

ROYAL ASIATIC

皇家亞洲學會香港分會
G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong



SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

HONG KONG

May 2023

E-mail: membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk

GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong

www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk

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



Picture Credit Helen Tinsley

Message from your President, Helen Tinsley

Welcome to our May/ June 2023 RASHK Newsletter.

We were very pleased to hold our first in person AGM in recent times, successfully hosted at the Hong Kong Club on 18th April 2023.

For the past 3 years we have held our AGMs via Zoom because of local constraints related to local Covid - 19 restrictions on social gatherings. We had well over a quorum of members attending this in-person chance to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Our Honorary Secretary was out of town so we welcomed our Past President, Dr Patrick Hase, to chair the meeting. Our Council line up elected for 2023-24 is very similar to 2022/23. Continuity is welcomed during times of change but succession planning is also important, as was mentioned in several of the submitted 2022/23 subject officer reports which are all available for your perusal on our RASHK website. My own President's address will be added shortly. If you have time, please take a look at the various annual reports submitted and reflect on the hard work done and achievements reached. Sincere thanks to them all for their contributions over the past year and their continued support in the coming year. There is a hope that later in the year we may resume planning of some overseas trips, which have been on hold for the past 3 years as a result of Covid-19 constraints.

Formal proceedings were completed within an hour, leaving time to meet, chat and enjoy drinks along with some delicious canapes. This was also a chance to meet our newly appointed P/T Administrator Vonnie Fung PS, who has now taken over the role previously filled by Jace Au, and joins the team alongside our other P/T administrator, Sally Lui.

I must apologise to those of our overseas members and sister societies who would have liked to attend our AGM via Zoom as in previous years, but administratively, this was not possible on this occasion. Thanks to you all for your continued support from afar.

Activities during March and April have continued, as reported later in this Newsletter. Led by Dr Isabelle Frank, Consulting Curator, a group of us had a memorable visit to City University's Museum recent exhibition which focused on a display of stunningly beautiful amber artefacts throughout the ages. Such amber treasures were in fact much prized by elite members of China's Ming and Qing dynastic eras. There were also wonderfully illustrated talks by Rob Baxter, based on his book about painter Johan Zoffany's time in India and Gwulo master David Bellis on how to get the best information from old photos. Roy Delbyck completed his recent series of small group visits to his office Aladdin's cave of Hong Kong and Chinese memorabilia.

We have much to look forward to in the next couple of months, so please take a look later in the Newsletter at the events programme we have prepared for the months of May and June. Mark O'Neill will be delighting us at Café 8 with stories of links between Hong Kong and Ireland, Edward Weech, Librarian at RAS in

London will introduce us to his recently published book ‘Chinese Dreams in Romantic England’, and HKUST’s Marco Caboara will share with us highlights from his ‘Western Maps of China’ project. There is also a visit planned to CUHK Library’s recent exhibition ‘Bringing Together China and the West’. Valery Garrett was a very active local author and scholar, as well as a long time RASHK member and Chair of our Activities Committee until 2010, when she became seriously ill, recently passing away earlier this year. With support from her husband, Richard, and former expert collaborator, Chris Hall, RASHK will be hosting a celebration of Valery’s life. If you remember Valery and her work and would like to attend, please let us know and register your interest.

Best wishes to you all in the coming couple of months and I will forward to seeing many of you in our coming events.

Helen Tinsley, President RASHK, April 2023

Contents

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT			2
FUTURE ACTIVITIES			
Tue, 2 nd May 2023	In-person Talk	Out of Ireland with Mark O’Neill	6
Sat, 13 th May 2023	Local Visit	Exhibition: Bringing Together China and the West: Books of Early Modern Western Sinology with Prof Stuart M. McManus	8
Tue, 16 th May 2023	In-person Event	Valery Garrett: A Celebration of her Life	10
Tue, 6 th Jun 2023	In-person Talk	Maps of China: Treasure Hunts Around the World with Dr Marco Caboara	12
Tue, 20 th Jun 2023	Online Talk	Chinese Dreams in Romantic England: The Life and Times of Thomas Manning with Dr Edward Weech	14
RECENT ACTIVITIES			
Sat, 1 st Apr 2023	Online Talk	Johan Zoffany in Lucknow: An artist-adventurer in India, 1783-1789 with Robert Baxter	16
Sat, 8 th Apr 2023	Local Visit	Amber: Baltic Gold with Dr Isabelle Frank	17
Tue, 18 th Apr 2023	AGM	RASHK ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	18
Sat, 22 nd Apr 2023	Local Visit	A Tour of Roy Delbyck’s Collection	19
Thu, 27 th Apr 2023	In-person Talk	A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Gwulo’s Historic Hong Kong Photos Collection with David Bellis	20
OF GENERAL INTEREST			
Former RASHK Seminar Documents and Monographs			21
2023 Membership Renewal and Update Membership Information			22
PUBLICATIONS			23
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN THE HK STUDIES SERIES			26
CONTACT DETAILS			28
DONATION FORM			29

Future Activities

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.

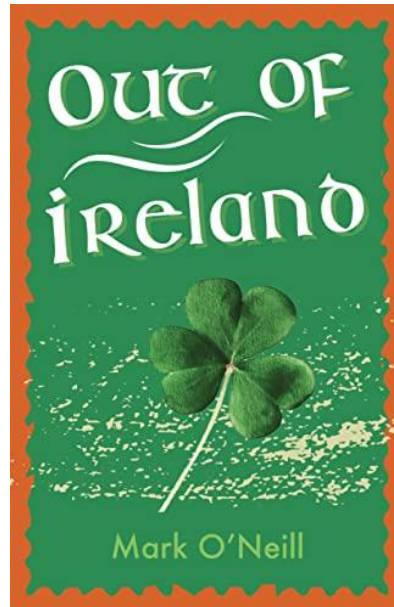
Zoom links to access the online talk will be sent to members (who have registered) prior to the event.

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.

IN-PERSON TALK

Out of Ireland

Tuesday • 2 May 2023



Details

Mark will give a power-point presentation introducing his new book. His father, a London psychiatrist, did an excellent job of concealing his Irish identity. So Mark had to discover it for himself. In the 1970s, he spent three and a half years working in Belfast during the Troubles; it was also an excellent way to learn about his family and its history. He often visited the Republic of Ireland, where he met two Taoiseachs, Charlie Haughey and Garrett Fitzgerald, and many others, from priests to dairy farmers. From 1978, the story moves to Asia, where Mark discovers the Irish contribution to Hong Kong, China and Japan. He visits Faku, the small town in Liaoning province, where his grandfather served as a missionary from 1897 to 1942. He discovers a Christian congregation there. He also learns of the one-to-one replica of the Titanic being built in Sichuan province and the Irish nun who taught Gaelic to the future Empress of Japan. The final chapter describes the growing Chinese community in Ireland. It includes Hazel Chu, Mayor of Dublin, daughter of two Hong Kong migrants who fell in love in a Chinese restaurant there, and a Shenyang shipyard worker who learnt Gaelic and went to Ireland to practice it. In Belfast, he finds a Presbyterian church that has been turned into the Water Margin, a Chinese restaurant.

The Speaker

Mark O'Neill was born in London, England and educated at Marlborough College and New College, Oxford. He worked in Washington, DC, Manchester and Belfast before coming to Hong Kong in 1978. He has lived in Asia ever since. He worked as a journalist for 30 years here, in Taiwan, India, the PRC and Japan, for Reuters, *SCMP* and many other publications. Since 2006, he has been writing books on Chinese history and society. Nine have editions in Chinese, simplified and traditional, as well as English, including “China’s Great Liberal of the 20th Century – Hu Shih”.



PROGRAMME

- Speaker:** Mark O'Neill
Date: Tuesday, 2 May 2023
Time: 7pm-8pm, Hong Kong Time
Venue: Café 8, Roof, Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Pier 8, Central
Admission: \$150 for members, \$200 for guests /non-members
(Drink and snacks are included in the attendance fee)
Walk-in guests are welcome depending on availability.
Cash payment will be collected at the Reception Desk.
Please prepare the exact payment.
- Registration:** Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> and provide your membership number, if applicable, at the time of registration.
Registration will be closed at 12 noon on the event date.

LOCAL VISIT

Exhibition: Bringing Together China and the West: Books of Early Modern Western Sinology

Saturday • 13 May 2023



Details

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) was envisaged as “a two-arched bridge between the past and the present, the East and the West.” While conflict arguably outweighed collaboration during the second half of the nineteenth century, the much longer span of time between the Ming and early Qing-dynasties saw an encounter between our two great traditions that took place on a much more equal-footing.

The encounter is visible in the books published in this period, which the CUHK Library has been collecting. These books highlight the most important areas of mutual interest in early China-Western relations, which to a large extent mirror the modern faculties and departments of our University. Using the Library’s growing collection of rare books, this exhibition shows how the geographical and cultural distance between China and Europe was bridged. As such, it invites visitors to consider the overlapping and connected Chinese and Western origins of many of the most dynamic areas of our modern University, from the study of China’s philosophy and earliest dynastic history, to biomedical science and mechanical engineering.

It brings together scholars from across Hong Kong and the world to address the intellectual and cultural interactions between early modern China and Europe, 1500-1800.

The Speaker



Prof Stuart M. McManus is a humanist and legal historian working on law, slavery and empire in world history from a global and multi-ethnic perspective. He also has interests in the history of classical scholarship and Chinese humanities. He received his Ph.D. in history (secondary field in classical philology) from Harvard University, where he also studied civil law. Prior to coming to CUHK, he taught Mexican and ancient Mediterranean history for two years at the University of Chicago, where he was the inaugural postdoctoral fellow at the Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge. His book, entitled *Empire of Eloquence*, on the global history of renaissance humanism (based on primary research in 13 countries in Latin America, Europe and Asia) was published Cambridge University Press in 2021, and he is beginning work on a second book on the global legal background of the famous 1619 slave voyage to Virginia. In 2019, Professor McManus was on leave at Princeton University's Davis Center for Historical Studies as part of the Center's "Law & Legalities" theme, and in 2021 he was a visiting fellow of Exeter College, Oxford.

In addition, he is the author of more than 30 articles and book chapters that have appeared in the *American Historical Review*, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Gender & History*, *Latino Studies*, *Catholic Historical Review*, *Colonial Latin American Review*, *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, *Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte* and other similar venues. Several of these have received prizes, including the Royal Historical Society's 2021 David Berry Prize. He has also served as a reader for the *American Historical Review* and other journals and presses.

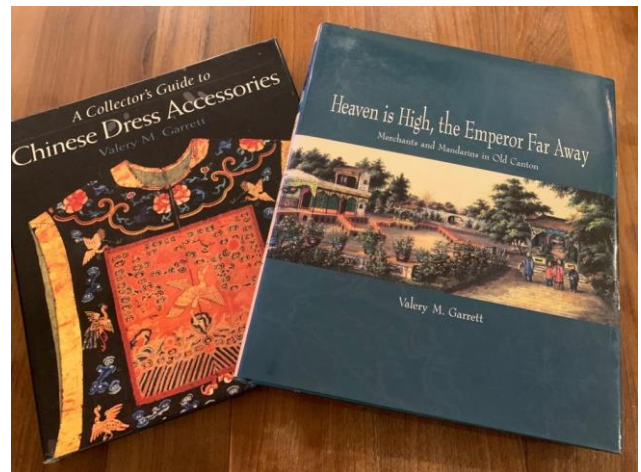
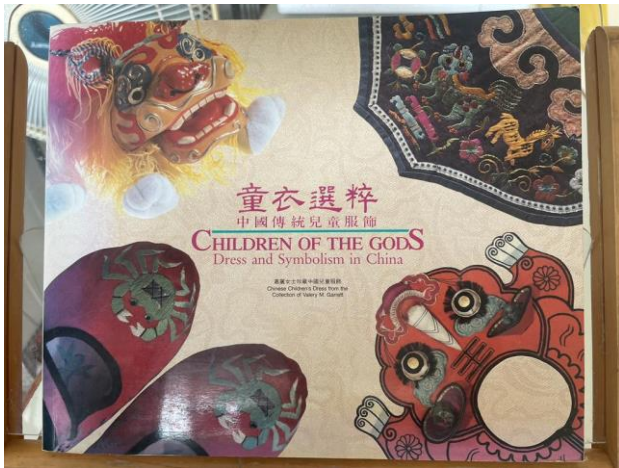
PROGRAMME

- Speaker:** Prof Stuart M. McManus
- Date:** Saturday, 13 May 2023
- Time:** 11:30 am – 12:15 pm, Hong Kong Time
- Venue:** Exhibition Area, University Library,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Admission:** \$100 for members, \$150 for guests /non-members
Walk-in guests are welcome depending on availability.
Cash payment will be collected at the event day.
Please prepare the exact payment.
- Registration:** Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> and
provide your membership number, if applicable, at the time of registration.

IN-PERSON EVENT

Valery Garrett: A Celebration of her Life

Tuesday • 16 May 2023



Details

Examples of Valery's writings and textile collection will be shown. There will be tributes from her husband, Richard, and fellow RASHK member, Chris Hall.

About Valery Garrett

(1942 - 2023)

British born Valery Garrett lived in Hong Kong from 1973 onwards. From her early interest in traditional dress worn in Hong Kong in the 1970s, she became an acknowledged authority on Chinese dress and accessories. Over 250 items from her collection were acquired and exhibited by the Victoria & Albert Museum in London for their permanent collection. A fashion designer turned full-time freelance writer, she specialised in Chinese culture and travel, especially Hong Kong and Guangzhou. She authored the following books:

1. *Discover Hong Kong: The City's History and Culture Redefined*, pub Marshall Cavendish, Singapore, Sept 2008
2. *Chinese Dress from the Qing Dynasty to the Present*, pub Tuttle, Singapore and USA, Nov 2007
3. *Heaven is High, the Emperor Far Away: Merchants and Mandarins in Old Canton*, pub Oxford University Press, Hong Kong, 2002
4. *Chinese Dragon Robes*, pub Oxford University Press, Hong Kong, 1998
5. *A Collector's Guide to Chinese Dress Accessories*, pub Times Editions, Singapore, 1997
6. *Buying Antiques, Arts and Crafts in Hong Kong*, pub Times Editions, Singapore, 1996
7. *Hong Kong: Life and Times*, pub Times Editions, Singapore, 1996/Hong Kong: pub Editions Solar, Edition du Club France Loisirs, Paris, 1996

8. *Chinese Clothing: An Illustrated Guide*, pub Oxford University Press, 1994
9. *Children of the Gods: Dress and Symbolism in China*, pub Urban Council Hong Kong, 1990
10. *Mandarin Squares: Mandarins and their Insignia*, pub Oxford University Press, 1990
11. *Traditional Chinese Clothing in Hong Kong and South China, 1840-1980*, pub Oxford University Press, 1987

Valery was a very active Activities Committee and member of RASHK,

(Life member from 1973, Activities Committee Chair 2002, until her severe illness in 2010)

Her obituary will appear in RASHK Journal Vol. 63.

PROGRAMME

Date: Tuesday, 16 May 2023

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Hong Kong Time

Venue: The Harcourt Room at Hong Kong Club, Central

Admission: No charge

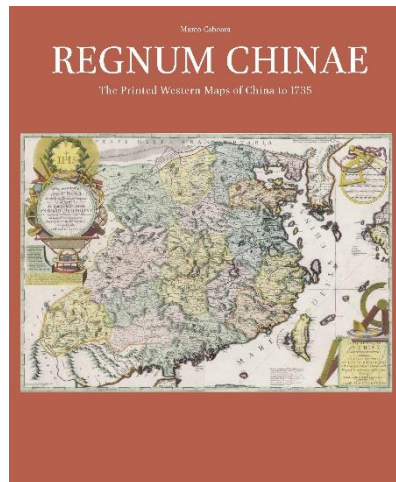
Registration: Required.

Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> and provide your membership number, if applicable, at the time of registration.

IN-PERSON TALK

Maps of China: Treasure Hunts Around the World

Tuesday • 6 June 2023



Details

Regnum Chinae: The Printed Western Maps of China to 1735, a book by Marco Caboara was published in October 2022. The first European map of China relied on the faint copy of a Chinese original, obtained through bribery and espionage. The book features 127 Western printed maps of China from 1584 to 1735, which has taken Dr. Marco Caboara, Digital Scholarship and Archives Manager at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) Lee Shau Kee Library, and his team four years to finish.

The author, Marco Caboara, who is Head of the Special Collections, has taken the institution's tradition of stewardship to new heights, one where new knowledge has been constantly integrating a growing thoughtful collection. Little has been written about maps of China before, the only precedent in English being *China in European Maps*, published twenty years ago precisely by this prestigious university thanks to its first librarian Min-min Chang.

This major work is the result of a collective endeavor; besides his own department, Caboara has worked with the collaboration of the Explokart research team at the University of Amsterdam; the map illustrations come mainly from two sources, first the HKUST Library, and secondly the Allard Pierson (Special Collections) at the University of Amsterdam, and completed along with other sources. Publisher Brill spared no effort in bringing this ambitious project to fruition, which is reflected in the rich illustrations brought together from various sources.

The Speaker



Dr. Marco Caboara, Digital Scholarship and Archives Manager at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) Lee Shau Kee Library will share his journey of turning the antique maps of China into a book.

While most of the maps are already at the Library, Dr. Caboara still had to journey around the world to acquire more maps to complete the collection.

The book is one of the highlights of HKUST's Western Maps of China Project, which started 10 years ago when the Library acquired a large collection of antique maps of China. With the generous funding from Dr. Winnie KO Pui Shuen, an HKUST Honorary Fellow, the collection was digitized, and the team went on to turn it into a book.

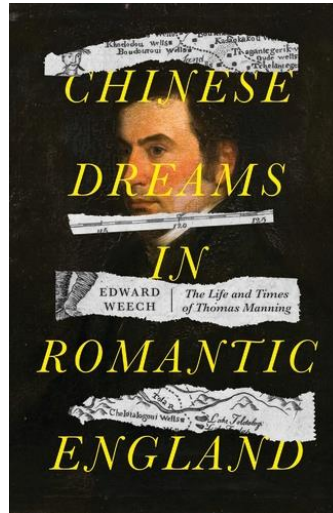
PROGRAMME

- Speaker:** Dr. Marco Caboara
Date: Tuesday, 6 June 2023
Time: 7 pm - 8pm, Hong Kong Time
Venue: Café 8, Roof, Hong Kong Maritime Museum, Pier 8, Central
Admission: \$150 for members, \$200 for guests /non-members
(Drink and snacks are included in the admission fee)
Walk-in guests are welcome depending on availability.
Cash payment will be collected at the Reception Desk.
Please prepare the exact payment.
- Registration:** Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> and provide your membership number, if applicable, at the time of registration.

ONLINE TALK

**Chinese Dreams in Romantic England:
The life and times of Thomas Manning**

Tuesday • 20 June 2023



Details

A brilliant polymath and part of the ‘first wave’ of British Romanticism, Thomas Manning was one of the first Englishmen to study Chinese language and culture. Like other early Romantics, Manning was inspired by the French Revolution and had ambitious plans for making a better world. While friends and contemporaries like Wordsworth and Coleridge turned to the poetic imagination and the English countryside, Manning looked further afield - to China, one of the world's most ancient and sophisticated civilizations. His travels included the salons of Napoleonic Paris, a period as a prisoner of war, a dramatic shipwreck and, disguised as a Buddhist pilgrim, a trek through the Himalayas to Tibet, where he met the Dalai Lama. Manning’s extraordinary story sheds new light on English Romanticism and the story of how and why British people have sought to learn about other cultures.

The Speaker



Dr Edward Weech has been Librarian at the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland since 2014. He has published essays and reviews in publications including the Literary Review and the Times Literary Supplement. His first book, *Chinese Dreams in Romantic England: The Life and Times of Thomas Manning* was published by Manchester University Press in November 2022.

PROGRAMME

- Speaker:** Dr Edward Weech
Date: Tuesday, 20 June 2023
Time: 7 pm - 8pm, Hong Kong Time via Zoom
Venue: Online Event
Admission: Zoom links are free for members of RASHK and sister societies only. Non-members are welcome depending on availability.
Registration: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> and provide your membership number, if applicable, at the time of registration. Registration will be closed at 12 noon on 19 June 2023. Zoom links will be sent before or by 1pm on 12 June 2023.

Recent Activities

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

ONLINE TALK

**Johan Zoffany in Lucknow
An artist-adventurer in India, 1783-1789**

Robert Baxter

Saturday • 1 April 2023



LOCAL VISIT

**Amber: Baltic Gold Exhibition
at Hong Kong City University's Indra and Harry Banga Gallery**

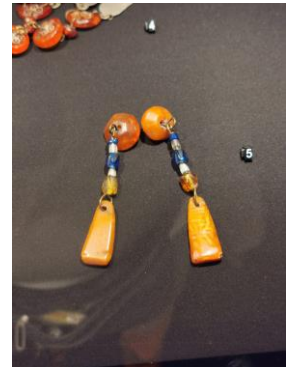
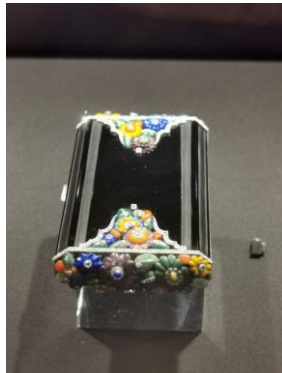
Dr Isabelle Frank

Saturday • 8 April 2023

Our guide for this exhibition was Dr Isabelle Frank, Consulting Curator, who led us expertly through the six sections, starting with exquisite examples of amber's origins, then ancient amber objects from the Baltic regions, amber art during the Liao dynasty and medieval Europe, amber's popularity in the Ming and Qing dynasties whilst decreasing use in 19th century Europe, amber's role in 20th century Latvia and lastly its use in contemporary artworks. There were also examples of fake amber work.

This was our third relatively recent RASHK group visit to CityU's Museum. Group members have very much enjoyed the beautiful displays there with loan contributions for many sources, expertly assembled from a background of significant scholarship. The visual impact of the amber exhibits on this occasion delighted those who attended, so lots of photo-taking. A few of these photos are shared in this Newsletter, but many others will be sent eventually to our RASHK Gallery as a record of our visit. The exhibition date have been extended, so those who missed our group visit can still attend- details are available on the City University website.

Pictures Credit Clara Potts



Picture Credit Helen Tinsley

Picture Credit Helen Tinsley

63rd RASHK Annual General Meeting

Tuesday • 18 April 2023



The AGM was held successfully at HK Club 18 April 2023. Sincere thanks to Council Member Bob Bunker for his coordinating arrangements. All relevant subject reports are available on our [website](#), and draft minutes will be available soon.

LOCAL VISIT

A Tour of Roy Delbyck's Collection

Saturday • 22 April 2023

A few years ago, our RASHK Council member Roy Delbyck kindly allowed RAS HK members into his Aladdin's Cave for an entertaining and informative peek into his collection of printed materials on China and Hong Kong from the 19th and 20th centuries. Roy kindly agreed to open his doors once again to RASHK members on 22 April 2023 for the third of several recent scheduled visits. Space is limited, so no more than 5 RASHK members can attend at one time. Roy has previously spoken to RASHK members about his collection, held open dialogues with other collectors, as well as hosted collection visits by RASHK members.

On this occasion a guest visitor from the historic and newly opened Pokfulam Farm project, was delighted to be introduced to an album of photographs documenting some of the history of Dairy Farm, based in Pokfulam..



Picture Credit Helen Tinsley

IN-PERSON TALK

**A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Gwulo's
Historic Hong Kong Photos Collection**

David Bellis


Thursday • 27 April 2022



Pictures Credit Vonnie Fung

Of General Interest

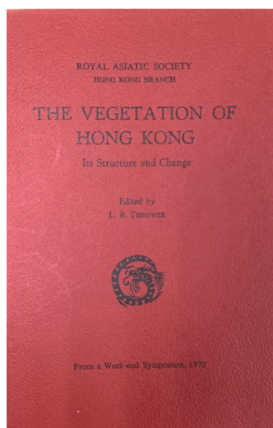
Former RASHK Seminar Documents and Monographs



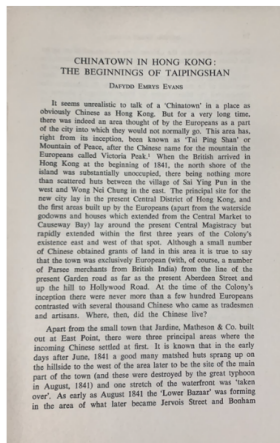
**ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY
HONG KONG**

PREVIOUS SEMINARS & LECTURES

RASHK retains some copies of previous seminar and lectures available as either Booklets or Monographs



- *Tung Kwu Island: The Type Site of Hong Kong's Older Pre-historic Culture*
- *Chinese Street Cries in Hong Kong*
- *Hong Kong - The interaction of tradition and life in the towns*
- *The Fauna of Hong Kong*
- *A Notice of the Sanon District*
- *The Vegetation of Hong Kong*
- *Sessional papers for Hong Kong - 1879 - 1982*
- *Fan Lau and its Fort, An Historical Perspective*
- *Expansion and Extension in Hakka Society*
- *Militia Market and Lineage: Chinese resistance to the occupation of Hong Kong's New Territories in 1989*
- *Further notes for the Sung Wong Toi*
- *The changing face of Hong Kong: Weekend Seminar*
- *Aspects of social organization in the New Territories*
- *Some traditional Chinese ideas and conceptions in Hong Kong Social life today (Symposium 1960)*
- *The New Territories and its Future*
- *The San On Map of Mgr. Volonteri*
- *Plover Cover Village to Tai Po Market: A study in forced migration*



- *Debate on national Salvation: Ho Kai vs Tseng Chi Tse*
- *Chinatown in Hong Kong: The beginnings of Tai Ping Shan*
- *A historical review of Housing conditions in Hong Kong*
- *Letters from China 1835-1836*
- *A brief report on Sung type pottery finds in Hong Kong*
- *The origins of Hong Kong's Central Market and the Tarrant Affair*
- *Old British Kowloon*
- *A Reconnaissance of Ma Wan & Lantau Islands in 1794*
- *Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter Hong Kong 1903-1915*
- *The Chan Family of Tseung Kwan O*
- *Hong Kong's First Government House*
- *Jardine Matheson First Site in Hong Kong*
- *Hong Kong Cadet's 1862-1941*
- *The District Watch Committee: The Chinese Executive Council of Hong Kong*
- *The Emergence of a Chinese Elite in Hong Kong*
- *Peng Chau - 1798-1899*
- *Early Steamships in China*
- *Notes on Chinese Temples in Hong Kong*
- *Hong Kong before the British*

The above are available to purchase directly through RASHK membership for 100HKD, subject to availability

\$100

If you are interested in purchasing any of these, which are held in our RASHK office, please email membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk for further arrangement.

Membership Renewal

2023 Membership Renewal

Members are reminded that membership renewals for 2023 were due on 1 January 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

Membership fee will be 50% off if joining in / after July (not applicable for student membership fees)



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 correspondence 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

Journals

Vols. 1 - 55
Vols. 56 - 62

Price HK\$

\$50.00 each
\$200.00 each

Qty

Order

Books

'Hong Kong Going and Gone'

\$120.00

Postage & Packaging

Hong Kong Going and Gone
Full set of Journals
All other volumes (per volume)

within HK

price on request
\$260.00
\$25.00

Overseas (surface/registered)

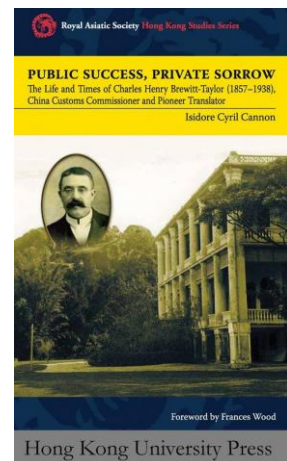
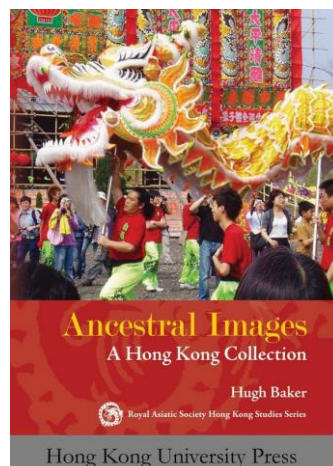
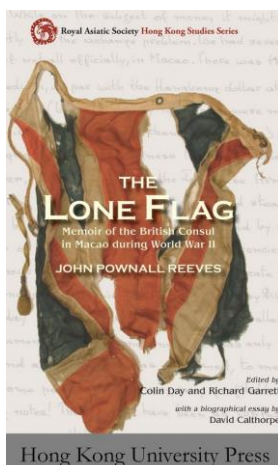
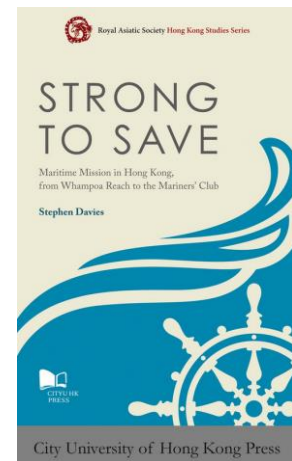
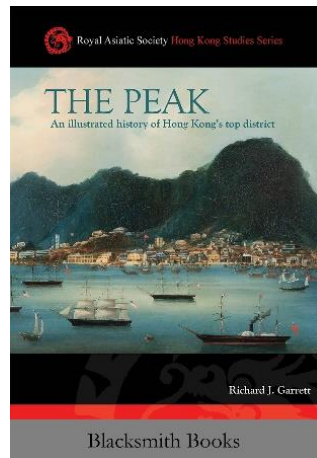
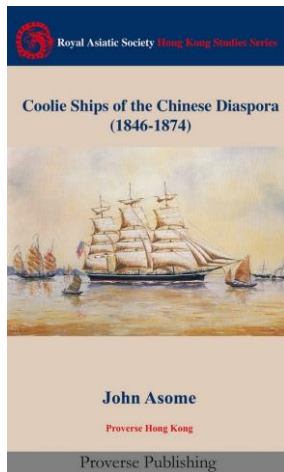
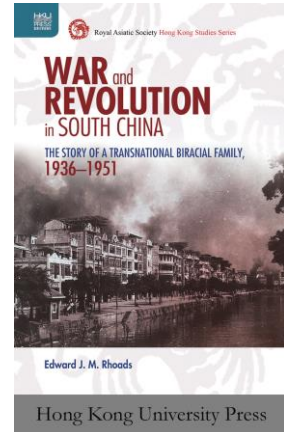
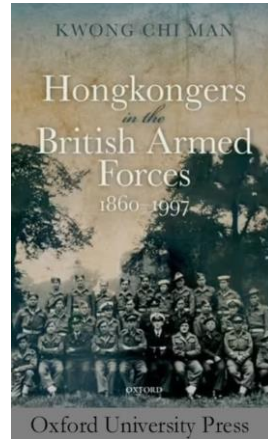
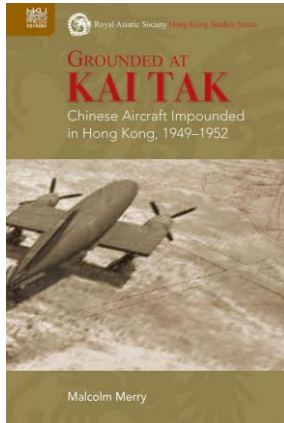
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Israel and China: From the Tang Dynasty to Silicon Wadi	Mark O'Neill (< 10 available)	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$168
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War and Revolution in South China: The Story of a Transnational Biracial Family, 1936-1951	Edward J.M. Rhoads	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$490
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東江縱隊 (East River Column)	陳瑞璋	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$150

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The Turning of the Tide; Religion in China Today	Julian F. Pas (Ed.) (not available)	Hong Kong University Press	HK\$195
Beyond the Metropolis; Villages in Hong Kong	Patrick H. Hase and Elizabeth Sinn	RASHK and Oxford University Press	HK\$310
In the Heart of the Metropolis: Yaumatei 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 (not available)	Joint Publishing HK	HK\$380

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