

# ROYAL ASIATIC

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



# SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

# HONG KONG

## September 2020

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Michael Broom

1951-2020

RASHK President 2012-2018

RASHK Council Member 2009- 2020

RASHK Activities Committee Chair 2009-2016

RASHK Activities Committee Member 2008-2016

Supporter of FRASHK 2016-2020

## Message from your President, Helen Tinsley

Welcome to our September 2020 Newsletter.

Most of you will already have heard the sad news of the recent passing of our Immediate Past President, Michael Broom. His passing was both sudden and unexpected with no time for ‘thanks’ and ‘goodbyes’ from our membership. His funeral was held on Wednesday 19 August 2020 at Cape Collinson, with a limited attendance because of constraints imposed by Covid -19 infection risks. I myself attended along with Connie Carmichael, David McKellar and John Strickland to represent RASHK, FRASHK and the Ride Fund.

There was a single spoken Eulogy which covered many aspects of his life. Mike was a man of many parts with roles in a broad range of Hong Kong society. He was born in Hertfordshire, England and worked as a teacher of History and English in Birmingham, with Territorial Army experience, before joining the Royal Hong Kong Police Force in 1976, where he served for 30 years, attaining the rank of Chief Inspector and Divisional Commander in Sai Kung. He also had roles as Associate Member of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment Association, the Royal Society of St George, the HK Branch of the Orders & Medals Research Society, and the Royal Hong Kong Police Association. He was a dedicated Freemason for many years. He loved horse riding, classical music, walking the trails of Hong Kong and is remembered by all of these groups as a kind, helpful, friendly, courteous and gentlemanly man, but at the same time a very private person. He is survived by his brother in UK.

We sent our written RASHK tribute some of which was included in the Eulogy to Mike Broom...

It is with great sadness that we within Royal Asiatic Society HK learnt of the passing of Mike Broom. He was an active member of longstanding, contributing to the wellbeing and development of the Society in so many ways. RASHK has several functions – regular local activities for members, overseas/ PRC trips and an annual Journal. Mike understood how important regular and well organized activities were for our well informed membership, taking up the role of Activities Committee members in 2008 and then Activities Committee Chair from 2009-2016. He was appreciated as RASHK Council Member from 2009 until his recent passing. He took on the role of RASHK President in 2012 at a time when the Council very much welcomed his calm and hardworking leadership. He held that post until 2018. During that time he was active in encouraging a new generation of Council and Activities Committee members to contribute their knowledge and expertise to the RASHK community.

He himself actively participated in many of the overseas and PRC organized trips – Tibet, Bhutan, Java and Guizhou to name a few. He worked hard to build up external relationships of benefit to the Society, making our guest speakers warmly welcome and rewarded with a good dinner in the convivial company of a few RASHK members afterwards. He actively supported the RASHK-linked Ride Fund in its quest to promote publication of works on Hong Kong history, society and culture, as well as the activities of the energetic informal Friends of RASHK group in UK.

We'll very much miss his extensive community knowledge and wise counsel in future- may he rest in peace.

There are plans for a later memorial event to celebrate Mike's life, once Covid-19 risks become less and group activities become possible. We plan to set up a website link for those of you who would like to contribute written, pictorial or video memories which we can share at this future event and also consolidate with others to send to his relatives in UK. Many thanks to those members who have already sent me their contributions.

In closing may I appeal to you once again to take a look at the rest of our RASHK September 2020 Newsletter for records of past events and news of those planned for the future 2 months. We have also benefitted greatly from

generous and reciprocal access for our RASHK members to RASBJ and FRASHK events, delivered by us and them via Zoom.

I have included once again a donation form in support of the Ride Fund for your kind consideration.

Finally, during this time of Covid-19, enjoy our activities, stay safe and well.

Prepared by HT, August 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 would like to attend an online lecture, please email [membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk) so that we can send you the link to access the Zoom lecture.

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## ONLINE LECTURE

### Treasures from an East Asian Library: A Conversation with Don Cohn

Wednesday • 02 September 2020



#### Details

This is an online Zoom talk with Don Cohn. Don is well-known to many RAS members, having resided in Hong Kong for over 20 years before moving back to the US. Don is a man of many parts: undergraduate degree from Oberlin College in Chinese and MA from Columbia University in Far Eastern Languages and Cultures; editorial stints at the Foreign Language Press in Beijing, Chinese University of Hong Kong (Renditions Magazine) and the Far Eastern Economic Review (Books and Culture Editor);

operator of his own specialty tour business to China, India, Japan and Korea; translator-author of several books and more.

But the part of Don that this webinar will be focusing on is his substantial collection of tens of thousands of pieces of historical paper (books, maps, posters, pamphlets, diaries, documents and other ephemera) from China, Japan and Manchukuo, with a strong suit in visual culture. From his larder, Don has seeded a number of library collections: the Asian collection at the Cotsen Children's Library at Princeton University, the Manchuguo Collection at Harvard Yenching Library, the Chinese dance collection at the University of Michigan and the Chinese diaries collection at Columbia University.

Don will highlight pieces from his collection which can be viewed by accessing the link above.

The moderator for Don's talk will be Roy Delbyck, an RAS Council Member and fellow collector.

### **PROGRAMME**

**Speaker:** Don Cohn  
**Moderator:** Roy Delbyck  
**Date:** Wednesday, 02 September 2020  
**Time:** 7pm - 8pm, Hong Kong Time  
**Venue:** Online on Zoom, link [here](#)  
**Admission:** No charge, please register your attendance in advance  
**Booking:** Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance

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## LOCAL VISIT

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

**Saturday • 5<sup>th</sup> September 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 September and is a good opportunity for any members who wanted to go but missed the opportunity to now visit this interesting studio.

### **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, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
**Time:** RAS Group gathers at 10:20 am, Chai Wan MTR station exit C; 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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ONLINE LECTURE

**Chinese Identity in America: Challenges and Opportunities for a Cultural Institution in 2020**

Thursday • 10 September 2020



**Details**

The history of the Chinese in America has been a neglected piece of the American fabric. MOCA's mission is to shine a light on that history, from Yung Wing and the Chinese Educational Mission and railroad workers in the 19th century to the increasing incidents of racism that Chinese Americans and other Asian Americans confront today in the age of Covid-19. Founded in 1980 by community activists in Chinatown, New York City who literally dumpster dived to preserve historical relics, including shop signs and laundry presses, MOCA has grown to become a leading cultural institution in the U.S. and a force for change to redefine the American narrative. MOCA sits in the heart of Chinatown in New York City, fittingly on Centre Street, in a space designed by the famed Chinese-American architect, Maya Lin. It reopened in 2009.

The year of the metal rat, 2020, has been a challenging one for MOCA, starting with a January fire in the offsite building where MOCA's collection of historical documents and ephemera, numbering over 85,000 items, was held. And then came Covid-19 and the acts of racism against the Asian-American community in the pandemic's wake. Layering the American conscience-raising Black Lives Matter movement, and how does an institution such as MOCA thoughtfully respond to and ally with justice, equity, and a resolved American-ness and its drivers.

All topics to be addressed by Nancy who has served as the President of MOCA since 2015. In that capacity, Nancy has the unique privilege of combining her experiences in managing organizations, promoting arts and culture as a bridge between peoples, and executing research focused on redefining the American narrative by examining the role of Chinese Americans in U.S. history.

Prior to her time at MOCA, Nancy was the executive director of the Yale-China Association, one of the oldest non-profit organizations dedicated to building U.S.-China relations. At the Yale-China Association, Nancy led more than 20



programs in the areas of arts, education, and health. These programs were lauded as best-in-class and models for bilateral engagement.

Nancy has more than 20 years of leadership experience in governance of non-profit organizations and for-profit management, including staff and board positions at Goldman Sachs & Co, Council on Foreign Relations, CNN, the Center for Finance and Research Analysis, Aberdeen Standard Investments-managed closed-end funds, Community Fund for Women & Girls, International Festival of Arts and Ideas, and the Tessitura Network. Her work has brought her to the region regularly over the last 25 years and she was a resident of Hong Kong from 1999 - 2004. Nancy is a lecturer at the Yale School of Management where she teaches governance to Theater Management students.

Nancy received her MBA from the Yale School of Management and her AB from Occidental College. She was an original member of the Here and Now Theater Company. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Nancy will be interviewed by Roy Delbyck, an RAS Council Member as well as a member of MOCA's Board of Directors.

#### PROGRAMME

**Speaker:** Nancy Yao Maasbach, President of the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA)  
**Moderator:** Roy Delbyck  
**Date:** Thursday, 10 September 2020  
**Time:** 7pm - 8pm, Hong Kong Time  
**Venue:** Online on Zoom, link [here](#)  
**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

### The Blue House Cluster Project

Thursday • 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020



Photo Credit: Hong Kong Tourism Board

### Details

*The Blue House Cluster*, named after the main building's distinctive colour, once faced demolition and wholesale redevelopment but was saved after its original tenants, social workers and conservationists campaigned to preserve it. The Blue House, a four-storey tenement block located at 72-74A Stone Nullah Lane in Wan Chai is one of the few remaining examples of balcony-type tong lau in Hong Kong and has won UNESCO's highest heritage conservation award for its excellent condition.

The building was the original site of the first hospital 'Wah To Hospital' (aka "Wan Chai Kai Fong Hospital"), built in the 1870s in Wan Chai. The hospital, providing Chinese medical services to local Chinese, was possibly the first hospital in the district. After its closure in 1886 it was used as a temple for Wah To the revered Chinese physician from the Three Kingdoms period. Following its demolition in 1920, four-storey tenement blocks were built in 1922 and after the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong the building was used as a martial arts school and Dit Da clinic by Lam Cho, the adopted nephew of Lam Sai-wing.

The property was acquired by the government in the 1970s and in 1990 the outer walls were painted blue, thus earning it the name Blue House and it is now listed as a Grade I historic building comprising living accommodation, restaurants and outreach programmes.

A private visit has been organized by RASHK member Janet Spence with a presentation in the Community Room by Kenneth Tse, Design Architect for the Blue House Cluster heritage conservation and revitalization project which took more than ten years from proposal preparation in 2007 to completion in

2018 and won a number of Awards in 2017 and 2018. Through old photographs and personal stories, and a look at some of the rooms, Kenneth will bring alive the significance of the project's starting mission "Repairing architecture, repairing community" which inspired the transformation and strengthened the neighbourhood relationships and bonds.

Around 4 pm for those who wish, Janet Spence will lead a five-minute stroll up Stone Nullah Lane to view the Pak Tai Temple, built by local residents in 1863. The largest temple on Hong Kong island, it houses historical and cultural objects and is surrounded by wonderful trees and plants. Participants are then invited to Janet's private sky garden just a few steps away for light refreshments until 5 p.m.



Janet, a keen gardener, has lived in Hong Kong since 1981 and in her Wanchai apartment since 1985 where the private roof space is now a mature garden and an oasis of calm high above the bustle of Kennedy Road,

### Speaker

Kenneth Tse is the Director of Meta4 Design Forum Ltd.

He is the Design Architect for the Blue House Cluster Project. He had spent ten years' time on this community conservation project starting from the early stage of proposal preparation in 2007 until the project completion in 2018.

The starting mission for this project was "Retaining architecture, retaining people". The final achievement became "Repairing architecture, repairing community".

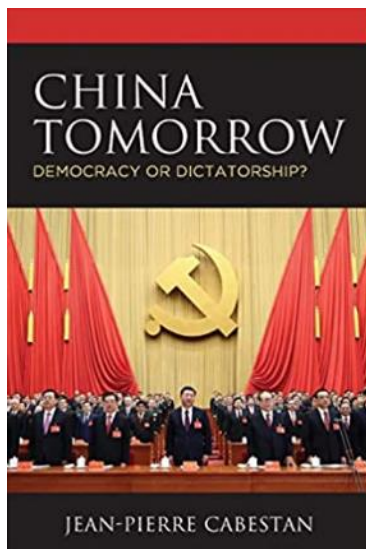


### Programme

**Date:** Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
**Time:** Meet at 2:00pm, event starts at 2:15pm  
**Venue:** House of Stories, Blue House, 72-74A Stone Nullah Lane, Wan Chai  
**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 (maximum of 15 participants)

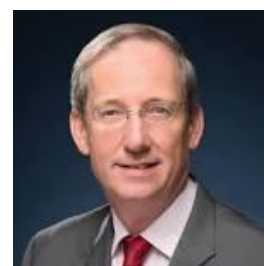
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## LECTURE

**China Tomorrow: Democracy or Dictatorship?**Wednesday • 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020**Details**

Arguing against conventional wisdom, *China Tomorrow* makes a compelling case for the continuing strength of China's one-party system. Many analysts have predicted that China's unprecedented economic development and middle-class expansion would lead to a liberalization of its political regime and a move toward democracy. Instead, leading scholar Jean-Pierre Cabestan contends that the Chinese Communist Party will continue to adapt and prosper in the coming decades, representing a growing challenge to all democracies. Influenced by China's traditional culture and even more so by the regime's Soviet ideology, institutions, and modus operandi, most Chinese are not pushing for democracy, choosing security, stability and prosperity over political freedoms and participation.

Jean-Pierre Cabestan is professor of political science at Hong Kong Baptist University. He is also senior research fellow in France's National Center for Scientific Research.

**Programme**

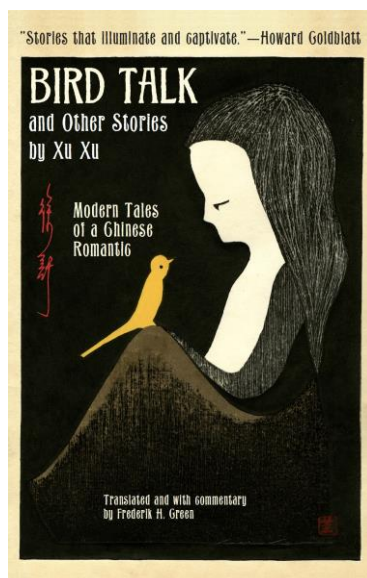
**Date:** Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
**Time:** Reception opens at 6.30pm Event starts at 7pm  
**Venue:** Café 8, Rooftop Hong Kong Maritime Museum Pier 8, Central  
**Admission:** RAS Members \$150; Non-members \$200 ( drink and snacks included)  
**Booking:** Please email <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door

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ONLINE LECTURE

**A Chinese Romantic's Journey through Time & Space:  
The Fiction of Xu Xu (1908-1980)**

Saturday • 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020



**Details**

Xu Xu 徐訏 (1908-1980) was one of the most widely read Chinese authors of the twentieth century. Starting his career in pre-war Shanghai, Xu Xu became the most celebrated writer of the war years before ending up as an exile in Hong Kong in 1950. This talk explores the ways in which Xu Xu's fiction responded in highly unusual ways to the revolutionary struggles of pre-war Shanghai, the war against Japan, and finally the experience of Chinese exiles in post-war Hong Kong. In addition, it examines the degree to which Xu Xu's fiction exemplifies an affinity with European romanticism that links his work to a global literary modernity.

Frederik H. Green is associate professor of Chinese at San Francisco State University. He has published widely on the literature and culture of the Qing dynasty and the Republican period, Sino-Japanese cultural relations, post-socialist Chinese cinema, and contemporary Chinese art. He holds a BA in Chinese Studies from Cambridge University and an MPhil and PhD in Chinese literature from Yale University.



**Speaker:** Frederik H. Green  
**Date:** Saturday, 17 October 2020  
**Time:** 10-11am, Hong Kong Time  
**Venue:** Online on Zoom, please sign up to receive the link  
**Admission:** No charge, please register your attendance in advance  
**Booking:** Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance

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## LECTURE

### **Along the Southern Boundary**

Friday • 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020



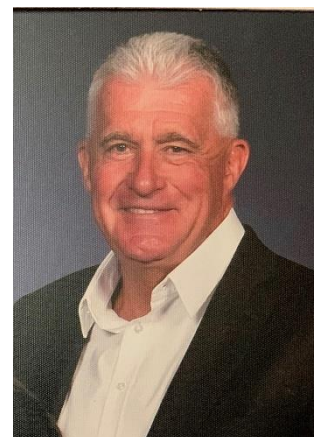
#### **The Lecture**

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

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

#### **The Speaker**

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



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

**Programme. (To be confirmed, subject to change)**

**Speaker:** Les Bird  
**Date:** Friday, 23 October 2020  
**Time:** Reception desk opens at 6:30pm; talk starts at 7:00pm  
**Venue:** Via Zoom/LT4, Centre for Visual Arts, 7A Kennedy Road, Mid-Levels  
**Admission:** RAS Members \$100; Non-Members / Guests \$150  
**Booking:** Please email <[membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk)> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door.

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## Recent Activities

### Local Visit: **Blue Lotus Gallery – Back to Nature Exhibition**

Speaker: Marc Progin  
Date: Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
Venue: Blue Lotus Gallery

Our visit for RASHK members on a Sunday morning in July was very generously hosted by Blue Lotus Gallery Owner, Sarah Greene, and within a background of Covid -19 precautions, well attended.

Marc Progin is a Swiss and longtime Hong Kong resident who has had several careers. He is also an intrepid distance runner and cyclist, traveler-poet and, since the millennium, a photographer with years of experience in exploring Mongolia.

Used to endurance, he travels the deserts and mountains of Mongolia with the minimal logistics to sustain vital needs. At the same time, he photographs the stunningly beautiful, wide and empty expanses of Mongolia throughout different seasons, hours of the days and nights, whilst also recording the life of the nomads who traverse these spaces. The people here live differently, very close to nature and with very few possessions—those only needed to sustain their animals and wandering lifestyle. His photographs convey what he sees and how he feels as he experiences the beauty, immensity and emptiness of the landscapes through which he is travelling. Apart from the fabulous photographic exhibits, one of the most interesting displays at the Gallery was a display of the minimalist but essential equipment Marc takes with him on his trips and which can be packed into bicycle saddle bags.

In the many photographs he shared with us, we saw how the seasons change the landscapes of the mountains and wide-open spaces, the wild life and migrating birds, the nomadic lifestyles of the people who roam these landscapes on horseback, the pleasures of hunting with birds of prey on their wrists, their family groups and timeless images of camel lines. There were scenes of remote ancient grave sites with stone images, rock carvings and sites where dinosaurs used to roam.

The contrast with modern lifestyles of business, consumption and ‘connected’ society could not be more extreme. This was a window on a world of stunning beauty and a people with very different lifestyles to those of our own, causing us to reflect on what we consider important in our lives.

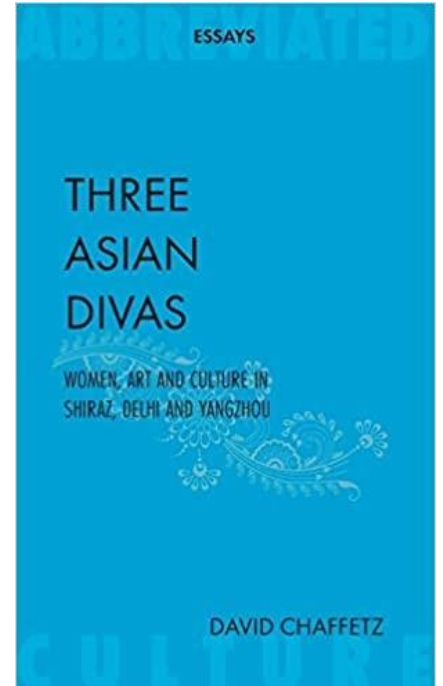
*Prepared by HT, August 2020*



## Online Lecture: **Three Asian Divas: Women, Art and Culture in Shiraz, Delhi and Yangzhou**

Speaker: David Chaffetz  
 Date: Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
 Venue: Online ZOOM talk

A fascinating talk on the once privileged “entertainers” or “courtesans” in Asia who were admired not only for their beauty but also for their artistic achievements as well as social and financial independence as females. These include the Eight Beauty of Qinhuai (秦淮八豔) during the late Ming Dynasty in China, the Indian Tawaifs during the Mughal era of the Indian sub-continent and the courtesans of Esfahan during the Safavid Dynasty. The commonalities across these Asian courtesans were their artistic attainments, their associations with the rich and powerful, and their oftentimes active political commitment. While they enjoyed a kind of freedom seldom experienced by female of their times, there was at the same time an underlying marginalization as a result of their backgrounds. Many of whom were orphans bought by their “mothers”, often retired courtesans themselves, who ensured that their daughters were well-trained in different art forms such as music, painting and poetry. They were at once image of elegance and literary/artistic refinement in the public arena, but they were often tragic figures in their private world. Chaffetz selected a number of interesting examples from Qinhuai (秦淮), Lucknow and Esfahan. Amongst those from Qinhuai were Xue Susu (薛素素) who was not only renowned in painting and poetry but with her talent in the masculine art of mounted archery, she was also known as a kind of “female knight-errant”. Li Xiangjun (李香君), a much adored courtesan turned Buddhist nun, whose romance with her lover, an imperial examination seeker, was immortalized in the play *Peach Blossom Fan*. Liu Rushi (柳如是) crossed the gender boundary and regularly dressed up as a man in order to meet incognito the scholar official whom she admired. Similarly, Tawaifs excelled in Urdu literature. They were great performers in classical Sanskrit theatres and some married maharajas and prominent political figures.



In China, the privilege and freedom enjoyed by these courtesans soon faded with the end of the Ming. Courtesans were seen as image of vulgarization and pity under the Qing Dynasty. Their counterpart in the Indian sub-continent met the same fate when their privilege status was no longer accorded to them during the British colonial era.

*Prepared by Vicky Lee, 2020.*

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## Online Lecture: **Trading Places: 12 Years and 2,784,010 Steps Later!**

Speaker: Nicholas Kitto  
Date: Friday, 24th July 2020  
Venue: Online ZOOM talk

The zoom talk by Nicholas Kitto was a visually sumptuous experience for the participants with beautiful photographs of private mansions, grand hotels, Custom Houses, consular buildings, country clubs...the list goes on... built during the Treaty Port Era, around 1840 to 1943. Kitto also brought to the audience human stories of occupants and owners connected with them. The afterlife of these grand houses was also an important part of the story as they went through abandonment in war and revolutions, neglect in political social turmoil, subsequent pastiche-like attempts in restoration and lately, more painstaking and meticulous efforts to recapture its past glory. What is particularly moving was the author's personal journey as he travelled to China, initially to search for his father's childhood house in Tianjian which had inspired him to discover other old western-style buildings in treaty ports that were still around. With his camera, he had captured the changes that these grand old houses had been through, as they stood proud and dignified before the war and how their dignity was compromised, reconfigured and in many cases restored through different periods of modern China.

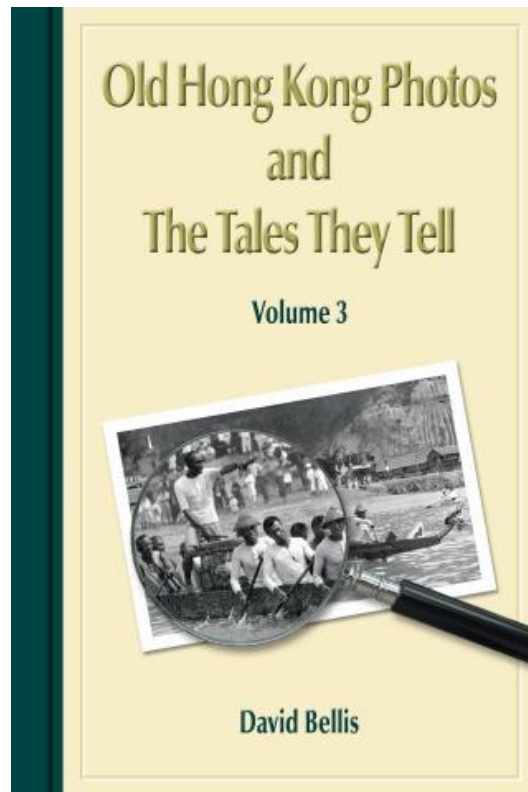


*Prepared by Vicky Lee, 2020.*

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**Online Lecture (hosted by the FRASHK and supported by the RASHK): **Photographs of Old Hong Kong and the Tales They Tell****

Speaker: David Bellis  
Date: Saturday, 8th August 2020  
Venue: Online ZOOM talk

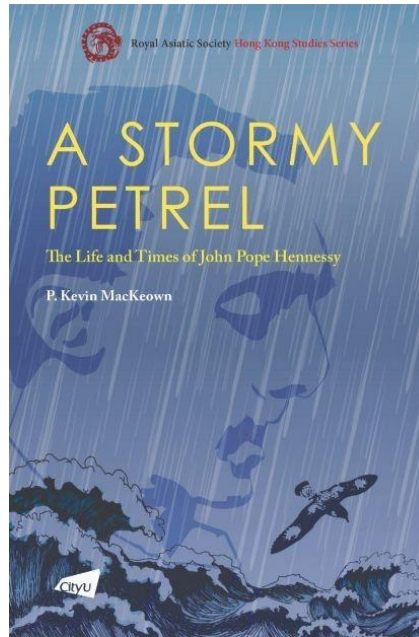


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**Lecture (postponed): A Stormy Petrel: The Life and Times of John Pope Hennessy**

**This lecture has been postponed until a later date.**

Speaker: Kevin MacKeown  
Date: Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020  
Venue: Lecture



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## **Message and Tribute to Mike Broom from the Friends of the RASHK**

The Friends of the Hong Kong RAS in London were formed in 1998 by a group of RAS members who had left Hong Kong around the time of the handover. These included David Gilkes, who was the founding chairman, the late Anita Wilson, Rosemary Lee, David Mahoney, Keith Stevens and ourselves. Paul Bolding took over as chairman from David Gilkes in 2007.

We had thought interest would wane after a decade or so but 22 years later, we have around 60 members, still keen to enjoy the contact with Hong Kong, the RAS and old friends that the group provides. Some of our speakers have joined, as have others who were not in Hong Kong, buoying the numbers.

From the start, we have held several talks a year. Speakers include some who have addressed the RAS in Hong Kong, and others here in the UK, notably Frances Wood of the British Library, Steve Tsang of SOAS, and our own much missed Keith Stevens. As in Hong Kong, the topics range widely across greater China. We were particularly honoured to have a talk in May 2019 by centenarian Barbara Anslow about her time in Stanley internment camp, not long before her sad death. The advent of Zoom has opened up happy possibilities for sharing talks internationally, and we are now also in contact with the RAS Beijing in this respect.

“Live” talks were always preceded by a Chinese or Indian lunch, and at Chinese New Year a banquet lunch is organised. We have also organised trips away, and these have included long weekends to visit collections and organisations with Chinese associations in Oxford, Cambridge, Aberdeen, Liverpool, Durham, and most recently, Paris, plus visits to gardens with Asian planting in Cornwall. We also visited graves of Chinese Labour Corps members in France and Belgium.

In normal times, our group meets at the RAS itself, where we have no formal status but are kindly received, and are able to rent a room. It’s in a location near Euston station that suits our members, though some who live outside London don’t come as often as we all would like. In the current circumstances, of course Zoom has allowed them to join in too. As ever, Hong Kong members are most welcome to join us, either for individual talks, or as members.

We would especially like to mention Mike Broom’s staunch support for the Friends, and how shocked we are at his sudden death. Mike was always keen to find out about our activities and offer any assistance, and was assiduous in suggesting names for speakers. We were delighted that he was able to join us for the Chinese New Year lunch in 2014. In Hong Kong, Mike was always the most kind and hospitable of men, entertaining Kirsty and me to lunches at the Kowloon Cricket Club and at Zetland Hall, and giving us a guided tour of the Masonic Room. We shall greatly miss his warmth and enthusiasm.

RIP Michael Broom.

Paul Bolding and Kirsty Norman

## **The Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride Memorial Fund**

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

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

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

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### **Letter from the RASHK President**

Dear Members,

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

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

The Government has commenced distributing to Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card holders a handout of HK\$ 10,000. I write again to ask if you would be willing to donate part or all your handout to the Society to be earmarked for the Ride Fund? We undertake that such donations will be designated for use by the Ride Fund. Since we have charitable status any donation over HK\$100 is tax deductible.

Please complete the attached reply slip on the last page of this newsletter. You may also find a reply slip on our website at [www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk](http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk).

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

Kind regards,

Helen Tinsley

RASHK President

# Of General Interest

## The Greater China Legal History Seminar Series 2020-21 – From CUHK



CUHK LAW is pleased to present that the “6th Year Greater China Legal History Seminar Series 2020-21” will commence in September 2020.

The “Greater China Legal History Seminar Series” was launched in 2017. This seminar series builds upon the success of the “Chinese Customary Law Seminar Series” conducted from 2014 to 2016 covering topics such as Chinese Customary Land Law, Chinese Customary Family Law and Customary Trusts in Hong Kong. The “Greater China Legal History Seminar Series” aims to serve as a forum to discuss the historical development of a great variety of legal issues of interest in the Greater China region. The topics are in many cases the basis of the law and its application as of today and will therefore offer the opportunity to explore the respective contextual status. The seminars are conducted by experts in their respective fields, but are meant to cater to the legally interested general public. The events will usually comprise presentations by one or more speakers (up to 60 minutes) followed by a Q&A session (up to 30 minutes). Each seminar is open and free of charge to all who are interested.

Anyone interested in contributing to the seminar series, please contact the organisers [Professor Lutz-Christian Wolff](#), Wei Lun Professor of Law and [Professor Steven Gallagher](#), Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning).

### Seminars Schedule 2020-21

Date	Details
18 September 2020 12:30-2:00 pm	<b>Online Seminar: Feeding the Emperor – Administrative Law in Tang Dynasty China</b> [ <i>Register Now</i> ] Speaker: Prof. Norman P. Ho, Peking University, School of Transnational Law
9 October 2020 12:30-2:00 pm	<b>Carl Schmitt and the Development of Conservative State Theory in China</b> Speaker: Prof. Ryan Mitchell, CUHK LAW
27 November 2020 12:30-2:00 pm	<b>The History of Hong Kong’s Tax Law System</b> Speaker: Prof. Michael Littlewood, Faculty of Law, University of Auckland
22 January 2021 12:30-2:00 pm	<b>Toppling Statues and Changing Names – Does the Law Protect Embarrassing or Awkward Heritage in Hong Kong?</b> Speaker: Prof. Steven Gallagher, CUHK LAW
26 February 2021 12:30-2:00 pm	<b>The History of Central Banking in Hong Kong, Mainland China and Singapore</b> Speakers: TBC
19 March 2021 12:30-2:00 pm	TBC

**Website link:** <https://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk/app/greater-china/>

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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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# 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

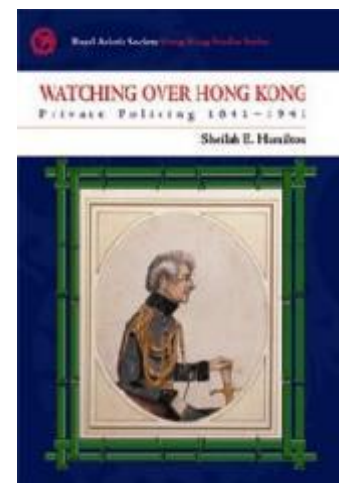
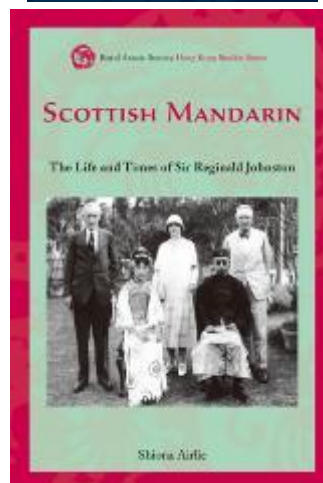
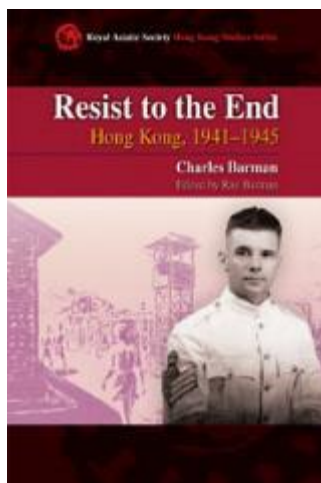
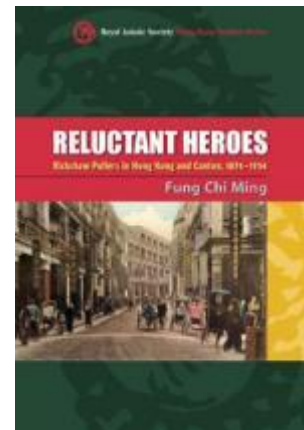
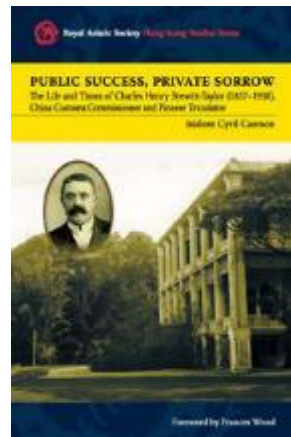
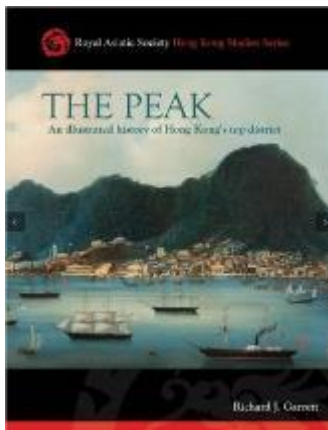
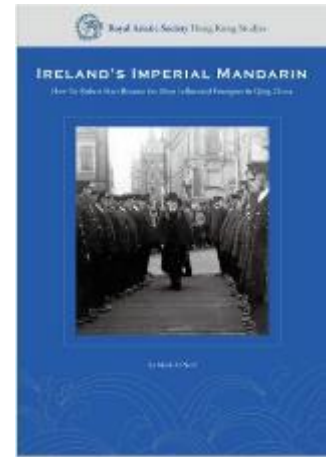
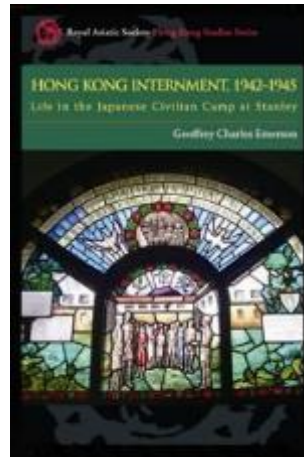
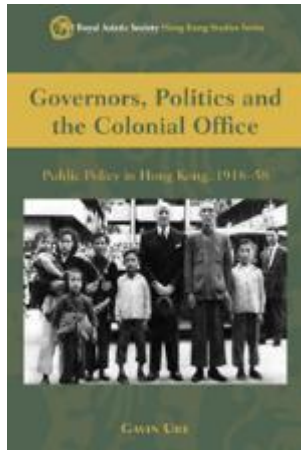
<u>Journals</u>	<u>Price HK\$</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Order</u>
Vols. 1 - 54	\$50.00 each	_____	_____
Vols. 55 - 59	\$200.00 each	_____	_____
<u>Books</u>			
‘Hong Kong Going and Gone’	\$120.00	_____	_____
‘A Sense of Place: Hong Kong West of Pottinger Street’	\$300.00	_____	_____
<u>Postage &amp; Packaging</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 **thirty** 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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Council Member	Mr. Tony <u>Banham</u>	9035 1534		<a href="mailto:tony@hongkongwardiary.com">tony@hongkongwardiary.com</a>

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Position	Name	Phone	E-mail
Administrator (Part-time)	Ieuan Harding	5435 5754	<a href="mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk">membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk</a>

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Date:

## ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY – Hong Kong Branch

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Payment arrangements

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

Please pay by:

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

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