

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG

皇家亞洲學會香港分會
G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong



NEWSLETTER

November 2021

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Picture Credit Helen Tinsley

A talk by Kevin MacKeown in Café 8

Message from your President, Helen Tinsley

Welcome to our November/ December 2021 RASHK Newsletter-the final and eventful one for our society as well as Hong Kong.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been having some handover meetings with Ieuan Harding, our outgoing part time Administrator, and Jace Au, his successor. We met at our office in Kwun Tong, where our stock of RASHK books and Journals are kept. We also went over to the GPO to check out details of our RASHK mailbox. Sincere thanks to Ieuan for all his support and expert technical skill over the last few years - we wish him well in his future career. We also have a big welcome to Jace as she takes over, with her background in broadcasting.

Now that COVID-19 vaccination is readily available, I am aware that many of our members have made the decision to travel back into or out of Hong Kong, notwithstanding the mandatory 3 weeks' quarantine required here under strict conditions. Perhaps this has been an opportunity to reflect, with the chance to take a look at this Newsletter and look back on the shared wisdom from many of our speakers and hosts during visits - as well as dipping into some of the books from the Ride Fund Series.

Over the past couple of months, our activities included a memorable visit to a beautifully presented exhibition at City University's Indra and Harry Banga Gallery entitled 'The Atlas of Maritime Buddhism', warmly hosted and led by their Director, Dr Isabelle Frank. She told me that that was the first time that RASHK had visited their Museum. We look forward to enjoying future exhibitions there. For a reflection on our visit, please check out the review later in this Newsletter, kindly prepared by our member, Juan Morales.

Another visit was scheduled to take place at Hong Kong Maritime Museum on the Swire history exhibition 'Believe in Hong Kong' on Oct 9, 2021. Unfortunately, it was cancelled due to the 'Black Rainstorm' warning and Number 8 signal on that day. Many of you will remember listening to Professor Robert Bickers' book talk earlier in the year on the history of Swire in 'China Bound' and his reflections on this firm's history.

The photo above shows one of our hybrid-mode events, with a Zoom link as well as face to face attendees enjoying the talk by Kevin MacKewon. This was linked to his recent book charting the life and work of John Pope Hennessy, a former Hong Kong Governor.

Please check out details of our planned activities in the coming two months later in this Newsletter- some will be via Zoom by overseas speakers, local hybrid Zoom events based in Café 8. As to the coming two lectures by our jade expert member Angus Forsyth, the venue will once again be face to face at the Visual Arts Centre Lecture Theatre on Kennedy Road.

A few of our members have been 'decluttering' some of their personal libraries with consequent book donations to our RASHK Library Collection. We thank our Honorary Librarian, Vivian So, who has been cataloguing some of these, when she has time from her very busy day job. Some of those books donated are duplicates or novels, in which case we promise to find good homes for them.

As always, we welcome feedback from our members on past events and their rich networks and ideas for future activities, so please let us know or contact one of our Activities Committee members with your suggestions.

Stay well and best wishes as we head into the festive seasons,

Helen Tinsley, President RASHK, October 2021

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RECENT ACTIVITIES

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Future Activities

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

NOTE FOR ONLINE TALKS

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

Zoom links to access the online lecture will be sent to members (who have registered) prior to the online lecture.

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

LOCAL VISIT

San Po Kong Walk

Saturday • 6th November 2021

Details

David Bellis will take us on a walk around San Po Kong, introducing its history as we go. He moved to San Po Kong four years ago, and since then he's been collecting stories of the area.

As you would have guessed, Kai Tak and Kowloon City will be featured in this walk. But there are other curiosities too: traces of pre-British Kowloon, a nullah that needed freshening up, the first Po Kong, a

second walled settlement, the British Army's third contribution to Hong Kong's well-being, vanishing hills, preserved piers, and more. The topics will be illustrated with old maps and photographs.

Duration, Restriction & Self-pay Lunch

- Duration: David estimates the walk will last about two hours, but as this is a new walk, the actual length may vary. The route is paved throughout, with a couple of short staircases, but no major climbs.
- Restriction: Up to a maximum of 12 attendees.
- The walk will be followed by a self-pay lunch in Kowloon City

Guide



David runs the popular local-history website, Gwulo.com. It hosts over 44,000 pages about old Hong Kong, including over 27,000 photos. In 2014, David won the SCMP's Spirit of Hong Kong award for Heritage Preservation, for his work on Gwulo.com. He has published four collections of old Hong Kong photos and their stories.

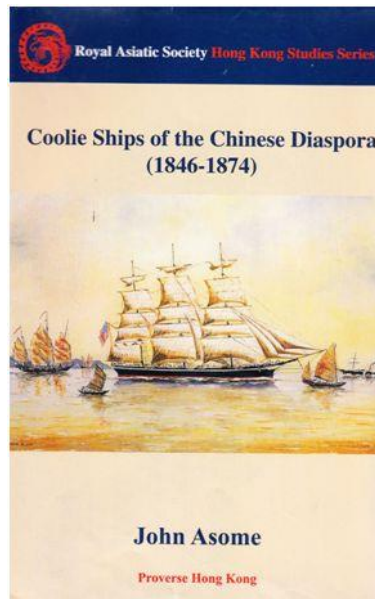
PROGRAMME

Guide: Mr. David Bellis
Date: Saturday, 6th November 2021
Time: 10:30 a.m. (walk starts)
Venue: Meet in the Kai Tak MTR station concourse, in front of the Circle K store near exit A
Admission: RAS Members \$100; Non-Members / Guests \$150
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance.
Numbers are capped for those members wishing to attend this walk. Please also let us know when booking if you plan to stay for a planned post-walk self-pay lunch in Kowloon City (Italian food). (Planned venue – [Pavia Restaurant](#). Please indicate your dietary requirement with the Administrator.)

ONLINE TALK

Coolie Ships of the Chinese Diaspora (1846-1874)

Friday • 12th November 2021



This is an online talk to be delivered by John Acome on the subject of his book “Coolie Ships of the Chinese Diaspora (1846-1874).”

Book Details

Between 1846 and 1874, over 290,000 Chinese were embarked as indentured labourers destined mainly for Peru, Cuba and the British, French and Dutch West Indies. Of these, 15% did not reach their destination.

The demand for labour was high. Among the poor, penniless and destitute of southern China, the search for happiness and remunerated work was also high. When demand outran the initial willing supply, trickery and misrepresentation, even kidnapping, came to be used in obtaining recruits. These were among the several factors contributing to onboard suicides, attempted insurrections and successful mutinies when captains and some crew were killed or tortured, ships set on fire and sometimes entirely destroyed. There were also occurrences when recruits signed on, intent on piracy, which was occasionally successful.

Authorities in the ports of departure introduced legislation to counter abuses. Receiving countries also introduced legislation related to imported labour. This did little to alleviate the tyranny endured by the suffering labourers both on board during their journey and at their destinations.

In this study, John Asome provides data on 732 voyages and commentary on a good number of these. As an expert in the field, Walton Look Lai, says, John Asome has filled, “an enormous gap in our knowledge of the Chinese coolie trade. He has enabled readers and future scholars to distinguish fact from myth, reality from exaggeration, in the understanding of this vast and complex experience.”

Speaker



JOHN ASOME was born in Hong Kong and educated at St. Joseph’s College. His working life has been spent in the UK and Australia, with many years at sea. His first position—as a Radio Officer for the China Navigation Company—took him throughout East Asia, from China and Japan to Thailand and Indonesia, as well as to Papua New Guinea and Australia. Later, after some years spent in different positions in the UK, he had four years in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service (RFA)—the civilian arm of the Royal Navy—and served on ships based in Malta and Singapore as well as on patrol duties in the West Indies and both East and West Africa.

When he retired, John pursued his interest in the Chinese diaspora—stirred first by finding Chinese people in many of the places he visited—and the related topic of the indentured trade to Cuba, Peru and the West Indies. This has taken him to various archival collections in the UK, and to many online encounters. He has communicated with many scholars in the field and been published on the subject in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong.

His book is published by Proverse Hong Kong and can be purchased from the Chinese University Press https://cup.cuhk.edu.hk/index.php?route=product/product&path=59_68_171&product_id=4161

He may be contacted at jasome@outlook.com

PROGRAMME

Guide:	Mr. John Asome
Date:	Thursday, 11th November 2021
Time:	7:00pm Hong Kong Time.
Venue:	Online over Zoom.
Admission:	Free to RASHK members
Booking:	Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance.

LOCAL VISIT

WW2 Burials and Medal History in Stanley Military Cemetery

Saturday • 20th November 2021



George Cross, courtesy Martin Heves

Details

A leading military historian once suggested that Stanley Military Cemetery ranks unique in that it is probably the only cemetery which is the resting place of no fewer than five holders of the George Cross.

The latter ranks alongside the Victoria Cross in the British Commonwealth's gallantry awards system, and is awarded "for acts of the greatest heroism or for most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger not in the face of the enemy."

All citizens of the British Commonwealth are eligible for the honour and it can be awarded posthumously. It was instituted in September 1940 by H.M. King George VI at the height of the London blitz, when there was a strong desire to reward the many acts of civilian courage being displayed.

All five recipients of the George Cross who are buried in Stanley Cemetery received their awards posthumously. They all fought during the 1941 battle for Hong Kong; were taken prisoner upon the surrender of the British on Christmas Day and during the subsequent occupation, worked for the resistance against Japanese interests.

All five men, (four military officers and one senior member of the Hong Kong Colonial Government), were cruelly tortured before execution.

During the course of our visit to the cemetery we will visit each of the graves of these brave men and recount their stories. We will also take the opportunity to visit some other graves of interest in Stanley cemetery, of both military personnel and civilians, who died during those dark days of the Japanese Occupation of Hong Kong.



Speaker

Martin Heyes was brought up near Liverpool in the United Kingdom. Upon completion of secondary education he entered the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst from where he was commissioned in the British Army, serving primarily in the U.K. and Germany.

Martin joined the Royal Hong Kong Police in late 1975 with whom he served until retirement, following which he worked in the private security sector in Hong Kong.

Martin has always maintained a keen interest in the 1941 battle for Hong Kong and subsequent Japanese Occupation.

He originally worked for the Hong Kong Tourism Board conducting walks of the (then) newly-opened Wong Nai Chong Trail, and in more recent years has worked for local tour company Walk Hong Kong for whom he currently conducts tours of a number of Hong Kong's WW2 wartime sites.

Martin is married and lives in a New Territories village near Kam Tin.

PROGRAMMME

Speaker: Martin Heyes
Date: Saturday, 20th November 2021
Time: Meet at 10am, visit starts when group is assembled
Venue: Stanley Cemetery, meet outside Pacific Coffee opposite the Stanley Police Station
Admission: RAS Members \$100; Non-members \$150
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door.

HYBRID MODE TALK

Hunting in Asia

Tuesday • 23 November 2021



Details

For this presentation Nikolaj will discuss the various points at which his research on trophy hunting intersected with Asian countries and contexts. This includes hunting parks in ancient China, African exports of rhino horns and lion bones for traditional Chinese medicine, current hunting practices in select Asian countries, and deer farming for meat and antler velvet.

Speaker

Nikolaj Bichel grew up in the Danish countryside, accustomed to deer hunting, fishing, and subsistence farming. Drawing on these experiences and always writing about nature and wildlife, Nikolaj studied Sociology for his BA and European Studies for his MA in Denmark. After moving to Hong Kong in 2016, the media attention surrounding the 2015 killing of a lion by the name of Cecil in Zimbabwe inspired him to write a doctoral dissertation about trophy hunting. After 4½ years at the University of Hong Kong's philosophy department, this PhD thesis was finished in 2021 and is currently underway as a book with Springer Nature. The work is highly interdisciplinary, involving historical, cultural, psychological, political, ecological, and ethical perspectives on hunters, hunting, and hunting trophies.



PROGRAMMME

Speaker: Nikolaj Bichel
Date: Tuesday, 23 November 2021
Time: 7:00pm – 8:00pm Hong Kong Time (desk reception opens at 6:30pm)
Venue: Café 8, above the HK Maritime Museum, Pier 8, Central
Admission: Café 8 - \$150 for members, \$200 for guests /non-members, numbers are limited. No charge for alternative Zoom.
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance for either Café 8 or Zoom.

LOCAL VISIT

REFLECTED BEAUTY: CHINESE REVERSE GLASS PAINTINGS FROM THE MEI LIN COLLECTION

Saturday • 27th November 2021



Courtesy UMAG

The RASHK has booked a group visit for members to the University of Hong Kong University Museum and Art Gallery exhibit.

Details

Chinese reverse glass paintings have rarely been displayed in museums and few studies have considered their compositional elements and iconographic themes. Surviving eighteenth century paintings were often created for the export market and catered to the taste of western patrons in Europe and North America. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the production of reverse paintings became much more locally focused, with artists creating scenes filled with auspicious symbols and literary references that merchants sold mainly within China.

The subject matter of the current exhibition is the large and multifaceted phenomenon of the more indigenous paintings rendered in finely executed detail. Thanks to the fruitful collaboration with the Mei

Lin Collection, we have been able to assemble a group of late Qing dynasty and early Republican period paintings. Some of these images are styled as mirrors and mounted as pocket mirrors or table screens that depict scenes from mythology or popular literature, auspicious objects, or portraits of women and children, as well as 'reflected beauties' in both intimate and larger sizes.

By introducing such diversity, the artworks provide a general overview of the themes represented for the Chinese market. While in the eighteenth century the pleasure of viewing a Canton harbour scene in London was typical for export trade paintings, in later centuries the cultural identity of the painted subjects took on greater significance, as an increasing number of Chinese—not simply the affluent merchant class of the eighteenth century—were well versed in the literary and musical references.

These portraits also focus on domestic scenes and the shifting standards of beauty, which can be viewed as historic records documenting Chinese civilisation at a time when the dynastic system had ended, and modernity characterised not just politics, but also sociocultural developments. These values give importance to a medium that bridges folk and fine art and highlights the paintings' significance when viewed as exceptional documents offering rarely preserved insights into an increasingly urban lifestyle.

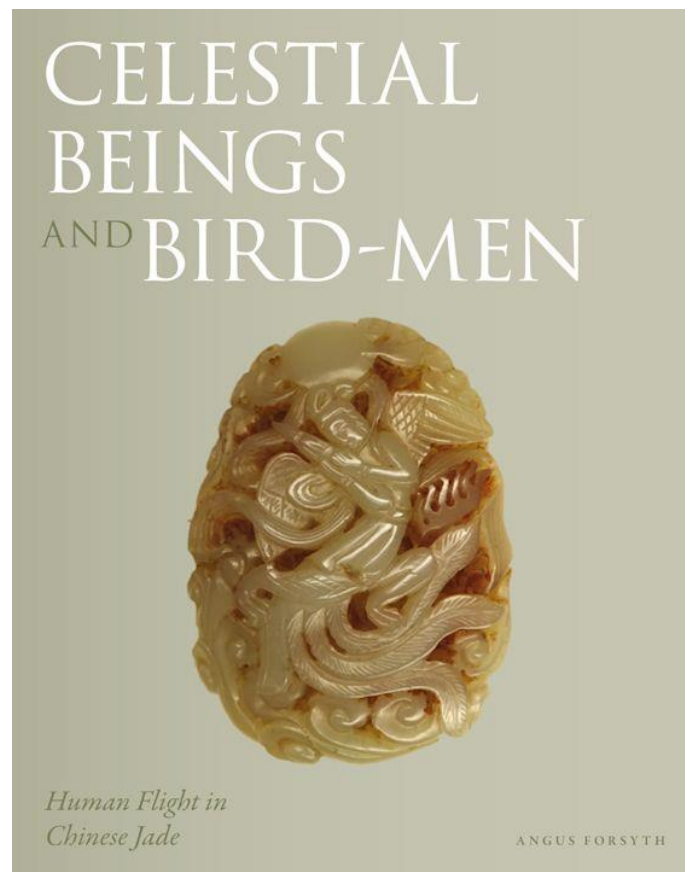
PROGRAMME

Speaker: Museum Director Dr. Florian Knothe
Date: Saturday, 27th November 2021
Time: 11:00am – 11:30am
Venue: 1/F T.T. Tsui Building, University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU, 90 Bonham Road, Pokfulam
(***Please enter the museum via the G/F Fung Ping Shan Building, UMAG.***)
Admission: RAS Members \$100; Non-members \$150
Booking: Please email <membership@royalsocietysociety.org.hk> in advance to reserve your place and pay at the door.

IN-PERSON TALK

Celestial Beings and Bird-Men, Part I

Friday • 3rd December 2021



Details

This is Part 1 of a two-part talk, Part II is scheduled for 6th Jan, 2022.

A sequel to *Ships of the Silk Road*, this is an informed and beautifully illustrated treatment of flying men in Chinese jade.

Jade figurines depicting human flight are a varied and expressive manifestation of this most prized artistic medium. Angus Forsyth, a prominent collector of Chinese jade, explores the making in the Middle Kingdom (over a 2000-year period, from the Han Dynasty onwards) of unique objects depicting figural movement through the air. He examines the depiction of apsaras (flying angels), kinnaras (man-birds), anthropomorphized bird headdress ornaments and finally garudas (humanoid birds appearing in both

Hindu and Buddhist mythology). He shows how these flying figures came to be associated with veneration of the gods and specific devotional practice. Examining a variety of representative objects, none of which has been seen in print before, the author reveals that the original concept behind flying celestial beings and bird-men originated not in China but in India and the Christianized West, via the Silk Road. A distinctive characteristic of Chinese artefacts is that, in contrast to their Western angelic counterparts, they often are wingless. The book discusses small and larger jade pieces alike.

Speaker



Angus Forsyth commenced work in private practice as a solicitor in 1971. In 1972 he joined the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch and has been a life member for many years. He began a jade collection in 1973 focussing only on nephrite jade worked in China from Neolithic Times up to the Qing Dynasty.

He was a founder member of the Oriental Ceramic Society of Hong Kong in 1974 and was its President in the two-year period from 1984 to 1986. In 1975 he acquired his first jade Bactrian Camel of a Tang Dynasty date. This was an introduction to the mystique surrounding this remarkable animal as the unique beast of burden which carried all manner of goods from East and West on an exclusive role of trade linking China in the East with Rome in the West. From the 2nd to the 8th Century A.D. the principal traffic control and management providing Bactrian Camel transport on the Silk Road was operated by the Soghdians, an Iranian tribe from the Northeast Altai Mountains who followed the Zoroastrian fire worship religion.

In 1990 Angus Forsyth contributed an article on his study of the development of human sculptural form in Hong Shan Neolithic jade working which was published in *Oriental Ceramic Society Magazine*, which remains a leading article on the subject. In 1991 he contributed two chapters on Early Chinese jade to a large book on jade featuring the jade of all producer countries worldwide. In 1994 he wrote the first half on early jades of a joint publication with Brian McElney forming the catalogue of a major exhibition of both their collections at the Museum of Far Eastern Art in Bath, England.

PROGRAMME

Speaker: Angus Forsyth
Date: Friday, 3rd December 2021
Time: 7:00pm, Reception desk opens at 6:30pm
Venue: Visual Arts Centre, 7A Kennedy Road, Central, HK
Admission: RAS Members \$100; Non-Members / Guests \$150
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance.
***Part II of this talk is scheduled to be held on 6th Jan 2022)**

HYBRID-MODE TALK

“Meridiana Jones(es) and the Temples of Time”

Friday • 10 December 2021

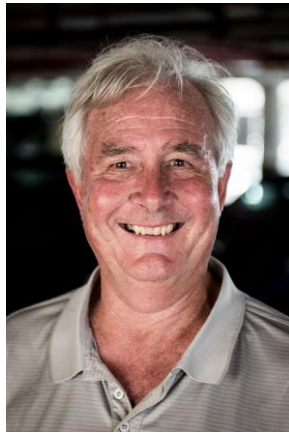


Details

Between 2016 and 2020, what physical remains existed from the era of Hong Kong Mean Time (7h 36m 41.86s ahead of Greenwich) – 1884-1904 – were discovered by a joint project involving three HK researchers: the presenter, Mr Shun Chi-ming (at the beginning of the project, Director of the Hong Kong Observatory), and Mr Willie Yip Tsan-pong of the Lands Department’s Survey and Mapping Office, our vital surveying expert, who pinpointed the remains we then found.

In the talk I’ll explain what Hong Kong Mean (or Local) Time was and why it was. Why knowing its value to within 1/100th of a second mattered, and how, technically, the trick was worked in an era before cheap and instant electronic communication. That explanation will bring in the Hong Kong Meridian - 114^o 10’ 27”.79 E – and the five physical structures that marked it, all the remains of which we had discovered by late November 2020.

Few more than a score of the many, similar meridian marks that once dotted the globe and were vital to navigation, the expansion of world trade and the advancement of the science of time still exist. We believe Hong Kong’s to be unique in East and Southeast Asia. Happily, the Hong Kong Observatory is looking after them for now, though they have no official protection under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance and, as things are at present, are not very likely to get it.



The Speaker

Stephen Davies has been in Hong Kong on and off since 1947. His fascination with navigation and its history began with service in the Royal Navy in the early 1960s. Until his final retirement this year, he taught at the University of Hong Kong.

His history of seafarers' welfare in Hong Kong, *Strong to Save, Maritime mission in Hong Kong from Whampoa Reach to the Mariners' Club*, was published by City University of Hong Kong Press in 2017. His new book, *Transport to another world: HMS Tamar and the sinews of empire* will be published by City University of Hong Kong Press at the end of 2021.

PROGRAMME

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Davies
Date: Friday, 10 December 2021
Time: 7:00pm – 8:00pm Hong Kong Time (desk reception opens at 6:30pm)
Venue: Café 8, above the HK Maritime Museum, Pier 8, Central
Admission: Café 8 - \$150 for members, \$200 for guests /non-members, numbers are limited
No charge for alternative Zoom.
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance for either Café 8 or Zoom.

Recent Activities

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

LOCAL VISIT

**Indra and Harry Banga Gallery 'Atlas of Maritime Buddhism' Exhibition
at City University with Dr. Isabelle Frank**

Wednesday • 8th September 2021



Picture Credit Helen Tinsley

The visit to the exhibition “Atlas of Maritime Buddhism” at the Indra and Harry Banga Gallery was exceptional in many respects. First, it was a privilege to have the guidance of the gallery director, Dr. Isabelle Frank, who introduced us to the topic and how the exhibition was set up.

Buddhism, in a variety of concepts and practices, spread from its birthplace in India to the rest of Asia along trading routes now known as the Silk Road. It sparked in multiple directions, also back to the source in search of scriptures, and led to the emergence of pilgrimage centres. The inland caravan routes have drawn a lot of attention, but not so much the maritime commercial networks which are the former’s counterpart; both were integrated in an area called “the Great Circle” which encompasses most of Asia.

An emphasis on new museum technologies is part of the gallery’s vision and it was in full display here: photogrammetry or three-dimensional photographs of sculptures and reliefs, interactive 360-degree panoramic movies of major Buddhist sites, and i-Dome images for an immersive experience inside buildings, all provided novel ways of looking at the Ajanta caves, Borobudur or Angkor Wat. Yet there were the artefacts, many of great antiquity and all drawn from local museums and galleries, which stole the show, these were all superlative examples that made the exhibition world class.

Mainly sculptures, the epitome of Buddhist art, I would highlight among them a graceful image of an enthroned Vajrasattva (a Bodhisattva in Esoteric Buddhism) from Java, 10th-11th century, wrought in solid gold with incrustated precious stones. Dr. Frank pointed out such fine metalwork was ahead of any other culture at the time. A model of a Sinhalese sailing boat took on a symbolic significance, a vessel of this kind may have transported the monk Faxian on his way back to China from India and Sri Lanka in the early fifth century. And rubbings of the Diamond Sutra taken from the rock carvings in Mount Tai, the sacred Taishan in Shandong province, were likewise powerfully evocative.

The exhibition showed how Buddhism flourished along maritime routes from south to southeast and east Asia, and how it remains a vibrant faith today in many of those places, from Thailand to Japan, a living heritage. The closeness of faraway places was made possible by those sea-routes that had made for easy access; centuries of relations and exchanges also brought some resemblance to a vast region.

The Indra and Harry Banga Gallery deserves to be better known, but City University is no longer an open campus and visiting the gallery requires prior registration; it is commendable that RASHK put this space on the map, helped us to navigate this process and find our way, a memorable event.

Prepared by Juan J. Morales

FRASHK ONLINE TALK

**Was Murray MacLehose overpraised in Hong Kong?
Reflecting on the MacLehose era.
(Hosted by FRASHK in UK)**

Saturday • 18th September 2021

HYBRID TALK

A Stormy Petrel

with Professor Kevin MacKeown at Café 8

Friday • 24th September 2021



Picture Credit Helen Tinsley

Kevin MacKeown and Helen Tinsley

LOCAL VISIT

Swire “Believe in Hong Kong” Exhibition

**Saturday • 9th October 2021
(Cancelled because of Typhoon Number 8 signal)**

ONLINE TALK

**Chinatowns in North America
with Judy Lam**

Friday • 22nd October 2021



Picture Credit: <http://chinatowngirl.ca/>

LOCAL VISIT

Haw Par Museum

Thursday • 28th October 2021



Picture Credit Helen Tinsley

Many longtime residents of Hong Kong will remember past visits to the Tiger Balm Gardens, so named by two Burmese brothers of Chinese ancestry. The brothers had in the early 1900's developed a very successful business producing a herbal treatment for bodily aches and pains, wonderfully named Tiger Balm. Their product soon became a household name in South East Asia, with one large production facility in Hong Kong. In the 1930's the brothers (Haw 'tiger' and Par 'leopard') bought a plot of land above Tai Hang Road where they built a family residence with private garden for the Haw family. On the hillside above they also created the landscaped Tiger Balm Garden, full of remarkable images and open for public enjoyment. The whole property was passed to the HK Government in 2001. And the public garden was sold for residential development. But the Haw Par Mansion with its private garden was recognized of significant heritage value, subsequently granted Grade 1 historic status. It is now preserved as one of the few remaining Hong Kong examples of Chinese Eclectic style architecture. With its architectural emphasis on east-west links, the Mansion currently serves as the cross cultural venue for Haw Par Music Foundation.

A group of RASHK members and their guests met for a popular and enjoyable tour of the house and private garden, expertly led by the site's highly knowledgeable tour guide. Many of the original 1930's design features and interior fittings have been carefully preserved and on magnificent display - pulling us back to a sense of what it was like to experience rich family life at the time. Echoes of some images saved from the public gardens were on display in the house garden. East and west influences were clearly visible in circular portals and fabulous stained glass imagery. We entered the magnificent reception/ sitting area before taking a look at the big dining area, then upstairs to the master bedroom with its mirrored marble fire place, adjoining luxurious bathroom. Finally, we were led to the top

pillared terrace with its view of Tai Hang and the harbour. Throughout our tour there were distant sounds of piano practice in progress which only added to our enjoyment.

Our guide fielded many queries with good humour and expert knowledge, making this a much appreciated local visit, and yes -- Tiger Balm is still available for sale in our local pharmacies.

Prepared by HT

Of General Interest

**Greater China Legal History Seminar Series –
“Controversies on the Morality and Effectiveness of Judicial Torture
in the late Ming China”
by Dr. Ka-chai Tam (Online)
19th November 2021**

法律 **CUHK LAW** THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG 香港中文大學


7th Year **Greater China Legal History** Seminar Series 2021-22

Controversies on the Morality and Effectiveness of Judicial Torture in late Ming China

by
Dr. Ka-chai Tam
Associate Professor, Department of History
Hong Kong Baptist University

CPD event
CPD credits are available upon application and subject to accreditation by the Law Society of Hong Kong (currently pending).

19 November 2021 (Friday), 12:30 – 2:00 pm
online seminar



For more details, please go to:

<https://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk/app/events/greater-china-legal-history-seminar-series-law-and-court-procedure-during-the-ming-dynasty-by-dr-ka-chai-tam-online/>

**Hong Kong International Literary Festival presents –
Along the Southern Boundary
by Les Bird
14th November 2021**

Former Marine Police officer Les Bird's talk will be focusing on the harrowing sea journey to Hong Kong made by tens of thousands of refugees in the years that followed the end of the Vietnam War. As he patrolled the southern maritime boundary of Hong Kong, he photographed their makeshift boats and later the people-smuggling vessels coming in, including the *Sen On*, a freighter ship that the crew abandoned. With this previously unpublished collection of personal photographs, he will share stories of young children, the father who just bought a boat to embark on a 1,000-mile journey, and the disillusioned North Vietnamese battle-hardened veterans – all searching for a new life.

Join Les and Anne-Marie Evans, host of RTHK's Hong Kong Heritage, as they share images and stories from Hong Kong's recent history that continue to resonate with refugee journeys today.

For more details, please go to:

<https://www.festival.org.hk/programme/along-the-southern-boundary-%e2%80%8b%e2%80%8ba-frontline-account-of-the-vietnamese-boat-people-and-their-arrival-in-hong-kong20211114/>

Membership Renewal

2022 Membership Renewal

Members are reminded that membership renewals for 2022 is due on 1 January 2022. Application for renewal received from now on until 31 Dec 2021 will cover a membership period of 14 months (1 Nov 2021 – 31 Dec 2022).

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 2022

Membership Application Form for 2022, please click [here](#).

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

Publications

PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

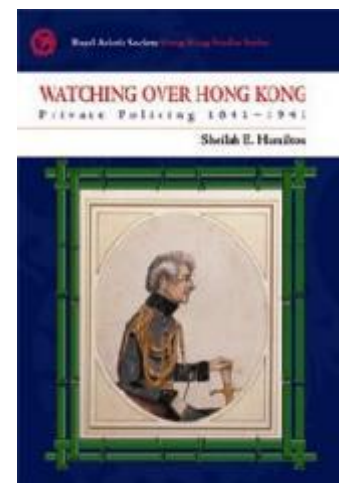
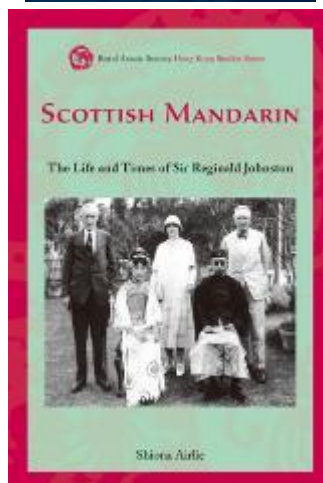
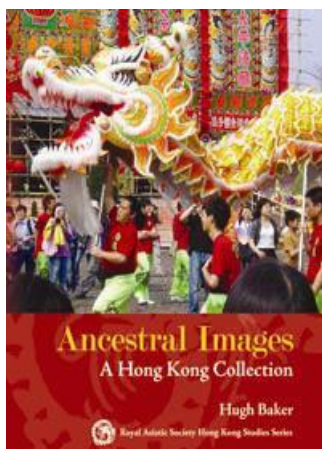
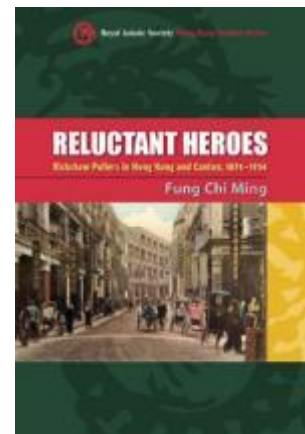
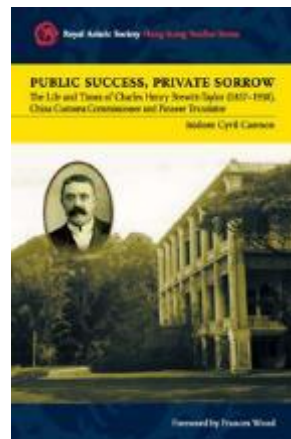
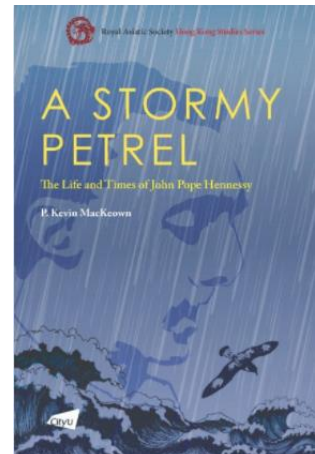
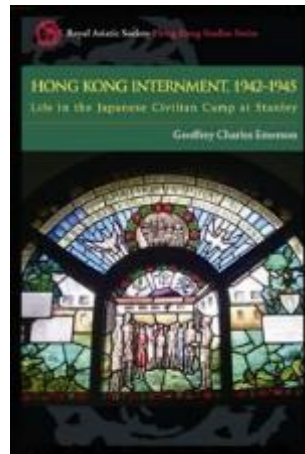
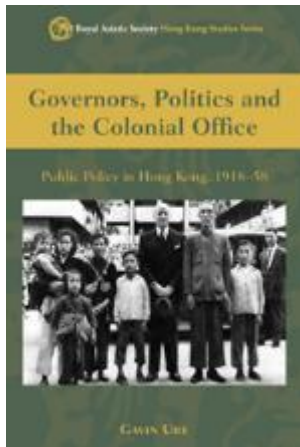
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Publications

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG STUDIES SERIES



There are now more than thirty titles in the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Studies Series. The above is a small selection of the titles available from various publishers.

HKU Press is happy to provide a discount code for RASHK members for their publications. With the code, members can order the RAS series books on our website (<https://hkupress.hku.hk/pro/fnd/results.php?t=s&v=1016>) at 25%

discount. This discount applies to online orders only, not for purchase in our HKUP Bookshop. Please contact our Administrator for details.

On the following page is a list of titles in the HK Studies Series, kindly collated by our member Veronica Pearson. Our grateful thanks to her. Some of the titles are currently unavailable.

List of titles in the Hong Kong Studies Series

Title	Author/editor	ISBN	Publisher	Price (HKD)
A Death in Hong Kong: The MacLennan Case of 1980 and the Suppression of a Scandal.	Nigel Collett	9789629375577	City University Press	HK\$278
A Faithful Record of the Lisbon Maru Incident	Major (Ret'd) Brian Finch, MCIL	9789888228874	Proverse HK and CUHK Press	HK\$310
A Pattern of Life.	Hugh Baker	9789629375539	City University Press	HK\$238
A Stormy Petrel; The Life and Times of John Pope Hennessy.	P. Kevin Mackeown.	9789629373771	City University Press	HK\$238
Ancestral Images	Hugh Baker	9789888083091	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$350
Cantonese Society in Hong Kong and Singapore	Essays by Marjorie Topley. Edited and introduced by Jean DeBernardi	9789888028146	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$350
Coolie Ships of the Chinese Diaspora (1846-1874)	John Asome	9789888491988	Proverse HK (and distributed by CUHK Press)	HK\$320
Custom, Land and Livelihood in Rural South China	Patrick H. Hase	97898888139088	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$350
Early China Coast Meteorology	P. Kevin Mackeown	97898888028856	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$295
East River Column	Chan Sui-jeung	9789622091931	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$180
Escape from Hong Kong	Tim Luard	9789888083770	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$195
For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors	Janet Lee Scott (not available)	9789622098275	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$195
Forgotten Heroes: San On County and Its Magistrates in the Late Ming and Early Qing.	Patrick H. Hase	9789629373061	City University Press	HK\$238
Forgotten Souls	Patricia Lim	9789622099906	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$420
Governors, Politics and the Colonial Office	Gavin Ure	9789888083947	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$295
Hong Kong Internment, 1942–1945	Geoffrey Charles Emerson	9789888028535	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$175
Ireland's Imperial Mandarin	Mark O'Neill (not available)	9789620441028	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$188
Israel and China: From the Tang Dynasty to Silicon Wadi	Mark O'Neill (< 10 available)	9789620442971	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$168
My Homeland in Another Place	Mark O'Neill, translated by Cheng Han (not available)	9789620442964	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$128
Policing Hong Kong – An Irish History	Patricia O'Sullivan	9789887792734	Blacksmith Books	HK\$148
Portugal, China and the Macau Negotiations, 1986–1999	Carmen Amado Mendes	97898888139002	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$275
Public Success, Private Sorrow	Isidore Cyril Cannon	9789622099616	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$250
Reluctant Heroes	Fung Chi Ming	9789622097346	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$250
Resist to the End	Charles Barman, edited by Ray Barman	9789622099760	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$250

Scottish Mandarin Settlement, Life and Politics; Understanding the Traditional New Territories.	Shiona Airlie Patrick H. Hase	97898888139569 9789629374419	Hong Kong University Press City University Press	HK\$295 HK\$278
Southern District Officer Reports	Edited by John Strickland	97898888028382	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$275
Strong to Save; Maritime Mission in Hong Kong from Whampoa Reach to the Mariners' Club	Stephen Davies	9789629373054	City University Press	HK\$278
The Dragon and the Crown	Stanley S. K. Kwan with Nicole Kwan	97898888083176	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$160
The Lone Flag	John Pownall Reeves, edited by Colin Day and Richard Garrett with a biographical essay by David Calthorpe	97898888208326	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$320
The Peak: An Illustrated History of Hong Kong's Top District	Richard Garrett	9789887792703	Blacksmith Books	HK\$188
The Six-Day War of 1899	Patrick H. Hase	9789888139545	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$195
Watching Over Hong Kong	Sheilah E. Hamilton	97898888028993	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$195
東江縱隊 (East River Column)	陳瑞璋	97898888083978	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$150

The following is a list of Titles that are not in the HKSSS, but the RASHK was involved in their publishing

Title	Author/editor	ISBN	Publisher	Price (HKD)
Hong Kong: Going and Gone; Western Victoria			Joint Publishing HK	HK\$100
Chinese Christians, Elites, Middlemen and the Church	Carl T. Smith	9789622096882	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$195
The Turning of the Tide; Religion in China Today	Julian F. Pas (Ed.) <i>(not available)</i>	9780195851175	RASHK and Oxford University Press	
Beyond the Metropolis; Villages in Hong Kong	Patrick H. Hase and Elizabeth Sinn	9789620412981	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$310
In the Heart of the Metropolis: Yaumatei and Its People	Patrick H. Hase and Elizabeth Sinn	9789620417474	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$260
A Sense of Place; Hong Kong West of Pottinger Street	Veronica Pearson and Ko Tim-Keung <i>(not available)</i>	9789620428111	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$380

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