

ROYAL ASIATIC

皇家亞洲學會香港分會
G.P.O. Box 3864, Hong Kong



SOCIETY

HONG KONG

NEWSLETTER

July 2022

E-mail: membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk
GPO Box 3864, Hong Kong
www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk
<http://www.facebook.com/RoyalAsiaticSocietyHongKong>



Group Visit to the Art Museum, CUHK

Picture Credit Peter Rhodes

Message from your President, Helen Tinsley

Welcome to our July / August 2022 RASHK Newsletter and a warm welcome also to new incoming members. Feedback from long time and new members is always welcome as the Society continues to upgrade our service as well as offering an interesting programme of events, which remain mainly local visits and talks via Zoom. Through Zoom links with some other local Societies and sister RAS Societies elsewhere we have also broadened access to some very interesting internationally based speakers and opened up our own audience base.

As I write there is optimism that, with a July 1st change in administration here, some of our Covid – 19 related restrictions in Hong Kong may be gradually eased over the coming months. In the last couple of months our programme of activities managed to include two on-site visits, which were well attended and are reported later in this Newsletter- a visit in very rainy weather to the CUHK Art Gallery and Museum for an expert tour of their ‘Enchanting Expeditions: Chinese Trade Porcelains’ with some rare and exquisite pieces on display and Tea Tasting at LockCha Tea House in Hong Kong Park. Both visits were rounded off by enjoyable lunches, and opportunities to catch up face to face with some old and new friends.

Apart from these on-site visits, May and June offered a rich programme of Zoom events ranging from book related talks, a tour with Ed Stokes of his stunning photograph exhibition as well as filling in some gaps from Hong Kong history, on the topics of prewar public health with talks by Professor Wong MK and a personal account of amateur classical music making with our member John Wilson. Jonathan Kaufman’s talk on his recent book publication ‘The Last Kings of Shanghai’ was well attended and very much appreciated. His history served as a fascinating counterpoint to our recent book talk by Prof Joseph Sassoon on his history of the Sassoon family. Penelope West’s beautifully researched and illustrated book talk ‘London Letters Home’ gave us much insight into another side of the important tea trade with China in the Victorian era. At the time of writing we can look forward to Dr Gillian Bickley’s talk ‘Looking for a Golden Needle’.

Please take time to have a look at our programme of events planned for July and August later in the Newsletter. It may not be quite so busy as that for the previous two months, but still full of interest and we look forward to your attendance. We are already working on our programme of events for Sept- December 2022.

Many of you will be taking a break over the summer period.

Best wishes to you all, whatever your plans- whether travelling or remaining in Hong Kong. Stay well.

Helen Tinsley, President RASHK, June 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.

LOCAL VISIT

SHAM SHUI PO A STORY OF GRASSROOTS HONG KONG

Thursday • 7 July 2022



Source: Walkin Hong Kong

*The RASHK has booked a group visit for members with Walk In Hong Kong.***

Details

In an ever-changing Hong Kong, Sham Shui Po is home to some of Kowloon's oldest street scenes: a vibrant open-air bazaar, pre-World War Two buildings, relics of wars and fires, and a large concentration of public housing. Sham Shui Po is also a very welcoming place. It has hosted tens of thousands of refugees and others seeking shelter and safety throughout the 20th century and today, it is one of Hong Kong's most diverse areas where the city's poor as well as traders from developing countries around the world can make a living.

During this one-and-a-half-hour walking tour, Paul C.Y. Chan, our guide and also the co-founder of *Walk In Hong Kong*, will lead us through Mei Ho House, Garden Bakery, Former North Kowloon Magistracy and No. 51, 53 Yen Chow Street where stories of the grassroots in Hong Kong stemmed from. The tour ends at [Lonely Paisley](#), where you may have an option for a self-pay Turkish tea break (or anything else on the menu).

Speaker/Guide

Paul C.Y. Chan holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree and a Postgraduate Certificate in Laws from the University of Hong Kong, a Master of Philosophy from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), and a Master of Science Degree in Comparative Politics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He was once a part-time lecturer at the Department of Government and Public Administration at CUHK, Political Assistant to Secretary for Food and Health, HKSAR Government (2008 to 2012) and a presenter and commentator at Radio Television Hong Kong. Paul is also a



founding member of the Roundtable group and Co-founder & CEO of Walk In Hong Kong, a cultural enterprise that curates immersive and memorable experiences. He is also involved in the conservation campaign of the State Theatre in North Point, Former Service Reservoir in Bishop Hill, and recently 190 Nathan Road in Tsim Sha Tsui.

PROGRAMME

- Speaker/Guide:** Paul C.Y. Chan
Date: Thursday, 7 July 2022
Time: Group meets at 14:50pm, Exit D, Sham Shui Po MTR Station.
The tour starts at 3:00pm for 1.5 hours without break.
Itinerary: Start at Mei Ho House > Garden Bakery > Former North Kowloon Magistracy
> No. 51, 53 Yen Chow Street > End at [Lonely Paisley](#)
Admission: \$250 for members, \$300 for guests /non-members
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk> in advance to register your attendance. This tour has a capped capacity and registration is confirmed upon receipt of payment.

The operator will purchase a COVID-19-related insurance to comply with the current regulation. Participants will need to provide FULL English ID name as well as the last digit of ID card (e.g., for A123456(7), it will be 456(7)). Please also provide a mobile phone number for contact on the day of visit.

(Optional tea break at the end of the tour is NOT included in the price. Those who are interested to join tea break at the end point of the tour please indicate your interest when making reservation with the Administrator.)

**** This tour is operated by [Walk In Hong Kong](#), a licensed operator who will ensure compliance of this tour under the current public gathering restrictions. Participants are reminded tour details as follows:**

- **What to wear/bring:** Comfortable clothing and shoes for the walk. Bring an umbrella, a bottle of water and some snacks just in case.
- **Bad Weather Policy:** The walk will be cancelled if the Red/ Black Rainstorm warning or Typhoon no. 8 signal or above is hoisted 3 hours before the walk. Cancellation will be decided no later than 2.5 hours before the tour. You will be fully refunded in this case.
- **Wireless receivers:** It will be used to conduct the tour. Please feel free to bring your own earphone with 3.5mm jack. The guide will provide spare earphones.

LOCAL VISIT

A TOUR OF ROY DELBYCK'S COLLECTION

Saturday • 23 July 2022



Poster: Beauty Pageant, Peninsula Hotel 1959 To Determine Hong Kong Entrant for Miss World Contest

Details

A few years ago, 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 has kindly agreed to open his doors again to RAS HK members. The first of what we hope will be several scheduled visits over the coming months will be held on July 23. Space is extremely limited, no more than 5 people, and is only open to RAS HK members who did not participate in previous visits.

Speaker

Roy Delbyck is a Council Member of the RASHK and a member of the Board of Trustees as well as the Secretary of the Museum of Chinese in America, which is located in New York City. Roy is a major collector of printed materials on China and the Chinese experience in the United States, largely from the first half of the 20th century. His collection consists of books, maps, photos, programs, magazines, posters, post cards, luggage labels, letters, diaries, yearbooks, directories, and all sorts of other amazing ephemera of which he lost count some time ago! Roy has previously spoken to RASHK about his collection and collecting, as well as hosted collection visits by RASHK members. When not collecting, Roy practices US customs and trade law at his own firm in Hong Kong, which he opened in 1993. Roy obtained his law degree from the University of California, Davis and his undergraduate degree from Connecticut College where he studied Chinese.



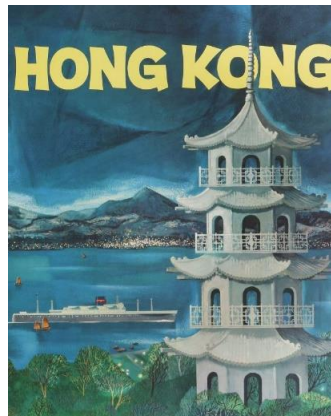
PROGRAMME

Speaker: Roy Delbyck
Date: Saturday, 23 July 2022
Time: 11 am – 12:30pm
Venue: The group will meet at 10:45am at entrance of Star House on Canton Road, TST
Admission: \$100. For RASHK members only given the group size.
Group size: 5 visitors maximum.
Booking: Please email <membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk>
in advance to register your attendance

ONLINE TALK

**UNPREDICTABLE TRAVELS:
TOURISM AND HONG KONG HISTORY**

Thursday • 11 August 2022



Source: Hong Kong Baptist University
Library Art Collection

Details

Tourism has been called the largest peaceful movement of people. It can also be a powerful economic force – an “invisible export” or “hidden industry”. Yet tourism is never simply about money and travel. It also involves national or local identity, culture, urban planning, and even politics. Tourism helps us understand how a place interacts with the rest of the world. But what happens when visitors don’t like what they see and even draw attention to it? Or when the local population doesn’t agree on the value and benefits of encouraging tourism? Or when a political or economic crisis deters tourists from coming? Or when the official tourist narrative is challenged? This talk considers such questions within the context of Hong Kong history, showing how tourism and travel can have unexpected and sometimes unsettling results.

The Speaker

John M. Carroll is Professor of History in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Hong Kong, where he teaches courses on Hong Kong history and British imperial history and on the history of museums and tourism. Raised in Florida, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, he received his BA from Oberlin College, his MA from the University of Iowa, and his PhD from Harvard University. Carroll is the author of *Edge of Empires: Chinese Elites and British Colonials in Hong Kong*, *A Concise History of Hong Kong*, *Canton Days: British Life and Death in China*, *China Hands and Old Cantons: Britons and the Middle Kingdom*, and *The Hong Kong-China Nexus: A Brief History*. He is currently writing a book on tourism in post-WWII Hong Kong.



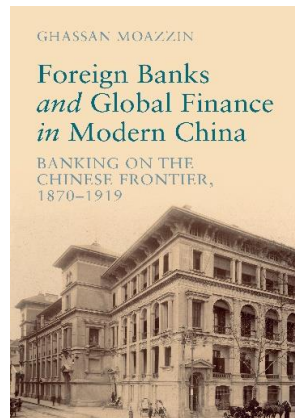
PROGRAMME

Speaker: Professor John Carroll
Date: Thursday, 11 August 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

ONLINE TALK

**Foreign Banks and Global Finance in Modern China:
Banking on the Chinese Frontier, 1870-1919**

Tuesday • 16 Aug 2022



Details

In this wide-ranging study, Ghassan Moazzin sheds critical new light on the history of foreign banks in late 19th and early 20th century China, a period that saw a substantial influx of foreign financial institutions into China and a rapid increase of both China's foreign trade and its interactions with international capital markets. Drawing on a broad range of German, English, Japanese and Chinese primary sources, including business records, government documents and personal papers, Moazzin reconstructs how during this period foreign banks facilitated China's financial integration into the first global economy and provided the financial infrastructure required for modern economic globalization in China. *Foreign Banks and Global Finance in Modern China* shows the key role international finance and foreign banks and capital markets played at important turning points in modern Chinese history.

The Speaker

Ghassan Moazzin is an Assistant Professor at the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the Department of History at the University of Hong Kong. He works on the economic and business history of 19th and 20th century China, with a particular focus on the history of foreign banking, international finance and electricity in modern China.



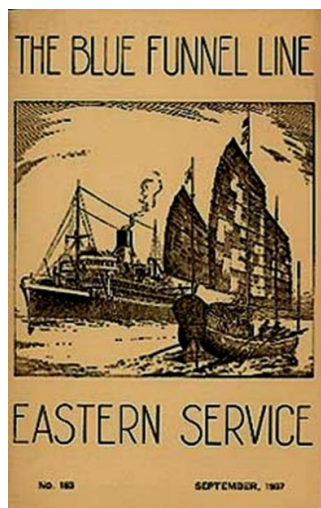
PROGRAMME

Speaker: Dr Ghassan Moazzin
Date: Tuesday, 16 Aug 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

ONLINE TALK

Repatriation of Chinese Merchant Seamen from the UK after WWII

Saturday • 20 August 2022



Details

At the beginning of WWII there were 20,000 Chinese seamen based in the UK. Most of these were in Liverpool. This was the main port for goods brought in from the USA. At the end of the War most of these men went back to China. Many went voluntarily but a significant number were forced to leave. They left behind them their wives and their children. Many never saw them again.

The Speakers

Yvonne Foley is the daughter of one of the Chinese seamen and has spent a decade researching their fate. She has worked as a secretary and administrator. In Hong Kong she did voluntary work at the Blind School teaching English and organised book reading for the Blind.



Charles Foley has worked with Yvonne on the research. For many years he has worked as a management consultant in the UK, Hong Kong and Australia.



PROGRAMME

Speaker: Charles & Yvonne Foley
Date: Saturday, 20 August 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

Recent Activities

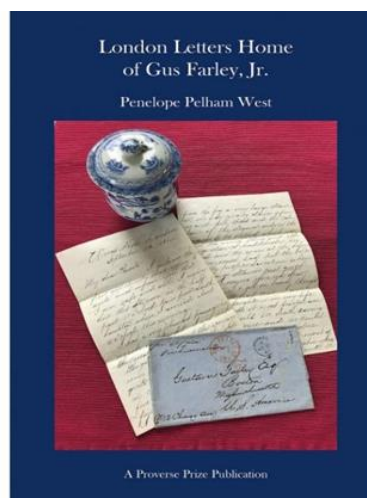
Note: Audio only recordings of online talks are available upon request to the RASHK Administrator Email address.

ONLINE TALK

**London Letters Home
In preparation for working in China –
American boy learns the London side of the tea trade**

Penelope Pelham West

Thursday • 5 May 2022

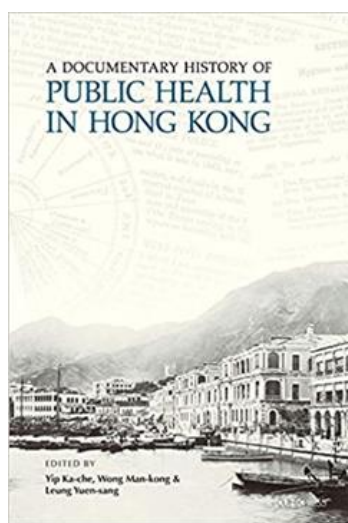


ONLINE TALK

**Extreme Weakness:
Beriberi and the Politics of Public Health in Pre-WWII Hong Kong**

Professor Wong Man Kong

Thursday • 12 May 2022



ONLINE TALK

**Recovery, Resilience, Resurgence
Thirty Years of Hong Kong Photographs 1940s-1970s**

Edward Stokes

Tuesday • 24 May 2022



Edward Stokes and David McKellar

Picture Credit Helen Tinsley

LOCAL VISIT

Tea Appreciation at Hong Kong Park

Saturday • 28 May 2022

Our RASHK on-site local visits have become something of a rarity over the past 6 months for us in Hong Kong, following Covid-19 related constraints to limit risk of infection, so it was a real pleasure to meet members face to face for our group visit to a session of tea appreciation by an expert tea master.

LockCha Teahouse is beautifully set on the ground floor of a former colonial building in Hong Kong Park, Central, surrounded by mature trees but very easily accessible for pedestrians. Inside the teahouse, furniture and carved screen decorations have been created to enhance a setting for the enjoyment of tea and the meeting of friends. For many of our RASHK members group this was the first time they had heard of or visited this small architectural treasure to enjoy *yum cha*.

Our group of 20 was warmly welcomed by staff and introduced to our tea master, who briefly shared with us the history and background of tea cultivation and preparation in China and how tea growing and tea drinking culture spread to the rest of Asia and Europe. Since tea plants and dried tea were (and in fact remain) such a precious commodity, the history of its spread from China was full of tales of avarice, competition, social and economic change – just think of those sailing tea clippers racing to the tea markets in Europe and North America, and whole new industries in India and Sri Lanka. She also clarified a few myths for us – in fact all teas are grown from the same plants but fermented and prepared in different ways, and monkeys are not trained to collect leaves from high branches.

Our tea master showed us how to prepare and optimize enjoyment of the aroma and flavour of 2 types of China grown tea, white and black—using different water temperatures and different drinking vessels. There were lots of questions expertly answered. Our group spent a pleasurable hour testing out these skills for ourselves, tasting the results and chatting with friends at our small group tables. For those interested it was good to know that the Teahouse has just reopened its tea appreciation classes to learn more about these and other tea varieties. Favourite teas are also on sale at the Tea house.

Many of our group stayed on to enjoy a vegetarian dim sum lunch, before heading off to our various Saturday afternoon activities.

Prepared by Helen Tinsley



Picture Credit Steve Tennant



Picture Credit Russ Harding



Picture Credit Kim Chai



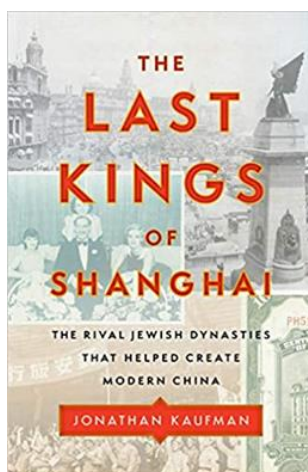
Picture Credit Steve Tennant

ONLINE TALK

The Last Kings of Shanghai

Jonathan Kaufman

Tuesday • 7 June 2022



LOCAL VISIT

Enchanting Expeditions: Chinese Trade Porcelains Across the Globe

Saturday • 11 June 2022

One of our members, Professor Peter Rhodes, arranged a visit for us to the Museum of Art at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. After due screening at the entrance a docent, Winky, Wing Kin, a Masters Student at the University, led us on a guided tour of the Exhibition. It is housed in Galleries 3 and 4, in the West wing of the Museum and is laid out in six sections - (1) Encountering oriental wonders, (2) The thriving country of China, (3) Manufacture and transport of porcelain, (4) Braving the ocean waves, (5) International fashions and (6) Profound impact of chinaware.

Over 400 exhibits of trade porcelains and related objects take us from the Ming and Qing production, the 16th and 17th century Portuguese and Dutch contacts and the European enthusiasm for these works of fine art, translucent, shiny, durable and coveted. It traces the exquisite workmanship and its development over time, including a rare "made to order" piece with script giving the name of the patron - a piece that was copied in Europe by the Medici and others. The exhibition covers the trade routes and the numerous wrecks and their locations, particularly around the Cape of Good Hope. Depending on the cause of the wreckage, whether due to storm or to attack and explosion, the cargo of porcelain might have been in good condition or heavily damaged and broken into shards. An extensive coverage is given to several wrecks.

Moving on we come to the processes involved, and the development of Kraak porcelain carried in the Portuguese Carrack ships. A common feature of this type is the use of underglaze cobalt blue on white porcelain and the introduction of radial "windows" of scenes, each with its own image which appealed to the European market.

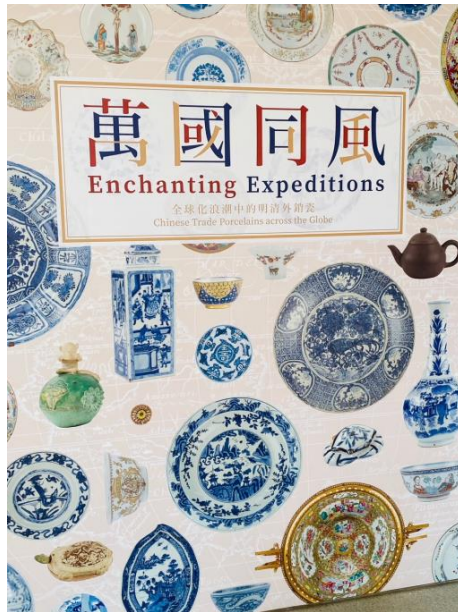
Examples are shown from the superlative Jingdezhen kilns and beside them are shown what may be considered inferior Zhangzhou and Yixing wares. Additionally there are examples of the monochrome, milky white "Blanc de Chine" Dehua wares - with a lady's face, usually looking like the goddess of Mercy, but not necessarily a religious piece, merely that this image was a popular one.

Such was the esteem held for porcelain that Europeans wanted to develop their own manufacturing and designs. Examples are included in the Exhibition. Some have their family crest included in the design and began to include it in their art paintings. They progressed to the major production companies including Meissen from Germany, Wedgwood and Royal Worcester from Britain, Royal Copenhagen and Royal Delft among the famous European manufacturers.

After the visit Peter Rhodes led us to the restaurant at Chung Chi College where participants enjoyed a splendid dim sum lunch while hiding out from a rainstorm. Our thanks are due to Prof. Rhodes, to Winky and to Helen Tinsley for arranging such a fascinating local visit.

The exhibition period has been extended to 18 September 2022. For a fuller review you may wish to follow the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgXHHPxxEY> in which Dr Wang Guanyu, the curator of the Exhibition gives an excellent illustrated lecture on the material.

Text and photos prepared by Peter Rhodes



Winky receives a copy of RASHK Journal, with thanks, from Helen Tinsley

ONLINE TALK

“Hong Kong – City of music”
A personal account of classical music in Hong Kong 1983 – 2004

John Wilson

Thursday • 16 June 2022

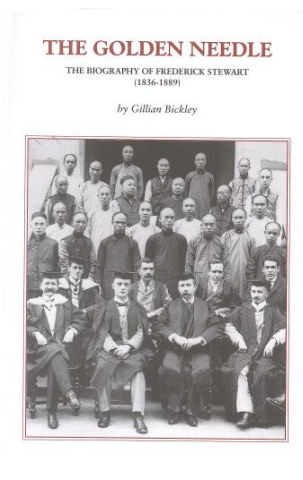


ONLINE TALK

Looking for a Golden Needle ...

Dr Gillian Bickley

Thursday • 30 June 2022

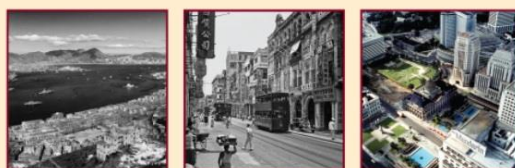


Of General Interest

Exhibition

Recovery, Resilience, Resurgence

now until 31 July 2022, Asia Society



RECOVERY, RESILIENCE, RESURGENCE

Thirty Years of Hong Kong Photographs, 1940s – 1970s

復甦生息、逆中求存、重振旗鼓
香港風致三十年 — 1940至1970年代歷史照片

#PicturingHK #ASHKHeritageSite10

Picture Credit www.asiasociety.org

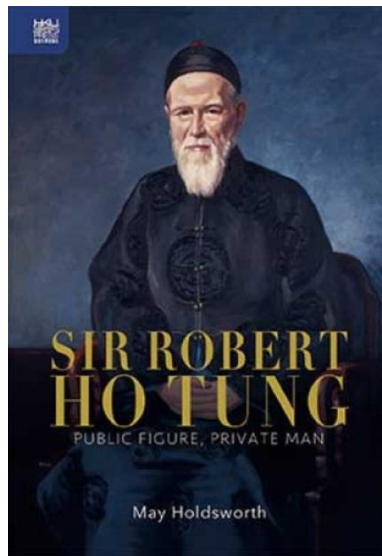
<https://asiasociety.org/hong-kong/exhibitions/recovery-resilience-resurgence-fusushengxinizhongqiucunzhongzhenqigu>

Of General Interest

New Book Releases

Sir Robert Ho Tung

by May Holdsworth



Sir Robert Ho Tung (1862–1954) is a compelling figure in Hong Kong history. He is regularly portrayed as the colony’s greatest philanthropist and wealthiest man of his day, the first Chinese to live on the Peak, and, at the end of his life, the ‘Grand Old Man of Hongkong’. The illegitimate son of a Chinese mother and European father, he was highly sensitive about his mixed heritage though he consistently made the most of his fate. He was a man perfectly in tune with his place and time, his success driven as much by his entrepreneurial talents as by his being Eurasian. This book shows him in all his immense variety—clerk with the Imperial Maritime Customs, chief compradore of Jardine Matheson, financial wizard, husband and lover, patriarch of a large family of five sons and eight daughters, loyal British subject but also, paradoxically, Chinese patriot. China’s president Yuan Shikai awarded him the Order of the Excellent Crop, and King George V knighted him.

May Holdsworth’s thoughtful and deftly written account of the life is the first full-length biography in English. Given unique and unprecedented access to family and personal papers, including letters, diaries, notes, and photographs, she offers a nuanced perspective on a public but also private man. Her book will be a rich resource for historians and general readers interested in the men and women who played a key part in the shaping of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Hong Kong.

https://hkupress.hku.hk/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=642

Membership Renewal

2022 Membership Renewal

Members are reminded that membership renewals for 2022 were due on 1 January 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> 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

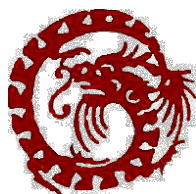
Life – Single HK\$10,500

Life – Joint HK\$15,400

Overseas

Overseas - Annual HK\$450

Overseas - Life HK\$6,300



Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch Membership Application Form 2022

Membership Application Form for 2022, 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

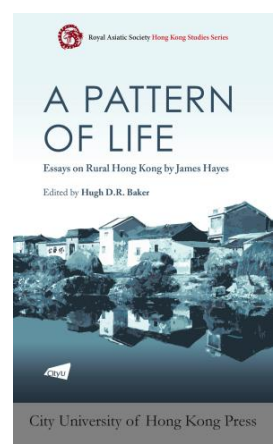
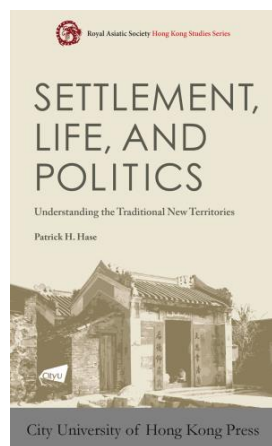
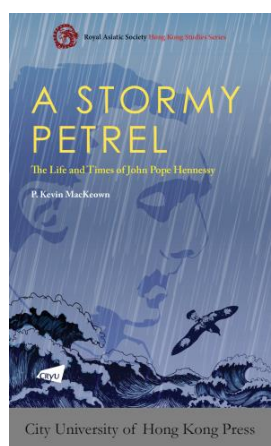
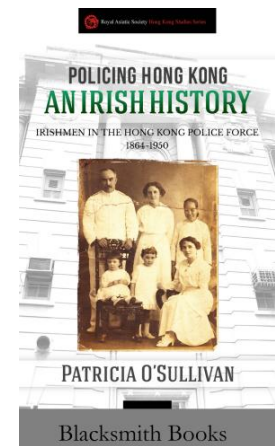
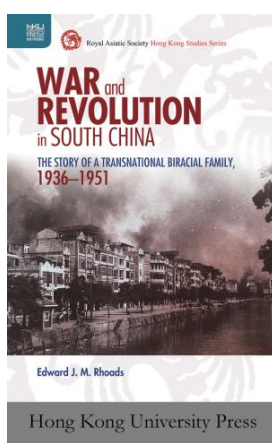
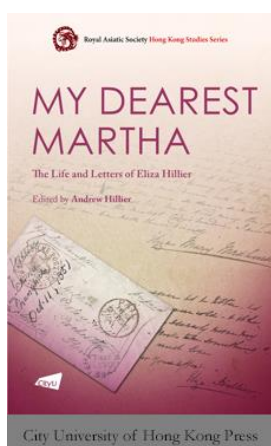
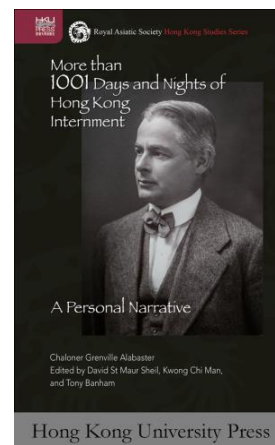
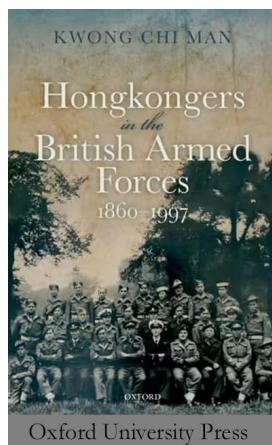
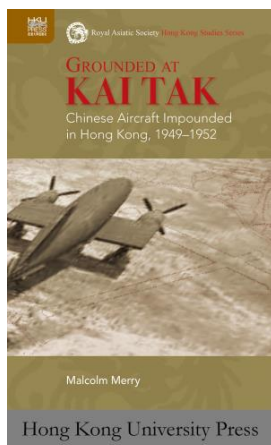
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