

ROYAL ASIATIC

皇家亞洲學會香港分會
G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong



SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

HONG KONG

November 2022

E-mail: membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk

GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong

www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk

<http://www.facebook.com/RoyalAsiaticSocietyHongKong>



Group Visit to Xiqu Center

Picture Credit Oliver Hong

Message from your President, Helen Tinsley

Welcome to our November / December 2022 RASHK Newsletter.

We are coming to the end of an eventful year, not only for our Society and Hong Kong, but also globally.

The Year of the Tiger has, as predicted, has been one of many changes, some of them stormy, but which also bring opportunities. Our Hong Kong Covid-19 related restrictions have been gradually eased with welcome opportunities to travel and visit family and friends. Locally group gatherings are now possible and we begin to take advantage of this when organising our visits and events. Our very welcome links with RASBeijing and RASShanghai continue to provide access to some fascinating insights from their expert invited speakers, often with a range of perspectives on Chinese history and China's expanding global role.

September and October events included some wonderful expert hosted site visits for interested members -- to Roy Delbyck's private collection of memorabilia, and Chris Hall's collection of delicate and exquisite export fans, as well as curator hosted visits to the Xiqu Museum and City University's exhibition of stunning artworks from ancient nomadic Asian tribes, where golden images of tigers were prominently featured. We also had expert talks on the fate of Chinese merchant seaman after WW2, a British diplomat in China during an early period of turmoil, the recent revitalization project of Central Market and a wonderful introduction to the newly opened Hong Kong Palace Museum. I encourage you to take a look for yourselves at these new and revised local venues if you have the opportunity.

Looking forward to a rich programme of events planned in the coming 2 months, please take a look at details in this Newsletter as well as our website. We have some timely reminder talks on Hong Kong's WW2 history, a talk on the history of Hong Kong pharmacies, a visit to HKUUMAG to enjoy Brian Tilbrook's exhibition there, hosted by the artist himself, and a tour of our local Africa Centre followed by an optional themed buffet lunch. I'll look forward to meeting up with some of you then.

In the meantime best wishes to you all, enjoy the coming festive season wherever you are, and stay well.

Helen Tinsley, President RASHK, October 2022

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Future Activities

All planned activities in 2022 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 talks over the Zoom application, downloadable on computer at <https://zoom.us/> or smartphone from any app store.

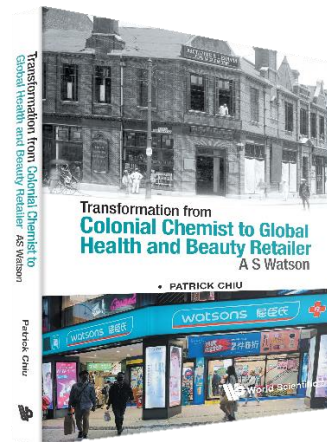
Zoom links to access the online talk will be sent to members (who have registered) prior to the event.

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

HYBRID-MODE TALK

**Transformation from Colonial Chemist
to Global Health and Beauty Retailer**

Tuesday • 15 November 2022



Details

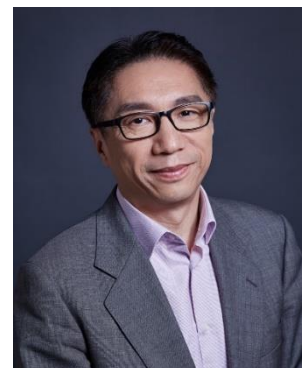
The book talk on “*Transforming from Colonial Chemist to Global Health and Beauty Retailer: A S Watson*” is about the history of an iconic chemist, A.S. Watson, which can trace its humble beginnings to the Canton Dispensary in the Thirteen Factories in Shamian, Guangzhou in 1828. By 1900, it was the largest supplier of opium cures, soda water and worm cakes in the Far East, and operated or sold to a 100 drug stores in China and the Philippines. Today, A S Watson is a leading global retail health and beauty retailer with national brands of Dirk Rosmann, Fortress, Kruidvat, ParkNShop, Savers, Superdrugs, Watsons and others in 28 markets in Asia and Europe.

Dr Stuart Anderson, a renowned academic on the history of pharmacy in the British Empire, comments “*In this highly readable and lavishly illustrated book, Patrick Chiu makes an important contribution to the history of pharmacy in Asia and the legacy of European Colonialism. This book records the firm’s highs and lows in an often turbulent political and economic environment, from its beginnings to the twenty-first century. It will be of interest not only to pharmacy and business historians but also to those interested in the history of Hong Kong and China.*”

The Speaker

Patrick Chiu (Manchu name Irgen Gioro) is a writer and pharmaceutical historian.

Born in Guangzhou and grew up in Hong Kong, he could trace his origins back to the Bordered Yellow Tribe inhabited near Changchun, Manchuria (now Jilin province, Northeast China). Patrick graduated with a B.Sc. degree at De Montfort University, Leicester, an MBA at the University of Hull, England, and has attended a Global Management Programme at IMD, Lausanne. His career spanned across the business, charity, and health service sectors.



Patrick's original research work on modern medicine and pharmacy of China's treaty ports have been published in the *Pharmaceutical Historian* since 2016. Patrick's first book, *A History of Western Pharmacy in Colonial Hong Kong*, was ranked as a top 10 seller in the Autumn 2017 Commercial Press Book Fair in Beijing. He is a regular contributor to the *Master-Insight*, an economic and political news media for the Greater China audience. He is married and lives in Hong Kong.

PROGRAMME

- Speaker:** Patrick Chiu
Date: Tuesday, 15 November 2022
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.

ONLINE TALK

Project Avenger

Thursday • 24 Nov 2022



Source: <https://www.project-avenger.com/>

Details

On 16 January 1945, a combined Air Group of US Navy airplanes set off from aircraft carriers in the South China Sea, for the heaviest bombing raids on Hong Kong during WWII. During the bombing raids, two Avenger bombers collided amidst the chaos of intense anti-aircraft artillery fire, above Tai Tam Country Park on Hong Kong Island.

Craig Mitchell describes his extraordinary search, leading to the discovery of the first pieces of a TBM-1C Avenger on the side of Tai Tam's hills in 2012. This aircraft was one of 17 downed planes flying over Hong Kong that day, during the final months of WWII. Craig's discovery was the first step in a huge team effort and scientific endeavour to dig out the plane in 2021 which became Project Avenger.

In November 2021, the project Avenger team, a group of archaeologists, military historians, adventurers, geographical surveyors, students and volunteers, organised by the Explorers Club, gathered together up in the hills of Tai Tam Country Park to scientifically investigate and definitively identify the remnants of the warplane. Paul Niel and Adam Janikowski, both of whom have climbed Mt Everest, will describe what it took to manage, finance, acquire permits for and incorporate cutting-edge technology into Project Avenger. Lead archaeologist Dr Michael Rivera will talk about some of the significant finds from the archaeological site and there will be a discussion on where the Project Avenger team will take this type of historical and scientific investigation next.

The Speakers

Craig Mitchell is from Hong Kong and has had an enduring passion for military history, in particular the Battle for Hong Kong. Craig discovered the wreck site in January 2012 after months of searching, after an initial small fragment was first found, and immediately started working to conduct a professional archaeological study. Craig leads a small team that studies the Battle for Hong Kong in meticulous detail before the passage of time erodes artefacts beyond recognition. He has discovered, explored and mapped dozens of Japanese wartime tunnels systems throughout the mountains of Hong Kong.



Paul Niel, FRGS, is from Austria and has travelled the globe for expeditions and other adventures, that have taken him to places as disparate as Kamchatka, the Arctic Circle and across the Atlantic Ocean on a sailing yacht. Over the last 10 years, he has successfully climbed the highest mountains on every continent, the celebrated “Seven Summits”, and became one of a handful of climbers to climb two 8,000m peaks within 24 hours, Mt Everest and Mt Lhotse. Together with his wife, he completed the first coastal circumclimb of Hong Kong Island.



Adam Janikowski, FRGS, is from Canada and holds degrees in Chemical Engineering and Classics from Queens University, Canada, an MBA from INSEAD, France, and a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from the Colorado Schools of Mines, USA. He is currently working on a doctorate studying the privatisation and commercialisation of the space resources industry. He has also been honoured with a Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotary International, a Baden Powell Fellowship by the World Scout Foundation and by the Scott Polar Research Institute of Cambridge University. He is a member of the RAS as well as a sportsman and adventurer and successfully summited Mt Everest.



Dr Michael Rivera is from Hong Kong and holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. He is a researcher, educator, public speaker and biological anthropologist based at the University of Hong Kong. His main research focuses on human history and development over the last 6 million years. Dr Rivera is currently working on establishing a greater presence of bioanthropological and archaeological science in Hong Kong, in terms of research, teaching, laboratory science, fieldwork and public engagement projects.



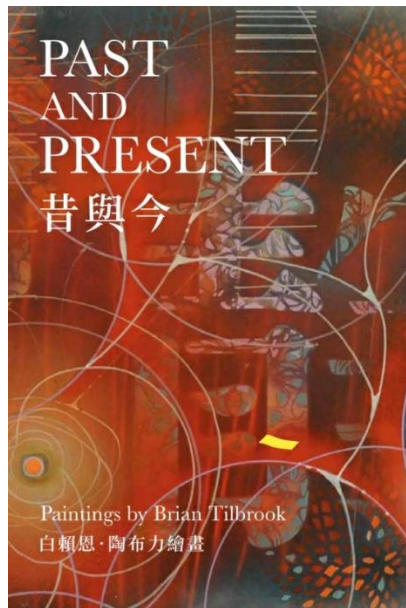
PROGRAMME

Speaker: Craig Mitchell, Paul Niel, Adam Janikowski, Michael Rivera
Date: Thursday, 24 Nov 2022
Time: 7pm-8pm, 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

LOCAL VISIT

University Museum and Art Gallery “Past and Present Paintings by Brian Tilbrook”

Saturday • 26 November 2022



Source: University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU

The RASHK has booked a guided tour for members to the University Museum and Art Gallery, University of Hong Kong (HKU)

Details

(extracted from [HKUMAG website](#))

Past and Present: Paintings by Brian Tilbrook, is a retrospective exhibition of artworks by the renowned Hong Kong artist, presented by the University Museum and Art Gallery of the University of Hong Kong.

Collected for years by such local stalwarts as Hongkong Land, Swire Group and The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Tilbrook has fulfilled commissions of expansive mural paintings that count among Hong Kong’s most recognisably abstract artworks. The subject matter of his more recent works often engages with global geopolitical issues.

Tilbrook’s heritage paintings create a record of intrinsic beauty and documentary value. Commissioned by the Hong Kong Government’s Antiquities Advisory Board and executed within a single year, the historical sites and the painter’s engagement with them are of growing importance as Hong Kong is destined to change with further urban development.

Alongside these themes stand Tilbrook’s graphic compositions that incorporate Chinese characters. These visual juxtapositions are indicative of the expatriate painter’s interest in Asian design and philosophy.

Together, these artworks are testament to the artist's past and present accomplishments, and the basis for this comprehensive and celebratory exhibition in Tilbrook's 90th year.

Guide

Born in England in 1932, and residing in Hong Kong since 1965, **Brian Tilbrook** is recognised first and foremost for the naturalistic paintings of historical buildings and antiquities in Hong Kong that he executed in the 1980s, as well as for his more recent abstract compositions. Tilbrook, a former head of the art department at the South Island School, has given purpose to his art by documenting local heritage buildings and by bringing awareness to ongoing global affairs.



PROGRAMME

- Guide:** Brian Tilbrook
- Date:** Saturday, 26 November 2022
- Time:** 4pm-5pm
- Venue:** University Museum and Art Gallery, HKU
90 Bonham Road, Pokfulam, HK
(Please enter the Museum via the ground floor.)
- Admission:** \$100 for members, \$150 for guests/non-members.
The number of participants will be capped according to the most current government regulations
- Booking:** Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> to register your attendance.

LOCAL VISIT

Chung King Mansion & Africa Centre

Saturday • 3 December 2022

16/F	E 1	Greenhouse Guesthouse	綠屋閣	8/F	E 1	Yan Yan Guesthouse	欣欣賓館
	E 2	Yan Yan Guesthouse	欣欣賓館		E 2	Wing Wah Guesthouse	
15/F	E 1	Greenhouse Guesthouse	綠屋閣		E 3	Khyber Pass Mess Club	聯陞士
	E 2	Shan Shan Guest House Ltd	山山閣		E 4	New Asia Guest House	
14/F	E 1	Phoenix Hostel	鳳城賓館		E 5	Singpak Guesthouse	
	E 2	Alvius Guesthouse	奧維賓館		E 6	Sydney Hostel	
13/F	E 2	Smiles Inn	樂得樓			Kanlan Hotel	
	E 3	Manhattan Guesthouse	曼哈頓	6/F	E 1	Holiday Guesthouse	假日賓館
12/F	E 1	Sun Shine Guest House	陽光閣		E 2	Angel Guesthouse	
	E 2	Peacock Guesthouse	孔雀賓館		E 3	Shanghai Motel, HK	
	E 3	Maple Leaf Guesthouse	紅葉賓館		E 4	Chung King Mansory	聚會
	E 4	Maple Leaf Guesthouse	紅葉賓館		E 5	Angel Guesthouse	
	E 5	Maple Leaf Guesthouse	紅葉賓館		E 6	Angel Guesthouse	
	E 6	Maple Leaf Guesthouse	紅葉賓館	5/F	E 1	Hotel HK Group	香港集團賓館
11/F	E 1	Hotel HK Group	香港集團賓館		E 2	Crystal Hostel	
	E 2	Crystal Hostel			E 3	Days and Night Hotel	
	E 3	Crystal Hostel			E 4	City HK Guest House	
10/F	E 1	Crystal Hostel			E 5	Chillun Hotel	
	E 2	Crystal Hostel			E 6	Symphony Inn	新雅樂賓館
	E 3	Crystal Hostel		9/F	E 1	Unique Hotel	
	E 4	Crystal Hostel			E 2	Comfort Guesthouse	安怡賓館
	E 5	Crystal Hostel			E 3	Comfort Guesthouse	
	E 6	Crystal Hostel			E 4	Comfort Guesthouse	

World-famous Guest House in Chung King Mansion

Picture Credit Jace Au

The RASHK has booked a group visit for members to Chung King Mansion and Africa Centre.

Details

Some say it's the only place that makes Hong Kong different from any Chinese city. A symbol for globalization, 'home' to many Africans and South Asians, a place some mothers warn their kids about. Chungking Mansions means a lot of things to different people. This 90-minute tour will focus on demonstrating and understanding the rich complexities of social, political, economic, environmental, and cultural life of Africans living in Hong Kong, as well as the vibrant culture of the ethnic minorities of Hong Kong.



Africa Centre HK

Picture credit Jace Au

PROGRAMME

Speaker: Dawit Debesai, Education
Project Manager, Africa Centre

Date: Saturday, 3 December 2022

Time: Group meets at 10:50am, East
TST MTR station, Exit K (in
front of Hang Seng Bank).
Chung King Mansion Tour starts at 11:00am

Venue: Chung King Mansion

Admission: \$200 for members, \$250 for guests /non-members



Optional African Lunch Buffet (menu on request)

Time: Around 12:30pm, after Chung King Mansion Tour.
Lunch at 12:45pm. There is a 15-minute walk from Chung King Mansion to
Africa Centre.

Venue: Africa Centre, 2/F, 21 Hillwood Road, Tsim Sha Tsui

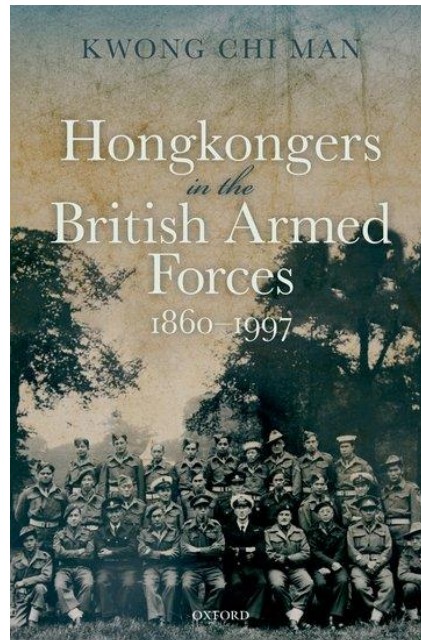
Admission: \$100 for members, \$150 for guests /non-members.
The price is for food only. Can buy drinks in the Centre.

Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your
attendance for the tour and indicate if you would like to join the optional lunch.

ONLINE TALK

Hongkongers in the British Armed Forces, 1860-1997

Tuesday • 6 Dec 2022



Details

(Source: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/hong-kongers-in-the-british-armed-forces-1860-1997-9780192845740?cc=us&lang=en>)

This is the first systematic study of the experience of the Hong Kong servicemen in the British armed forces during the colonial period. It puts the Hong Kong servicemen in the contexts of Hong Kong history, the history of overseas Chinese, the history of the British Empire, and the military history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It details the agency of Hongkongers, who were often portrayed as victims or beneficiaries during the two world wars and the Cold War, and highlights the relevance of Hong Kong in the modern history of East Asia. The author also looks at how the intertwined issues of class and race played out among these servicemen, who came from a variety of ethnic, cultural, and social backgrounds. The study reveals the complexity of the colonial Hong Kong society by illustrating the interplay between the colonizers and the colonized of different classes and ethnicities, and informs the ongoing discussion about colonial Hong Kong by providing concrete examples of the collaboration between ethnic groups.

The Speaker

Dr Chi Man KWONG was born and raised in Hong Kong and had completed his doctorate degree in Cambridge, United Kingdom. His interest lies in military history in East Asia.

Apart from his recently published *Hongkongers in the British Armed Forces, 1860-1997*, Dr Kwong is also the author of *Old Soldiers Never Die* (老兵不死：香港華籍英兵), *Road to Liberation* (重光之路：日據香港與太平洋戰爭), and the co-author of *Eastern Fortress*, among many other of his publications. He is now the Associate Professor at the Department of History, Hong Kong Baptist University.



PROGRAMME

Speaker: Dr Chi Man KWONG
Date: Tuesday, 6 December 2022
Time: 7pm-8pm, 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

LOCAL VISIT

Sai Wan Memorial and War Cemetery

Saturday • 17 December 2022



Picture Credit cwgc.org

History Information

Hong Kong fell to Japanese forces on Christmas Day 1941 following a brief but intense period of fighting. Most of those buried or commemorated on the island were killed at this time or died later as internees or prisoners of war during the Japanese occupation. The SAI WAN MEMORIAL forms the entrance to Sai Wan War Cemetery and bears the names of more than 2,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died in the Battle of Hong Kong, or subsequently in captivity, who have no known grave. Additional panels to the memorial form the SAI WAN CREMATION MEMORIAL, listing the names of 144 Second World War casualties whose remains were cremated in accordance with their faith, and the SAI WAN (CHINA) MEMORIAL, commemorating 72 casualties of both wars whose graves in mainland China could not be maintained. SAI WAN WAR CEMETERY contains the graves of more than 1,500 Commonwealth servicemen who died during the Second World War, more than 400 of them unidentified. A small number of First World War casualties are also commemorated in the cemetery. Both the cemetery and memorial were designed by Colin St Clair Oakes. The memorial was unveiled by Sir Alexander Grantham, the Governor of Hong Kong, on the 20th February 1955.

(Source: cwgc.org)

During the visit, our expert guide and RASHK member Martin Heyes will explain to the participants the history of some of the more notable WW2 burials in the cemetery.

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.



He 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 is a member of the UK's International Guild of Battlefield Guides.

Martin 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.

PROGRAMME

- Speaker:** Martin Heyes
Date: Saturday, 17 December 2022
Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Venue: Sai Wan Memorial and War Cemetery
(The group will meet at the main entrance at 10:00 am.)
Admission: \$100 for members, \$150 for guests/non-members. Capacity is limited according to the most current Government regulations.
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance

Recent Activities

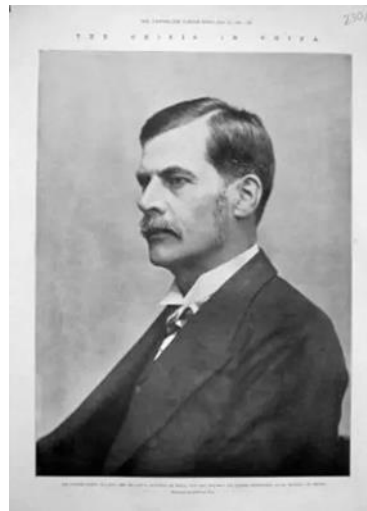
Note: Audio only recordings of online talks are available upon request to the RASHK Administrator Email address.

ONLINE TALK

Sir Ernest Satow (1843-1929) and his Connections with China

Professor Ian Ruxton

Tuesday • 6 September 2022



Satow in the Illustrated London News, 1900 before going to China

LOCAL VISIT

Visit to Chris Hall's Chinese Export Fan Collection

Saturday • 10 September 2022

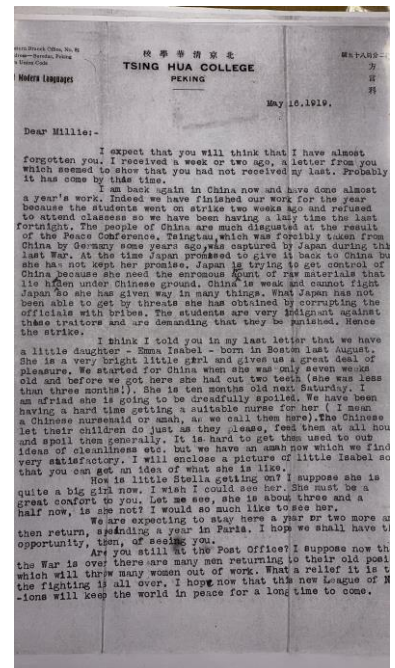


Pictures Credit Helen Tinsley

LOCAL VISIT

A Tour of Roy Delbyck's Collection

Saturday • 17 September 2022



Pictures Credit Steve Tennant

LOCAL VISIT

Xiqu Centre

Tuesday • 11 October 2022



The Xiqu Centre is described in one of its handouts as "a world class performing arts venue dedicated to the promotion of Chinese traditional theatre. It offers comprehensive venue solutions for Xiqu related productions and cultural events". It is a Centre not only for rehearsal and performance, but also for research and training.

Our dozen attendees were divided into two groups each with a separate docent to show us the venue. Our guide explained that Xiqu includes music, song and dance, martial arts, acrobatics, acrobatic fighting, costume and make-up art. Indeed, the character Xi includes three of these elements. This was the basis for describing the Centre as Xiqu rather than the more prosaic Chinese Opera Centre. It promotes not only Cantonese Opera but other regional forms of Xiqu such as Shanghai Kunqu Opera and Peking Opera.



Our guide started the tour in the huge 13 m high atrium which, some thought, made the building resemble a Chinese lantern. It has a prime location with a view to the harbour as well as city views and multiple entrances providing access from different directions, a good breeze and some public seating. Prominently displayed were four ancient characters with calligraphy by Professor Jao Tsung-I, reading Xi Qu Zhong Xin, alerting the reader that this venue is a hub of Chinese traditional culture and theatre. Our guide introduced Chinese opera, describing the relevance of colour, make-up, costumes, and symbols in making clear to the audience the nature of the characters involved in the opera. I am told our other group were treated to vocal renditions in natural, falsetto and rough voice by their guide.

We were taken to the 1,075 seats Grand Theatre on the 4th floor. It has suspension supports isolating the Hall from external noise and under-seating air conditioning rendering the Hall quite silent, apart from the performance, hence avoiding distraction. It has comfortable seating and modern stage technology.

At the 1st floor we were shown what is called the Tea House Theatre. It has seating with about 200 seats within a darkly decorated box structure highlighting the raised stage. The resident "Rising Stars Tea House Troupe" offer 90 minute performances introducing Cantonese Opera through a programme of excerpts,

music and song. In these Covid days tea and dim sum are not served in this theatre though patrons can go elsewhere within the complex for these refreshments.

The seven storey structure also includes a smaller seminar hall and studio. Around the lobby are paved and green open spaces, the whole project occupying a footprint of 29,000 sq. metres. Externally the Centre is covered in curved aluminium slats arranged in wavy patterns. It was designed by Vancouver based Bing Thom Architects, in collaboration with a local firm, Ronald Lu & Partners. Bing Thom was Hong Kong born and emigrated to Vancouver in 1950. He died while on a visit to Hong Kong in 2016, shortly before the Xiqu Centre was opened at the end of 2018. Xiqu Centre was built at a cost to the public purse of HK\$2.7 billion.

Prepared by Peter Stuckey and Pictures Credit Oliver Hong

HYBRID-MODE TALK

**Central Market Rendezvous
Film Screening and Sharing Session**

Dr Chloe Lai, Ian Tan, Romaine Bamford

Tuesday • 18 October 2022



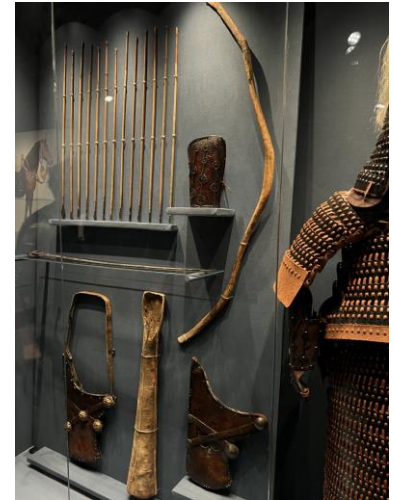
Source: Noseinthebook.com

LOCAL VISIT

**City University's Indra and Harry Banga Gallery
"Hunters, Warriors, Spirits – Nomadic Art of North China"**

Dr Isabelle Frank

Thursday • 27 October 2022



Another opportunity to visit the secluded but always interesting Harry Banga Gallery at City University, this time to see an extraordinary exhibition about the nomadic peoples that wandered across the northeast of the Asian continent. Known collectively as Hu by the Han Chinese, those were hunters, herders, traders, and empire builders who mirrored China and the West in an elastic relationship presided by mutual exchanges, as gallery director, Isabelle Frank, pointed out from the beginning. The exhibition focused on their art and material culture, from their little-known origins in the early 1st millennium B.C.E. to their “golden age” between the 10th and 13th centuries C.E., an artistic heritage “imbued with a profound spirituality and evoking an ideal relationship between humans and nature.”

The core of the exhibition was made of a large display of ancient artefacts (numerous examples of metalwork, stone carvings, weaponry, terracotta), all drawn from local collections, mainly the Mengdiexuan Collection; it also included contemporary bronze sculptures by Dashi Namdakov that served as counterpoint; spectacular colour photographs by Marc Progin showing the landscape; new media works by Jeffrey Shaw and Sarah Kenderdine; and animations by June Zhang.

Some key ideas expressed by Dr. Frank made us pause and ponder: Those cultures were not static but constantly evolving, some disappearing. To China's unified empire, those nomad clans and nations responded with confederations, expanding or contracting over blurred and shifting borders: Peoples like the Xiongnu, or the Xianbei—first nomads to rule parts of China as the Northern Wei—and the Qidan, Jurgen or Mongols, who ruled as the Liao, Jin and Yuan, respectively, over large parts or even all of China. Then, the world of exchanges; influences from as far away as the Middle East were seen in a finial with a winged

quadruped that recalled the mythical griffin of ancient Babylonia. A Scythian dagger of gilded iron dated 5th-4th century BC was shown as an example of artistic fusion.

Besides the expert knowledge of the gallery director, I benefited, as always, from my fellow members' questions and comments, and from their drawing attention to some artefacts. For instance, it was clear that those nomads were able smiths, had gold sources of their own, and worked gold and bronze with accomplishment; they influenced China in this regard, not



the other way around. Golden plaques representing animals—reindeers, rams, tigers, horses, even rhinoceros—made up a considerable part of the exhibition. Objects came to life too, as one of our members was able to read a Sanskrit inscription on a Liao torque of gilt copper, confirming its Buddhist content. Conversation was drawn to the Shamanism (maybe not the most precise term, Dr. Frank remarked) of the Northern Wei as coexisting or blending with Buddhism, a large topic indeed.

Jewellery, the world of the ornament, predominantly male, appears prevalent among the objects that have survived; besides metalwork, also stones such as amber and turquoise could be seen. Secondly, the arts of the warrior, armour, sabres, arrows, quivers... The Xiognu had invented the stirrup which made them formidable horse raiders and conquerors. But those nomads invented the belt buckle too. Oral history was and is still the way nomads record the past but this exhibition made possible that the artefacts on display could speak to us eloquently, this visit brought those peoples closer.

Prepared by Juan J. Morales

Of General Interest

Haw Par Music

Swan Song from Haw Par Music

Cease Operations on December 1, 2022



Picture Credit www.hawparamusic.org

The Haw Par Mansion will be returned to the Government for other revitalisation arrangements. It will cease operations on December 1, 2022.



RASHK had a group tour visiting Haw Par Museum in Oct 2021.

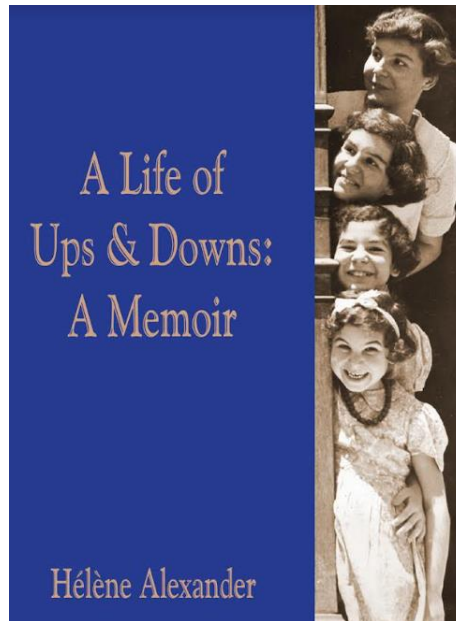
Pictures credit Helen Tinsley



Of General Interest

New Book Releases

A Life of Ups & Downs: A Memoir



Picture Credit www.thefanmuseum.org.uk

Mrs. Alexander is the youngest of the four girls born to Victor Adda and Marie, née Mosseri, in Alexandria, Egypt, a city much glamorised by Durrell in *The Alexandria Quartet*. The Adda and Mosseri families were two of the country's most renowned Sephardi families, with marriage bonds connecting them also to many of the other great Jewish mercantile and professional dynasties of Egypt and the Sephardi world.

In her memoir, Hélène Alexander recreates a stratum of the lost world of pre-revolutionary Alexandria, and tells us of idyllic childhood years interspersed with visits to Granny Mosseri in her magnificent villa on the bank of the Nile in Cairo, and of summer holidays variously spent near Loch Ness which they would reach after cultural peregrinations across Europe with their loving parents. She also speaks at length of the magical island in the Nile at Aswan which her father bought as a paradisaic getaway for his family and which brings some great names of the time into the memoir: Dame Nellie Melba, Sultan Mohamed Shah the Aga Khan, Somerset Maugham and others!

The memoir takes the reader through Mrs Alexander's student years in the UK and her married life in London and Scotland. As with the Egyptian elite in general, her untroubled early life was sharply punctuated by the Suez Crisis of 1956 and the ensuing depredations carried out by the new revolutionary government against its resident minority communities.

And – naturally of great interest to all those connected with The Fan Museum – the memoir also details how Mrs Alexander and her husband Dicky, with a group of dedicated supporters, established The Fan Museum, Greenwich, an institution that has earned world renown during its over thirty years of operation.

The memoir contains over 300 illustrations. These include various family trees, rare family photographs from Mrs Alexander's Egyptian years, topographical images, maps and of course many illustrations connected with fans and the activities and personalities associated with The Fan Museum.

Russell Harris, who collaborated with H  l  ne Alexander on the *Cool: Presenting a Cooling Image* exhibition and book, has provided a postscript to the memoir in which he contextualises the position of the Adda and Mosseri families within the history of post-Napoleonic Egypt. In this postscript, Russell presents some of the results of his research into the personalities and sites mentioned by Mrs Alexander.

If you wish to order the book, please contact the Fan Museum info@thefanmuseum.org.uk directly.

Membership Renewal

2023 Membership Renewal

Members are reminded that membership renewals for 2023 were due on 1 January 2023. Application for renewal received from now on until 31 Dec 2022 will cover a membership period of 14 months (1 Nov 2022 – 31 Dec 2023).

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> or click [here](#). 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 2023

Membership Application Form for 2023, please click [here](#).

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

Update Membership Information

If any member's personal or corresponding information needs to be updated, please email the details to membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk. Updated membership information will help us to deliver new messages and notices accurately to members. Thank you for your cooperation.

Publications

PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM

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Vols. 56 - 62	\$200.00 each	_____	_____

Books

‘Hong Kong Going and Gone’	\$120.00	_____	_____
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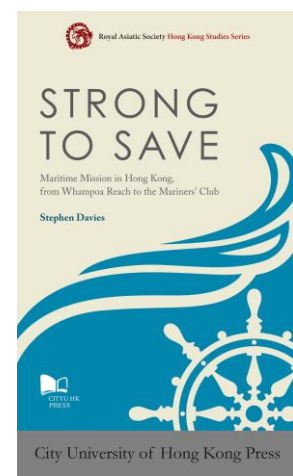
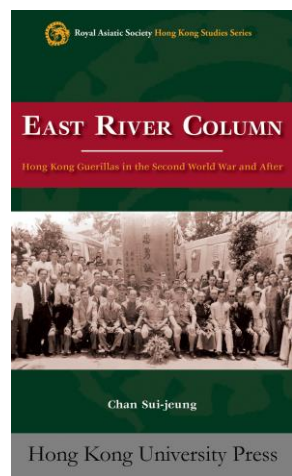
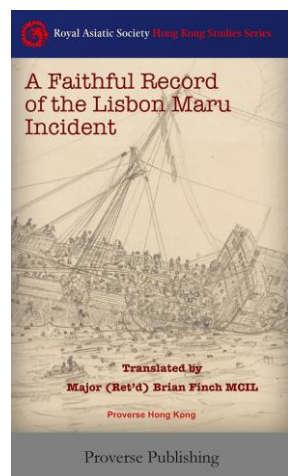
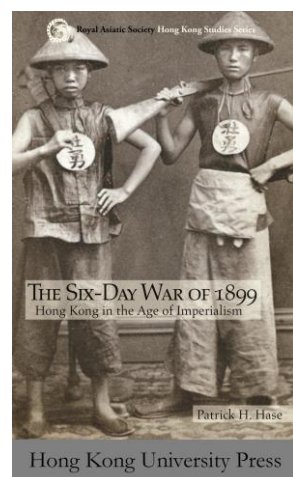
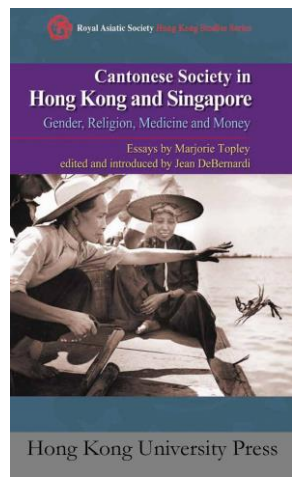
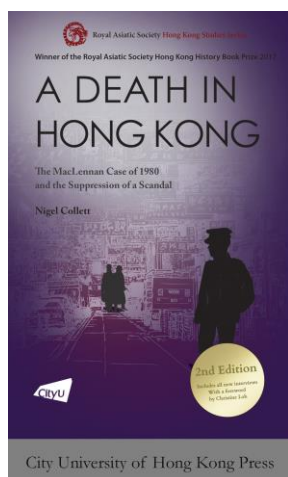
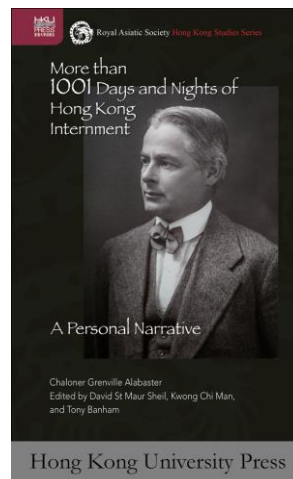
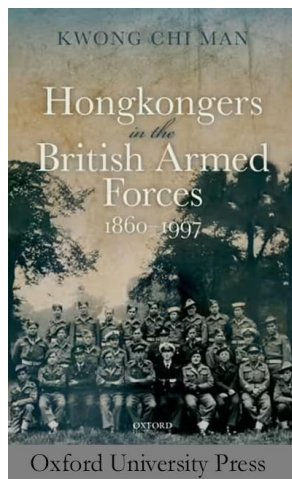
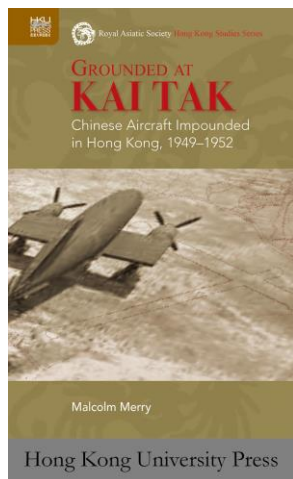
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Hong Kong Going and Gone	price on request	price on request	
Full set of Journals	\$260.00	price on request	_____
All other volumes (per volume)	\$25.00	\$65.00	_____

TOTAL

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

More about the books can be found at <https://www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk/hong-kong-studies-series>. On that page there are also links to the different publishers' web pages where full information about each title can be found and books can be purchased.

Both HKU Press and City University Press offer a 20% discount to RASHK Members for series books. For HKUP simply enter the promo code "20HKRAS" in the shopping cart when you check out. For City University Press ask for the discount when ordering from the Press.

Publication of *1001 Days and Nights* was partially supported by RASHK members to honour Michael Broom. In recognition of this HKUP gives a 30% discount to members for this book.

List of titles in the Hong Kong Studies Series

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A Pattern of Life.	Hugh Baker	City University Press	HK\$238
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Custom, Land and Livelihood in Rural South China	Patrick H. Hase	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$350
Early China Coast Meteorology	P. Kevin MacKeown	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$295
East River Column	Chan Sui-jeung	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$180
Escape from Hong Kong	Tim Luard	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$195
For Gods, Ghosts and Ancestors	Janet Lee Scott (not available)	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$195
Forgotten Heroes: San On County and Its Magistrates in the Late Ming and Early Qing.	Patrick H. Hase	City University Press	HK\$238
Forgotten Souls	Patricia Lim	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$420
Governors, Politics and the Colonial Office	Gavin Ure	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$295
Grounded at Kai Tak: Chinese Aircraft Impounded in Hong Kong, 1949–1952	Michael Merry	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$420
Hong Kong Internment, 1942–1945	Geoffrey Charles Emerson	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$175
Hongkongers in the British Armed Forces, 1860-1997	Kwong Chi Man	Oxford University Press	US\$85
Ireland's Imperial Mandarin	Mark O'Neill (not available)	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$188
Israel and China: From the Tang Dynasty to Silicon Wadi	Mark O'Neill (< 10 available)	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$168
More than 1001 Days and Nights of Hong Kong Internment: A Personal Narrative	Chaloner Grenville Alabaster, edited by David St Maur Shiel, Kwong Chi Man and Tony Banham	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$450
My Dearest Martha: The Life and Letters of Eliza Hillier	Edited by Andrew Hillier	City University Press	HK\$278
My Homeland in Another Place	Mark O'Neill, translated by Cheng Han (not available)	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$128
Policing Hong Kong – An Irish History	Patricia O'Sullivan	Blacksmith Books	HK\$148

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Reluctant Heroes	Fung Chi Ming	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$250
Resist to the End	Charles Barman, edited by Ray Barman	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$250
Scottish Mandarin	Shiona Airlie	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$295
Settlement, Life and Politics: Understanding the Traditional New Territories.	Patrick H. Hase	City University Press	HK\$278
Southern District Officer Reports	Edited by John Strickland	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$275
Strong to Save: Maritime Mission in Hong Kong from Whampoa Reach to the Mariners' Club	Stephen Davies	City University Press	HK\$278
The Dragon and the Crown	Stanley S. K. Kwan with Nicole Kwan	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$160
The Lone Flag	John Pownall Reeves, edited by Colin Day and Richard Garrett	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$320
The Peak: An Illustrated History of Hong Kong's Top District	Richard Garrett	Blacksmith Books	HK\$188
The Six-Day War of 1899	Patrick H. Hase	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$195
War and Revolution in South China: The Story of a Transnational Biracial Family, 1936-1951	Edward J.M. Rhoads	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$490
Watching Over Hong Kong	Sheilah E. Hamilton	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$195
東江縱隊 (East River Column)	陳瑞璋	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$150

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

Title	Author/editor	Publisher	Price (HKD)
Hong Kong: Going and Gone; Western Victoria Chinese Christians, Elites, Middlemen and the Church	Carl T. Smith	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$100
The Turning of the Tide; Religion in China Today	Julian F. Pas (Ed.) (<i>not available</i>)	RASHK and Oxford University Press	HK\$195
Beyond the Metropolis; Villages in Hong Kong	Patrick H. Hase and Elizabeth Sinn	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$310
In the Heart of the Metropolis: Yau matei and Its People	Patrick H. Hase and Elizabeth Sinn	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>)	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$380

Contact Details

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