

# ROYAL ASIATIC

皇家亞洲學會香港分會  
G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong



# SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

HONG KONG

## May 2020

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## Hong Kong Park Healthcare Worker Memorial – SARS, 2003 Outbreak

*Picture Credit: Helen Tinsley*

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## Message from your President, Helen Tinsley

Welcome to our May 2020 RASHK Newsletter.

I must first thank our membership for your trust and support in electing me as President at our recent AGM held on Tuesday 21 April 2020 and thanks to all those who were also elected to our Council for the coming year, with some change of role for Stephen Davies and the addition of Tony Banham. A full list of Council members is available at the end of this Newsletter.

Our AGM meeting was held using Zoom technology to comply with the current regulatory constraints of social distancing. This was something of a first for RASHK and our membership, but nonetheless successful in linking up our members (including a welcome couple from overseas), achieving a quorum, and getting through the business of the day. I have to thank David McKellar, our Honorary Secretary, and Ieuan Harding, our Administrator, for the smooth arrangements. There were no follow up cocktails to enjoy, but also no charge for the meeting. All relevant AGM 2020 reports are available on our website for more detailed review if you are interested and I will also upload the Powerpoint presentation I used to share a review of last year's RASHK work along with thoughts on challenges for the future. Key points in my review were the impact of civil unrest on our meetings and events planning, followed by control measures related to reducing the risk of Covid-19 infection during this period of local and then global pandemic. We live in extraordinary times.

None of us I think would have anticipated these a year ago at our AGM in 2019 when we looked to the future. In the past year nonetheless, with significant help from a group of our members, we have achieved an IT upgrade to help us better serve our membership, a change of Administrator and a change of office base. Please note that we have discontinued our landline telephone number and now use mobile number (5435 5754) to speak to our Administrator. There will be less projected income in the coming year because of reduced revenue from events, but our financial position remains sound. Donations are always welcome.

We await decisions by HK Government on the staged loosening of restrictions related to social distancing in the coming months in order to keep our Covid-19 infection rates in Hong Kong admirably low. Looking at infections rates, mortality and morbidity elsewhere, we in Hong Kong have much to be grateful for and proud.

We have many speakers lined up and visits planned for when they become safe and possible. In the meantime, we plan to use more Zoom technology to share presentations from guest speakers. Many of these will be linked to topics which have been the subject of recent publications, including many authored by RAS members. Other RAS Asian based Societies have also been generous in sharing their Zoom presentations.

Our Newsletter may be light on lists of activities past and future, but we have taken this opportunity to highlight some significant work by RAS members in diverse fields of study, endeavour and books published. We hope you enjoy reading about them. We will continue to send our Mailchimp prompts of coming events, recordings and presentations which we consider may be of interest to our members.

Best wishes to you all. Stay safe and healthy.

Helen Tinsley

President RASHK and Activities Committee Coordinator

May 2020

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## Future Activities

### NOTE FOR ONLINE LECTURES

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

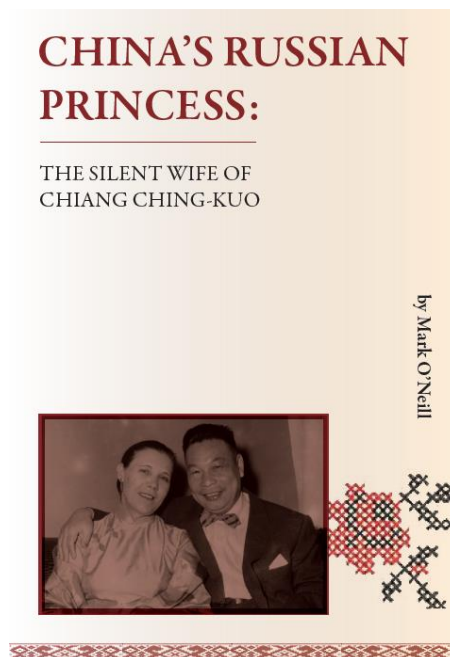
If you intend to attend an online lecture, please email [membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk) to let us know in advance.

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### ONLINE LECTURE

## China's Russian Princess: The Silent Wife of Chiang Ching-kuo

Saturday • 09 May 2020



### Details

This is an online Zoom lecture by Mark O'Neill, it will be linked to his book *China's Russian Princess: The Silent Wife of Chiang Ching-kuo*.

For years, Faina, the Russian wife of Chiang Kai-shek's son Ching-kuo, was a missing link in our understanding of 20th century China. Mark O'Neill's new biography tells an astonishing story of a young woman who started as a Soviet factory worker and found herself deeply entwined in the political turmoil of the formation of modern China. This is not just a story of a political couple, but rather a wide-ranging and compelling tale of the forces that shaped a political generation - and eventually, democracy in Taiwan.

**Programme**

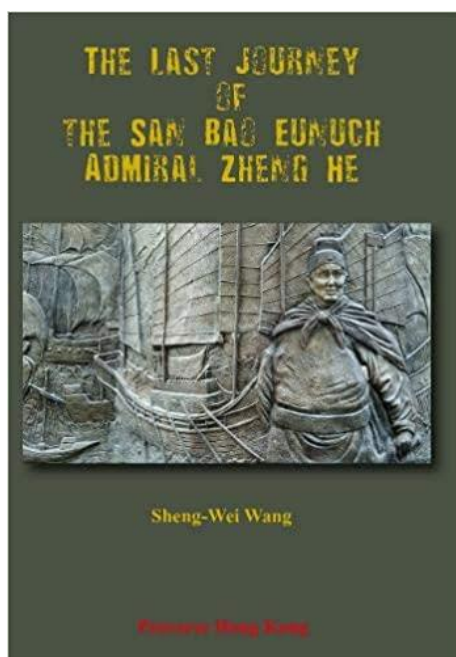
**Speaker:** Mark O'Neill  
**Date:** Saturday, 09 May 2020  
**Time:** 10am – 11am Hong Kong Time  
**Venue:** Online on Zoom, link to follow through RASHK correspondence  
**Admission:** No charge, please register your attendance in advance  
**Booking:** Please email <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)> in advance to register your attendance

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ONLINE LECTURE

## The Last Journey of The San Bao Eunuch, Admiral Zheng He

Saturday • 23 May 2020



### Details

This is an online Zoom lecture by Dr. Sheng-Wei Wang, it will be linked to her book *The Last Journey of The San Bao Eunuch, Admiral Zheng He*.

From 1405, in order to maintain and expand the Ming Dynasty's tributary system, Yongle Emperor Zhu Di (reigning 1402-1424) and Xuande Emperor Zhu Zhanji (reigning 1425-1435) ordered eunuch Zheng He to lead giant fleets across the seas. But soon after Zheng He's seventh and last voyage in the 1430s, the Ming emperors put an end to this activity and ordered all records of previous voyages to be destroyed. Chinese writer Luo Maodeng (罗懋登), knowing the history of some of these voyages, wished to preserve a record of them, but, conscious of the possible penalty, decided to record the facts "under a veil", in his 1597 novel, *An Account of the Western World Voyage of the San Bao Eunuch* (《三宝太监西洋记》). This is what Dr. Sheng-Wei Wang has concluded after reading and analysing Luo's novel.

Her book, *The last journey of the San Bao Eunuch, Admiral Zheng He*, shows the methodology and evidential arguments by which she has sought to lift the veil and the conclusions she suggests, including the derivation of the complete trans-Atlantic navigational routes and timelines of that last journey and the idea that Zheng He's last expedition plausibly reached the ancient American Indian city, Cahokia, in the U.S. central Mississippi Valley in late autumn, 1433, long before Christopher Columbus set foot for the first time in the Americas. She supports the hotly debated view that Ming Chinese sailors and ships reached farther than previously accepted in modern times and calls for further research. She hopes this book will become an important step in bridging the gap in our understanding of ancient China-America history in the era before the Age of Discovery. An interesting contribution to an ongoing debate.

**Programme**

**Speaker:** Sheng-Wei Wang  
**Date:** Saturday, 23 May 2020  
**Time:** 10am – 11am  
**Venue:** Online on Zoom, link to follow through RASHK correspondence  
**Admission:** No charge, please register your attendance in advance  
**Booking:** Please email <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)> in advance to register your attendance

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ONLINE LECTURE

**Murders of Old China**

Friday • 05 June 2020



**Details**

This is an online Zoom lecture by Paul French, it will be linked to his book Murders of Old China.

One country rich in history, 12 unsolved murders. Reopening the archives on China's long forgotten past.

Why did a remote police station, built to combat pirates, find itself at the centre of a murder-suicide after a constable went on the rampage? How did Chinese gangsters avoid conviction after serving a deadly dinner to Frenchtown's elite? And why is the Foreign Office still withholding a key document to solving a murder that took place in the Gobi desert in 1935?

By delving deep into 12 of China's most fascinating murder cases, Murders of Old China delivers a fast-paced journey through China's early 20th-century history - including its criminal underbelly.

Uncovering previously unknown connections and exposing the lies, Paul French queries the verdict of some of China's most controversial cases, interweaving true crime with China's chaotic and complicated history of foreign occupation and Chinese rival factions.

**Programme**

**Speaker:** Paul French  
**Date:** Friday, 05 June 2020  
**Time:** 6pm-7pm Hong Kong Time  
**Venue:** Online on Zoom, link to follow through RASHK correspondence  
**Admission:** No charge, please register your attendance in advance  
**Booking:** Please email <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)> in advance to register your attendance

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## LOCAL VISIT

### **(Revisit) Julie & Jesse / Latitude 22N Ceramics Studio**

**Saturday • 13 June 2020**



*Photo credit: Julie Progin / M+ museum*

The RASHK visited the Latitude 22N Ceramics Studio on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February and were kindly shown around by Julie & Jesse. Our members enjoyed the visit immensely, but due to local conditions the number of members in that trip was kept very low. The RASHK is revisiting this studio in June and is a good opportunity for any members who wanted to go but missed the opportunity to now visit this interesting studio.

This event is contingent on social distancing rules being lifted before the event date. As such, plans may change closer to the date as things become clearer.

### **Details**

Julie & Jesse 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 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](http://www.juliejesse.com) and [www.latitude22n.com](http://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 McLin

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, 13 June 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](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door

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## LOCAL VISIT

# History of the Hong Kong Botanical Gardens – Guided Walk

Saturday • 20 June 2020



## Details

*This event is contingent on social distancing rules being lifted before the event date. As such, plans may change closer to the date as things become clearer.*

*Event introduction by the organizer, Michel Maruca:*

I am a 50-year-old French gardener. I specialise in urban biodiversity, mainly fauna and in creating awareness of the global ecological crisis. On the side, I am also developing another ontology of our world where living organisms have agency and are fighting the Earth. For people interested and can read in French, I explained my view [here](#). This year, I am studying Masters in Ethics and Ecology in which I have to build an exploratory history of the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Garden (HKZBG). Below is how I propose to present this work to the RAS.

I have decided to break the HKZBG's history into 5 phases which follow and/or overlap one another. Each phase has left significant impacts on the gardens or even on Hong Kong's landscape for us to see during the visit. Our HKZBG was first a public garden (1864). I will rely on the history of its fountain to illustrate this phase. It then became a botanical garden (1871), the kind of garden it always wanted to be. I will explain this using its main fights against the urban sprawling and the changes in its topography. The gardens also took the lead in Hong Kong afforestation (1880). It provided the first step in the creation of the forests of Hong Kong which was barren before the British colonisation. I will explain the history of this afforestation using the image of our Bauhinia X blakeana tree. If time permits, we can go through the next 2 phases: The HKZBG added zoological to its name (1975). I will narrate this evolution with the help of the zoological enclosures. Where they used to protect visitors from wild animals before, now they also protect animals from humans. The last phase is the current one. It's the way forward, one for us to ponder upon.

I hope to see you on June 20 for a walk around the garden and through its history.

*Meeting spot for this event:*

[Intersection between St Joseph's Terrace and Glenealy Road](#) in Central.

## Programme

**Speaker:** Michel Maruca

**Date:** Saturday, 20 June 2020  
**Time:** 10am – 11am  
**Venue:** Hong Kong Botanical Gardens, Albany Road, Central  
**Admission:** RAS Members \$100; Non-members \$150  
**Booking:** Please email <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)> in advance to reserve your place

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## Recent Activities

### Lecture: Latitude 22N Ceramics Studio Visit

Speakers: Julie Progin and Jesse McLin  
Date: Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
Venue: Latitude 22N Ceramics Studio, Chai Wan  
Prepared by: Helen Tinsley

Established in Hong Kong and Jingdezhen, China in 2012 by Julie and Jesse, their design/art studio Latitude 22N is located in a high floor of a factory building in Chaiwan, within a couple of minutes' walk for the end of the Island line MTR station. The number of our visiting RAS group was limited to 10 in order to respect social distancing concerns linked to Covid-19 infection risks at that time. The studio is open, cool and spacious with high ceilings, housing different sections for ceramics display, a firing and workshop area, as well as merchandise display.

We were met by Jesse and Julie who briefed us on the history and conceptual framework of their work which is characterized by experimental ceramic explorations. They use meticulous ceramic techniques and their combined backgrounds in art and design to explore emotional and poetic narratives for various projects. They have produced ceramic objects of extraordinary beauty which are now showcased in various local and international exhibitions and museums. One powerful series of objects came from seizing the movement of clay during firing to archive the breakage and decay of discarded production moulds found in Jingdezhen.

Our group was treated to a tour of their exhibits and heard about the firing process performed on site and well as some of the local commissioned projects with which they have been involved. Many of our group left with samples of their work, potential heirlooms of the future.

If the constraints of social distancing allow at the time, we plan another such RAS visit in June 2020 to accommodate those members who were waitlisted for this visit and could not attend.



*Photos courtesy Helen Tinsley*

## RASHK Members' Books – 2019-2020

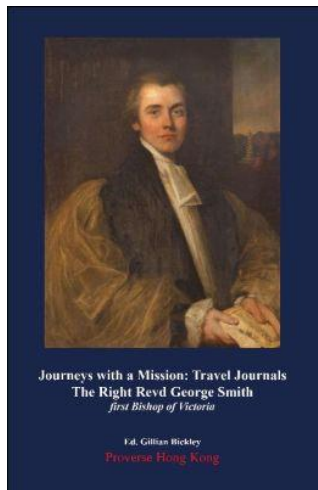
Every year at our AGM, the RASHK promotes books recently written and published by our members.

However, this was not feasible this year, as the 2020 AGM was arranged over Zoom. Now we are taking this opportunity to publicize books that have been recently published by our members.

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### Journeys with a Mission

Author: Gillian Bickley



**Title:** Journeys with a Mission: Travel Journals of The Right Revd George Smith (1815-1871) first Bishop of Victoria (Hong Kong) (1849-1865)

**Author:** Gillian Bickley

**Published:** November 13, 2018

**ISBN No.:** 9789888491513

**Available:** Online at

[https://cup.cuhk.edu.hk/index.php?route=product/product&product\\_id=3844](https://cup.cuhk.edu.hk/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=3844)

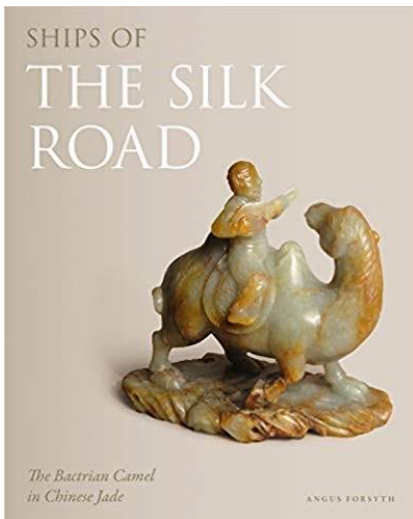
**Summary:** JOURNEYS WITH A MISSION contains annotated uncut transcriptions from archival material of five original narratives or journals of travel, covering visits to China, India, Ceylon, Java and Singapore during the interesting period 1852-1858, undertaken by the Right Revd George Smith, first (Anglican) Bishop of Victoria (Hong Kong), providing a very valuable information resource in two main areas: Protestant (and Roman Catholic) missionary, linguistic, pastoral, medical and educational activity, and the country-situations mainly in China and India at the time.

The Right Revd George Smith had interesting experiences and wrote about them in an interesting way. He was adventurous and courageous. He valued unity, loyalty and affection. He understood historical and cultural perspective and could advocate pragmatism. He had an eye for scenery and a soft heart for suffering humanity. He wrote with care, often in an elevated style suggestive of an inspirational sermon. In the 1850s, edited and cut versions of all five pieces were published in the Church Missionary Intelligencer, a publication of the Church Missionary Society. All are presented here in full, with the cut parts restored and editorial changes reversed. The differences are noted. As a result, insights are gained also into the thinking at that time of a major missionary society, still active today.

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## **Ships of the Silk Road**

Author: Angus Forsyth



**Title:** Ships of the Silk Road: The Bactrian Camel in Chinese Jade

**Author:** Angus Forsyth

**Published:** March 26, 2019

**ISBN No.:** 9781781300695

**Available:** Online at <https://www.amazon.com/Ships-Silk-Road-Bactrian-Chinese/dp/1781300690>

**Summary:** For hundreds of years the Bactrian camel ploughed a lonely furrow across the vast wilderness of Asia. This bizarre-looking, temperamental yet hardy creature here came into its own as the core goods vehicle, resolutely and reliably transporting to China - over huge and unforgiving distances - fine things from the West while taking treasures out of the Middle Kingdom in return. Where the chariot, wagon and other wheeled conveyances proved useless amidst the

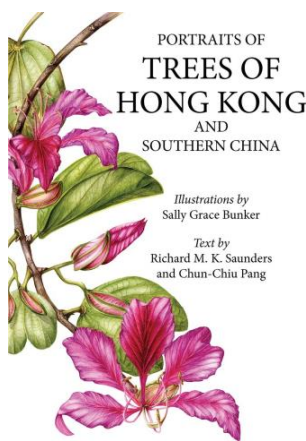
shifting desert dunes, the surefooted progress of the camel - archetypal 'ship of the Silk Road' - now reigned supreme.

The Bactrian camel was a subject that appealed particularly to Chinese artists because of its association with the exotic trade to mysterious Western lands. In his lavishly illustrated volume, Angus Forsyth explores diverse jade pieces depicting this iconic beast of burden. Almost one hundred separate objects are included, many of which have not been seen in print before. At the same time the author offers the full historical background to his subject. The book will have a strong appeal to collectors and art historians alike.

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## **Portraits of Trees of Hong Kong and Southern China**

Author: Sally Bunker



**Title:** Portraits of Trees of Hong Kong and Southern China

**Author:** Sally Bunker

**Published:** April 2019

**ISBN No.:** 9789888552030

**Available:** Online at <https://www.bookdepository.com/Trees-Hong-Kong-Sally-Bunker/9789888552030?ref=grid-view&qid=1547449547423&sr=1-1>

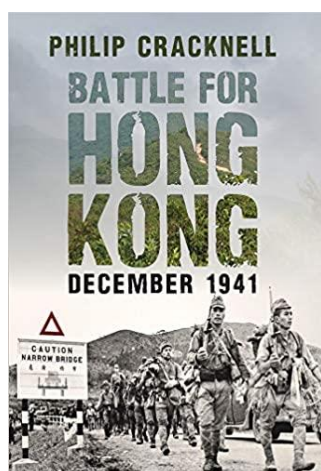
**Summary:** Hong Kong possesses an impressively diverse tree flora with 390 native species. This book celebrates the incredible diversity, beauty and biology of the territory's tree species, highlighting over 100 important species that are individually illustrated in exquisitely detailed watercolour

paintings by Sally Grace Bunker, an acclaimed botanical artist. The illustrations are accompanied by text that teases out a diversity of associated narratives for each species, ranging from the history of global exploration and scientific discoveries, the ecology and biology of each species, and the various ways in which they have been utilised and their cultural associations.

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## Battle for Hong Kong, December 1941

Author: Phillip Cracknell



**Title:** Battle for Hong Kong, December 1941

**Author:** Phillip Cracknell

**Published:** October 2019

**ISBN No.:** 9781445690490

**Available:** Online at <https://www.amazon.com/Battle-Hong-Kong-December-1941/dp/1445690497>

**Summary:** On the same day as the Pearl Harbor attack, forces of the Japanese Empire attacked the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong without warning. Phillip Cracknell provides a research-driven narrative about the Battle for Hong Kong in 1941, which commenced on 8 December and lasted for three weeks until the surrender on Christmas Day 1941. Hong Kong had become a strategic liability, an isolated outpost. It would be sacrificed but

not without a fight. The main priorities for the British in Asia were Malaya and Singapore. The Crown colony was gallantly defended but it was a battle against overwhelming odds.

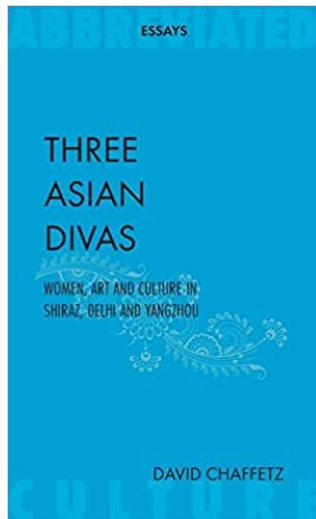
Crucially, as a resident of Hong Kong for thirty years, the author knows every inch of the ground. He challenges some assumptions, for example the whereabouts of 'A' Coy, Winnipeg Grenadiers on 19 December, when the company was destroyed during a fighting retreat. What exactly happened and where were the actions fought? One can still see so much evidence, in the form of pillboxes, gun batteries and weapons pits. Bullets and other relics can still be picked up lying on the ground. The defending troops mainly consisted of British, Canadian, Indian and Hong Kong Chinese. Dozens were massacred, including over fifty St John's Ambulance personnel - a grim pointer to the hell of the Pacific war that followed. Over the following nearly four years of occupation, an estimated 10,000 Hong Kong civilians were executed. The battle for Hong Kong is a story that deserves to be better known.

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## Three Asian Divas

Author: David Chaffetz



**Title:** Three Asian Divas: Women, Art and Culture In Shiraz, Delhi and Yangzhou (Abbreviated Essays)

**Author:** David Chaffetz

**Published:** October 15, 2019

**ISBN No.:** 9789881662903

**Available:** Foreign Correspondents Club, Online at

<https://www.threeasiandivas.com/buy-now>

**Summary:** The diva is a nearly universal phenomenon.

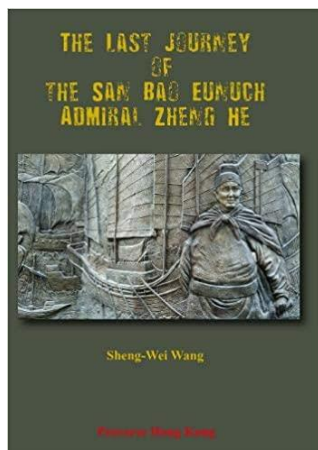
Wherever poetry, music and mime have been practised with virtuosity, great women performers always take centre stage. Traditional Asian divas are however less well known and understood among English language readers than the great divas of Mozart and Puccini. Whether from Shiraz at the court of the Injuids, from Delhi during the twilight of the Moghuls, or from Yangzhou under the last Ming emperors, these Asian divas constitute the first identifiably modern women. Though practising classical and tradition-bound arts, they were economically independent, and were free to give or withhold love. Indeed, in many ways, they paved the way for the emergence of the modern woman in Asian societies.

The diva has left her own lasting legacy across the world. Her message, several centuries old and composed in a learned language, resounds as powerfully today as when first performed, while her art itself shines out far beyond the private salons of the literati, reaching round the world, from the still lively productions of Chinese and Western opera houses to the vibrancy of cinema screens in Bombay and Shanghai.

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## The Last Journey of the San Bao Eunuch, Admiral Zheng He

Author: Sheng-Wei Wang



**Title:** The Last Journey of the San Bao Eunuch, Admiral Zheng He

**Author:** Sheng-Wei Wang

**Published:** November 2019

**ASIN No.:** B081LNRBIN

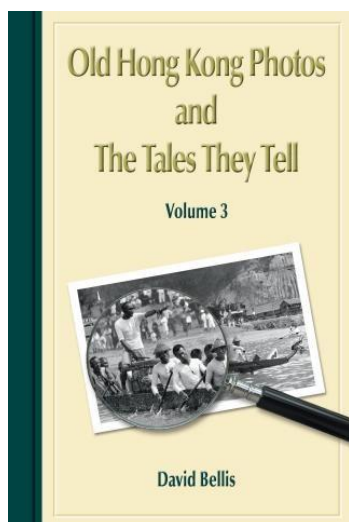
**Available:** Online at <https://www.amazon.com/Last-Journey-Eunuch-Admiral-Zheng>

**Summary:** Please refer to the activity on page 6 for details.

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## Old Hong Kong Photos and the Tales They Tell, Volume 3

Author: David Bellis



**Title:** Old Hong Kong Photos and the Tales They Tell, Volume 3

**Author:** David Bellis

**Published:** December 2019

**ISBN No.:** 9789887827627

**Available:** Local Book Stores, or order online at <https://gwulo.com/buy-volume-3>

**Summary:** Not your typical photo book!

Grab your flippers, mask, and magnifying glass – Volume 3 is full of old photos of people in, on, under, and around Hong Kong's famous harbour. Many of the photos are published for the first time, and although they're old, they are sharp and packed with detail. So join David in uncovering the photos' secrets, deciphering their stories, and meeting the people of old

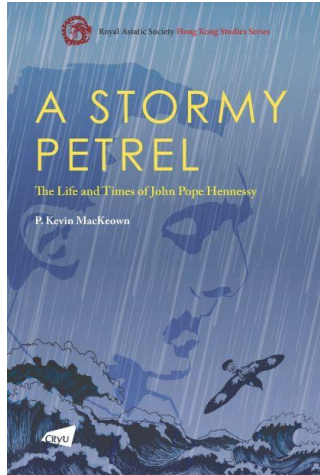
Hong Kong.

David runs the award-winning local history website Gwulo, home to over 20,000 photos of old Hong Kong.

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## A Stormy Petrel: The Life and Times of John Pope Hennessy

Author: Kevin MacKeown



**Title:** A Stormy Petrel: The Life and Times of John Pope Hennessy

**Author:** Kevin MacKeown

**Published:** March 20, 2020

**ISBN No.:** 9789629373771

**Available:** Online at <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/upress/a-stormy-petrel-the-life-and-times-of-john-pope-hennessy>

**Summary:** Many words have been used to describe John Pope Hennessy, the former governor of Hong Kong. “Controversial” is perhaps the briefest way to outline his character. Yet we may be guilty of ascribing modern ideas to our understanding of characters of the past. An Irish Catholic raised during the age of empire and rising nationalism, a devout Tory and Disraeli follower, a believer in both the benefits of empire and a patron of local talent

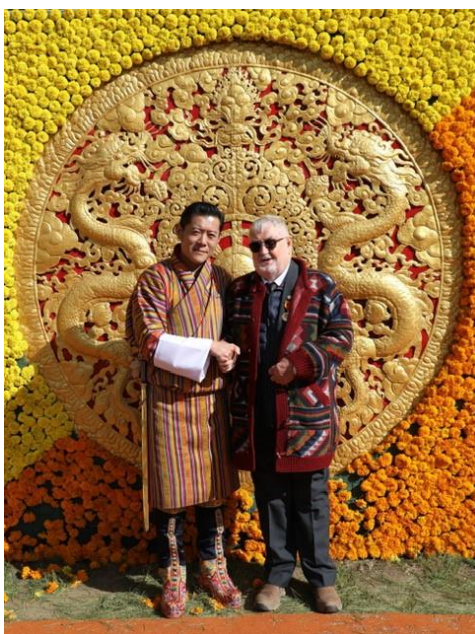
in his postings, it is easy to view Pope Hennessy as a man of contradictions.

This volume traces Pope Hennessy’s history from his early beginnings in famine Ireland to his attempts to rise through the ranks in London. It goes on to cover his early postings to Labuan, West Africa, and, of course, Hong Kong, as well as his final days with his family. His actions and his personality are laid bare for readers to form their own opinions of one of Hong Kong’s most enigmatic governors.

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## Of General Interest

### **Bhutan: National Order of Merit Gold Award to RASHK Member Brian Shaw**



The National Day of the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan (17 December) is the occasion for presentation of awards to members of the civil and religious communities, and foreign friends, to acknowledge their varied contributions to the State. On Bhutan's 112<sup>th</sup> National Day in 2019, the fifth king (the Mi'wang Ngada Rimboche, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck) graciously awarded the National Order of Merit (Gold) medal to five persons (two Bhutanese and three foreigners), including Dr Brian C. Shaw, long-time Life Member (and former Hon. Sec.) of the Society, as an appreciation for services to the Kingdom over several decades.

Brian (ably assisted by wife, Felicity) organised several visits to Bhutan by members of the Society, starting from April 1980. A memorable study tour to eastern Bhutan in 2003 involved long bus rides, overnight tent camping, tent-toilets, tent-showers, and al fresco table-and-chair meals, and was recorded in the Journal (see Robert Nield, "[BHUTAN - WHY NOT?](#)", *Journal of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Vol. 41 (2001), pp. 189-239; and John Wilson, "[A POEM FROM THE HKBRAS VISIT TO EAST BHUTAN, FEBRUARY 2003](#)", *Journal of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Vol. 42 (2002), pp. 459-466 ).

In more than 50 visits to the Kingdom, Brian has attended many sessions of the National Assembly as an observer, discussed contemporary issues with major decision-makers, and subsequently presented papers on contemporary political and strategic issues to international conferences, published several academic analyses, and completed a digital record of the English-language newspaper Kuensel (1967 to date). For several decades, he also contributed an annual review chapter on Bhutan to reference volumes, including the former Far Eastern Economic Review Yearbook and the Europa South Asia Yearbook. Hundreds of photographs from early visits, documenting how so many things have changed in recent decades, have been tirelessly digitized by Felicity ( <https://www.bhutanstudies.org.bt/multimedia/bhutan-image-archive/> ).



*Photos courtesy Brian Shaw*

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## **The Extradition Archive – A Digital Collection of Published Materials for Private Research**

**By Felicity Shaw**

This 18GB digital archive aims to provide a chronological record of events in Hong Kong arising from the introduction of an extradition bill in early 2019, as seen through Hong Kong eyes and English-language media. The collection is indicative rather than exhaustive, reflecting views across the Hong Kong spectrum, including local English language print & online news sources, audio-visual materials, selected tweets & embeds.

Resident in Hong Kong since 1970 and life members of the RAS, the compilers Brian and Felicity Shaw have collected up the materials in this archive solely as a personal project. Everything included has been obtained from publicly available sources. The archive is being shared with others in the interests of free flow of information and in the hope that knowledge of this important period in Hong Kong's history might find its way to future researchers at home and abroad. The current distribution list includes individuals plus several local & international universities.

**Content:** The archive focuses primarily on the main English language papers published in Hong Kong, in both online and print editions, namely China Daily HK edition; Global Times; Hong Kong Free Press; South China Morning Post; The Standard. It also includes some reports from other Hong Kong news sources (e.g. RTHK). Arrangement is strictly chronological and designed to enable the researcher to follow through the sequence of events and build up a picture of how things seemed in Hong Kong in the context of the times. The material is filed in separate folders by content as follows:

- **Audio-visual media**, mainly video clips which were embedded in online news reports or posted by citizen journalists;
- **News reports**, tweets and opinion pieces from local English-medium papers. The **news reports** include both scans of items clipped from newspapers and online captures from websites of publicly available documents. Selective **tweets** have also been captured, since social media has now become such an important part of life. Where artwork is embedded in a tweet, a pdf of the full poster or announcement has been attached. (For tweets, in the interests of privacy all personal details other than those of the tweeter and the content of the tweet have been removed.)

The first folders contain news media items etc. and audio-visual media from 2017 to June 30, 2019. There are separate monthly folders for July, August, September and October, while the final folders cover November, 2019 to early 2020.

*(Please contact [membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk) if you have any queries about this project.)*

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### **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:

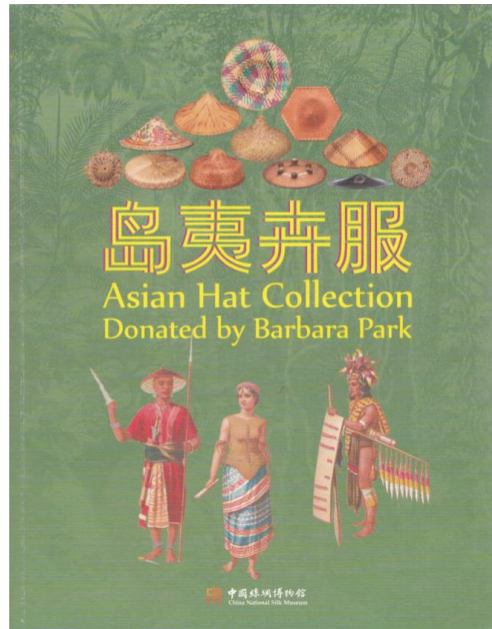
<[bookstor@stjohnscathedral.org.hk](mailto:bookstor@stjohnscathedral.org.hk)>.



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## Asia Hat Collection donated to the China National Silk Museum

By Barbara Park



RASHK Member Barbara Park has donated 128 Asian hats to the China National Silk Museum in Hangzhou. She had been collecting these hats from all across Asia for more than 30 years, from the Philippines, Japan, China and many other countries throughout Asia.

[Website link here.](#)

*Summary from the China Silk Museum website:*

Before humans roamed the earth, plants were already in place. Our ancestors relied on nature for their daily survival, and this relationship-built civilisation. Leaves and twigs were made into temporary baskets to carry hunted and gathered foods. Plant materials were manipulated to make items such as mats, roofs, and walls for shelter. Eventually, plant fibres were extracted and processed into yarns, then woven into cloth to clothe us, giving birth to textile culture.

The hat collection gives us an excellent opportunity to review how plant resources around us affect our lives. Today, in a world over-supplied with colourful manufactured items, these hats, made of perishable materials, might look primitive and outdated. Through these humble hats, let us ponder again, how humans take reference from nature, and how our evolution depends on working with nature.

The museum has chosen sixty-six items from Barbara's collection to highlight their provenance, materials, craft techniques and cultural stores. Paired with maps, travel souvenirs, diagrams and material samples, we hope this exhibition is colourfully light-hearted and, at the same time, educational.

# 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](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)>. Those of you who pay by Standing Order are requested to please ensure that the Order is for the appropriate amount.

### Annual

Hong Kong Resident - Individual / Institutional HK\$750

Hong Kong Resident - Joint / Family HK\$1,100

Hong Kong Resident – Student\* HK\$50

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

### Life

Life – Single HK\$10,500

Life – Joint HK\$15,400

### Overseas

Overseas - Annual HK\$450

Overseas - Life HK\$6,300

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## 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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## Publications

### PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

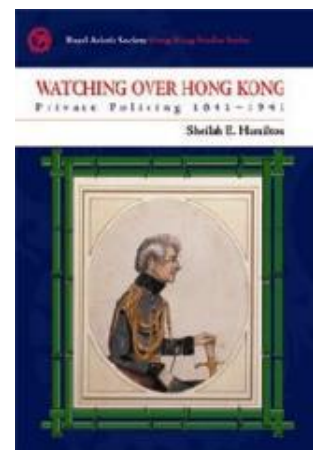
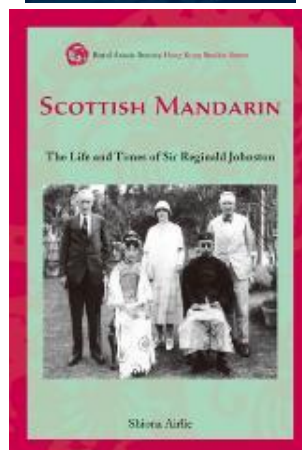
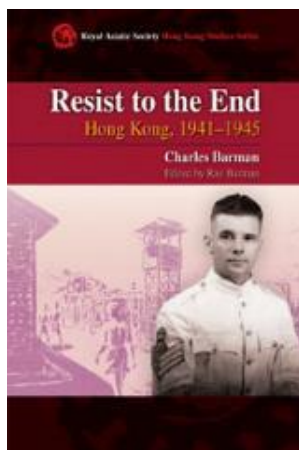
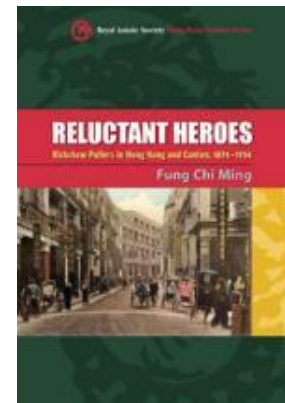
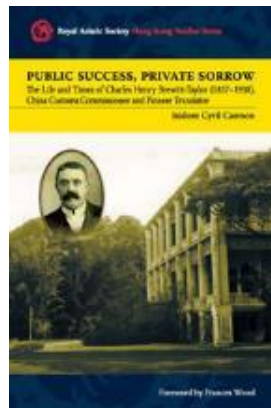
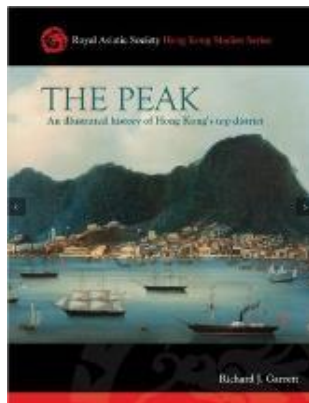
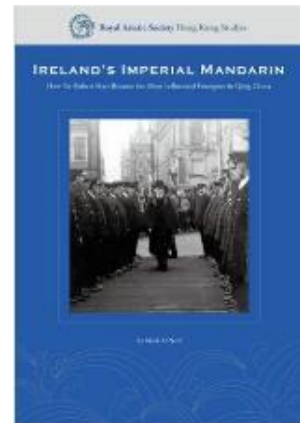
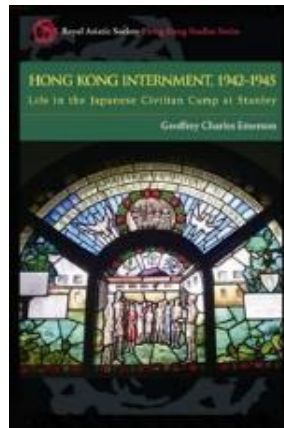
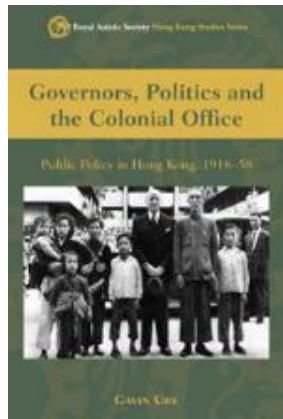
<u>Journals</u>	<u>Price HK\$</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Order</u>
Vols. 1 - 54	\$50.00 each	_____	_____
Vols. 55 - 59	\$200.00 each	_____	_____
<u>Books</u>			
'Hong Kong Going and Gone'	\$120.00	_____	_____
'A Sense of Place: Hong Kong West of Pottinger Street'	\$300.00	_____	_____
<u>Postage &amp; Packaging</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	_____
 <b>TOTAL</b>		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.**

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# Publications

## ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG STUDIES SERIES



There are now twenty-six titles in the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series. The above is a small selection of the titles available. For full details, please go to our website [www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk) and click on Ride Fund.

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