

ROYAL ASIATIC

SOCIETY

HONG KONG

皇家亞洲學會香港分會
G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong



NEWSLETTER

March 2020

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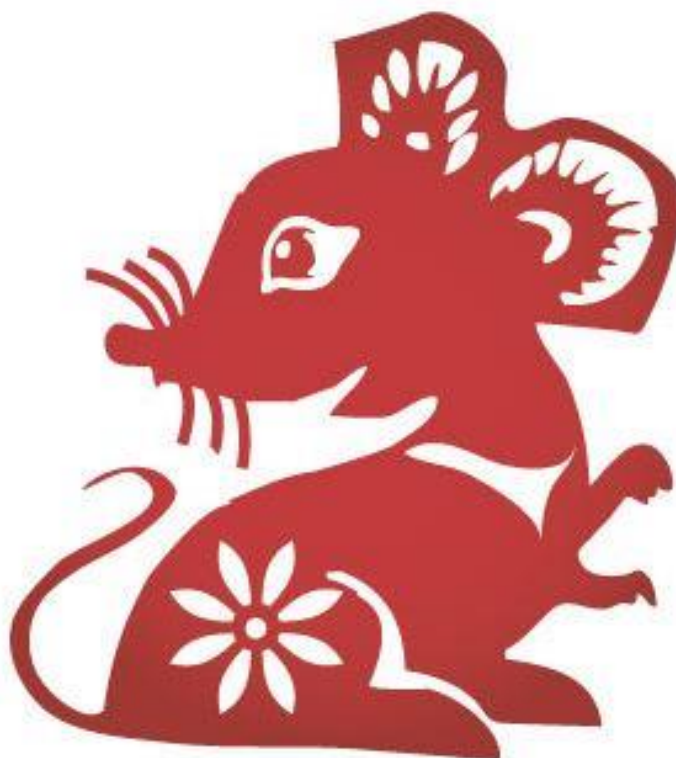
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Lunar New Year 2020: Year of the Rat

Contents

MESSAGE FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT			3
FUTURE ACTIVITIES			
Fri, 06 Mar 2020	Lecture	Chinese Globalisation or The Modern Silk Road and The Belt and Road Initiative	5
Fri, 20 Mar 2020	Lecture	Meet the First Bishop and hear about his Journeys with a Mission!	7
Sat, 28 Mar 2020	Lecture	WWF Island House Visit	8
Fri, 08 May 2020	Local Visit	Visit to Yuen Tun Civil Aid Services Camp, Yuen Tun Old Village & Airport Core Programme Exhibition Centre at Homi Villa	9
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING			
Tues, 21 Apr 2020	Annual General Meeting	RAS 60th Annual General Meeting	11
RECENT ACTIVITIES			
Fri, 10 Jan 2020		60 Years of Archaeology in Hong Kong	12
Sun, 19 Jan 2020		On the Verge of Metropolis: Squatters in Hong Kong	13
Wed, 22 Jan 2020		A Path Twice Travelled: My Journey as a Historian of China	15
OF GENERAL INTEREST			
Wed, 20 Mar 2020		CUHK Legal Lecture Series	16
		St. John's Cathedral Shop	17
Tues, 21 Apr 2020		Proverse Spring Reception	17
		2020 Membership Renewal	18
PUBLICATIONS			19
CONTACT DETAILS			21

Message from your Vice President, Helen Tinsley

Welcome to our March 2020 RASHK Newsletter.

Since our last Newsletter in January 2020 we have also celebrated the beginning of the Lunar New Year of the Rat and on behalf of our Council, we send you all best wishes for the coming year.

However, those of you who are based here or are frequent visitors to Hong Kong will appreciate the Chinese saying that 'misfortunes do not strike only once'. Just as local civil unrest was reducing, with the prospects of daily life and the planning / rescheduling of events were beginning to return to near normality, we are now facing all the challenges – health, social, education and economic – related to the unprecedented impact of a fast spreading novel coronavirus, Covid-19, with its Chinese epicentre in Wuhan, Hubei province.

In Hong Kong there is a very strong feeling of déjà vu and community memory of SARS in 2003, for those of you who were here 17 years ago. Checking on daily figures of infection rates, wearing of masks, use of alcohol hand gel and social distancing along with a certain amount of 'cabin fever' as civil life grinds once again to a trickle, have again become part of daily life here, as we seek to control the risks to our local community and overseas contacts. We spend a lot more time than before in front of screens, using IT for meetings, education, entertainment and social interaction. I will not add to so much that has already been written about the local and global impact of this new viral infection- with very wide ranging opinions on the timing, effectiveness and appropriateness of measures taken to both contain and reduce the virus's local and international impact.

At this time of writing we simply do not know enough to answer some of the big questions about this new and fast moving infection in order to reduce uncertainty and to predict outcomes locally and globally, but important knowledge eventually will undoubtedly emerge to guide our actions and support our community's natural resilience.

The November 2019 postponed events were rescheduled to January 2020 (Professor Cohen's talk) and March 2020 (Gillian and Verner Bickley's talk) respectively. Two events, talks by both David Bellis and Les Bird in February 2020, have regretfully been postponed because of Hong Kong Government's decision to close LCSD facilities and another event was cancelled because of non-availability of the planned speaker. However, in January we had the benefit of talks by Bill Meecham on 60 years of Archaeology in Hong Kong, complete with access for those who attended to his recent book and very comprehensive CD, and Prof Cohen's journey as a historian of China, again with a chance to purchase his recent publication on the same topic. In addition, University of Chicago generously hosted a very well attended Sunday afternoon seminar at their beautiful and historic Pokfulam campus with stunning views over the Lamma Channel in which former Council President Pat Hase and Council Member Tim Ko shared their knowledge, picture archives and expertise on the history of squatters in Hong Kong. Their talks, with some unexpected findings, have been expertly summarised by Veronica Pearson later in this Newsletter.

For future events we plan to take a case by case approach depending on the local situation but will go ahead if considered possible and safe. We will keep you informed by email and Mailchimp announcements. One forward event for your diaries is the 2020 RASHK AGM which this year will be held on Tuesday 21st April 2020 at Café 8 which is located above the Hong Kong Maritime Museum at Pier 8, Central. We look forward to seeing you there.

March will be a busy month for our Administrator since we plan to relocate our current office in Tai Koo to shared office space in Tsim Sha Tsui, effective April 1, 2020. For most of you there will be no impact since our telephone, email contact details and GPO office address will remain the same. This move may result in some older stock journals becoming available for purchase at a much-reduced purchase price; we will also be discarding some of our office furniture. Please watch for details later if you are interested.

As always, your comments, feedback and suggestions for future activities are most welcome. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy.

Best wishes,

Helen Tinsley

VP, RASHK and Activities Committee Coordinator

March 2020

Future Activities

Please Note:

All activities in the immediate future may be subject to postponement or cancellation at short notice, depending on assessment of infection risk level. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and thank you for your understanding.

LECTURE - POSTPONED

Chinese Globalization or The Modern Silk Road and The Belt and Road Initiative

This lecture has been postponed until a later date



Details

Dr. Jean Berlie has recently released a book titled “China’s Globalization and the Belt and Road Initiative”. In this lecture he will detail the context and ramifications of the Belt and Road Initiative. The book concerns globalization and the Belt and Road, also called the modern Silk Road. The name Silk Road is ancient and continues to be very attractive with 2000 years of history.

The term globalization has a long history but came late into fashion in the 1980s. The Western empires succeeded to develop trade and economic exchanges, culture and education, which were also part of the colonial discourse. At present globalization is much more global and started in 2013.

For China, globalization is implicitly linked with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which starts in Central Asia, the pivot of Asia. The new globalization is different from the ancient Silk Road mainly concerned by trade. The Belt and Road Initiative, or modern Silk Road, includes policy coordination, infrastructure, mobility and connectivity, cultural exchanges, tourism, cooperation, financial investment and trade.

The opportunities and risks of the modern Silk Road, Land and Sea, will be detailed.

The Speaker

Dr. Jean Berlie has taught at Lingnan University in Hong Kong and was a visiting Professor at Jinan University in Guangzhou. He is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Center for Greater China Studies of the Hong Kong Institute of Education, and a researcher at the Centre of Asian Studies of the University of Hong Kong.



He has written to and contributed to multiple books on multiple subjects, including:

- (ed.) China's Globalization and the Belt and Road Initiative. Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.
- East Timor Independence, ASEAN and Indonesia. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.
- The Chinese of Macau a Decade after the Handover. Hong Kong: Proverse, 2012.
- The Burmanization of Myanmar's Muslims, Bangkok: White Lotus, 2008.
- Islam in China, Bangkok: White Lotus, 2004.
- (ed.) Macao 2000. Oxford University Press, 1999.

Programme

Speaker: Dr. Jean Berlie
Date: This lecture has been postponed until a later date.
Time: Reception opens 6:30 p.m.; lectures starts at 7:00 p.m.
Venue: Café 8 at Pier 8, Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Central
Admission: RAS Members \$150; Non-Members / Guests \$200
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door

LECTURE

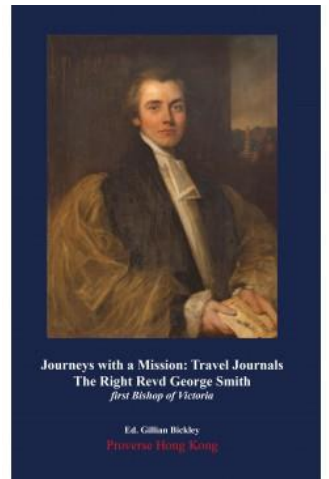
**Meet the First Bishop
and hear about his Journeys with a Mission!**

(We are pleased that this event has been rescheduled following past postponement from November 2019.)

Friday • 20 March 2020

In this anniversary year for the Anglican church in Hong Kong, Dr Gillian Bickley's illustrated talk will give a personal view of the pioneering first bishop and his wife -- he "a tall, thin pale-looking man" and she "most amiable," "a perfect lady".

You will hear some of the experiences and events the bishop encountered during missionary travels mainly in China during a period of turmoil, and in India just a few years ahead of the Indian Mutiny. An independent-minded, highly educated, dedicated, and enthusiastic person, Bishop Smith had many wide-ranging connections and, in his travel journals, provides first-hand information including about China's internal, consular and diplomatic events.

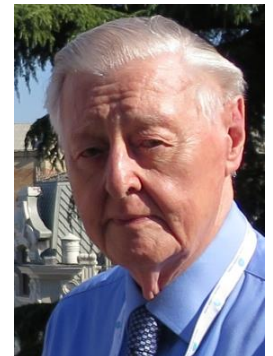


The Speaker



Gillian Bickley, PhD, FRSA, up to recently a Council member and Vice-President of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong, retired Associate Professor at Hong Kong Baptist University, is known for her work in Hong Kong's 19th century history. She has been researching the life and writings of the missionary and missionary bishop, The Right Revd George Smith, first Anglican Bishop of Victoria, for many years and contributed the biographical entry on the bishop in both the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* and the *Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography*.

Dr Verner Bickley, MBE, FRSA, formerly an Assistant Director of Education in Hong Kong and Chairman Emeritus of the English-Speaking Union (Hong Kong) will join his wife to give brief readings from the first uncensored edition of the Bishop's travels, recently published as *Journeys with a Mission; Travel Journals of The Right Revd George Smith (1815 - 1871), first Bishop of Victoria, Hong Kong (1849-1865)*.



Programme

Speaker: Dr Gillian Bickley
Date: Friday, 20 March 2020
Time: Reception opens 6:30 p.m.; lectures starts at 7:00 p.m.
Venue: Harold Smyth room, St John's Cathedral, 4-8 Garden Road, Central
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

LOCAL VISIT

WWF Island House Visit

Saturday • 28 March 2020



The RAS has booked a trip to the Island House and Garden, a historical building and monument in Tai Po. The numbers for this trip are limited to 25, and a bus will be booked for travel to (and possibly also from) Island House.

The Island House Conservation Studies Centre is a vital environmental education resource centre for WWF. Located on Tai Po Yuen Chau Tsai Island, it is also one of Hong Kong's declared monuments.

Island House was the sole official residence of Sir David Akers-Jones, the former District Commissioner of the New Territories. Built in 1904, it later became a declared monument under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance. In order to preserve its cultural heritage as well as its diverse flora and fauna of the vicinity, the House became a Conservation Studies Centre and has been operated by WWF since 1986.

Built at the beginning of the 20th century and declared a heritage monument in 1983, Island House is home to 140 plant species, comprising a mixture of local and introduced species ranging from ferns to mature trees.

The details of Island House and their accessibility information can be found here:
https://www.wwf.org.hk/en/whatwedo/community_engagement_and_education/island_house/

Programme

Event Manager: Helen Tinsley
Date: Saturday, 28th March 2020
Time: Bus leaves 9am, visit commences at 10am until 12pm (details TBC)
Venue: Island House Lane, Yuen Chau Tsai, Tai Po
Admission: \$100 for members, \$150 for non-members plus transport fees tbc.
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay on arrival

LOCAL VISIT

Visit to Yuen Tun Civil Aid Services Camp, Yuen Tun Old Village & Airport Core Programme Exhibition Centre at Homi Villa

Friday • 8 May 2020



The RAS has been fortunate to arrange a visit to Yuen Tun Civil Aid Services Camp within Tai Lam Country Park. Within the camp site are excellent CAS facilities including extensive outdoor areas, the restored stone houses of Yuen Tun Old Village and four plaques of historical interest including a plaque to commemorate the opening of the camp by the Governor Sir Murray MacLehose in 1977.

The Hong Kong Civil Aid Services was formed in 1952 by the government of Hong Kong and modelled after Civil Aid agencies in the United Kingdom. The CAS helps the government's regular emergency forces during disasters, mountain search and rescue, flood rescue, countryside fire protection duties and training activities.

En-route to the CAS camp we will visit the Viewpoint overlooking the bridges to Lantau opened by Baroness Thatcher before arriving at the 1930's Homi Villa built as a private residence by Mr. Jehangir Hormusjee Ruttonjee (J.H. Ruttonjee) (律敦治) (1880 – 1960).

Homi Villa was constructed on a dramatic promontory overlooking the Ma Wan Channel so J.H. Ruttonjee could supervise the nearby construction of his company's brewery, the first in Hong Kong. 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. Homi Villa was converted into the Airport Core Programme Exhibition Centre (機場核心計劃展覽中心) in 1995 by the New Airport Projects Co-ordination Office. During the conversion major internal alterations were carried out but some of the Neo-Classical colonial style exterior remains.

Programme

Date: Friday, 8 May 2020

Time: 8.45am – 1.30pm with an optional self-pay lunch to follow

Transport: Meeting at 8.45am at Pier 4, Outlying Ferry Piers
Private Bus to and from Central.

There will be a small amount of walking in the CAS camp. When booking please advise if mobility assistance is required

Lunch: An optional self-pay lunch at Nittaya Delicious Thai Restaurant in Sham Tseng. If staying for lunch, the return transport will be by public transport. Express Bus No: 962B stops in Sheung Wan, Central & Causeway Bay

Cost: RAS Members \$300, Non-members / Guests \$320
Optional Self-pay Lunch \$100 - \$120 / person + drinks

Booking: Please email membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk in advance to reserve your place and provide your contact phone number.

Payment: Post your cheque, payable to 'Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch'. to G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong to be received no later than 20 April to reserve your place.

Note: Attendees are advised to wear cool clothing, suitable shoes, bring drinking water and anti-mosquito precautions as there is a small amount of walking on paved roads or paths in the Yuen Tun CAS camp site

Annual General Meeting



The 60th RASHK Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for 6.30pm, Tues, 21st of April 2020.

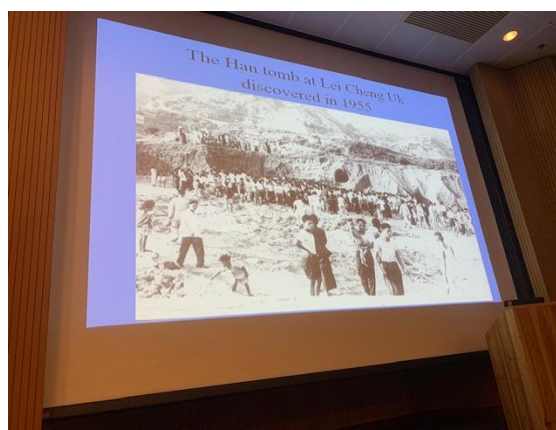
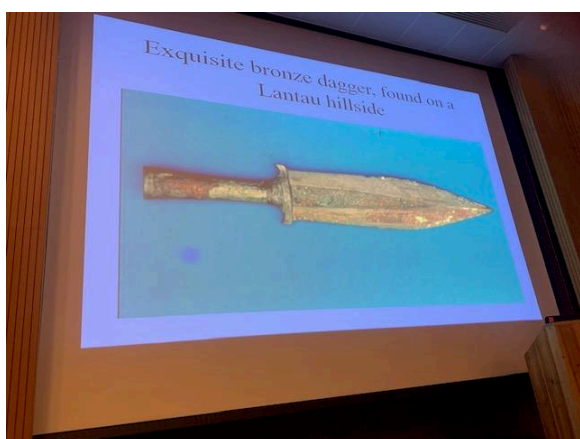
This year the venue will be Café 8 in Pier 8, above the Hong Kong Maritime Museum.

Members and guests are warmly invited to attend to hear reports from Council members on their year's work and elect Council members for the coming year. The AGM will commence at 6.30 pm with snacks and drinks available from 6pm onwards. Full details will be sent out to members separately.

Recent Activities

Lecture: 60 Years of Archaeology in Hong Kong

Speaker: William Meacham
Date: Friday, 10th January 2020
Venue: LT4, Centre for Visual Arts, 7A Kennedy Road, Mid-Levels



Photos courtesy Helen Tinsley

Lecture: On the Verge of Metropolis: Squatters in Hong Kong

Speakers: Mr. Tim Ko and Dr. Patrick Hase
Date: Sunday, 19th January 2020
Venue: The Hong Kong Jockey Club University of Chicago Academic Complex |
The University of Chicago Francis and Rose Yuen Campus in Hong Kong
Prepared by: Veronica Pearson, February 2020

The speakers, topic and splendid venue combined to make this a very popular talk, with a registration of over 80 people. It was also noticeable that the average age of the audience was significantly lower than at many RAS lectures; this is clearly a subject with wide ranging appeal.

Tim Ko provided an overview of Hong Kong's history of squatters and their settlements, illustrated by photographs from his extensive collection. He pointed out that squatters have been part of Hong Kong life since the earliest days of the colony. From the 1850s and possibly earlier, squatter villages began to be established, for example, in Tsim Sha Tsui and Hill Road on Hong Kong Island. Initially they housed mostly Chinese male immigrants from the Mainland who found work here as Hong Kong grew. By the 1930s hundreds of thousands of refugees were fleeing the Japanese occupation of China, especially after the fall of Guangzhou in October 1938. Towards the end of the Second World War the American air force mistakenly dropped bombs on Wanchai, Central and Yaumatei killing at least a 1000 people and rendering many thousands more homeless.

A government survey of 1955 found that at least 260,000 people lived in squatter huts of whom half were long term residents. A further survey in 1964 revealed 550,000 (in a total population of 3.2 million based on the 1960 Census) were inadequately housed; this included those living in squatter huts, under staircases, on rooftops, on the street, in caves (and between large rocks – truly, we saw the photos) and rented bed spaces (a bunk bed arrangement with four to six storeys each individually rented and we saw those photos too). A squatter hut in Telegraph Bay (Pokfulam, where Baguio Villas now is) would look like luxury in comparison. Many squatter areas were extensive and functioned as communities; but all were subject to various natural and man-made disasters, particularly fire. The most famous of these, and the one that had the most momentous effect on government housing policy, was the Shek Kip Mei fire on Christmas night 1953. It rendered 50,000 people homeless overnight. Many had to live on the streets for 3-5 years (and yes, we saw the photos). It also galvanised the government into taking some responsibility for providing decent, affordable housing for the working poor. Not that it did away with squatter areas entirely; the last substantial one, in Diamond Hill, was cleared in the early 2000s. And some, like Pokfulam village, still exist.

Patrick Hase challenged our stereotypical understanding of squatter dwellings and their occupants based on his intimate knowledge of the subject much of it gleaned when he was a District Officer in Sha Tin. Using the examples of two villages, one in the New Territories, the other in Kowloon, we learned that the issues involved are more complex. Neither are necessarily what we usually visualise squatter dwellings to be – frail structures involving a mixture of abandoned or repurposed pieces of wood, corrugated iron and cardboard occupied by recent immigrants. Yiu Liu village uses land once occupied by the Ho Tung family and used as housing for their gardeners, but which had been abandoned for several decades. The Kwu Tung village was developed in the later 1950s and originally consisted of about 100 purpose built concrete

houses with attached gardens for rent or sale – all built by a local construction company owned by a triad society. Furthermore, they were considered comfortable, desirable homes and the triads’ conscientious and responsible housing managers. They understood the meaning of maintenance and built both the famous local market and what are known as ‘honest roads’ i.e. ones that don’t collapse at the first sign of grey clouds. Occupants are not recent immigrants but escapees from bed spaces in Kowloon. The triads built factories close by (mostly making soy sauce) providing work and a cash income for villagers. A Lutheran chapel, a kindergarten and a school moved in. Still, best not to get into arrears with rent. The government’s response to this, fundamentally illegal, activity? They ignored it. Currently they are considering clearing the village; but fourth generation occupants are unlikely to take such a move lying down particularly since some householders claim title to the land.

So, what many of the audience thought we knew about ‘squatters’ proved either to be incorrect or incomplete. This talk was a fascinating example of how both useful and necessary it is to have our stereotypes challenged by facts!



Photos courtesy Helen Tinsley

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

Speaker: Professor Paul A. Cohen
Date: Wednesday, 22nd January 2020
Venue: LT4, Centre for Visual Arts, 7A Kennedy Road, Mid-Levels

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

Professor Paul A. Cohen
Associate, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies,
Harvard University;
Professor Emeritus of History, Wellesley College;
Visiting Scholar, HKHSS, HKU

About the Book
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 1950s 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 massive change. This distinction is very much on Cohen's mind throughout the book.

About the Author
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 Sill 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 Shouan in Twentieth-Century China* (2003), 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's 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.

8 January 2019 (Tue) | 11:30 am
Lecture Hall, G/F, May Hall, The University of Hong Kong
All are welcome | www.hku.hk | Email: booktalk@hku.hk | Tel: 9177 5772



Photos courtesy Helen Tinsley

Local Visit: Latitude 22N Ceramics Studio/ Julie & Jesse

Hosts: Julie Progin and Jesse McIn
Date: Saturday, February 29, 2020
Venue: Unit 16B, Man Foong Industrial Building, 7 Cheung Lee Street, Chai Wan

A writeup for this event will be available in the next newsletter.

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:

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>.



Proverse Spring Reception

Time: Tuesday, 21 April 2019, 7.00-9.00pm.

Location: Blue Room, Helena May, 35 Garden Road.

Price: HKD198.00, includes entry and complimentary canapés. There will be a cash bar.

RASHK members and friends are cordially invited to the Proverse Spring Reception. There will be a book table with Hong Kong and China-themed books available for purchase.

The event, hosted by RASHK Life members, Dr Verner Bickley, MBE and Dr Gillian Bickley, begins and ends with mixing and mingling. Literary awards and announcements are made, with brief readings and the launch of at least three books.

For more details and to register, copy and paste the following to your browser window and then choose the payment method you prefer: http://www.proversepublishing.com/21_april_2020_event_register

Register soon as numbers are strictly limited by the constraints of this heritage venue!

Enquiries to info@proversepublishing.com

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.

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 2020

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

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

Publications

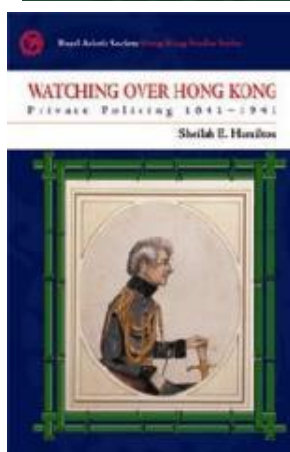
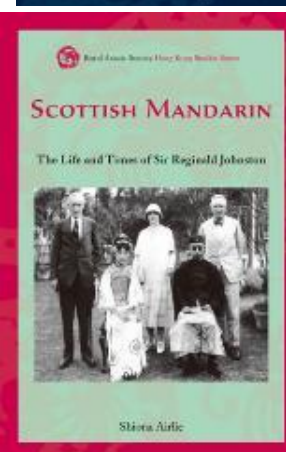
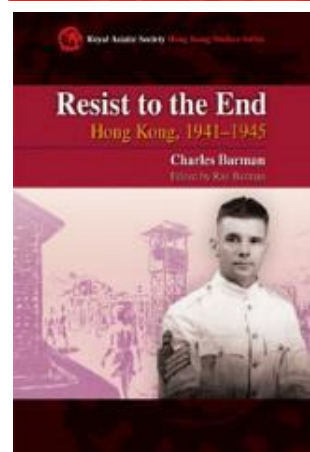
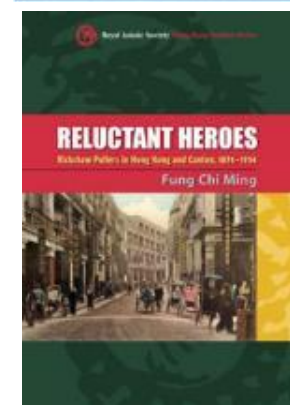
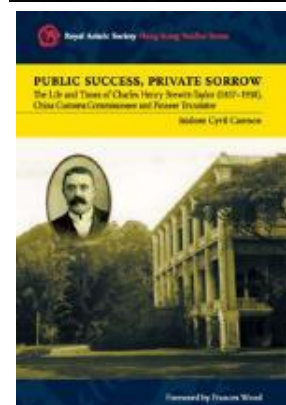
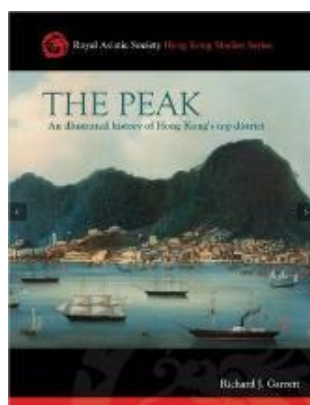
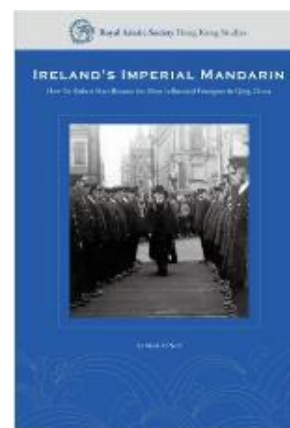
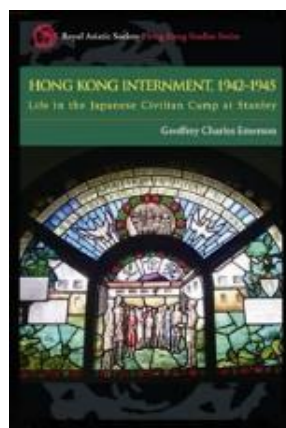
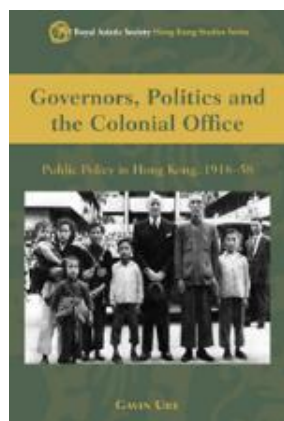
PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

<u>Journals</u>	<u>Price HK\$</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Order</u>
Vols. 1 - 54	\$50.00 each	_____	_____
Vols. 55 - 59	\$200.00 each	_____	_____
<u>Books</u>			
'Hong Kong Going and Gone'	\$120.00	_____	_____
'A Sense of Place: Hong Kong West of Pottinger Street'	\$300.00	_____	_____
<u>Postage & Packaging</u>	<u>within HK</u>	<u>Overseas (surface/registered)</u>	
'A Sense of Place: Hong Kong West of Pottinger Street'	\$55.00	\$130.00	_____
Full set of Journals	\$260.00	price on request	_____
All other volumes (per volume)	\$25.00	\$65.00	_____
 TOTAL		HK\$ _____	

Please send the order & cheque, payable to Royal Asiatic Society, Hong Kong Branch, to RASHKB, 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/ GBP10.50 per cheque to cover bank charges incurred in clearing your cheque.**

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 go to our website www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk and click on Ride Fund.

Contact Details

COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTACT DETAILS

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