdy Bactrian camel was indispensable to the trade protagonists. Unlike the unsuitable horse as a beast of burden, or the animal-drawn cart, only the camel with its large flat rounded foot that doesn't sink in the sand, tolerated long time without water, provided milk, meat, fur and skin, while its double hump afforded an anchor for the cargo. It was then not surprising in retrospect to see representations of the camel as prevalent; for the Chinese, an association to exotic lands too. Jade itself was a subject of



representation as well, figurines showing the handling of boulders or pebbles, and the grinding of the stone with a harder stone. Hangzhou and Suzhou were major centres of jade carving, although there is no much accurate information available, Forsyth warns.

Besides jade, which was the most important import for the Chinese, this ancient trade covered other precious stones such as lapis lazuli, and horses, watermelon (its Chinese name a reminder of its western origin), paper, silk, glass, bronze... Over its commercial significance, Forsyth offered a glimpse to vanished civilisations, the ancient oasis as settlements of orderly control. The eastwards conquests of Alexander the Great had given way to new hybrid cultures, Greco-Bactria, bringing some Asian regions into the Hellas of the Greek in a process of Hellenisation. The Greek brought coins, for instance. The elastic relations or tensions, leaning towards Greek or Persian

civilization, led to a succession of Greco-Bactrian polities, then the Sasanians and eventually the Sogdians. The Chinese, Forsyth remarked, didn't travel the Silk Road. It was the Sogdians, who led enormous caravans of hundreds of camels, "the uncontested masters of the Silk Road commerce for centuries". And they are portrayed alongside their camels as riders, musicians, dancers. The Sogdians, Persian-speaking Zoroastrians, disappeared in history, replaced by the Uyghurs around 11th century. A stylistic evolution of these camel jade figurines that respond to different feeling and stages could also be appreciated, guided by Forsyth's connoisseurship gained in many years of devoted collecting and study.



Photos courtesy Helen Tinsley

Recent Activities

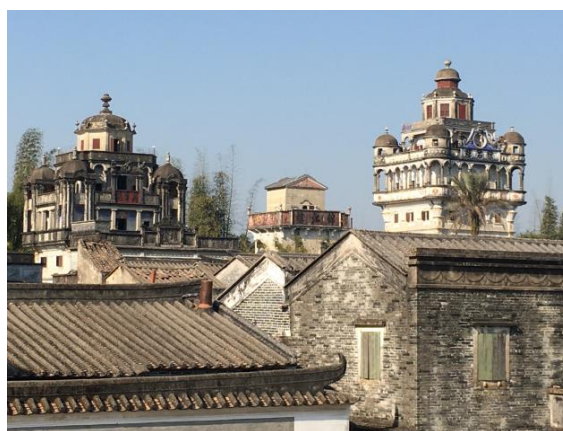
China Visit: Tangkou Community Project, Jiangmen, Guangdong

Kaiping “diaolou” (defensive watchtowers),

The Nanhai No.1 Boat at Hailing Island, Yangjiang (阳江)

Tour Escorts: Rocky Dang and Peter Stuckey
 Date: Fri 6th – Mon 9th December 2019
 Prepared by: Veronica Pearson, December 2019

Ten RAS stalwarts joined this tour, placing themselves in the safe hands of Rocky and Peter. Let’s start with the means of transport because it isn’t often that these constitute an outstanding aspect of a trip. Our journey began with a bus ride over the Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. Whatever one’s views of its cost/necessity/environmental damage only a curmudgeon would deny the beauty of the construction or refuse to be impressed by the feat of engineering it represents. We returned on the high-speed train – 295kph – smooth and supremely comfortable. Eat your heart out British rail...



In between these two events we were treated to a feast of sites/sights. Core to our visit was the Tangkou Community Centre and hostel, a constructive re-use project aimed at revitalising/re-purposing old buildings (e.g. a watch factory fallen out of use) in ways that are relevant to the local community. Rocky is the Founder and is deeply involved in this project, our base for 2 nights of our trip. One aspect of their work is farming, and we came away with bags full of locally grown aubergines and kohlrabi. The staff produced delicious meals for us largely consisting of local produce and we were treated to a guided tour of the local village and invited into people’s homes.

Outstanding were the diaolou that pepper the landscape around Kaiping. They are defensive structures characteristic of this area that were built to protect villagers from bandits and raiders in a coastal/riverine

environment. Kaiping exported many of its sons to work overseas and the ensuing wealth and foreign architectural influence is visible in the homes they chose to build, as typified by Li Gardens which is graded 4* on the list of National Cultural Relics. It consists of 6 villas and one diaolou, built between 1926 and 1936, surrounded by beautiful gardens. We managed to fit in a UNESCO World Heritage site, Jin Jiang Li village. This is also in Kaiping and comprises 66 village houses arranged in 10 lanes. There are now significantly more villagers living overseas than live in the village!



An entirely serendipitous and exciting aspect of our visit involved one of these returning villagers. We met a young family from Vancouver (Keith and Gita, with their toddler, Leela) who were searching for Keith's family diaolou/mansion with very little information other than that it was known as the Wild Goose diaolou. Keith's father had visited previously but failed to locate it. Keith and Gita were staying at the Tangkou Community Centre and the staff there offered to assist in locating the elusive structure. One of the goals of the Centre is to help overseas Chinese re-establish their links with their heritage; and they did just that! By then, the RAS group was almost as emotionally invested in finding the mansion as Keith, so we accompanied the three of them to investigate. A cousin was identified, a key was found (it didn't fit the lock) an unlocked door was opened, and we all piled in. Whoever was last out, before our arrival, had left it neat and tidy (some many years before judging by the dust) with the furniture intact and we were free to roam from front door to roof. It was one of the highlights of the trip.

We spent our third night in a hotel on a beautiful beach surrounded by rather less than beautiful high-rise accommodation before making our way the following day to the Maritime Silk Road Museum of Guangdong to visit the Nanhai 1 Southern Sung dynasty ship. This wreck was found with most of its cargo intact in 1987 and was raised – with great care - in 2007. It has been meticulously preserved, along with its cargo of porcelain and outstanding gold jewellery and other silver and tin objects (approximately 70,000 of them). A rare sight indeed!

We were a most friendly and companionable group who travelled well together. We were fed royally, pampered, and generally spoiled. Our sincere thanks to Rocky and Peter for making it so memorable and working so diligently to ensure we enjoyed ourselves. Where are we going next?



Photos courtesy Peter Stuckey

Recent Activities

Local Visit: **HONG KONG The Way It Was: F11 Foto Museum Guided Tour**

Date: Sat, 7 Dec 2019
Venue: F11 Foto Museum, 11 Yuk Sau Street, Happy Valley

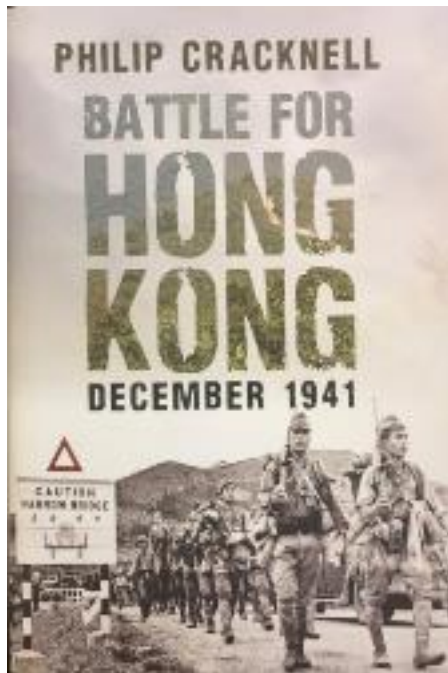


Photos courtesy Russ Harding

Recent Activities

Lecture: **Battle for Hong Kong - December 1941**

Speaker: Phillip Cracknell
Date: Wed, 11 Dec 2019
Venue: LT4, Centre for Visual Arts, 7A Kennedy Road, Mid-Levels



Photos courtesy Mike Broom

Recent Activities

Local Visit: Photographic Exhibition: 'Along China's Coast' Dezso Bozoky's Travel Photography 1908-09

Speaker: Gallery Director Florian Knothe
 Date: Sat, 14 Dec 2019
 Venue: HKU's UMAG, Bonham Road, Pokfulam
 Prepared by: Helen Tinsley, December 2019

The roads around HKU campus have recently been the scene of civic unrest and demonstrations, so although now peaceful, security for access to any part of the HKU campus, including the University Museum and Art gallery, was tightly controlled. All visitors – if not staff or students – required preregistration and a personal letter of invitation for 17 RASHK attendees, which were kindly prepared for us by UMAG's helpful staff.

Once inside the Museum we were met by Director Florian Knothe who gave us the background to this exhibition of images, held in the Museum of Asian Arts in Budapest, and guided us around. Bozoky was a medical naval officer aboard a ship with the Austro-Hungarian Navy, sent to China following the Boxer Rebellion. The delicately hand coloured images on glass plates have been digitised for display in this show, through collaboration between the 2 museums in Hungary and Hong Kong, and with support from the Hungarian Consul here.

Bozoky travelled widely along the China coast visiting Hong Kong, Canton, Fujian, Shanghai and Beijing-photographing as he went. In 2016 UMAG successfully presented an exhibition of his Hong Kong photographs, and the current exhibition has built on that to document the countryside and cities of China's east coast through which he travelled, along with the lives of their inhabitants, at a time of huge socio-political and cultural change, with the ending of the Imperial era. Bozoky's interest in nature, architecture and Qing dynasty street scenes along with the people he met reflect the excitement of this European traveler in a country so distant from his own. He and his little group of fellow travelers visited many well-known sites along the east coast of China and these images provide background and context to the huge amount of social and economic change which have taken place over the past 100 years.

There were many questions for Florian as we traversed the exhibition. His expert knowledge and mastery of the background details very much enhanced our appreciation and enjoyment. The 2016 exhibition of Hong Kong images has generated a book and we look forward to more publications.



Photos courtesy Helen Tinsley

Of General Interest

CUHK Legal Lecture Series



The remaining Greater China Legal History Seminars, all at 12.30pm at the CUHK Graduate Law Centre on these following Fridays:

10 January 2020- Stuart M. McManus: "Law and Slavery in the South Sea"

28 February- Sala Sihombing: "From Matriarch to Mediator: The Roots of Hong Kong Mediation Practice"

20 March- Albert Chen: "The Origins of Hong Kong's Basic Law"

<http://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk/en/event-page/20191122.php>

Of General Interest

St John's Cathedral Shop

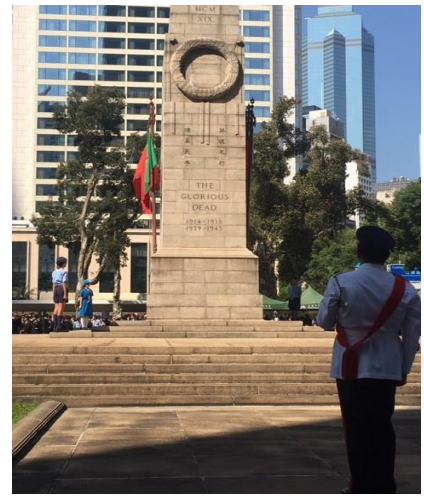
Arrangements have been made with St John's Cathedral Bookshop for copies of RASHK journals Vols. 55 - 59 and the book 'Hong Kong Going, Gone' to be sold through the shop. It is hoped that Members will actively support this facility and encourage others to purchase Society publications from the Bookshop. Their email address is:

<bookstor@stjohnscathedral.org.hk>.



Remembrance Sunday, November 2019

The RASHK was represented by Mike Broom.



Photos courtesy Mike Broom

Membership Renewal

2020 Membership Renewal

Members are reminded that membership renewals are due on 1 January 2020. 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>. Those of you who pay by Standing Order are requested to please ensure that the Order is for the appropriate amount.

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

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



Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch Membership Application Form 2020

Membership Application Form for 2020, please click [here](#).

Direct Debit Authorisation Form, please click [here](#).

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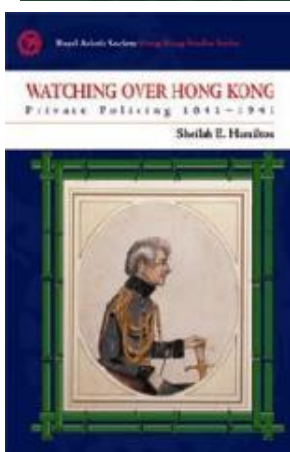
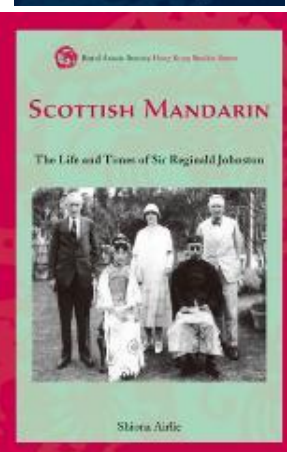
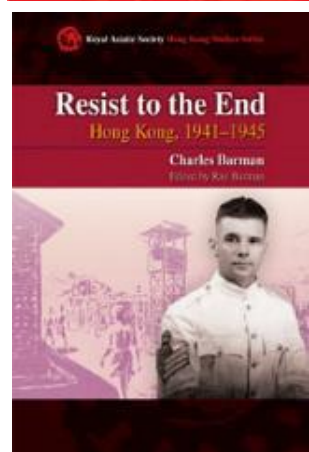
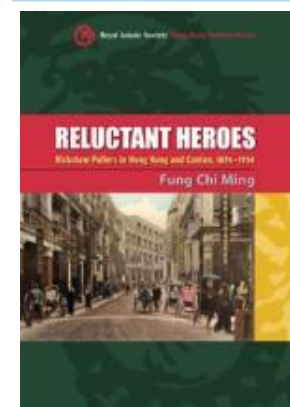
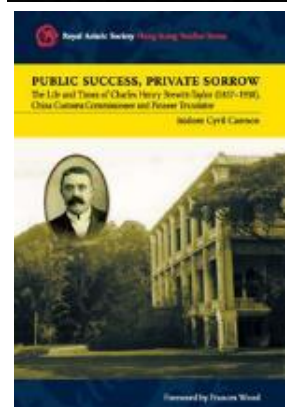
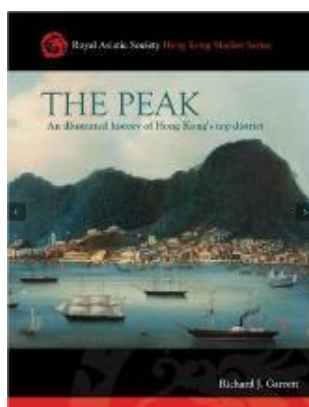
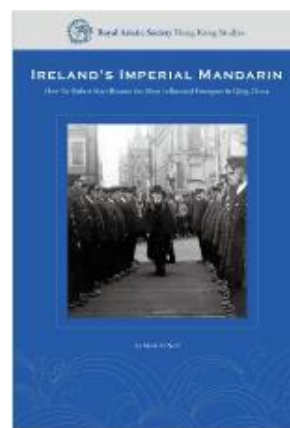
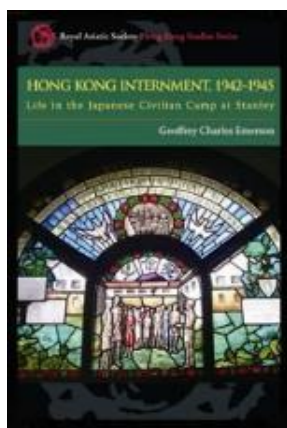
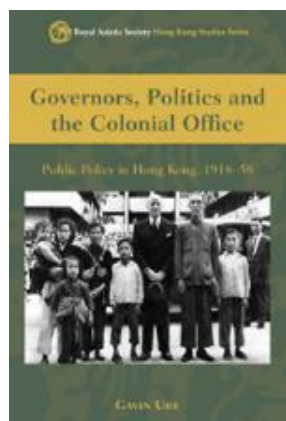
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