

ROYAL ASIATIC

皇家亞洲學會香港分會
G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong



SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

HONG KONG

July 2021

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<http://www.facebook.com/RoyalAsiaticSocietyHongKong>
Twitter: RASHK 1959



Newsletter July 2021

Picture Credit Helen Tinsley

Message from your President, Helen Tinsley

The above photo was taken during a recent RASHK visit to Homi Villa (the former residence of J.H. Ruttonjee) and the Civil Aid Society (CAS) camp site with its beautifully restored Yuen Tun Village houses in the surrounding Tai Lam Country Park. Thanks to Kate and John Budge – a large group of RAS HK members were able to join this trip on a sunny and breezy June morning. Side visits were also arranged to the Lautau Link Viewing Platform with a panoramic view of the Lantau and the Ting Kau bridges as well as a butterfly garden snugly nestled in a corner of the CAS camp. The morning visit was rounded off for those who wished to savour a delicious local flavor at the Sham Tseng Yue Kee Goose Restaurant. Places to the visit were fully subscribed, as COVID-19 regulations had eased a little, infection risks remaining relatively low in the wake of an effective vaccination programme. It was a most enjoyable trip for those who attended, appreciating the chance to escape from Zoom meetings for a while. For more details please take a look at the trip report later in this Newsletter, kindly prepared by Jenny Eagleton.

Our wide-ranging Zoom talks continue to inform and entertain - with an expanding audience from both local and overseas attendees. A recent talk by Dr. C.M. Kwong, our Council Member, introducing his interactive map project on the 1941 Battle of Hong Kong had drawn an audience of over > 100. Feedback showed how members appreciate the chance to listen to Zoom talks arranged by RASBJ, RAS Shanghai, RAS London and FRASHK. We have recently experimented with a hybrid format at Café 8 with Pimpim Karpo in her talk on Tibetan Heritage Architecture preservation. Face to face numbers are currently limited so we also set up a Zoom link for those who were interested but were not able to attend. For a first attempt it was quite successful and we would continue to utilise this format. One of our regular venues for face-to-face talks, the HK Government Visual Arts Centre run by LCSA, would not be available in the coming few months because of building works related to air-conditioning system upgrade. Other possible venues would be explored, and hybrid arrangements shall continue.

Some practical details for members – our previous mobile phone with former number became beyond repair and we now have a new phone number for contacting our Part time Administrator (the contact phone number is 6775 4039). We had also recently sent out RASHK 2021 membership cards to all paid up members. If you have not yet paid or received your membership card yet, please let us know -- it may be that our postal and emailing addresses information for reminders are not up to date.

Summer is here and travel plans out of Hong Kong have been constrained by COVID-19. Do take a look at the talks and visits we have planned for you in the coming two months, which we hope to both inform and entertain. If you have ideas and suggestions for future activities, please let us know. Our Activities Committee members would be delighted to hear about your proposals.

Best wishes to you all and stay well.

Helen Tinsley
President RASHK
June 2021

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Future Activities

All planned activities in 2021 will be subject to local regulations regarding COVID-19 restrictions, so please check when we are nearer the event date. If face-to-face meetings are not possible, every attempt will be made to link up via Zoom.

NOTE FOR ONLINE LECTURES

The RASHK hosts online lectures over the Zoom application, downloadable on computer at <https://zoom.us/> or smartphone from any app store.

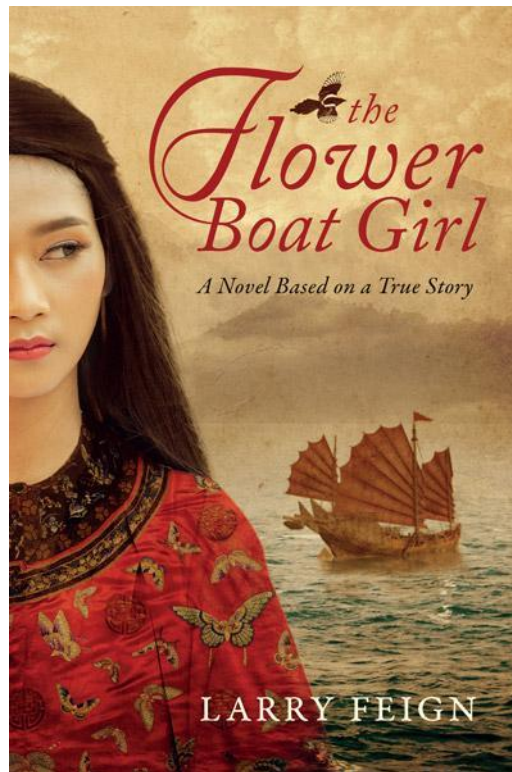
Specific details to access the Zoom calls that we will be using will be circulated via correspondence Emails prior to each online lecture.

If you would like to attend an online lecture, please email membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk so that we can send you the link to access the Zoom lecture.

LECTURE (hybrid mode – both in person face-to-face and zoom)

The Flower Boat Girl: A Novel Based on a True Story

Friday • 2nd July 2021



This is a talk (using the hybrid mode) by Larry Feign based on “The Flower Boat Girl: A Novel Based on a True Story” (June 2021), using an experimental combination format of face- to- face and Zoom.

Details

Based on a true story that has never been fully told until now, *The Flower Boat Girl* is the tale of a woman who, against all odds, shaped history on her own terms.

South China coast, 1801. Sold as a child to a floating brothel, 26-year-old Yang has finally bought her freedom, only to be kidnapped by a brutal pirate gang and forced to marry their leader.

Dragged through stormy seas and lawless bandit havens, Yang must stay scrappy to survive. She embeds herself in the dark business of piracy, carving out her role against the resistance of powerful pirate leaders and Cheung Po Tsai, her husband's flamboyant male concubine.

As she is caught between bitter rivals fighting for mastery over the pirates-and for her heart-Yang faces a choice between two things she never dreamed might be hers: power or love.

Speaker



Larry Feign is an award-winning writer and artist who has lived within walking distance from notorious pirate haunts in a South China Sea island village since 1991. He is the author of several books about Hong Kong, as well as a children's book series under a pen name. He is married with two grown children.

Programme

Speaker: Larry Feign
Date: Friday, 2nd July 2021
Time: 7-8 pm Hong Kong Time
Venue: At Café 8), above the HK Maritime Museum, Pier 8, Central
Admission: Café 8 - \$150 for members, \$200 for guests /non-members (numbers are limited)
No charge for alternative Zoom
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance in advance for either Café 8 or Zoom

ONLINE LECTURE

The Chinese Labour Corps on the Western Front

Thursday • 15th July 2021



An online documentary followed by a talk by Peng Wenlan based on her oral history film on the subject of the Chinese Labor Corps on the Western Front of WW1.

Details

When Britain realised that the war would last longer than expected and was taking its toll on their soldiers at the Western Front, they looked east to China to recruit a labour force of men to work behind the lines. Nearly 100,000 men were shipped over from the province of Shandong to northern France and Flanders. This was the Chinese Labour Corps and, together with a further 40,000 employed by the French, they would become the largest foreign labour corps to serve the Allies during World War I.

Speaker

Born in Kolkata, India, Wenlan Peng came to England during the mass exodus of Chinese from India in the 1960s. She was brought up in one of the roughest areas of Liverpool, which taught her to recognise the importance of hard work and humility at an early age. Always keenly interested in language and literature, she studied French and German at Leeds University and Modern Chinese at Cambridge University, before leaving for China to work as a translator and editor at the Foreign Languages Press in Beijing in 1978.

When English took the place of Russian as China's first foreign language in the late '70s, Wenlan became a presenter of English language programmes on China Central Television, becoming the state broadcaster's first foreign national to do so. She subsequently turned her skills to producing and directing – roles which she continued after her return to the UK in the late '80s at the Central Office of Information, various independent production companies and the BBC. She has since set up her own production company in London, which specialises in documentaries on China and frequently helps Chinese film and television companies on their UK and European shoots. Wenlan is also a regular trainer for the BBC and EU-funded documentary production courses and still does a spot of translation when she finds time.

Programme

Speaker: Peng Wenlan
Date: Thursday, 15th July 2021
Time: 7-8 pm Hong Kong Time
Venue: Online on Zoom
Admission: No charge, please register your attendance in advance
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance

ONLINE LECTURE

**Rice and Vegetable Farming at the Tangkou Community Project
in the Greater Bay Area**

Monday • 19th July 2021



Details

This is a talk by Peter Stuckey on rice/vegetable farming in the Greater Bay Area, with focus in the Tangkou area. There are perhaps 50 separately identifiable operations involved in the growing and harvesting of rice. These days we city dwellers rarely have the chance to watch the rice grow and to appreciate the skills and work involved. At Tangkou, footpaths were widened so that visitors to the Centre can walk freely around the rice and vegetable fields and can get as hands-on as they want. The twice-yearly cycle of germinating rice seeds, planting them, transplanting seedlings, tending, harvesting, threshing, drying and milling makes a fascinating story with beauty, hard work and reward but not without risks.

There are over 30 types of vegetables and fruits at any one time - planting, tending and harvesting throughout the year. The Project employs two expert local farmers. Villagers, as well as visitors, also help on a part time basis. In this presentation, round-the-year activities will be introduced, crops and their development will be identified. But for the excitement of harvesting crops and then eating them fresh in the Tangkou Village Inn - we will have to make do with PowerPoint till our next chance to visit.

Speaker



Peter Stuckey grew up in Devon seeking out opportunities to hike among the peat bogs of Dartmoor. While at university in Cambridge he found recreation in the fenlands. At work he thrived as a water engineer. It is perhaps no surprise that now he revels in waterlogged paddy fields.

He came to work in Hong Kong in 1977 and has also worked on water projects in Britain, the Nile Delta and in Malaysia. In his retirement Peter has found great satisfaction in helping his friend and fellow RASHK Member, Rocky Dang, develop the Tangkou Community Project in Kaiping.

www.tangkoucommunityproject.com. His Project gained an UNESCO Award of Merit for Cultural Heritage Conservation. He revitalised some disused buildings into a comfortable Village Inn and restaurant and established the farm to provide learning and fun experiences as well as fresh food for the guests. Throughout, a guiding theme has been to watch, learn, record and to make the experiences more accessible to others. In turn, Peter has learnt to better appreciate the culture and heritage of his adopted home.

Programme

Speaker: Peter Stuckey
Date: Monday, 19th July 2021
Time: 7-8 pm Hong Kong Time
Venue: Online on Zoom
Admission: No charge, please register your attendance in advance
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance

LOCAL VISIT

Blue Lotus Gallery: 'Portrait of Hong Kong' By Fan Ho

Sunday • 25th July 2021



Picture Credit Blue Lotus Gallery

This is a local visit to Blue Lotus Gallery, to explore the work of the photographer Fan Ho, whose work has been the subject of many exhibitions in the past. The Gallery Director, Sarah Greene, has kindly agreed to conduct this presentation in person.

Fan Ho, nicknamed 'the great master' earned his fame as one of Asia's most beloved street photographers capturing Hong Kong in the 50's and 60's.

Fan Ho's photographic career started in Shanghai at the early age of 14 when given his first Kodak Brownie for his birthday from his father. Within the first year he won his first award. In 1949, the family moved to Hong Kong where the young Fan Ho continued pursuing his love for photography. At the age of 18 he acquired his twin lens Rolleiflex with which he captured all his famous work.

Dubbed the 'Cartier-Bresson of the East', Fan Ho had the patience to wait for 'the decisive moment'; very often a collision of the unexpected, framed against a very cleverly composed background of geometrical construction and texture. He also liked to create drama and atmosphere with backlit effects or through the combination of smoke and light. His favourite locations were life on the sea or the streets, alleys and markets around dusk.

Fan Ho is a Fellow of the Photographic Society and the Royal Society of Arts in England, and an Honorary Member of the Photographic societies of Singapore, Argentina, Brazil, Germany, France, Italy and Belgium. He most recently won a 'Life-time Achievement Award, the 2nd Global Chinese Int'l Photography Award, China, 2015' by the Chinese Photographic Society (Guangzhou).

Programme

Speaker: Sarah Greene
Date: Sunday, 25th July 2021
Time: 11am – 12.30pm
Venue: Blue Lotus Gallery, G/F 28 Pound Lane, Sheung Wan Hong Kong.
Admission: RAS Members \$100; Non-Members / Guests \$150
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance

ONLINE LECTURE

S-Tree-t Story

Monday • 9th August 2021



Details

Gavin Coates will take us on a stroll down Hong Kong's Memory Street paying particular attention to our long suffering street trees. After looking at examples from the second half of the nineteenth century to the present he will reflect on the relationship between the quality of the pedestrian experience, urban greening and the public realm in Hong Kong, finally advocating for technically simple but politically fraught changes that could transform the most densely urbanised parts of the city.

Speaker

Gavin S. Coates, 高嘉雲, **BLA (Leeds), DipLA (Leeds), DipPCDI, CMLI (UK), MCSD (UK), FHKILA, RLA, CA, FHEA**

Gavin Coates is a Senior Lecturer at The University of Hong Kong's Division of Landscape Architecture, teaching Planting Design and Landscape Representation. Since 1982 he has worked as a landscape architect in Hong Kong, participating in key projects for the Hong Kong Government, including Tseung Kwan O New Town infrastructure, Yuen Long Town Park, the design of the waterfall area of Hong Kong Park, and the planting of over 20,000 street trees under the Greening Master Plan programme between 2004 and 2015. He became an ISA Certified Arborist in 2010. He is the author and illustrator of several environmental children's books.

Programme

Speaker: Gavin Coates
Date: Monday, 9th August 2021
Time: 7-8 pm Hong Kong Time
Venue: Online on Zoom
Admission: No charge, please register your attendance in advance
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance

ONLINE LECTURE

Fu Manchu and the Yellow Peril: The Making of a Racist Myth

Thursday • 19th August 2021



An online lecture by Dr. Jenny Clegg based on her book “Fu Manchu and the Yellow Peril: The Making of a Racist Myth”.

Details

It was not uncommon in the past when Chinese people were often portrayed in media and films as a closed, mysterious community, master-minded behind the scenes by cruel gangsters and drug barons. This book confounds these stereotypes and exposes the systematic nature of racist ideology through a critical analysis of the myth of the "Yellow Peril", epitomized by the character of Fu Manchu, the stereotypical Oriental master-villain popularized in fiction and film of the 1920s. The myth is contrasted with the real lives of the Chinese communities in Britain and the contextualized historical relations between Britain and China. The persistence of the underlying themes and images in popular culture has implications for the present-day Chinese in Britain.



Speaker

Jenny Clegg is a Senior Lecturer in International Studies, and a China specialist, at the University of Central Lancashire. She first visited China in the 1970s and has followed developments closely ever since. Jenny is also active in the peace movement.

Programme

Speaker: Dr. Jenny Clegg
Date: Thursday, 19th August 2021
Time: 7-8 pm Hong Kong Time
Venue: Online on Zoom
Admission: No charge, please register your attendance in advance
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance

LOCAL VISIT

Nose in the Books : “Faces Under Masks: Tales from Hongkongers amid the pandemic”

Saturday • 21st August 2021



This is a local visit to ‘Nose in the Books’, the first community library of the humanities in Hong Kong.

Whilst there, Dr. Chloe Lai will engage in a conversation about her book “Faces under masks: Tales from Hongkongers amid the pandemic (1.5 米：活在瘟疫蔓延時)”.

Details

‘Faces under Masks’ narrates the stories of 10 Hongkongers in the Covid-19 pandemic.

The year of 2020 will be remembered as a time when everything changed. In Hong Kong and across the globe, face masks became an emblem of the year. The fabric became a must wear item to guard against a highly infectious respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus. Abruptly, despite our differences and disagreement, human kind share the same and basic wish: staying safe. Lives revolve around Covid. To document the present and inform the future, the author interviewed 10 individuals of diverse background and at different stages of their lives.

Speaker

Dr Chloe Lai is a journalist-turned-storyteller. She curates a digital story museum named Urban Diary (<https://www.urbandiarist.com/en/>). Urban Diary is a collage of stories which features the arts and crafts of the ordinary Hong Kong people that make the city vibrant, diverse and resilient. Dr Lai uses engaged journalism to narrate stories of everyday life. She firmly believes in discovering different ways of living in the ruthlessly development-driven Hong Kong.

Programme

Speaker: Dr. Chloe Lai
Date: Saturday, 21st August 2021
Time: 11:00 AM
Venue: 3/F, 54 Yun Ping Road, Causeway Bay.
Admission: RAS Members \$100; Non-Members / Guests \$150
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance

Recent Activities

Note: Audio only recordings of online lectures are available upon request to the RASHK Administrator Email address.

**Online Lecture (Friday, 14th May 2021):
The Hong Kong Chronicles**



香港地方志中心
HONG KONG CHRONICLES INSTITUTE



尋根 · 記載 · 承傳

創建文化寶庫 把握歷史機遇
加入編撰《香港志》

**Local Visit (Saturday, 22nd May 2021):
Yuet Tung China Works: Porcelainware Manufacturer**



A treasure trove of Chinese hand-painted ceramics can be found within a short 5-minute walk from Kowloon Bay MTR station. Yuet Tung China Works is a three-generation family business situated on the 8th floor of an old factory building. There used to be many such factories but very few remain in Hong Kong and this one serves as a both shop and warehouse for traditionally painted products.

Our group of 17 were warmly welcomed by the owner, Joseph Tso, who shared with us the history of his business and some of the china painting patterns which can be commissioned. Many famous residents and visitors to Hong Kong have done so in the past.

We then had the chance to wander at will amongst the stacks of ceramics - to admire the multitude of colourful designs and shapes on display and gaze at the few artisans painting delicate patterns on to china dishes, bowls, cups, and plates. Many of our group made purchases as reminders of our visit and gifts for family and friends. The family keeps open doors for visitors to browse and purchase their products, so there is always the chance to return for more purchases in future.

Prepared by Helen Tinsley.

**Local Visit (Wednesday, 26th May 2021):
Photographs from the 1950s: Marjorie Doggett's Singapore and Lee Fook Chee's
Hong Kong**



Our RASHK visit for 20 members to this exhibition was generously hosted by Edward Stokes of 'Photo Heritage' who was one of the prime movers behind the exhibition. We were also introduced to the two books on which this exhibition was based.

All these black and white photos were taken in both Hong Kong (by Lee Fook Chee) and Singapore (by Marjorie Doggett) during the 1950s. They were 2 photographers from very different backgrounds but their images link two of Asia's great port cities during a decade of very rapid economic and political change. There were some similarities, yet for both photographers and cities there were great emerging contrasts. Today the images resonate with us --on the extent of change which occurred during that decade and since then, as well as the forces which drove and continue to drive change in both cities.

Prepared by Helen Tinsley.

**Local Visit (Saturday, 5th June 2021):
Honouring Tradition and Heritage: Min Chiu Society at Sixty**

(Cancelled due to HKG rules on group visits)



**Lecture (Thursday, 10th June 2021) with Pimpim Karpo:
Conserving the Architectural Heritage of High Asia - 25 Years of the Tibet Heritage
Fund**



**Local Visit (Friday, 18th June 2021):
Visit to Yuen Tun Civil Aid Services Camp, Yuen Tun Old Village & Airport Core
Programme Exhibition Centre at Homi Villa**



Lantau Link Viewpoint, Airport Core Programme Exhibition Centre at Homi Villa, Yuen Tun Civil Aid Services Camp, Yuen Tun Old Village

A hot and sticky Hong Kong summer day saw us pile in a bus to see multiple sites in the western area of the New Territories.

First stop was the Lantau Link Viewpoint. The Viewpoint was officially opened on 27 April 1997 by Baroness Thatcher, and it opened to traffic on 22 May. Lantau Link is the vital connection in the transport network serving Chep Lap Kok Airport, comprising the Tsing Ma Bridge, the Kap Shui Mun Bridge, and the Ma Wan Viaduct. There were displays on and also helpful panels on the walk to the top part of the Viewpoint detailing the complexity and technological innovation needed for this infrastructure project.

Next stop was the Airport Core Programme Exhibition Centre, housed in Homi Villa, built on promontory overlooking the Ma Wan Channel as a private residence in the 1930's by Mr. Jehangir Hormusjee Ruttonjee, a well-known Indian merchant in Hong Kong. Mr. Ruttonjee established Hong Kong Brewers and Distillers Ltd, which was located near the Villa. He was also closely associated with Hong Kong's public affairs, including the establishment of the Ruttonjee Sanatorium and the Hong Kong Anti-Tuberculosis, Chest and Heart Diseases Association.

Homi Villa remained a Ruttonjee family property until 1973 when it was acquired by the Hong Kong Government and was for a time the residence of Sir Philip Haddon-Cave, the Financial Secretary. The Villa was converted into the Airport Core Programme Exhibition Centre 1995. But one can still imagine what it was like in its glorious days. Inside the Villa are displays about the bridge construction and opening. The Exhibition Centre displays, truth be told has also left its glory days behind, looking rather tired and dull, although the film they showed us was rather interesting. It is due to close as few visitors make their way to this somewhat out-of-the-way location.

Next on the agenda, was the Yuen Tun Civil Aid Services (CAS) Camp which lay within Tai Lam Country Park. Luckily we were able to be bused in and avoided heatstroke on the up and down bits, while still enjoying the natural surroundings.

The CAS, which was formed in 1952, is an auxiliary government-funded emergency service financed. It has 3,700 members from the Hong Kong community. The Service's primary duty is to augment the regular front-line emergency forces in the event of natural disasters and other emergencies. It also provides various community services such as crowd management for community activities, fire-prevention patrols in country parks, and provision of training on mountain hiking safety to the public. The camp had extensive grounds and facilities and a commemorative plaque by keen hiker and outdoorsman, Governor Sir Murray MacLehose in 1977.

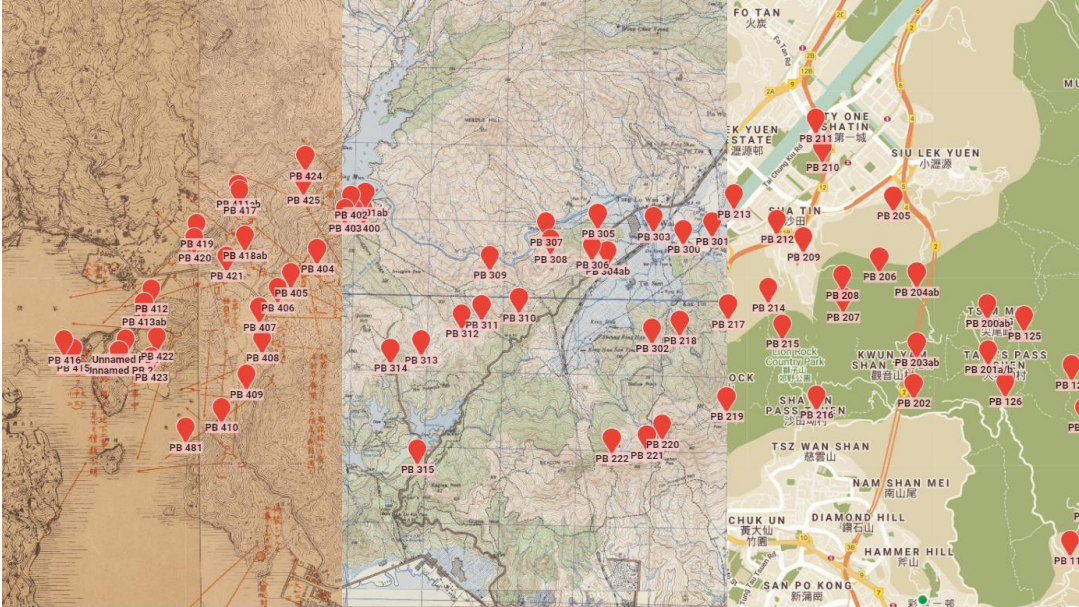
Adjacent to the CAS Camp, were the restored stone houses of Yuen Tun Village (圓墩村) overlooking a cow-filled field. Inside the houses were traditional Chinese furniture from an earlier period and farm implements. They were rather dusty and could do with a bit of restoration themselves. But the scene seemed more "real" than some restored villages which tend to become too "touristy". One can almost imagine that former villagers had left everything in place when they moved out. I tried to find out more about the village, but information was rather sparse despite extensive internet searching. But I imagine they would have to trudge along what we now know as the Tsuen Wan Ancient trail to the coast in order to sell village produce.

This was our second-last stop. Some decided to walk through a nearby butterfly garden, while others decided to spy the winged creatures from the air-conditioned comfort of the bus.

The RAS troop didn't trudge along any trail to the coast like the Yuen Tun villagers, but were bused to one of the famous roast goose restaurants at Shem Tsang for lunch, while others decided to return to the city.

Prepared by Jennifer Eagleton.

Online Lecture (Thursday, 24th June 2021) with Chi Man Kwong: **Battle of Hong Kong 1941**



Online Lecture (Tuesday, 29th June 2021) with Pavel Krejčič:
From Siberia to Europe through Hong Kong: The Czechoslovak Twentieth-Century Odyssey



Of General Interest

St John's Cathedral Shop

Arrangements have been made with St John's Cathedral Bookshop for copies of RASHK journals Vols. 58 – 60 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>.



Membership Renewal

2021 Membership Renewal

Members are reminded that membership renewals were due on 1 January 2021. 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.

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



Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch Membership Application Form 2021

Membership Application Form for 2021, please click [here](#).

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

Publications

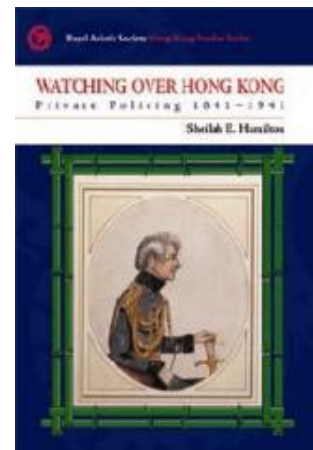
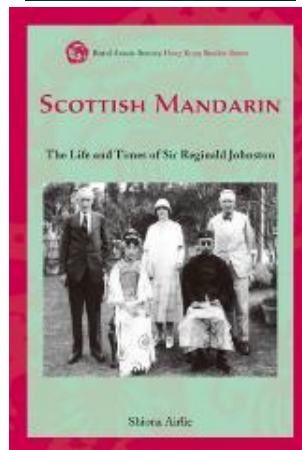
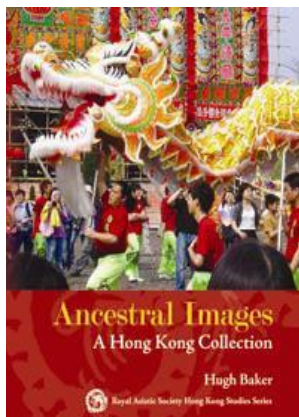
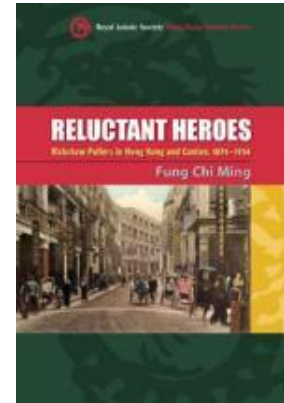
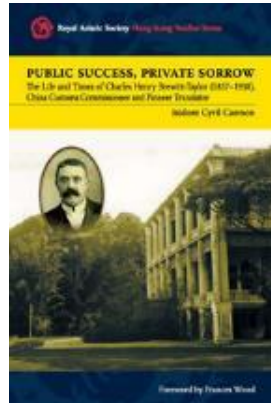
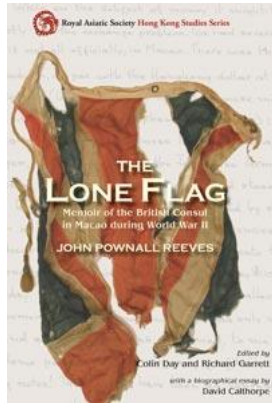
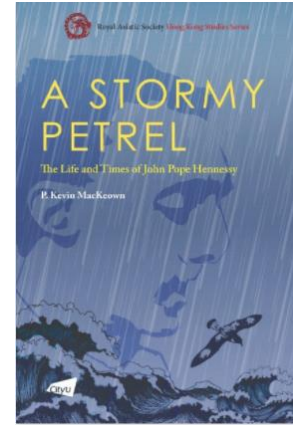
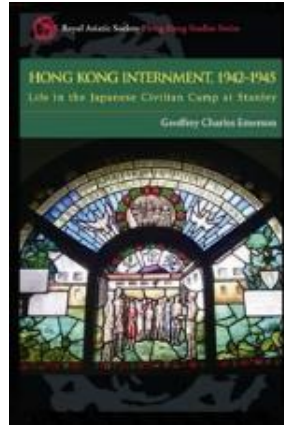
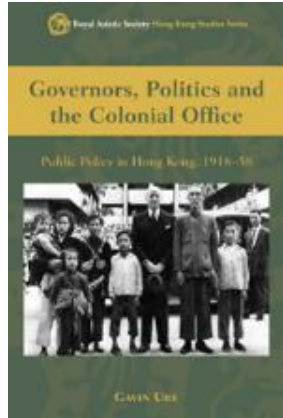
PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

<u>Journals</u>	<u>Price HK\$</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Order</u>
Vols. 1 - 55	\$50.00 each	—	—
Vols. 56 - 60	\$200.00 each	—	—
<u>Books</u>			
'Hong Kong Going and Gone'	\$120.00	—	—
	—	—	
<u>Postage & Packaging</u>	<u>within HK</u>	<u>Overseas (surface/registered)</u>	
Hong Kong Going and Gone	price on request	price on request	
Full set of Journals	\$260.00	price on request	—
All other volumes (per volume)	\$25.00	\$65.00	—
 TOTAL		 HK\$ _____	

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