

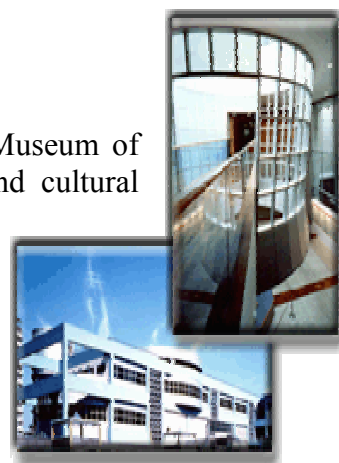
“The Hong Kong Story” Exhibition Materials

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Introduction of “Hong Kong Story”

Permanent exhibition is the soul of a museum. To the Hong Kong Museum of History whose mission is to preserve and promote the historical and cultural heritage of Hong Kong, "The Hong Kong Story" permanent exhibition is a showcase of the dedicated hard work done by the Museum staff in the past 26 years in collecting, preserving and researching the history and development of Hong Kong. Occupying an area of 7,000 sq.m., "The Hong Kong Story" comprises 8 galleries located on 2 floors. Through the display of over 3,700 exhibits with the use of 750 graphic panels, many dioramas and multimedia programmes, and supported by special audio-visual and lighting effects, "The Hong Kong Story", outlines the natural environment, folk culture and historical development of Hong Kong in a life-like manner. The exhibition, which is both entertaining and educational, starts from the Devonian Period 400 million years ago and concludes with the return of sovereignty of the territory to China in 1997. We sincerely invite you to this 400 million years of historical and cultural journey, and hope that this exhibition can arouse the public's interest in and introspection on the historical and cultural heritage of Hong Kong.



Design

The “Hong Kong Story” Permanent Exhibition, occupying an area of about 7,000m² with a maximum height of about 18 meters, outlines the natural environment, living heritage and the 6,000 years of historical development of Hong Kong with the use of ecological settings, panoramic screens, dioramas, interactive programmes and rich artifacts. From its stage of planning to the completion, it takes 6 years and the project costs 200 million Hong Kong dollars. The exhibition will be the main attraction of the Museum. To ensure that the exhibition meets the first-class world standard, the former Urban Council, after going through a stringent selection process, commissioned JJ Andre Associates Ltd. from Canada as the design consultant. The company is well-experienced in history museum design and was also the design consultant of the very popular “the Story of Hong Kong” exhibition held in Kowloon Park.



Development of Design Concept

The design concept of the Permanent Exhibition is the result of close consultation between Museum staff and the design consultants. Museum staff conducted a series of dedicated exercises to collect relevant information after the content of each exhibit area had been decided on. Besides consulting reference materials, local and overseas scholars, they also conducted site visits and interviews to enrich the contents of exhibition. After the story-boards of the exhibition had been finalized, the design consultant made several visits to Hong Kong to take part in site visits with Museum staff to assimilate the atmosphere and experience local conditions at shops, village settlements, ancestral halls, temples, workshops as well as public and private

organizations. Additional joint visits were made to Macau and Guangzhou to inspect lanes and alleys retaining traditional Guangzhou characteristics for reference in the design work.

Painstaking Efforts to Ensure Authentic Reproduction

In designing the setting of Guangzhou-style teahouse in the early 20th century, the most painstaking studies were made to ensure the authentic reproduction of all aspects of local traditional teahouses, all of which have long been demolished. Museum staff referred to old photographs and drawings, plus historical documents and anecdotes. Visits were made to Guangzhou and Macau to collect more information on early teahouses, and Mainland experts were consulted to confirm the details. Turning to the setting of salt field, the design consultant joined staff to inspect remains of salt field at Tai O, Lantau Island. Before the detailed design and drawings were finalized, in depth studies were made of relevant written materials together with old photographs of salt field taken in the neighboring areas, while records of interviews with salt field workers were also consulted. Finally, the design drawings were all verified by the salt field workers. These extensive measures typify the exhaustive efforts taken over the years to ensure the accuracy of the exhibition.

Go in for Large-scale Construction

When the Permanent Exhibition is opened, visitors will pass through a sub-tropical forest amidst trees and animals of various heights and sizes and hear insects and birds chirping in the background. Other facsimile exhibits on display include a beach, a lime kiln, a salt field, bun mountains, a fishing junk and an ancestral hall, all vividly illustrating scenes from the lives of the earliest settlers.



A salt field setting displayed at Gallery 4: Folk Culture in Hong Kong

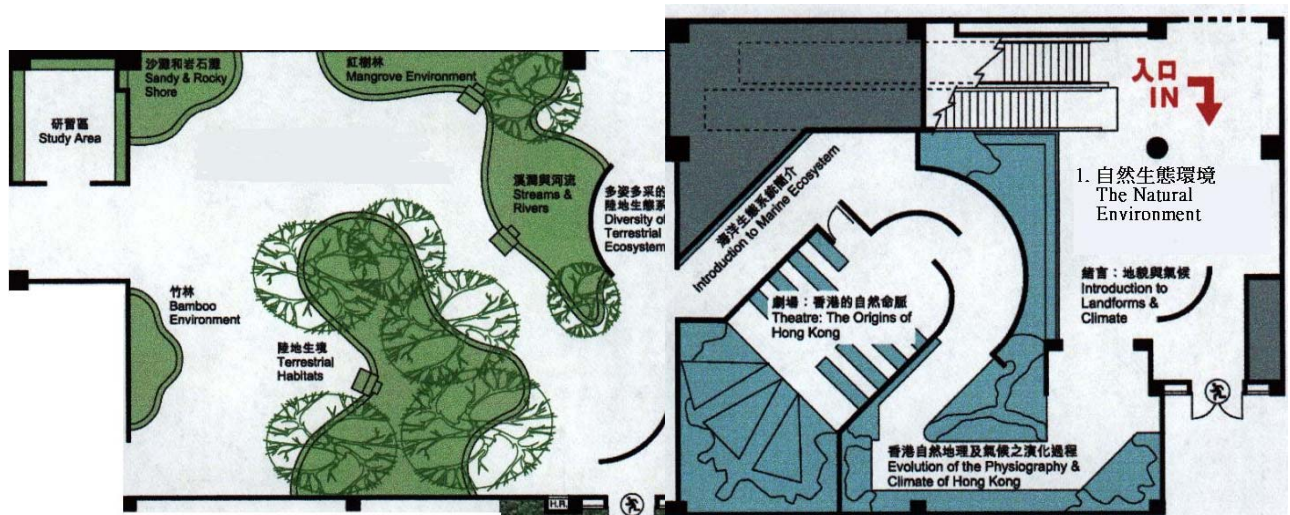
Gallery 1: The Natural Environment

Gallery Information

This gallery comprises two areas : "Landform and Climate" and "Flora and Fauna". Inside the gallery entrance is a globe, which enables visitors to locate China and Hong Kong. Beyond the globe is a tunnel of time paved with pseudo stone slabs; the walls, made from casts taken from rocks in nature, look deceptively real. In this area, rocks and fossils are used to demonstrate the topography of Hong Kong through the succession of geological periods in the last 400 million years. A theatre wraps up the immense geological changes of Hong Kong with special lava effects creating the illusion of a primeval universe.

Emerging from the narrow tunnel, visitors are plunged in an instant into a forest of towering trees as high as 18 metres, with many specimens of birds, reptiles and mammals. The sound track of birds chirping and twittering and animals roaring and grunting creates the reality of nature. This ecosystem in microcosm introduces Hong Kong's flora and fauna of 6,000 years ago and their relationships with the natural environment.

Gallery Layout



Geological Time

The Earth is approximately 4,600 million years old. Geologists have divided its history into a geological time scale based on the characteristics of rock strata and the fossils within them. Precise ages within the time scale have been determined from radiometric dating. The time scale is divided into geological periods with specific names. The oldest rocks in the Hong Kong region date back to the Devonian period 400 million years ago.

For a concept of time let us consider that the Earth’s history began just one hour ago. Hong Kong’s rocks would have been formed in just the last 5 minutes, and human presence on Earth would span less than the last second.

The Story in the Rocks of Hong Kong

The rock strata of Hong Kong are like the pages of a book. They tell a story of dramatic change to the region beginning 400 million years ago. We will show you how geologists have deciphered the rock layers to find evidence of ancient river plains, tropical seashores and coastal swamps, a shallow sea, powerful volcanoes, desert river plains and a large shallow lake. How did the landscape look millions of years ago? What plants and animals lived here in the past? How did the rocks get pushed around into their present position? How did the climate change over time? As we answer these and many other questions, we will take you on a journey through time and explore the evolution of Hong Kong.

Coastal River Plain

400 million years ago in the Devonian period, the Hong Kong region was covered by a large river flood plain. From mountains to the southeast, rivers washed sand and rounded pebbles of white quartz out onto the plain. When floods occurred a layer of mud was spread across the land, providing a soil layer for primitive plants.

As the mountains were eroded, the sea began to cover part of the river plain. In the shallow water, shellfish and the remains of ancient fish called *Placoderms* were deposited in the marine mud.

Rocks from the Devonian period are found in Hong Kong today at Plover Cove, Bluff Head and along the northern shores of Tolo Channel.

Tropical Seashores and Swamps

About 350 million years ago in the Carboniferous period, a shallow tropical sea covered the region. Shellfish and coral remains accumulated on this sea floor. When the sea level began to fall, lush vegetation became established in coastal swamps. Dead plant material accumulated on the muddy swamp floor. Deep burial of these sediments turned the shelly sediment to limestone. The plant material became coral. Later, heat and pressure within the Earth turned the limestone into marble, recrystallising and destroying the shellfish remains. The siltstone became schist and the coal became graphite. Today in Hong Kong marble is only found underground, while schist containing graphite is found in the northwest of Hong Kong.

Shallow Sea

From about 290 million years ago during the Permian period, a shallow sea spread across the region. Rivers draining the nearby land washed grey silt out onto the sea floor, and during stormy periods layers of sand were sometimes deposited over the silt. As these sediments accumulated, shellfish and coral remains were sometimes buried within them. After these sediments were buried and compacted, the layers were severely twisted and deformed by great forces within the Earth’s crust. Today these rocks are found in Tolo Harbour on Ma Shi Chau and Centre Island. Where we see them along the shore, the rock layers are often bent, bucked and split along faults.

Volcanoes

From 164 to 140 million years ago, in the Jurassic period, the area was shaken by numerous highly explosive volcanic eruptions. Sometimes tens of cubic kilometres of molten rock were blasted out in a single eruption. Ground-hugging ash clouds then blanketed vast areas with hot ash. Within the eruption crater the ash cooled slowly, forming tall, six-sided columns of rock such as those seen today on the Nine Pin Islands and at High Island Reservoir. Rocks formed from ash and lava make up around 50 per cent of Hong Kong.

Molten rock that was not erupted to the surface cooled slowly at depth to form large bodies of granite. Uplift and erosion have exposed these coarse-grained rocks across about 30 per cent of Hong Kong.

Desert

About 100 million years ago, in the Cretaceous period, the Hong Kong region was a desert. Rivers in the volcanic hinterland sometimes flooded out across the desert plain depositing layers of gravel, sand and mud.

These sediments are found today as layers of red rock in the northeast of Hong Kong, on Port Island and in the hills around Wu Kau Tang.

There are no fossils in these rocks probably because the region was dry and barren. Dinosaur remains have been found in Guangdong and some species may have roamed the fringes of the Hong Kong’s Cretaceous desert.

Shallow Lake

From about 80 to 50 million years ago, in the late Cretaceous and early Tertiary, the climate became wetter and a broad shallow lake formed. During each wet season, a thin layer of silt was deposited on the lake floor. Then in the dry season, as the lake evaporated, salts precipitated on the silt. These annual cycles appear today in the rocks on Ping Chau as countless thin layers of light and dark siltstone.

On the land surrounding the lake a great variety of plants became established, along with many insects. Thus today the siltstone layers contain leaves, pollen, spores and insect fossils.

Many of the siltstone layers also display ripple marks formed by wave action in shallow water, and desiccation cracks formed when the lake dried out.

Uplift and Erosion

Uplift of the land took place during the Tertiary period from about 50 million years ago, and the erosion that followed began to shape today's landscape. The climate was warm and humid, as it is today, and weathering penetrated deep into the rock, forming soft clay and soil. This creates a problem today with the constant threat of landslides on weak and weathered slopes.

About two million years ago, in the Quaternary period, the Ice Ages began. As vast ice sheets spread from the Poles, the world sea level dropped considerably. At the peak of the last major glaciation about 18,000 years ago, the sea level was 130 metres below its present level and the coastline was 120 kilometres south of Hong Kong. New valleys were carved into the Hong Kong landscape during this time.

As the world's climate warmed and the ice sheets finally retreated, the sea level rose, flooding the new valleys to create Hong Kong's intricate coastline with its numerous bays, inlets and about 260 islands.

The Landscape and Climate of Present-day Hong Kong

The total area of Hong Kong is 1,090 square km consisting of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Peninsula, the New Territories and approximately 260 islands. The topography of Hong Kong is very rugged with limited lowland. Mountain ranges run mostly from northeast to southwest with the highest point at Tai Mo Shan (957 metres).

Hong Kong has a monsoon climate, dominated by the seasonal alternation of wind direction and the resulting contrast in weather between winter and summer. Temperature falls to a mean of 15.2°C in February but occasionally drops to just above freezing point. It rises to a mean maximum of 27.9°C in summer with extreme temperatures reaching the mid-30s. The mean annual rainfall is 2,214mm, 70 per cent of which falls between May and September. Fog is common between February and April.

The Anatomy of a Typhoon

A tropical cyclone is a rotating mass of warm humid air with the lowest pressure near its centre. Most tropical cyclones form between Latitudes 5° and 20° on both sides of the Equator. With maximum winds exceeding 118 kilometres per hour, this phenomenon is called a typhoon in the western Pacific and the China Seas, a hurricane in the eastern Pacific and the Atlantic, and a cyclone in the Indian Ocean and Australian region.

Hong Kong is most likely to be affected by typhoons in September, although typhoons of varying strength can occur at any time between May and November. On average, 24 typhoons develop each year over the western Pacific and the South China Sea. Of these about six may come within 800 kilometres of Hong Kong and average of one typhoon a year comes close

enough to bring severe winds, intense rainfall and tumultuous seas.

Introduction to Marine Ecosystems

The Hong Kong coastline is one of great variety. Since Hong Kong lies where the temperate and tropical regions meet, its diverse marine fauna and flora comprise an interesting combination of northern and southern species. The southeasterly monsoon brings warm South China Sea water to the shores of Hong Kong and raises the coastal sea temperature to a maximum of 28°C in June. In winter, although Hong Kong waters are influenced by the cold northeasterly monsoon and the cold Taiwan Current, a finger of water arriving directly from the Pacific Ocean via the Straits of Luzon keeps the sea warm. Sea temperature, therefore, rarely falls below 16°C and this is warm enough for corals to grow in Hong Kong’s eastern waters.

Rocky Shores

A rocky shore is divided into several vertical zones according to their physical and biological characters. They are the Splash Zone, the Upper Shore, the Middle Shore, the Lower Shore and the Sublittoral Zone.

Rocky shore plants consist of algae lower down the shore. They have no roots but are firmly attached to the rock surface by a root-like structure called “holdfast”. The flexible plant body enables it to bend and twist as it is washed over by the waves.

Animals have different methods of attachment to exposed rocky surfaces. Some molluscs such as chitons and limpets have a large muscular foot which grips the rocks. Barnacles, tube worms and oysters are cemented firmly to the rock surface. Stalked barnacles and various rock crabs inhabit crevices. These crabs move rapidly and can withstand the buffeting of waves. The short-spined black sea urchin is found at the edge of the sublittoral zone, where it feeds on the algae.

Muddy Shores

Muddy shores are usually found where a stream or river flows into the sea bringing with its soil which has been washed from the banks upstream. The largest such shore in Hong Kong is at Deep Bay where the soft mud flats are 1-2 metres deep in most places. Generally, the upper part of such a tropical shore supports a mangrove community, while the middle and lower parts are a muddy tidal plain.

Excluding mangroves, plants are not abundant on muddy shores. Animals of soft mud flats include mudskippers, crabs and browsing snails on the surface, and burrowing bivalves, small crustaceans and numerous worms below.

Mud flats are the favoured feeding grounds of many wading birds. The small crustaceans, worms and clams are available in large numbers and they constitute a plentiful source of food. Different wading birds have a variety of bill shapes: short-billed species such as plovers catch their prey on the surface while long-billed species such as curlews find their food by probing in

the mud.

Sandy Shores

Sand flats are formed in protected bays with a gentle slope and shallow water, and may have a freshwater stream flowing over them.

Sand flats are home to an amazing diversity of life. Surface-dwelling animals include numerous snails, fiddler crabs, starfish, sea urchins, hermit crabs and sea hares. A few insects such as the beach tiger beetle and beach robber fly can be found hunting on sand flats.

Within the sand are a great variety of microscopic plants called diatoms. Tiny particles of food found on the beach surface at low tide or suspended in the water at high tide are eaten by cerith snails, burrowing clams and worms. Sandy shores can be very hot in summer temperatures. Ghost crabs, fiddler crabs and the soldier crab build deep and water-filled burrows into which they retreat to avoid the heat and the danger of predators. Deep burrowing animals also include a variety of worms and bivalves such as cockles, fan shells and clams.

Coral Communities

Like a tropical rainforest, a coral community can be one of the most diverse ecosystems on Earth. Hong Kong is near the northern limit of climatic conditions suitable for coral growth so that only 50 or so species occur here. Corals grow on rocks in clean oceanic waters so in Hong Kong they are mostly found off the northeastern and southeastern shores. The greatest variety and the highest concentration of corals grow around the islands in Double Haven and Mirs Bay.

There are two distinct coral communities in Hong Kong, namely the reef-building stony corals, and the non-reef-building soft corals. The shallow seabed of the north-east, including Mirs Bay and Double Haven, is home to our local community of reef-building corals. The deeper, wave-dominated subtidal seabed of the south-east, including the Nine Pin and Po Toi Island groups, is the realm of solitary soft corals.

Theatre **The Origins of Hong Kong**

Duration: 8 minutes; Capacity: 36; Screened in Cantonese, Putonghua and English by rotation.

In this theatre we will take you through the 400 million years of the evolution of Hong Kong's landscape. You will observe dramatic changes in the shape of the land and climate, from a coastal river plain to a tropical seashore, a coastal swamp to a shallow sea, a chain of powerful volcanoes to a barren desert, and finally a large shallow lake. As these changes occur you will witness geological processes at work creating new landscape over old. Then, with a look over Hong Kong as it has become today, you will discover the legacy these processes have left behind in the rocks, a legacy which geologists have been able to decipher and thus unravel the history of the last 400 million years.

Highlight Exhibits

Oolithes spheroides

A dinosaur egg that has a sturdy shell and is easily preserved as fossil



Bothriolepis sp.

A primitive fish known as Placoderms with some fossilised plates in this specimen



Coroniceras cf. subrotiforme

An ammonite fossil with clear markings on the half-preserved shell.



Red conglomerate

Made of cemented gravel deposited in a river channel during the Cretaceous Period. (Port Island)



Siltstone

Formed from the grains of silt deposited in fine layers on the floor of a lake during the Tertiary Period. (Ping Chau)



Sandstone

Made of sand grains deposited on the sea floor. The inclined layers were formed by currents which flowed over the sea bottom



Graphitic Schist

A metamorphic rock containing carbon from plant material. Heat and pressure within the Earth have turned the carbon into graphite.



Pebbly Sandstone

Made of cemented sand and pebbles. The sediment was deposited in a desert river channel, and the red colour is due to the desert conditions.



Ripple Marks

These ripples formed on the silt surface on the lake floor when wind rippled the surface of the shallow water.



Fan shells in various colours



Thorny oyster





Panthera tigris amoyensis South China Tiger
(Panthera tigris amoyensis)

Identification:

The tiger is the largest of the living felines and a male South China Tiger can reach 2.7 m in length from head to tail tip. The South China Tiger is primarily distinguished from Tigers of other races by being deeper reddish-ochre on the upperparts.

Almost extinct:

South China Tigers are now critically endangered and are almost extinct in the wild. In prehistoric times they probably roamed through the forests of much of China south of the Yangtze River but, as the forests were cleared and the human population increased, numbers of tigers steadily declined. However, even in the early years of the twentieth century they were widespread in the hills of southern China and Tigers were occasional visitors to the New Territories; the last Tiger in Hong Kong was shot in 1915. The numbers in southern China also declined, due to habitat destruction, hunting and the lack of prey. Though there were still a handful of Tigers present in the mountains of northern Guangdong in the 1980s, the last remaining population is now found in southern Jiangxi Province and is on the verge of extinction. Tigers are solitary predators and do much of their hunting at night, feeding mainly on deer and wild boar. Unlike most cats they are quite fond of water and are good swimmers.

Ursus thibetanus
Asiatic Black Bear (Ursus thibetanus)

Identification:

The Asiatic Black Bear can grow to a length of 1.8 m and can weigh up to 120 kg. As its name suggests, it is mainly black, but it has a white crescent shaped patch on the chest and a white chin. No bears have ever been recorded in Hong Kong, but Asiatic Black Bears can still be found in very small numbers in north Guangdong and north Guangxi Provinces.



Were there ever bears in Hong Kong?

Asiatic Black Bears are solitary and generally, nocturnal, sleeping during the daytime in hollow trees, caves or rock crevices. Their diet includes fruit, buds, insects, small birds and mammals and carrion. Whilst they usually walk on all fours they can stand on their hind legs to reach for food in trees and they can climb expertly in order to reach fruit or wasp and bee nests for the honey. Asiatic Black Bears are now rare in China and are very endangered due habitat destruction and they are also extensively hunted illegally due to the false belief that bear gall bladder has useful medicinal properties. The few bears which remain are now restricted to remote mountainous areas, but 6,000 years ago when the forests extended from the mountains to the sea, bears were probably found in Hong Kong also. These may have been Asiatic Black Bears, or perhaps the smaller Sun Bear which is a more tropical species now only found in south-east Asia.



Python molurus bivittatus
Burmese Python (*Python molurus bivittatus*)

Identification:

This is the largest snake to be found in Hong Kong and can grow up to 6 m in length, though most individuals are smaller than 5 m. The back is yellowish or greyish with large chocolate-brown blotches edged with black. On the sides it has alternating light and dark brown blotches edged with black and white. The head is somewhat triangular with a dark brown triangular marking on top. The Burmese Python is a heavy-bodied snake, becoming thinner rather abruptly towards the tail.

It is widely distributed in Hong Kong in a variety of habitats, especially well-grown shrubland, woodland and the edges of mangrove swamps. It is present on most of the major islands as well as the New Territories; and it is also found in southern China and much of south-east Asia.

A powerful constrictor:

The Burmese Python feeds mostly on birds and small mammals, but large individuals sometimes catch Barking Deer or pigs, domestic calves and dogs. The prey is captured by being engulfed in the python's coils and is then suffocated by constriction and swallowed whole. Though it is non-venomous the powerful jaws can still inflict a severe bite. Burmese Pythons are threatened in much of their range due to hunting and habitat destruction but in Hong Kong they have increased in numbers since being protected by law in 1976. Female pythons lay up to 30 large eggs which are 10 cm long. The mother python protects the eggs by coiling round them and she actually raises her body temperature to incubate the eggs. The eggs take two to three months to hatch and the young pythons are already 65 cm long when they emerge.



Lophura nycthemera
Silver Pheasant (*Lophura nycthemera*)

Identification:

The male Silver Pheasant is unmistakable; it is shining black below and white above with delicate black markings on the wings and body and with a spectacular white tail which makes up almost half of its total length of 125 cm. The skin on most of the head is bare and bright red. The female is less than half the size of the male and the feathering has a complex pattern of brown and black which makes her much less conspicuous, however she also has red skin on the head and red legs. The Silver Pheasant is found in forest areas at low to moderate altitudes throughout southern China, but the only sightings in Hong Kong have been of one or two birds which had escaped from captivity.

Treasures of China:

Though there are many species of pheasants in Asia, ranging from Iran in the west to Japan in the east and south to Indonesia, there are more species of pheasants in China than in any other country. Many of these are very rare and endangered. Though the Silver Pheasant is one of the commoner species, it is also one of the most beautiful and is one of the few species which occur in the lowlands of south-eastern China. It is, therefore, very appropriate that the Silver Pheasant is the official Provincial bird of Guangdong and it can be seen quite easily in several reserves in the Province. It is almost certain that it once occurred in Hong Kong too, before the forests were destroyed, and there is now probably suitable habitat for it to live again in the maturing forests of the central New Territories. However, for this to happen it would have to be deliberately re-introduced from birds bred in captivity because there is no prospect of wild birds travelling across the farmlands and urban areas of the Pearl River delta to reach Hong Kong naturally.

Gallery 2: Prehistoric Hong Kong

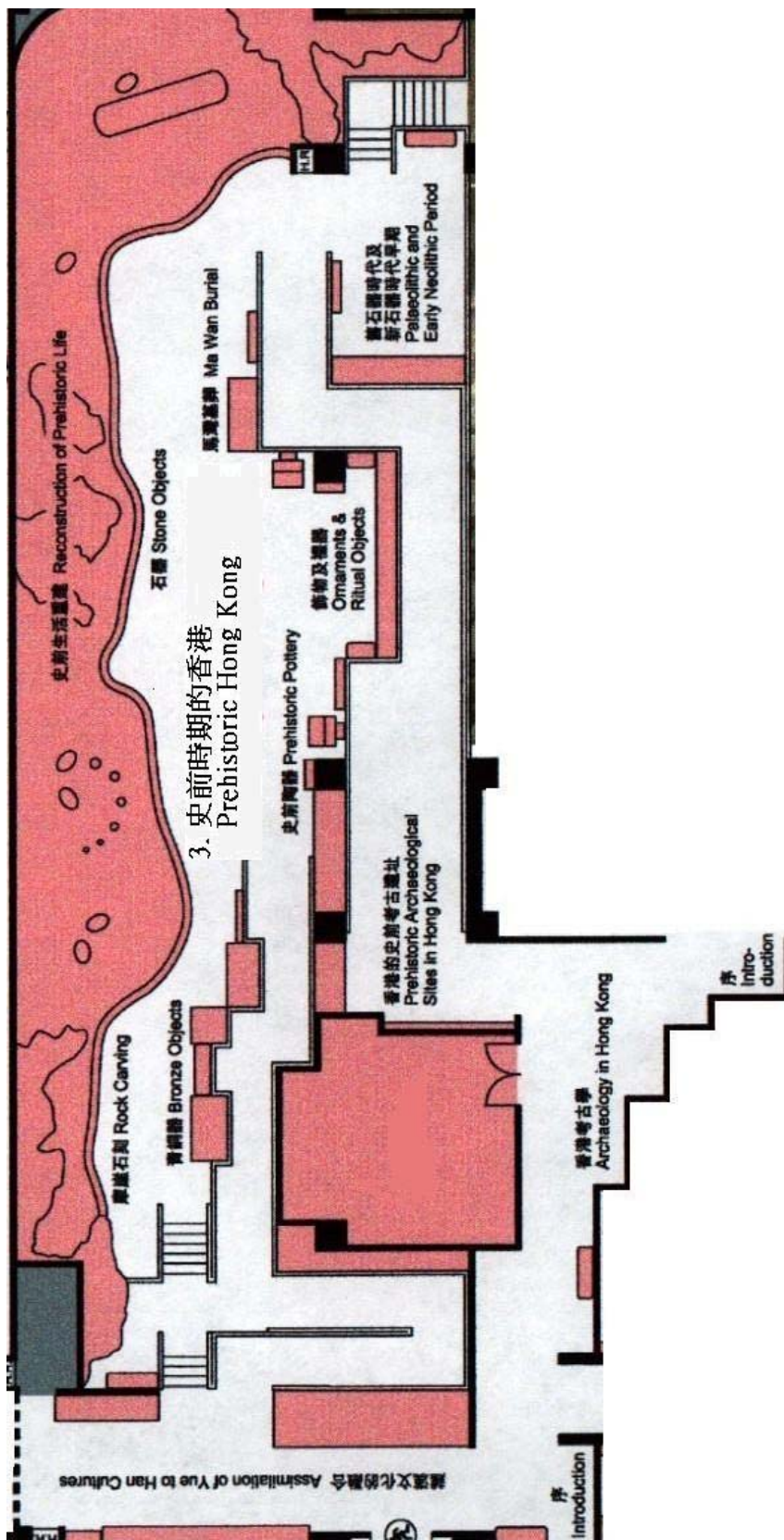


Gallery Information

Archaeology yields ample evidence of human activity in Hong Kong 6,000 years ago, in what was the Neolithic period. At that time people took shelters on sand dunes by the sea. Exhibits in this area include prehistoric artefacts of stone, pottery and bronze. There is a 42-metre long beach diorama on which we demonstrate several activities : making fire for cooking, building houses and fashioning ornaments with stone. These life-like scenes enable visitors to experience aspects of early inhabitants' lives and graphically demonstrate the ways in which some artefacts on display were used. At the end of the beach is a reproduction of the rock carving at Big Wave Bay, one of eight such rock carvings discovered in Hong Kong. These rock carvings are thought to possess totemic significance in the belief system of the time.



Gallery Layout



Prehistoric Artefacts Unearthed in Hong Kong

Archaeologists have discovered more than 200 archaeological sites in Hong Kong by far. A large amount of artefacts from prehistoric and historic periods have been excavated from some of those sites. Prehistoric artefacts include stone, pottery and bronze objects. Historic artefacts include pottery and ceramic wares and sherds, bronze and iron objects, bronze coins etc. These artefacts can reveal the livelihood of the early inhabitants in Hong Kong.

We have selected some "star exhibits" from the exhibition, including stone objects, pottery, bone, shell and bronze objects, etc. The usage and characteristics of these artefacts are briefly introduced here. °

Stone Tools

Stone tools refer to both modified and unmodified stones used originally as tools. The morphology of these tools and the signs of work-use and processing left on their surfaces disclose how they were made and what they were used for. According to the methods used to manufacture them, stone tools can be classified as chipped, polished or cobble tools. Hammers made of stone, wood or animal horn such as deer horn were used to chip the desired shape of the various chipped stone tools. Polished tools were made by first chipping a roughout and then polishing it with water and sand on a whetstone. Unmodified cobbles picked up from riverbed or seashore were ready-to-use hammers, pounders, grinders and anvils. Some were modified into blades to be used as scrapers, choppers and pointed implements. A rich variety of stone objects with diverse functions has been discovered in Hong Kong. The most commonly found were functional tools, ceremonial objects and ornaments.

1. Stone adze

Stone adze was a polished stone tool and was in vogue during the Bronze period. These rectangular adzes were the most common types of adzes. They could be used to chop, dig and shape wood when hafted, and were production tools being used in agriculture and handicraft works. This stone adze was excavated from Sham Wan in Lamma Island and was belonged to the late Neolithic period. °



2. Stepped stone adze

This kind of stone adze is usually rectangular in shape, with a step on its back dividing the adze into two parts. Thus it is called stepped stone adze. This stepped stone adze was excavated from Sha Po Tsuen in Lamma Island and was belonged to the late Neolithic period.



3. Double-shouldered stone adze

Double-shouldered stone adze, a unique stone tool developed in South China, was commonly found in archaeological sites in the Pearl River Delta. It was so named as the upper part of the adze was chipped into the shape of the shoulder of man. This adze was excavated from Man Kok Tsui on Lantau Island, and was belonged to the Bronze period.



4. Stone arrowheads

Arrowheads were common tools used by Neolithic people in hunting, and were also used as weapons. These stone arrowheads were excavated from Sham Wan, Lamma Island, and were belonged to the late Neolithic period.



5. Stone spearheads

Spearhead was used as weapon or hunting tools when hafted. With the development in technology, man acquired skills in producing metals and began to cast tools and weapons using metals like copper and iron. These stone spearheads were excavated from Sham Wan, Lamma Island and were belonged to the late Neolithic period.



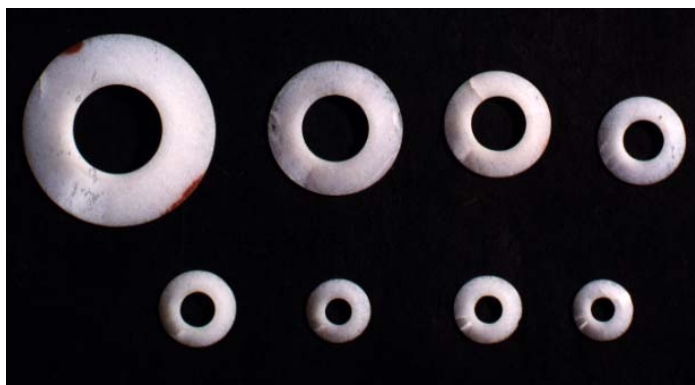
6. Stone ring

This stone ring was excavated from Hai Tei Wan, Lantau Island and was belonged to the Bronze period. As it was finely polished and was found in a grave, it was categorized as a burial object. Similar rings were also found in graves of the Shang dynasty in North China.



7. Quartz rings

This set of quartz rings was excavated from Hai Tei Wan, Lantau Island and was belonged to the late Neolithic period. All of them were finely polished and burnished. In view of the craftsmanship, they should be ornaments.



8. Stone jue slotted ring

Stone *jue* slotted ring was usually found in graves and was regarded as a burial object. In the 1997 excavation in Tung Wan Tsai, Ma Wan, archaeologists recovered 20 prehistoric graves. They found a stone *jue* slotted ring beside the human skull near to the ear in one of the graves. Thus, it is believed that stone *jue* slotted ring was a kind of earring or ear ornament. This stone *jue* slotted ring was excavated from Yung Long, Tuen Mun and was belonged to the late Neolithic period. °



9. Stone casting mould for bronze axe

This pair of casting mould was excavated from Sha Po Tsuen, Lamma Island. They were used to cast bronze axes and were belonged to the Bronze period. Remnants of bronze slags were also found in the same site, which revealed that early inhabitants began casting bronze objects at that time.



10. Notched stone net weights

These net weights were excavated from Yung Long, Tuen Mun, and were belonged to the Neolithic period. The two sides of the net sinkers were notched for the ease of fixing them onto fishing nets, so as to sink the nets down into the sea. Usually other fishing tools and fish bones would also be found in the same site, showing that fishing was the major subsistence of life in the early days.



Pottery

Shaped from clay and hardened by firing, pottery wares are water-resistant, fireproof, hard and durable, and remain indestructible for ages. Pottery is the earliest artificial material produced by mankind. The techniques of pottery making progressed steadily through time, creating a rich variety of forms and styles. Wares of different periods differ in form, quality, colour, decorative style and production methods. These differences are useful and reliable features for identifying such objects as being of different regions, periods and cultures.

Coarse pottery

Plant fibres, crushed shells, sand and many other materials were often added to the clay to increase the heat-resistance and toughness of the pottery objects. The inclusions resulted in a coarse and rugged surface after firing, leading to such items being called coarse pottery. This was the oldest type of pottery used in South China. Its properties of heat-resistance and durability made it ideal for cooking. Also the simple production methods were best suited to the early inhabitants' nomadic life.

11. Pottery fu cauldron with cord design

Pottery *fu* cauldron was a cooking vessel. We could see the fire marks at the bottom of it. This pottery *fu* cauldron was excavated from Sham Wan, Lamma Island and was belonged to the late Neolithic period. Its body was decorated with cord pattern and its manufacturing technique was quite primitive, showing a low technology in making pottery at that time. Since handmade pottery was fragile, early inhabitants used a pottery stamp to pat onto the surface of pottery to make it firm. They put marks on the stamp to avoid patting on the same part. These marks were left on the surface of pottery and later became decorations. Cord pattern was the most popular decoration in the Neolithic period.

12. Pottery basin with cord design

Basin was a food vessel which contains food and drinks. This basin was excavated from Lo So Shing, Lamma Island and was belonged to the late Neolithic period.



Painted Pottery

The patterns on painted pottery were made with a brush-like tool before firing. Most painted pottery had a red palette, and was decorated with perforations and incised lines. The earliest painted pottery in China was from the Yangshao Culture around 7,000 years ago while that of South China appeared 1,000 years later. Painted pottery was rare in Hong Kong, only a few complete vessels and sherds have been found. Since special techniques were required to make painted pottery and they were limited in type and quantity, it seems probable that they were mainly used in ceremonies.

13. Painted pottery cup with incised design and perforated footring

This pottery cup was excavated from Chung Hom Wan, Hong Kong and was belonged to the middle Neolithic period. It was made of fine red clay. The footring was tall with perforations, while its body was decorated with incised zigzag lines.

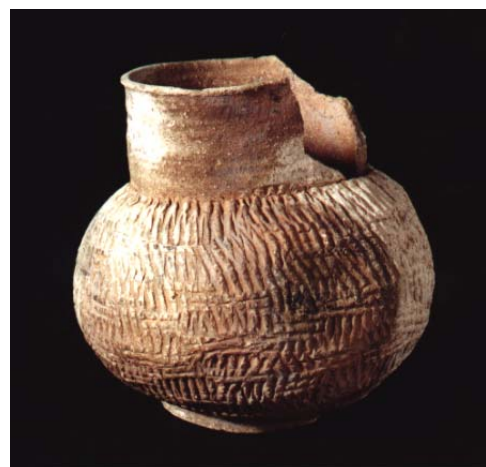


Soft Pottery

Soft pottery has a chalky and relatively soft body that is porous, and usually has no inclusions. Since the firing temperature was below 1,000°C, it broke easily. The surface was usually stamped or incised with geometric patterns. Soft pottery, mostly with incised patterns, first appeared in South China around 5,000 years ago, while those with geometric designs emerged some 500 years later. Soft pottery was commonly f

14. Soft pottery pot with zigzag design

Stamped geometric pottery was one of the characteristics of culture in South China, surviving from the late Neolithic period to early Western Han dynasty. Archaeologists believe that stamped geometric pottery were invented by the ancient Yue people of South China, and then spread to North China and other places. This pot was excavated from Yung Long, Tuen Mun, and was belonged to the late Neolithic period. There is a footring at the bottom and the surface is decorated with stamped zigzag pattern.



15. Soft pottery pot with concentric ring design and footring

This pot was excavated from Yung Long, Tuen Mun and was belonged to the late Neolithic period. There is a footring at the bottom and the surface is decorated with stamped concentric circles pattern.



16. Soft pottery basin with footring

Basin is a food vessel. This basin was excavated from Lo So Shing, Lamma Island and was belonged to the late Neolithic period. There is no decoration on the basin.



17. Soft pottery dou stem cup with incised design and perforations

This stem cup was excavated from Fu Tei Wan, Chek Lap Kok and was belonged to the middle Neolithic period. This is the only one of its kind ever found in Hong Kong. Stem cup was a food container. This stem cup has a tall footring and its surface is decorated with fine incised patterns and perforations. Its design and style are similar to Liangzhu Culture pottery found in the Lower area of the Changjiang River. This shows that local inhabitants already had linkages with that area during the Neolithic period

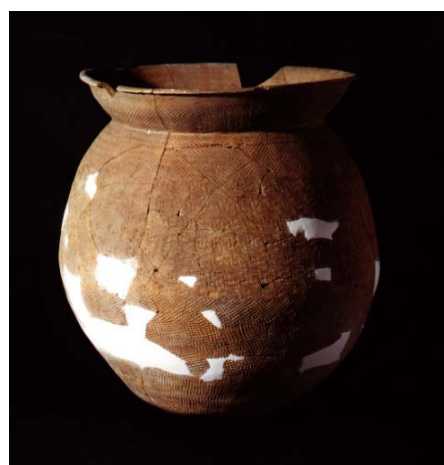


Hard Pottery

Pottery-making techniques and the kiln design improved over time. Firing temperatures rose to around 1,100°C and pottery with a harder body, namely hard pottery, was produced in South China. Most of these items were cooking wares, storage jars, food and drinking vessels. The surface was often stamped with geometric patterns. The double-F pattern is a typical design on the hard pottery found in South China. Hard pottery with geometric designs was confined to South China. It first appeared in the late Neolithic period and was widely used during the Bronze period.

18. Hard pottery urn with double-F and string-on-net design

Urn was a storage vessel and was mainly used for storing food or water. This urn was excavated from Hai Tei Wan, Lantau Island and was belonged to the Bronze period. It has a height of 54cm and body diameter of 49cm and is the biggest double-F pot found in Hong Kong. The pattern looks like two “F”, thus it was so named by the Hong Kong archaeologists in early days.



19. Hard pottery dou stem cup

Stem cup was a food container, which appeared since the Neolithic period. The upper part of it was shaped like a basin while the lower part was its foot. Some stem cups had lids. This stem cup was excavated from Hai Tei Wan, Lantau Island and was belonged to the Bronze period. °



20. Hard pottery two-lug gui food container with footring and string-on-net design

Gui was a food container, and was used to contain cereals. This *gui* was excavated from Man Kok Tsui, Lantau Island and was belonged to the Bronze period.



Other Pottery Products

Besides the above-mentioned pottery, we can also find other pottery products in the archaeological sites. They include sherds, spindle whorls, net sinkers, animal figures etc. Among these, pottery sherds were the largest in quantity. These products provide much information for studying the life of the early inhabitants.

21. Pottery spindle whorls

Spindle whorls were used in spinning. They acted as weights when attached to a spindle stick. By rotating the spindle stick, a fine and even thread would be produced from the fibers. It is believed that the threads were used to make clothes. These spindle whorls were excavated from Man Kok Tsui, Lantau Island and were belonged to the Bronze period.



22. Pottery animal figures

A small amount of animal figures were found in archaeological sites in Hong Kong, including sheep, ox, dog, etc. The appearance of these animal figures revealed that agriculture had been well developed during that period. This pottery ox was found in Hai Tei Wan, Lantau Island. Its head was decorated with impressed circles, but its legs were all broken.



Bone and Shell Tools

Early inhabitants obtained their food from the ocean and the mountains. Many archaeological sites yielded a large quantity of fish bones and shells, indicating that fish and shellfish were the main sources of food. Bone and shell artefacts excavated from some coastal sites, showing how the early inhabitants made the best use of available resources. Research into these marine remains reveals not only the early inhabitants' diet and subsistence pattern, but also the marine eco-environs and weather of the period, as well as the variety of marine life available.

23. Shell blade

Early inhabitants made blades from shells which could then be used to scrape meat or seafood. This shell blade was excavated from Po Yue Wan, Lamma Island and was belonged to the late Neolithic period. It was made by chipping the edge of a Meretrix shell to make a sharp edge, while the top and other parts of the shell were kept intact.



24. Bone needles

Bone needles were used to mend fishing nets or clothes. These bone needles were excavated from Yung Long, Tuen Mun and were belonged to the late Neolithic period.



Bronze Tools

Bronze is an alloy of copper, tin and lead. Production of bronze wares involved the processes of mining, refining, mould-making, casting and retouching. Large numbers of bronze objects, mostly weapons and small tools, have been unearthed in Hong Kong. Stone moulds for casting bronze wares were found at various archaeological sites. A mould core made of clay was also found in Tai Long on Lantau Island. Bronze slag remaining from the casting process was found stuck to potsherds excavated from Sha Po Tsuen on Lamma Island. All these factors strongly indicate that the early inhabitants of Hong Kong had mastered the technique of bronze casting.

25. Bronze spearheads

When hafted, spearheads could be used for hunting and were weapons as well. These spearheads were excavated from Sham Wan, Lamma Island and were belonged to the Bronze period.



26. Bronze arrowheads

Similar to the modern bow and arrow, they could be used in hunting or as weapons when they were fixed on arrow sticks. These arrowheads were excavated from Sham Wan, Lamma Island and were belonged to the Bronze period.



27. Bronze fishing hooks

These fishing hooks were excavated from Sham Wan, Lamma Island and were belonged to the Bronze period. They were fishing tools, similar to those being used nowadays.



28. Bronze scrapers

Bronze scrapers were the most popular tools at that time. They were either with a sharp end or with blades on both sides. They were used to scrap bamboo and to weave basketry. This scraper was excavated from Tai Wan, Lamma Island and was belonged to the Bronze period.



29. Bronze axe

Axe was a production tool. By fixing the axe to a wooden handle, it could be used in chopping and cutting. This bronze axe was excavated from Hai Tei Wan, Lantau Island and was belonged to the Bronze period.



Highlight Exhibits

Pottery urn with double-F and string-on-net design

Bronze period

Excavated from Hai Tei Wan, Lantau Island

Numerous hard pottery had been discovered in the Lingnan region, but pottery urns as large as this one are rarely seen. This type of pottery urn is a food vessel used for storing food or water. Hard pottery wares with double-F design are typical objects in Lingnan region during the Bronze period, dated to around 1,000 BC. The pottery, fired at 1,200°C are often found together with green-glazed pottery, or "green-glazed proto-porcelain". This suggests that the technology of pottery production is very advanced at that time.



Cranium and bust of Maba Man



In 1985, archaeologists discovered the Maba cranium in a limestone fissure deposit on Shizishan at Maba in Shaoguan, Guangdong Province. The frontal, parietal and nasal bones are preserved. Some of the features of the cranium are similar to those of *Homo erectus* while some are more akin to early *Homo sapiens*. Specialists assumed that it is probably a member of the *Homo sapiens*. This cranium serves as an important link in helping to understand the process of evolution from the former to the latter. Numerous animal bones are unearthed with the cranium, for example, molars of oriental stegodont and Chinese tapir, cranium of subcrested pig, etc. These

animals belonged to the Ailuropoda-Stegodon fauna which lived in South China during the Pleistocene epoch, about 100,000 years before present. They were mostly warm and wet forest-dwelling type species. A study of them may be very illuminating in understanding the climatic characteristics of the region at that time.



Model of Neolithic grave C7 at Tung Wan Tsai, Ma Wan

The size of a grave and the quantity and nature of the burial objects usually reflect the social status of the deceased. They also suggest the material civilization and social structure of the clan to which the deceased belonged. Prehistoric graves found in the Pearl River Delta have yielded relatively few burial objects and most of these were functional objects. Apparently these early inhabitants were not very affluent. Their clan structure was simple and class differentiation indistinct. In 1997, archaeologists discovered 20 prehistoric graves at Tung Wan Tsai, Ma Wan. Skeletons and burial objects were unearthed. Physical anthropologists confirmed that these Neolithic inhabitants were Asian Mongoloids, same as those living in the Pearl River Delta area.



Stone ornaments

Neolithic period

Excavated from Tai Wan, Lamma Island

Ornaments refer to decorations that people wear on different parts of body like hair, ear, neck, and waist. They have often been found in graves as burial objects. Stone, pottery, shells, animal teeth and bones were used to make ornaments such as rings, *jue* slotted rings, beads, cylindrical ornaments, pendants and bracelets, all of which have been unearthed in the territory. The stone *jue* slotted ring found next to a human skull unearthed on Ma Wan further proves that it is an earring as well as a burial object. The pendant set excavated from grave no.6 of Tai Wan on Lamma Island comprises of 18 stone pieces, including beads, cylindrical ornaments, and pendants. It is the only one of its kind found in Hong Kong.

Textile fragment

Neolithic period

Excavated from Kwo Lo Wan, Chek Lap Kok

This piece of textile fragment is believed to be 3,000 years old and by far the earliest textile fabric found in South China. When found, it was adhering to a bronze projectile point, suggesting that it might have been a piece of a wrapper. The fabric, later examined in the laboratory, was found to be similar to hemp. According to textile experts, the fibre and the weave required considerable skill to produce, indicating that the early inhabitants had already a firm grasp of weaving techniques.



Painted pottery basin with incised design and perforated footring

Middle Neolithic period

Excavated from Chung Hom Wan, Hong Kong Island

The earliest painted pottery in China was from the Yangshao Culture around 7,000 years ago while that of South China appeared 1,000 years later. Painted pottery was rare in Hong Kong, only a few complete vessels and sherds have been found.

The patterns on painted pottery were made with a brush-like tool before firing. Most painted pottery had a red palette, and was decorated with perforations and incised lines. Since special techniques were required to make painted pottery and they were limited in type and quantity, it seems probable that they were mainly used in ceremonies.



Bronze dagger with human mask design and bow-shaped guard

Bronze period

Collected from Shek Pik, Lantau Island

According to archaeological records, there were 14 bronze daggers discovered in Hong Kong, but only a few were retained. This bronze dagger was found in Shek Pik on Lantau Island in 1962. It is the most complete dagger ever found in the territory.

The dagger measures 27.6cm in length. It has no pommel. The hilt is decorated with geometric patterns which are mainly composed of straight lines and circular clouds. The guard looks like a bow - both ends are raised and the middle is bent. It is also decorated with lines and incised marks. The body of the dagger is decorated with human mask designs, feathers, circular clouds, circles and triangles.

Dr. Tang Chung, a local archaeologist, pointed out that this dagger was so similar to the human mask design dagger unearthed in Đông-sơn, Vietnam that they were probably made contemporaneously by the same group of craftsman. He further stated that since this type of bronze dagger had been found on islands like Lantau, Lamma and Chek Lap Kok, their owners should have been involved in maritime activities. According to the recent studies on the Maritime Silk Route along the coastal area from South China to Indo-China, active interactions had taken place during the period from the Warring States to the Western Han dynasty. In addition, quite a number of artifacts with cultural affinity to coastal area of Vietnam were unearthed from the archaeological site in southern Japan. However, whether this type of dagger was brought here through the Maritime Silk Route still requires more in-depth study.



Gallery 3: The Dynasties: From the Han to the Qing

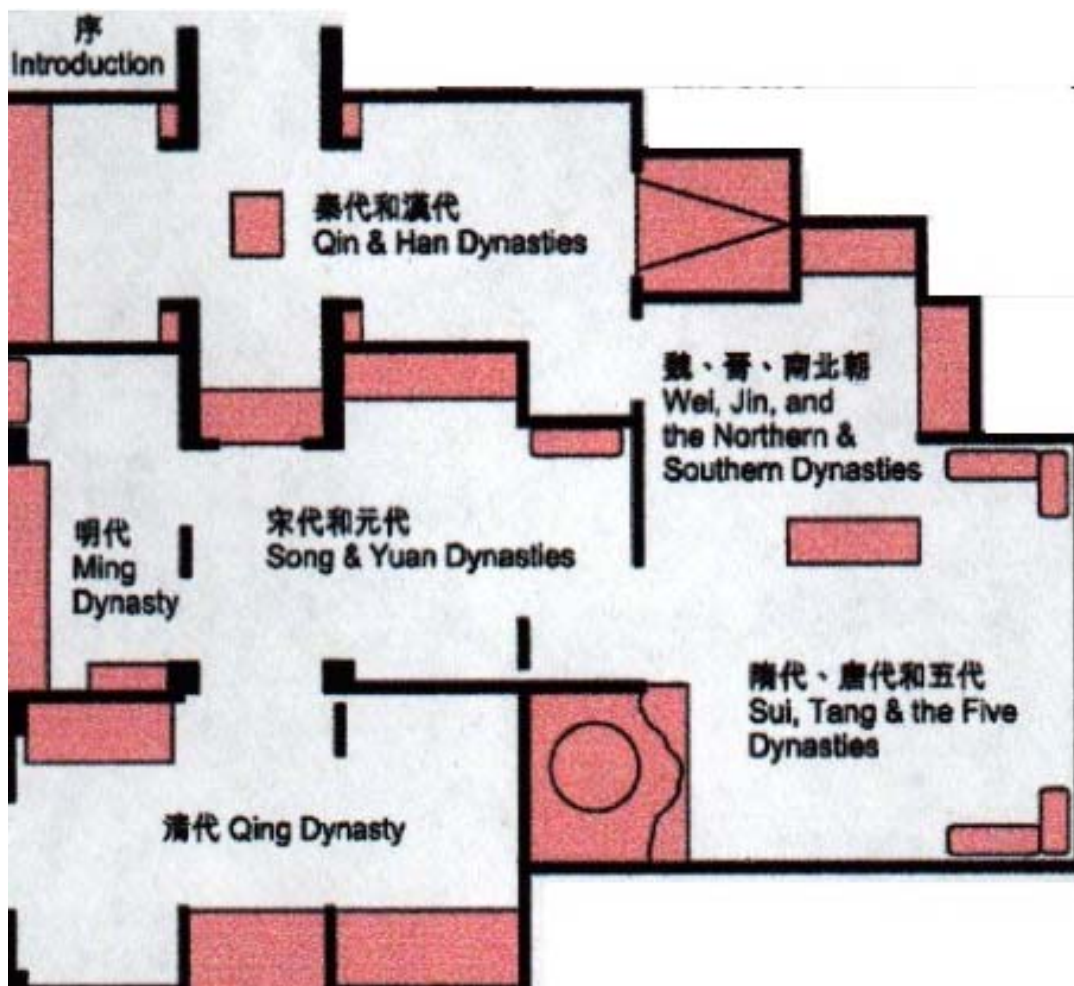


Gallery Information

The people who inhabited South China from prehistoric times were the Nanyue people. From the Qin and Han dynasties, however, the Han people of Central China migrated south, bringing with them advanced culture and technology. With Dayuling Pass (one of the Five Ridges just north of present-day Guangdong Province) being opened up in the Tang dynasty and the Pearl River Delta being developed in the Song dynasty, migrants multiplied in numbers. These periods saw significant development in the South China region, with Hong Kong keeping the same pace as the Pearl River Delta. It was in the Song dynasty that the Tang clan settled in the New Territories, followed by more clans in the Ming and Qing dynasties. Immigration gave Hong Kong's economy a significant boost. This gallery outlines Hong Kong's development from Qin and Han to Qing dynasties through relics preserved in Hong Kong and on loan from Shenzhen. Important exhibits include two stelae : the "*Shiyishuishan* Boundary Stone of the Li Family" from Lantau Island and "Foster benevolence over Indo-China; tributes and taxes circulate from afar" stone tablet from Fat Tau Chau



Gallery Layout



Assimilation of Yue to Han Culture

After Emperor Qinshihuang unified China, the southern territories were formally incorporated into the Chinese domain. As a huge number of metropolitan Chinese migrated to the South, Han Culture exerted a strong impact on the Yue Culture. During the final years of the Qin dynasty when China was in great turmoil, Zhao Tuo, Commandant of Nanhai, rebelled and founded the Nanyue Kingdom. He promoted ethnic assimilation, encouraging marriage between the Yue and the Han. The following decades saw an intensive ethnic and cultural integration of the two peoples. The Nanyue Kingdom was conquered by the Han Emperor Wudi in the early Western Han dynasty and its territories were absorbed into the Han Empire. Yue Culture was gradually subsumed into the dominant Han Culture. By the end of the Western Han dynasty, Yue Culture seemed to have disappeared.

Introduction

The Nanyue people had been living in South China before the Qin dynasty. After the Qin Empire unified China, people from the North and Central China began to emigrate southward, bringing with them more advanced culture and early developments to the Guangdong region, including the Hong Kong area. The opening of the Dayuling Pass in northern Guangdong region in the Tang dynasty provided easier access to the coastal areas of Guangdong Province. The cultivation of the Pearl River Delta in the Song dynasty helped spur the whole region's growth. During the Ming period, the further growth of the area's economy and its rising prosperity drew more people south. This section of the exhibition draws on historical texts and archaeological evidence to illustrate the evolution of Hong Kong from the Qin and Han dynasties up through the mid-Qing dynasty.

Hong Kong in the Qin and Han Dynasties

After unifying Central and North China, Emperor Qinshihuang subjugated the South and set up the Nanhai, Xiang and Guilin Prefectures in Guangdong and Guangxi regions. Hong Kong was under the jurisdiction of Panyu county in Nanhai. After the fall of the Qin Empire, Zhao Tuo, Commandant of Nanhai, declared independence, founded the Nanyue Kingdom and made Panyu (present-day Guangzhou) his capital. Remains of the Nanyue Kingdom have been discovered at Pak Mong on Lantau Island and Han relics found at Tung Wan Tsai, Penny's Bay, Lung Kwu Sheung Tan, Kau Sai Chau and in the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb. Some bricks in the Han tomb bear the inscription *Daji Panyu* (Great fortune to Panyu county), evidence that Hong Kong was under the jurisdiction of Panyu during the Han period.

Hong Kong in the Wei, Jin and the Southern and Northern Dynasties

Administered under Panyu County in Nanhai prefecture from 222-330, Hong Kong came under the jurisdiction of Bao'an County in Dongguan Prefecture in 331. North China was then infested by warfare, so many people moved south, bringing early knowledge of crafts and mechanics. While the only site in Hong Kong yielding relics from the Jin period (265-420) is Pak Mong on Lantau Island, Jin tombs are widespread in Shenzhen and Guangzhou, providing valuable information on the life of such coastal inhabitants. Many emperors of the Southern dynasties (420-589) were devout Buddhists. Legend has it that during the Liu Song Emperor Wendi's reign (424-453), the Buddhist Monk Beidu sojourned in Tuen Mun, suggesting Buddhism already existed then in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong in the Sui, Tang And Five Dynasties

Overseas trade built up during the Sui and Tang dynasties and Guangzhou became an important port. As ships entering and leaving the Pearl River estuary had to pass Tuen Mun, a garrison of 2,000 was set up there. The many Tang Dynasty lime kilns found along the coast are probably

associated with the salt industry of that period. Tang coins dated to the Kaiyuan reign and an export Changsha vase unearthed from Pak Mong on Lantau Island, directly opposite Tuen Mun, attest to the significance of Tuen Mun in ancient maritime trade. During the Five Dynasties, pearl-divers gathered pearls off Tai Po and troops were stationed there to guard this valuable operation.

Hong Kong in the Song and Yuan Dynasties

During the Song dynasty, Central China was constantly raided by minority tribes from the North. Since the South was relatively peaceful, large numbers of people migrated southward. The Tang, Pang, Lam, To, Hou, Ng and Man clans arrived in Hong Kong in this period. They settled down at Kam Tin, Tuen Mun, Tai Po, Lung Yeuk Tau, Fanling, Ping Shan, Sheung Shui, and even at Nga Tsin Wai. The production and trading of sea salt was monopolised by the government. All salterns were government-operated, and troops guarded against private trading of salt. The Mongolian invasion in the ending years of the Southern Song dynasty forced two boy emperors to seek refuge in Hong Kong. After the dynasty's fall, some dependants of the Song troops made Hong Kong their home.

Hong Kong in the Ming Dynasty

Hong Kong saw significant growth during the Ming dynasty. Clans of different ancestral origins kept arriving while the early-comers continued to multiply. In 1573, Hong Kong came under the jurisdiction of the newly created Xin'an County. A total of 74 villages were recorded. Most settlers were engaged in farming, salt-making, fishing, pearl-diving and planting of incense trees. Blue-and-white wares were produced in large quantity at Wun Yiu Pottery Kiln in Tai Po for domestic and overseas markets. Over 10,000 pieces of potsherds have been unearthed from Penny's Bay, suggesting that Hong Kong was a stop along the Maritime Silk Route to and from Guangzhou (Canton), and Penny's Bay a dumping area for waste products. Military posts were set up at Joss House Bay, Leung Shuen Wan (present-day Leung Shuen Wan) and Tai O in the late Ming period to guard against pirates.

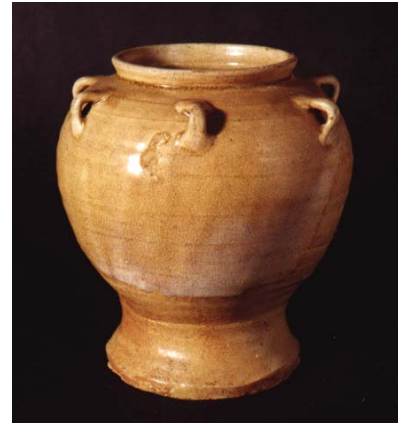
Hong Kong in the Qing Dynasty

When the Qing court ordered all coastal inhabitants to move inland, Hong Kong became largely wasteland. The ban was lifted after eight years and many Hakkas moved to Hong Kong, settling in relatively remote areas. The formerly established Punti clans also came back, expanded their ancestral halls, built study halls and set up market towns in Yuen Long, Tai Po and Sheung Shui. Alliances such as the *Kau Yeuk* (Alliance of Nine) in Shatin and the *Shap Pat Heung* (18 villages) in Yuen Long, were organised by other clans and villages to contend with the powerful clans. Garrisons were established to resist pirate attacks while forts were built at Tung Chung and Kowloon Walled City to guard against Western incursions. After the cession of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon, customs stations were set up at Fat Tau Chau, Ma Wan and Cheung Chau to levy duties on passing vessels.

Highlight Exhibits

Pottery six-lug pot and bowl in celadon glaze

Southern and Northern dynasties (AD 420-589)
Excavated from Sham Wan, Lamma Island



Pottery funerary jars

Tang dynasty (AD 618-907)
Excavated from Shek Kong, Yuen Long



Pottery stands with perforations and lotus petal design

Tang dynasty (AD 618-907)
Excavated from Shek Kong, Yuen Long



Dishes in celadon glaze

Tang dynasty (AD 618-907)

Excavated from Sham Wan Tsuen, Chek Lap Kok



Glass beads and agate beads

Ming dynasty (AD 1368-1644)

Excavated from Sha Tsui, Sai Kung



Blue-and-white bowl with floral motif design

Ming dynasty (AD 1368-1644)

Excavated from Penny's Bay, Lantau Island



Bronze wine container (replica)

Western Han dynasty (206 BC-AD 8)

The original of this bronze wine container was excavated from the East Chamber of the Western Han Mausoleum of the Nanyue King. Bronze wine containers were one of the most distinctive vessels of the Luoyue people during the Bronze period. They were commonly found in Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan and Vietnam, and were mainly used for storing wine. The body of this wine container is decorated with four sets of ship motifs that reflect the victory of a military in war. There are five or six chambers on the ships, all loaded with war trophies. Warriors in feathers standing on the ships are holding the decapitated heads of their enemies or with captives. These are the most sophisticated ship motifs ever found. Similar ship motifs have also been found on Western Han dynasty bronze drums unearthed in Yunnan and Guangxi, but their motifs and contents are much simpler.



Bronze bells (replica)

Western Han dynasty (206 BC-AD 8)

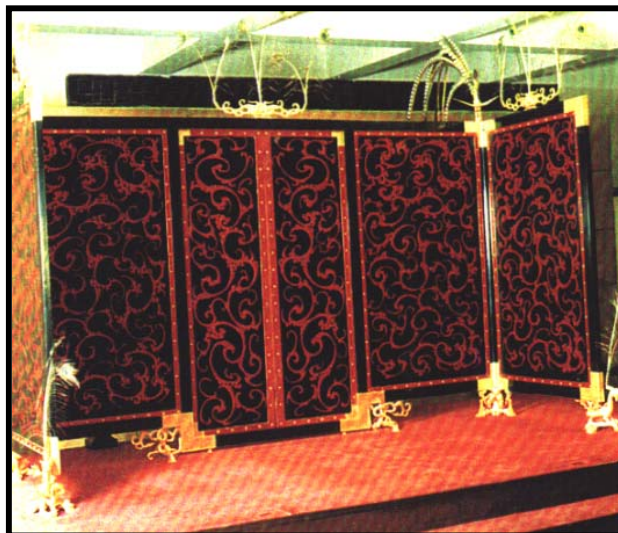
The original set of eight bronze bells was excavated from the East Chamber of the Mausoleum of the Nanyue King. A typical musical instrument played by the Wuyue people, examples have been discovered in Anhui, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Hubei. Inscriptions at the back of each bell indicate that they were cast in 129B.C., supervised by the official conservatory for collecting and composing folk songs and ballads of the Nanyue. Strings, stone and pottery musical instruments similar to those in Central China were also recovered from the Mausoleum, reflecting that Yue people had adopted some of the music-related Han customs, suggesting the co-existence of Han and Yue Cultures.



Lacquered screen decorated with coloured feathers sitting on gilded supports (replica)

Western Han dynasty (206 BC-AD 8)

This screen is reconstructed from the supports and remains of the screen found in the Main Coffin Chamber. It is an evidence of the assimilation of Yue Culture to Han and Chu Cultures. The decorations on the top are legendary animals of Han Culture while the black and red spiral design is a distinctive characteristic of Chu Culture. The human figures in two of the gilded supports are designed in the form of a Yue man who is holding snakes in his hands. Eating snake was a custom of the Yue people, and snakes formed a part of their culture. The two end supports comprise the legendary dragon, two frogs and snakes. Snake and frog were the totems of the Yue people while the dragon was one of the four gods worshipped by the Han people. This design reflects the adoption of customs and beliefs of various cultures.



Pottery model of a house

Eastern Han dynasty (AD 25-220)

Excavated from the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb

Seven pottery models, including two houses, two granaries, two wells and one stove were excavated from the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb. House, granary, well and stove were the main village architectural structures during the Eastern Han dynasty. They were reproduced as a popular combination of funerary objects found in many Han tombs in China.



The two house models found in the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb are L-shaped. Each has two entrances, one at the front and another on the left side. A small round opening at the back of each house leads to a banistered yard. The yard is a pigsty, as models of pigs and troughs have been found in the yards of other Guangdong Province house models of the same period. The pottery models reflect the appearance and structure of actual houses of the era. The incised lines on the external walls represent the wood beams that constituted the basic post and lintel structure of full-size house. The incised lines on the roof

constituted the basic post and lintel structure of full-size house. The incised lines on the roof

represent the tiles used in house construction.

There are two pottery figures inside each house model. Two of them are pounding rice. One is winnowing the newly husked rice, and one is carrying a baby. These figures provide a glimpse into peasants’ life, along with proof that rice has been the staple food of South China since the Han dynasty.

Pottery house models first appeared during the Western Han dynasty. Most were stilt houses with two stories. The rectangular upper story was the living room. The lower story served as a shed for raising domestic animals. They gradually evolved into L-shaped double-story houses. During the early Eastern Han dynasty, stilt houses became less popular. They were gradually replaced by L-shaped houses with a yard at the back. Later, during the late Eastern Han dynasty, pavilion-type houses came into vogue. Thus the architectural style of these L-shaped house models serves as an indicator for the dating of the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb.

Artefact analysis not only helps us understand the function and history of the artefact, but also the culture of people living at that time, along with their relationship to other regions. The architecture and characteristics of these house models are similar to those found in Guangdong Province. Together they illustrate the cultural consistency between the two areas and reveal a clear relationship between Hong Kong and China.

Shiyishuishan Boundary Stone of the Li Family



The boundary stone displayed here is one of a pair. It was discovered at Man Kok Tsui on Lantau Island while its counterpart, the one pictured, is at Mui Wo. The inscriptions on the stones read *Shiyishuishan* (fief and revenue) and *Lifu* (Li family). Li refers to the celebrated Song official Li Maoying, a native of Panyu County. Lantau became his fief in 1254. Until the New Territories came under British rule, Lantau remained the estate of the Li family.

In addition, the rock inscription that is housed in the Hau Wong Temple at Tung Chung, Lantau Island, records that Lantau was originally the estate of Li Jiuyuan Tang, hall name of one of the descendants of Li Maoying, the celebrated Song official whose fief was Lantau.

Blue-and-white bowl decorated with figure of a civil official

Ming dynasty (AD 1368–1644)

Excavated from Wun Yiu Pottery Kiln, Tai Po

Wun Yiu Pottery Kiln, located in Wun Yiu Village at Tai Po, began production in the late Ming period and made large quantities of blue-and-white wares for the local and Guangdong markets. In 1995, buried workplaces and some 6,000 potsherds were found at the site. The complete process of production from quarrying to firing can be reconstructed from these remains. They provided valuable information for the study of this ancient local industry. The Pottery Kiln began to decline in late 19th century and closed in early 20th century.

Archaeologists conducted intensive studies in the Pottery Kiln according to the excavation in 1995. They found that the blue-and-white products of the Kiln were directly or indirectly affected by those manufactured in Jingdejin. Some products had similar characteristics as those made in Minnan, Fujian and Raoping, Guangdong. The firing techniques used by the potters were affected by Longquan Kiln in Jiejiang. Although some decorations on the blue-and-white wares were akin to those manufactured in the coastal areas, they possess local characteristics and have their unique style.



Gallery 4: Folk Culture in Hong Kong

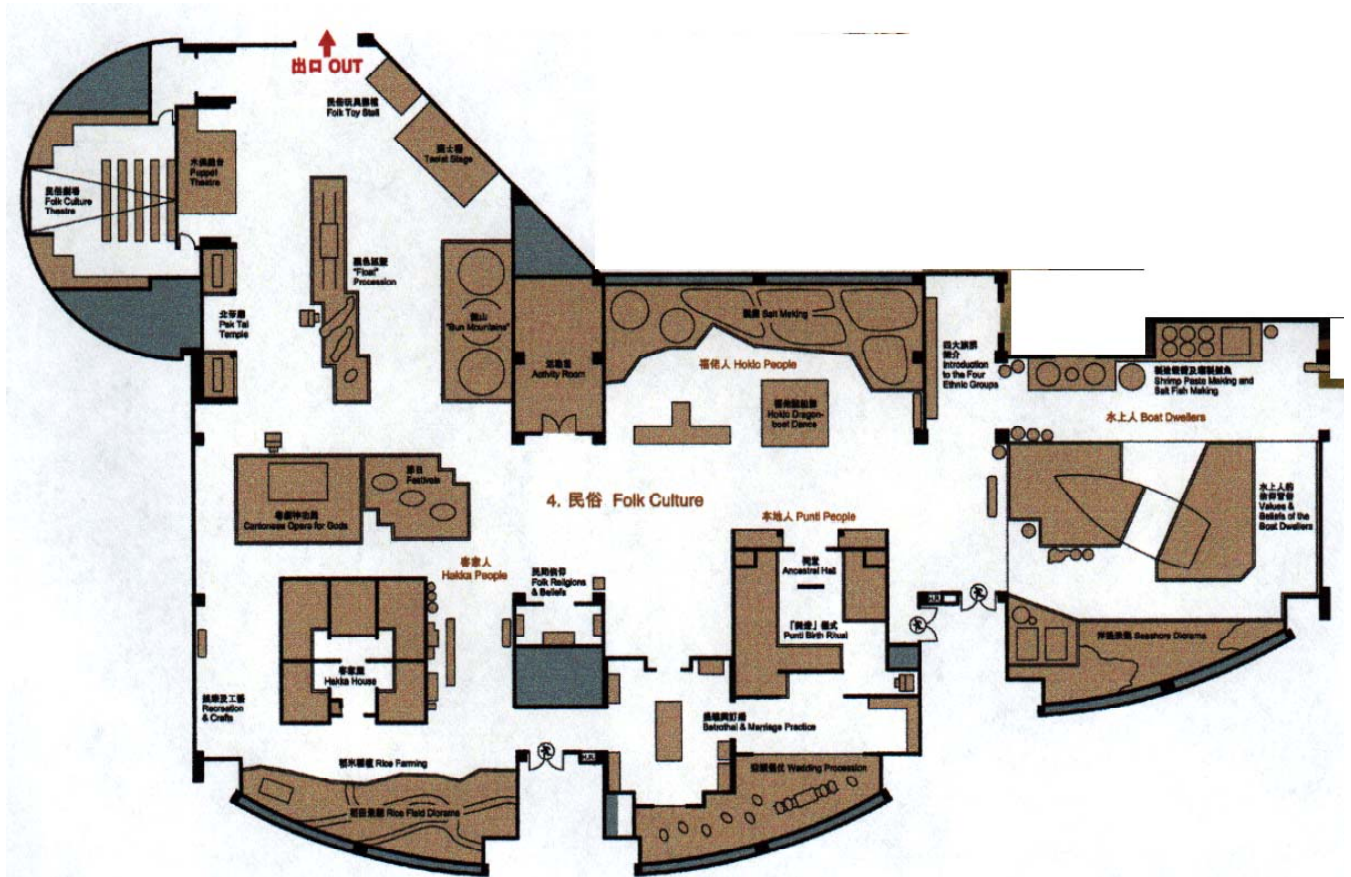


Gallery Information

This gallery introduces the colourful customs of four ethnic groups of Hong Kong and south China. Stepping onto a life-size replica of a fishing junk, visitors can examine closely the Boat Dwellers' living conditions, and learn about their customs and beliefs. Although salt production in Hong Kong ceased a long time ago, the reconstruction of a salt field makes it possible to visualize the Hoklo people making salt in the old days. In the centre of the gallery are three traditional buildings, in which are shown local marriage customs, and the celebration of birth ritual at the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the first lunar month. Another corner is set up as a Hakka peasant family's dwelling, the sparseness of the furnishings a reflection of the Hakka people's frugal life style. The most eye-catching display in this gallery is the reconstruction of the festive activities of the Taiping Qingjiao ceremony held annually in Cheung Chau, including the bun mountains, the Cantonese Opera theatre, the parade, the lion dance, and the Taoist altar, all combining to capture the colourful and bustling atmosphere of the ceremony. The videos shown in this gallery provide visitors with a deeper understanding of Hong Kong's folk traditions.



Gallery Layout



Ethnic Groups of Hong Kong

Before Hong Kong became a British colony in the mid-19th century, there were four main Chinese ethnic groups living in Hong Kong: the *Punti*, the *Hakka*, the Boat Dwellers (formerly known as the *Tanka*) and the *Hoklo*. The *Punti* (“local people”) migrated into the region now known as Hong Kong in the Southern Song dynasty (1127 - 1279), and settled on the fertile plains where they engaged in farming, farmland leasing and small businesses. The agrarian *Hakka* (“guest people”), who migrated into Hong Kong much later than the *Punti*, could only settle in relatively remote and infertile hill areas. The sea-borne Boat Dwellers lived by fishing in the waters of the Pearl River Delta and the coastal waters of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces. The *Hoklo* (a name derived from their native Hokkien language) originally came from such coastal places as Huizhou, Haifeng and Lufeng in Guangdong province, and they mostly settled in Hong Kong as fisherfolk.

The Boat Dwellers

The Boat Dwellers spoke a peculiarly accented version of Cantonese, and their sea-borne habitat covered the coastal waters of Guangdong and Guangxi. Legend has it that their ancestors were prominent clan members from Central China who took to the sea to escape war and persecution. It is also believed that they may be descendants of the ancient Yue people who once populated Guangdong and Guangxi provinces. The Boat Dwellers traditionally spent their entire lives on boats and engaged in such marine-related trades as fishing, oyster-farming, pearl-diving, preparing salted fish and ferrying goods and passengers. In the past, Boat Dwellers segregated themselves from land-based people. They carried out all their daily activities on boats, and only went ashore to carry out major boat repair, shop for necessities, sell their catch or dine in restaurants. When on shore, they were extremely careful not to get into trouble with the land inhabitants.

The Hoklos’ Way of Life

Originally from Guangdong, Hong Kong’s Hoklo people are distinct from other Chinese ethnic groups from the same province in their language, customs and dresses. Hoklo women pay much attention to their hair buns and hairpins. Their traditional dress is a colourful blouse of loose cutting with side fastening, narrow long sleeves and no pockets. The Hoklo’s distinctive clothing traditions are expressed in children’s clothing and baby-carrying straps, which are decorated with colourful beads, shiny sequins, jingling bells and floral trimmings. In the past, the Hoklo lived on boats and a bride was ferried to the groom’s home on a ceremonial ‘dragon-boat’ rowed by married female relatives from the groom’s family. Today, as the Hoklo people have settled on land, this old marriage custom has been transformed into a ‘dragon-boat dance’, in which women dancers simulate the rowing of a boat.

Way of Life of the Punti

When the Mongols invaded Central China at the end of the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279), many prominent clans escaped with the Song court to southern China. Some of these clans settled in Hong Kong and their descendants became the Punti or ‘local’ people. Punti, who speak a dialect of the Cantonese language, were traditionally farmers, landlords and shopowners. Today, many clan-based Punti communities still live in the walled villages that originally protected their ancestors from bandits. A Punti walled village comprises parallel, regimented rows of houses ringed by a fortified village wall and, sometimes, a moat. Punti culture stresses respect for ancestors and striving for the common benefit of the clan. The focal point of every Punti village is the ancestral hall, which is used for ancestral worship and celebrating major festivals, during which Cantonese opera performances and lavish banquets are staged.

Way of Life of the Hakka People

The Hakka people came originally from north of the Yellow River. A series of migrations brought them to the southern Chinese provinces of Fujian, Jiangxi and Guangdong. The Hakka began to settle in Hong Kong from 1648 onwards, but by this time, the fertile plains had already been occupied by the Punti, and the Hakka had to settle on poorer land in hilly areas. In the past, Hong Kong’s Hakka people were predominantly farmers who were identified by their traditional clothing, a black or blue loose-fitting, pyjama-like set of work clothes known as *shanfu* (literally “shirt and trousers”), worn by men and women alike. Traditionally, Hakka women took care of daily household chores as well as worked in the field. When they were not farming, they made mud bricks, tailored clothing, dyed cloth and did handicraft work. Hakka home cooking is plain and simple, but the Hakka sweet pastries prepared for festivities are rich in favour.

Highlight Exhibits

Hakka

Hakka women’s costume

The Hakka came from the basin of the East River and the County of Mei in Guangdong, and mainly lived on farming. The practical and thrifty ways of the Hakka people can be best illustrated by their style of clothing which shows a high degree of simplicity and little adornment. The upper garment and trousers set is the outfit most commonly worn by both men and women. They prefer plain colours, usually in blue and black. It was popular for Hakka women to wear a cool hat for protection against insects and sunburn when working outdoors. The cool hat is simply a flat circle of woven bamboo surrounded by a blue or black cotton fringe with a hole in the centre. Headcloths in dark colours were also favoured. Patterned bands are hand woven and typically flat with tassels at either end. Tassels serve many purposes, including tying the “cool hat” to the head, holding the rectangular headcloth in place, and fastening the apron across the back.



A *liangmao* (“cool hat”) worn by Hakka women when working in the fields

Hoklo

Hoklo women’s costume

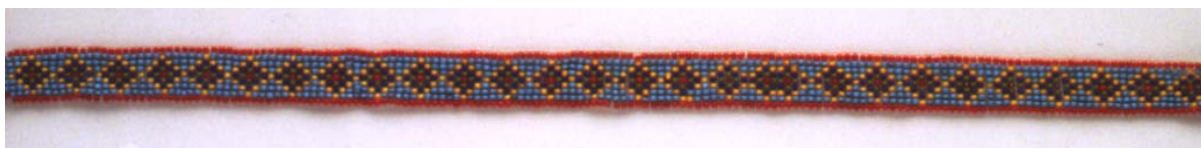
“Hoklo”, also known as “Foklo”, migrated to Hong Kong from the coastal area of Fujian, Chaozhou, and Hai-lu-feng in Guangdong. They mainly lived on fishing or farming. The traditional clothing of Hoklo women have changed little over the last 50 years, except that the length has gradually shortened. The upper garment is more fit than those worn by Punti and Hakka, having long narrow sleeves without pocket, said to be unnecessary for dwelling and working on boat. Although most of the clothes are made of cotton, those worn by elderly women are sometimes made of wool. Colours are brighter than those worn by Punti and Hakka. Compared with the other ethnic groups, Hoklo women wear many elaborate ornaments in their hair, especially on festive occasions.



Hoklo child’s necklace with enamel lock in the shape of a butterfly. Metal charms in auspicious styles are attached to the necklace to protect the child from demons and other evils

Boat Dweller

Beaded bands worn by a woman Boat Dweller. They are usually used as hat straps



Traditional Marriage Customs and Ceremonies

In past agrarian communities, weddings were usually held at the end of the year when farming activities had ceased. On the eve of the wedding, the couple would each conduct a ‘hair-combing’ ceremony that symbolized their passage into adulthood. The groom’s family would engage a ‘good-life woman’ (a woman who had enjoyed a long, prolific marriage) to perform a ‘bed-installing’ fertility rite in the nuptial chamber. As the wedding day drew close, the bride-to-be would live secluded in the loft of her parents’ house and express her pre-marital anxieties through traditional songs. On the wedding day, the bride would be carried to the groom’s house in a decorated bridal sedan-chair. During the wedding ceremony, the couple would kneel and bow first to heaven and earth, and then the groom’s ancestors and parents. A banquet would be held in the evening and the invited guests would become witnesses to the marriage.

“The Three Letters and Six Rites” in Traditional Chinese Marriages

In traditional Chinese society, marriage was considered the most significant event in a person’s life. The matrimonial formalities known as the ‘three letters and six rites’ were scrupulously observed as they had direct bearing on the legitimacy of the marriage. ‘Six rites’ refer to the six successive procedures for two families to bring their son and daughter from the marriage proposal to the wedding ceremony, while the ‘three letters’ are the written confirmation of the successive stages of the formalities.

Marriage Proposal and Betrothal

Arranged marriages were standard practice in traditional Chinese society. The parents of two matchmaking families would first compare the birth and astrological particulars of the son and daughter being matched, and if these were compatible, they would arrange to meet their prospective son- or daughter-in-law. Upon mutual satisfaction, they would confirm the marriage engagement. The groom’s family would then send the required betrothal gifts to the bride’s family. After that, the bride would be brought to the groom’s home on an auspicious date.

The Wedding Ceremony

In past marriage customs, the bride was carried on the back of the bridal matron to the chair of the bridal sedan, which was heavily curtained to shield her from inauspicious sights. As she was carried to the groom’s house, grains were sprinkled to distract evil spirits. The bride’s arrival was greeted with explosion of firecrackers, and she stepped over a basin of fire or water at the entrance threshold to deter evil spirits from following her into the groom’s house.

A *shusi* (‘partly threaded’)-style wedding costume worn by a bride, comprising a jacket and a skirt both embroidered with the “dragon-and-phoenix” motif





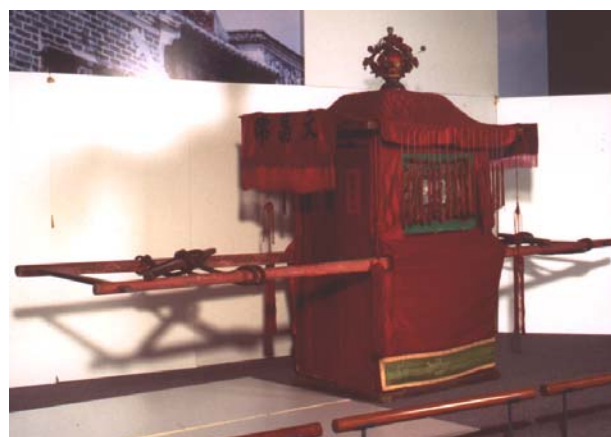
A silver tripod presented by a group of guests to the bride and groom for their wedding, 1930s



Bridal stand with basin

Bridal Sedan Chair

This bridal sedan chair was made in the early 20th century, and owned by the “Tin Cheong Ho” shop at Cheung Chau. The shop was closed in the 1970s. Bridal sedan chair was commonly used for transporting the bride in traditional wedding. It was enveloped in heavy curtains in order to protect the bride from running into persons and objects that would cause her harm. These included persons who were widowed, sterile, in mourning or deformed, or pregnant women, animals like cats and dogs, or others such as high pagodas, bridges and wells. Even encountering another wedding procession coming from her opposite direction was considered inauspicious. Legend has it that if the bride ran into a pregnant woman, her chance of bearing children would be reduced substantially.



Traditional Puppetry in Hong Kong

Chinese puppetry, which probably appeared as early as the Han dynasty (206 BC-220 AD), is a performing art that combines the elements of drama, dance, literature, painting and sculpture. Hong Kong originally had only Cantonese puppet troupes, whose performances with wooden-stick puppets, iron-rod puppets and string puppets were staged mainly for village festivals. The art flourished in Hong Kong in the 1970s when Fujian-style string, glove and shadow puppetry was introduced. By the 1980s, the number of puppet performances in Hong Kong decreased drastically as Cantonese opera replaced puppetry as the preferred performance for village festivals. Because of this decline in popularity, insufficient young talents were attracted to the art and many puppet troupes were forced to disband as their ageing puppet masters retired. Today, puppet performances are staged occasionally in cultural venues or in some of the village Ta Chiu ceremonies held in the New Territories.

Rod puppet character:
Wusheng (male warrior)



Glove puppet character :
Wusheng (male warrior).



Puppet Theatre

Title: *Di Qing Sanqu Zhenzhuqi*
(General *Di Qing* Repeatedly Defeats
the Barbarians)》

Plot Outline:

In previous Acts, General *Di Qing* of the Imperial Song scored repeated victories over the Barbarians. But in this Act, he was finally defeated by the Kingdom Shan Shan after a series of fierce battles and was received by the Shan Shan as the royal son-in-law. Yet in his heart he remained loyal to his kin. Determined to return to the Song, *Di Qing* made the Princess drunk one day and then fled. By the time the Princess recovered, her royal husband had long gone. Burning with anger, the Princess set off to capture *Di Qing*. This scene shows *Di Qing* and the Princess meeting in the forest ready to do battle.



Backstage of puppet theatre

The backstage of a puppet theatre is where puppeteers take a rest and puppets are assembled. There are mainly four categories of puppet heads, namely *sheng* (male lead), *dan* (female lead), *chou* (clown) and *jing* (painted face) representing characters of different gender and persona. When dressed with different costume and accessories, the puppets can develop into various roles for different stories.



Parade : Float Procession

The grand parade is the main spectacle in the Cheung Chau Bun Festival, taking place on the afternoon of the third day. The procession is made up of deities in sedan chairs accompanied by lion and unicorn dancers. Gathering at the Pak Ti Temple playground, the procession winds through the entire festival area on the island with the aim of pacifying evil spirits and preventing diseases. During the procession, floats carry children standing erect who are colourfully dressed as historical and mythical figures, while others portray movie characters and contemporaries with a twist of humour. The float on display features the well-known legend of the Cowherd and the Weaving Girl.



Bun Mountains and Floral Boards



The Bun Mountains stood at the Bun Festival in Cheung Chau are constructed with bamboo and wooden poles at a towering height of 54 feet. Framed with decoration of colourful floral boards, flags and couplets, the bun mountains are covered with over 18,000 buns sewn together with hemp strings. Those buns are filled with sweet lotus paste and

stamped with the auspicious word, *shou* (longevity) in red ink. The bun mountains were originally offerings to gods, and those who could grab a share of the buns would be protected by gods. There used to be exciting bun scrambling at mid night after all the rituals had been performed. The practice was suspended after the collapse of a bun mountain in 1978. These years buns are distributed to the participants peacefully the next morning.

Pak Ti Temple, Cheung Chau

The Pak Ti Temple on Cheung Chau Island, also known as Yuk Hui Kung, is a centre of religious activities of the Islanders, built by the natives of Waichow and Chiuchow many years ago.



Pak Ti (Emperor of the North), a patron deity, is alternatively known as Yuen Tin Sheung Ti (Supreme Emperor of the Heaven). Legend has it that Pak Ti was born some 3,000 years ago in Luk Fung County, Kwangtung Province. He practised perfection since his youth. During the fall of the Shang Dynasty, the Demon King ravaged the universe. Pak Ti was appointed by the Jade Emperor to wipe out the evils, which he did

successfully. On his triumphant return to the Heaven, he was awarded the title of Yuen Tin Sheung Ti. The presence of the tortoise and the snake under the feet of the statue of Pak Ti symbolizes the victory of the righteous over the evil.

In 1777, a bubonic plague broke out on Cheung Chau. In desperation, the Islanders brought a statue of Pak Ti from Wai Yeung County to Cheung Chau in the hope that the plague would be suppressed. Miraculously, the plague disappeared. In 1783, the natives of Waichow and Chiuchow on the Island gathered together and appointed their leader, Mr Lam Yuk, as the organizer in the construction of a temple in honour of Pak Ti.

Since its completion, the Pak Ti Temple has undergone several renovations. The first one was carried out in 1822; the second one in 1838; and the third one in 1858. The costs of renovation were met by donations from the main ethnic groups on the Island – the natives of Waichow, Chiuchow and Cantonese. When the temple was renovated once again in 1903, it was agreed that a collection box was to be set up in the temple for voluntary donations from worshippers. Proceeds from these donations would be used to pay the temple keeper's expenses, and the surplus would be used to hold ceremonial rites.

The Pak Ti Temple, once it was built, had been administered by the residents of Cheung Chau, either living on land or around the waters of the Island. However, from 1929, the management was taken over by the Chinese Temples Committee. Since then, the keepership right of the temple has been offered to public tender annually.

The busiest times of the Pak Ti Temple are: (a) the birthday celebration of Pak Ti on the 3rd day of the Third Lunar Month, and (b) the Bun Festival, or *Taiping Qingjiao*, which would last for six to seven days in the Fourth Lunar Month of the year, the auspicious dates being determined by divination.

The *Jiao* Festival is held in different parts of Hong Kong, such as Kam Tin (Yuen Long), Gau Yuek (Sha Tin), and many outlying islands. But the *Jiao* celebrations there are held less frequently, and in lesser scale. The carnival-like float procession on Cheung Chau, well patronized by residents and visitors, is one of the most eminent folklore celebrations in the territory.

The origins of the *Taiping Qingjiao* ceremony can be dated back to the mid Qing Dynasty, when a plague took a heavy toll on Cheung Chau. The residents prayed at the Pak Ti Temple and hired Taoist priests to have the Island spiritually cleansed. Soon the plague disappeared. Since that time, the ceremony has been held annually for generations.

The *Taiping Qingjiao* is a colourful event with a wide range of complicated ritual activities. The richly decorated float procession include, to name just a few, the parade of patron deities carried in portable shrines, the staging of theatrical performances in the open, together with unicorn and lion dances on the streets.

By tradition, the climax of the *Taiping Qingjiao* ceremony was a spectacular activity known as “Scramble for Buns”. Devotees climbed over the “Bun Mountains”, the tallest might be as high as 80 feet, in order to take down the buns hundreds of thousands in number. They believed these buns could bring them blessings. From 1978, due to the occurrence of a disastrous incident, this has been suspended by the local authorities, and instead the buns are distributed to the devotees on a first-come-first-served basis.

Pak Ti, as a popular deity, is widely worshipped by Cheung Chau residents who would come to invoke blessings or to offer thanks. The male descendents of some residents are even presented to Pak Ti as ‘adopted sons’, so that they could pass in life under divine protection.

Chong Ling Tang Ancestral Hall, Fan Ling

Chong Ling Tang Ancestral Hall, the main ancestral hall of the Tang clan of Lung Yeuk Tau, was built in the early 16th century in memory of Tang Chong Ling (1303-1387), the sixth generation descendant of the clan. It is situated on a site in between Lo Wai and Tsz Tong Tsuen. The plaque above the doorway, bearing five Chinese characters ‘Chong Ling Tang Kung Tsz’, were written by Cheung Wai Sum in 1921.



Lung Yeuk Tau, also called Lung Ling (Mountain of Dragon), is located at the northeast of Luen Wo Market in Fan Ling, New Territories. The Tang clansmen in Lung Yeuk Tau originated from Kat Shui County of Kiangsi Province. They are the descendants of Tang Lum, the eldest son of the princess of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279). At the end of the Yuan Dynasty, Tang Lum moved to Lung Yeuk Tau, where he built Lo Wai. As the clan prospered, it further branched out to the neighbouring areas, establishing the preset-day “Five *Wais* and Six *Tsuens*”.



The construction of ancestral halls of different varieties – such as the halls of the clan, of the ancestor, and of the family – has been common in Kwangtung Province. The ancestral hall was a place for worshipping ancestors, a centre for socializing, and a venue to maintain clan solidarity. The disputes among clansmen were also settled, through the mediation of village elders, in the ancestral hall. The wealth of a clan is

always reflected in the decorations of the ancestral hall, as is the case of Chong Ling Tang Ancestral Hall, which is exquisitely decorated with fine wooden carvings, polychrome plaster mouldings, and murals of auspicious motifs such as ceramic fishes and lion figures fully reflecting the superb craftsmanship of the old days.

Chong Ling Tang Ancestral Hall has been, and still is, the venue for a number of activities such as ancestral worship, festive celebrations and meetings of the villagers. It is also the place for holding the “Lighting Lantern” ceremony in the first Chinese Lunar Month and the *Jiao* Festival, carried out once every ten years. In the past, this ancestral hall was also used as a place for the education of children as well.

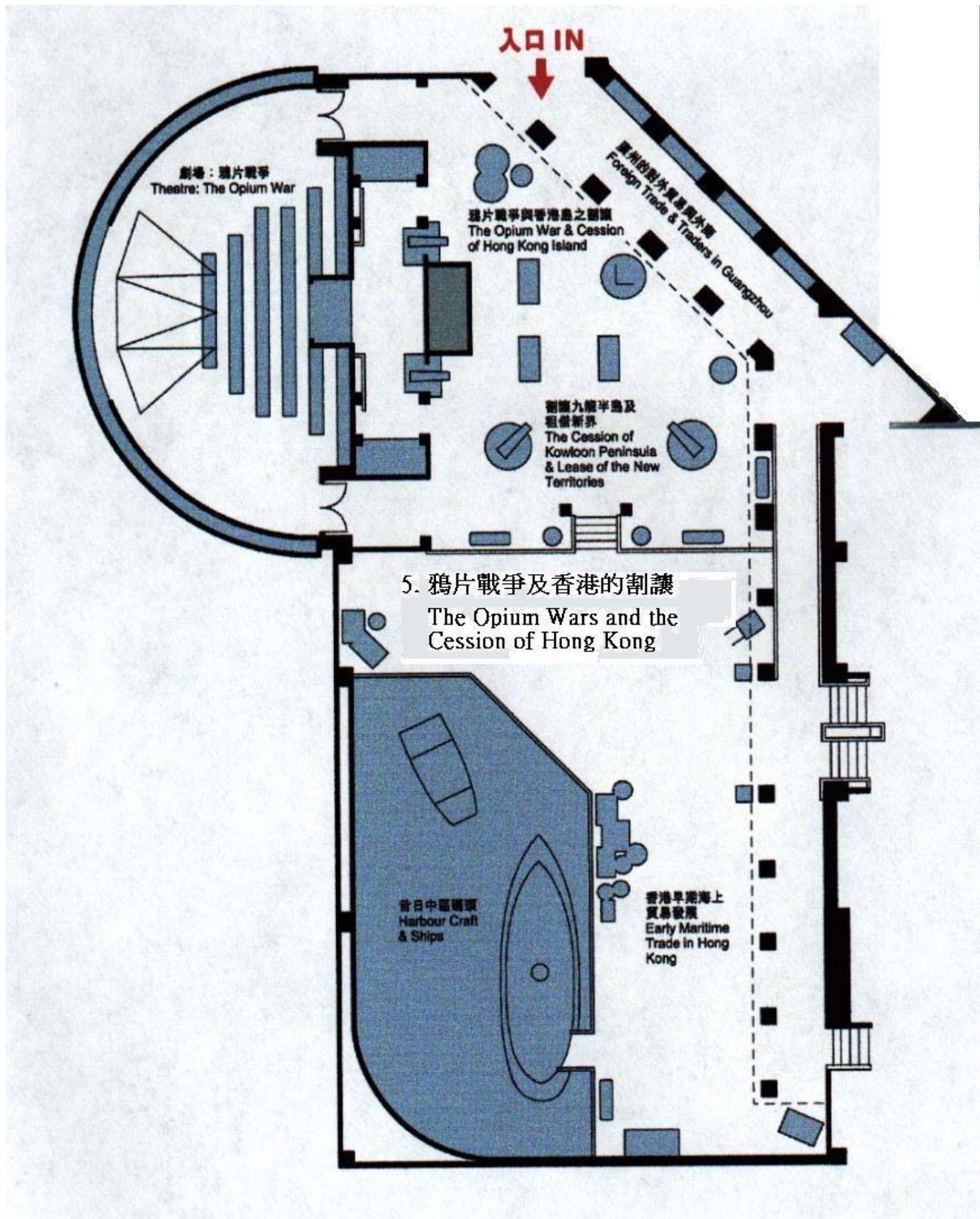
Gallery 5: The Opium Wars and the Cession of Hong Kong



Gallery Information

After the defeat in the Opium Wars, China ceded Hong Kong to Britain, an event which proved to be a watershed in the history of the territory. This gallery outlines the Opium Wars, their causes, the way they unfolded and the consequences. Going back to events before the Wars, visitors can trace the discovery of the new sea route from Europe to Asia, the arrival of the Portuguese in Macau and their mercantile activities there, the institution of the 13 *hongs* of Guangzhou, and early Sino-British relations. To complete the events relating to the territory, the ceding of Kowloon and the loan of the New Territories to Britain are recorded. On display are two historically significant monuments : the Napier Column from the Hong Kong Cemetery and the Fountain Arch originally erected in Possession Point. To create a semblance of the actuality of war, the Bogue Forts, used by Qing soldiers to repulse the British in the First Opium War, has been reconstructed. A video inside the Forts narrates the events leading up to the war, the war itself and its aftermath, designed to give visitors a clear understanding of the First Opium War.

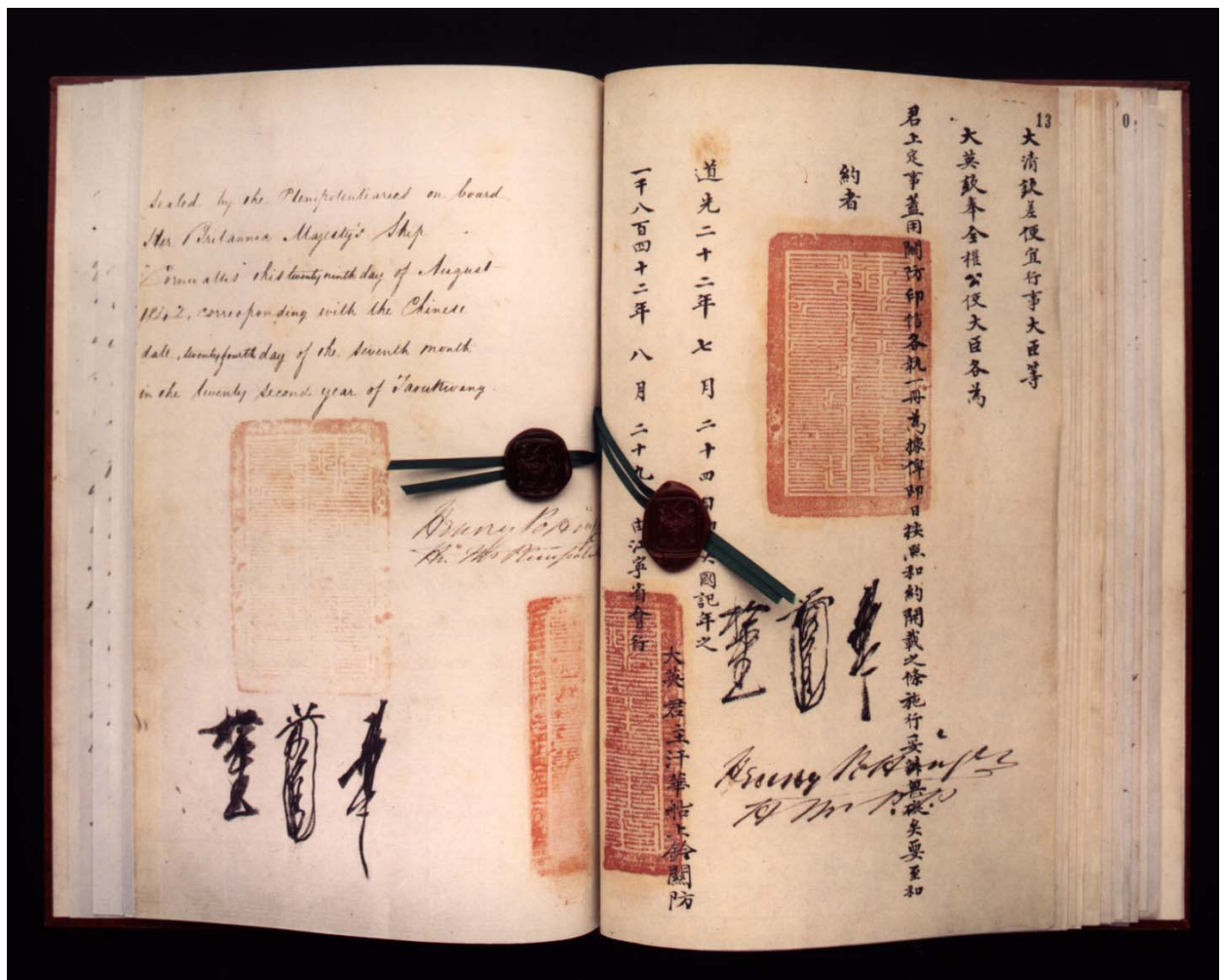
Gallery Layout



Highlight Exhibits

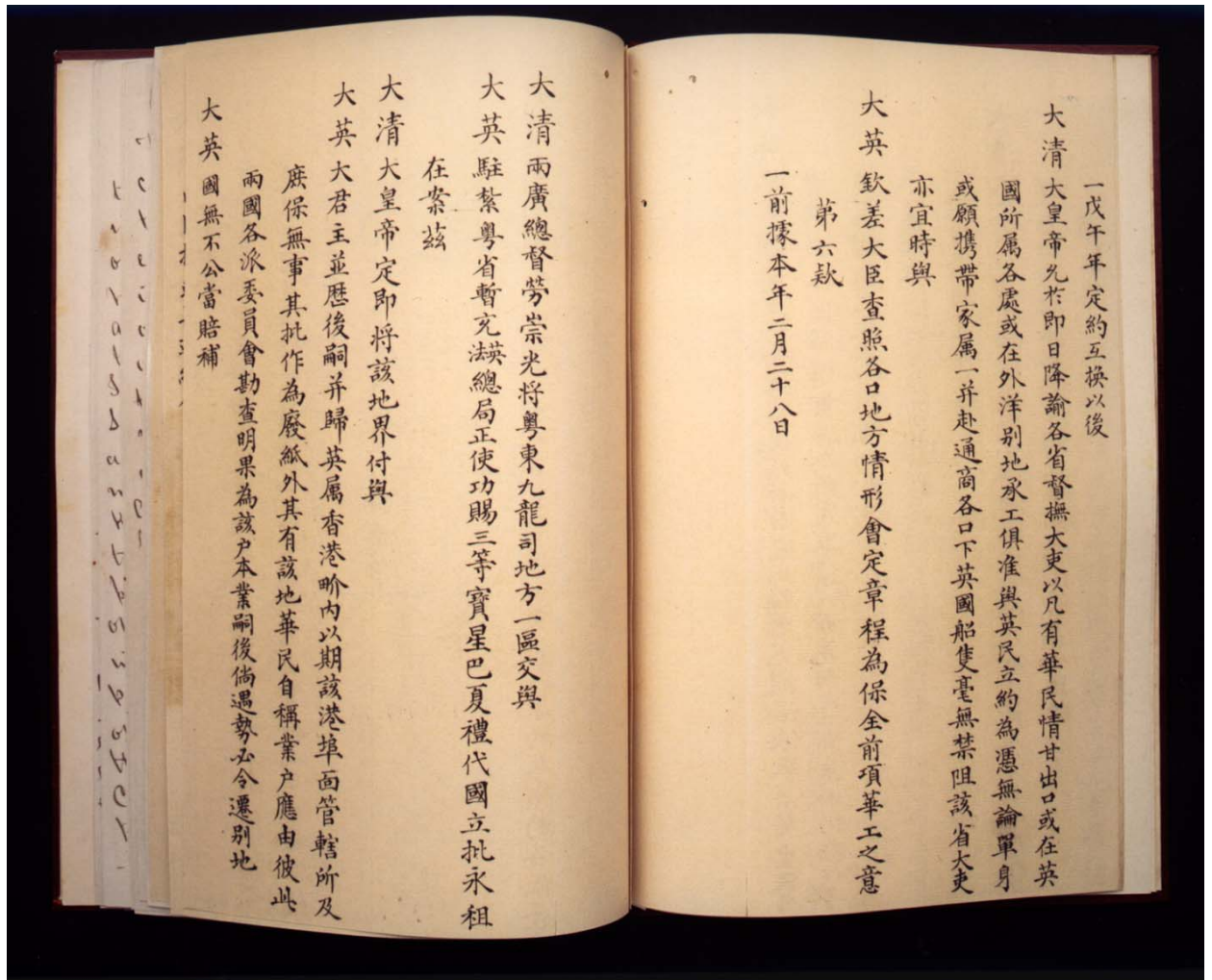
“Treaty of Nanking” (replica)

The main body of this Treaty comprises 13 Articles. The third Article stipulates the cession of Hong Kong Island to Britain as a Far East base for the British to store their goods and repair their ships.



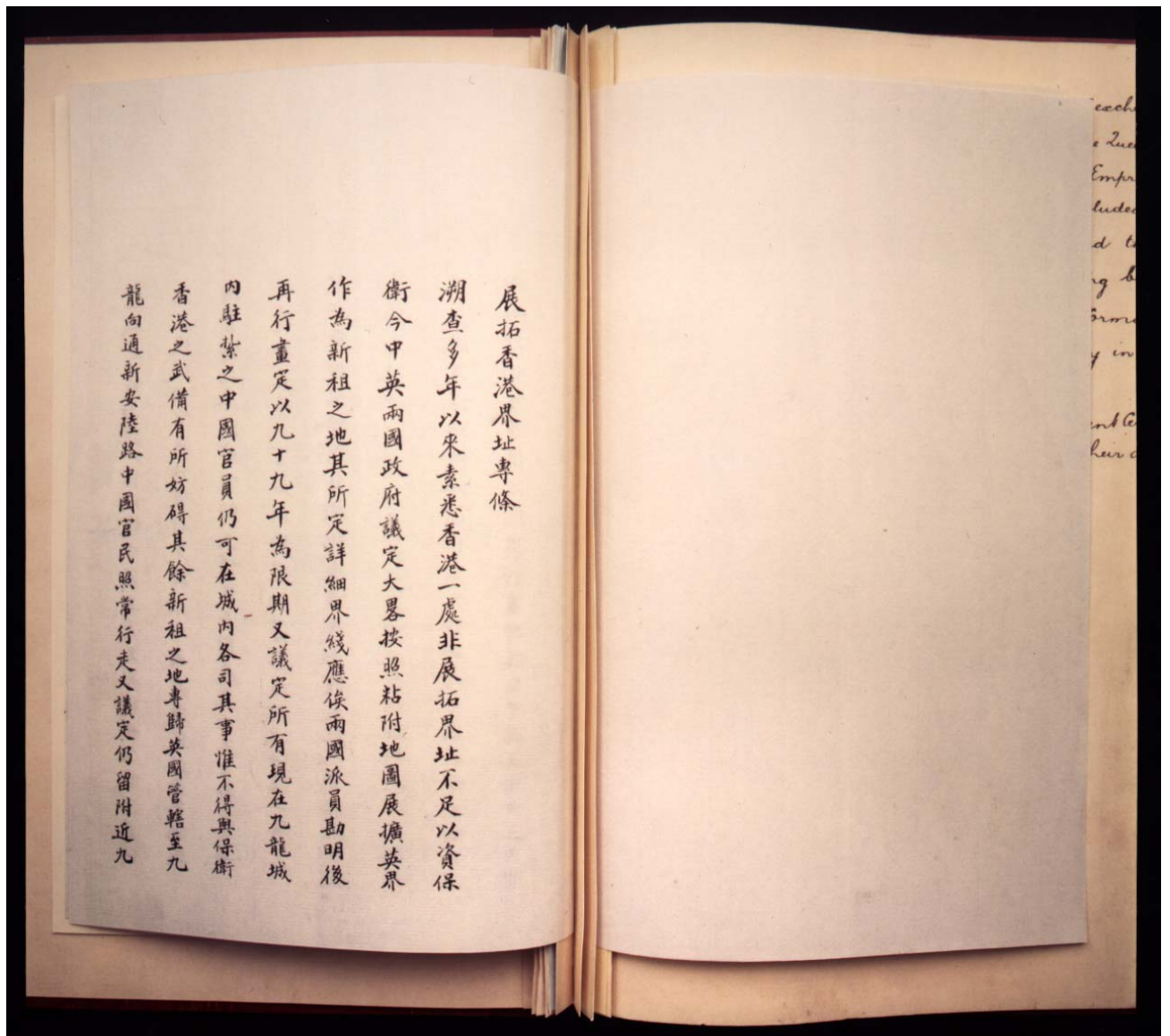
“Convention of Peking” (replica)

This Treaty comprised nine Articles, the sixth one stipulating the cession in perpetuity of the Kowloon Peninsula south of the Boundary Street, including Stonecutters Island, to Britain.



“Convention Respecting an Extension of the Hong Kong Territory”
(replica)

The main body of this Treaty stipulates the lease of the remainder of Hong Kong territory (later known as the New Territories) to Britain for 99 years from 1898, with the Qing government retaining jurisdiction within the Kowloon Walled City.



The Napier Column

Following the abolition in 1833 of the British East India Company’s monopoly on the China trade, William John Lord Napier (1786-1834) was sent to China as Britain’s first Chief Superintendent of Trade to negotiate new arrangements with the Chinese. He failed, contracted fever in Guangzhou, and died in Macau in 1834. This monument was produced with funds collected from the British community in Guangzhou shortly after his death. It was salvaged in 1953 from a local marble grinding shop when it was about to be pulverised. Until recently it stood in the Hong Kong Cemetery at Happy Valley, after which, with the kind permission of the descendants of Lord Napier, this historic monument was placed in the care of the Hong Kong Museum of History.

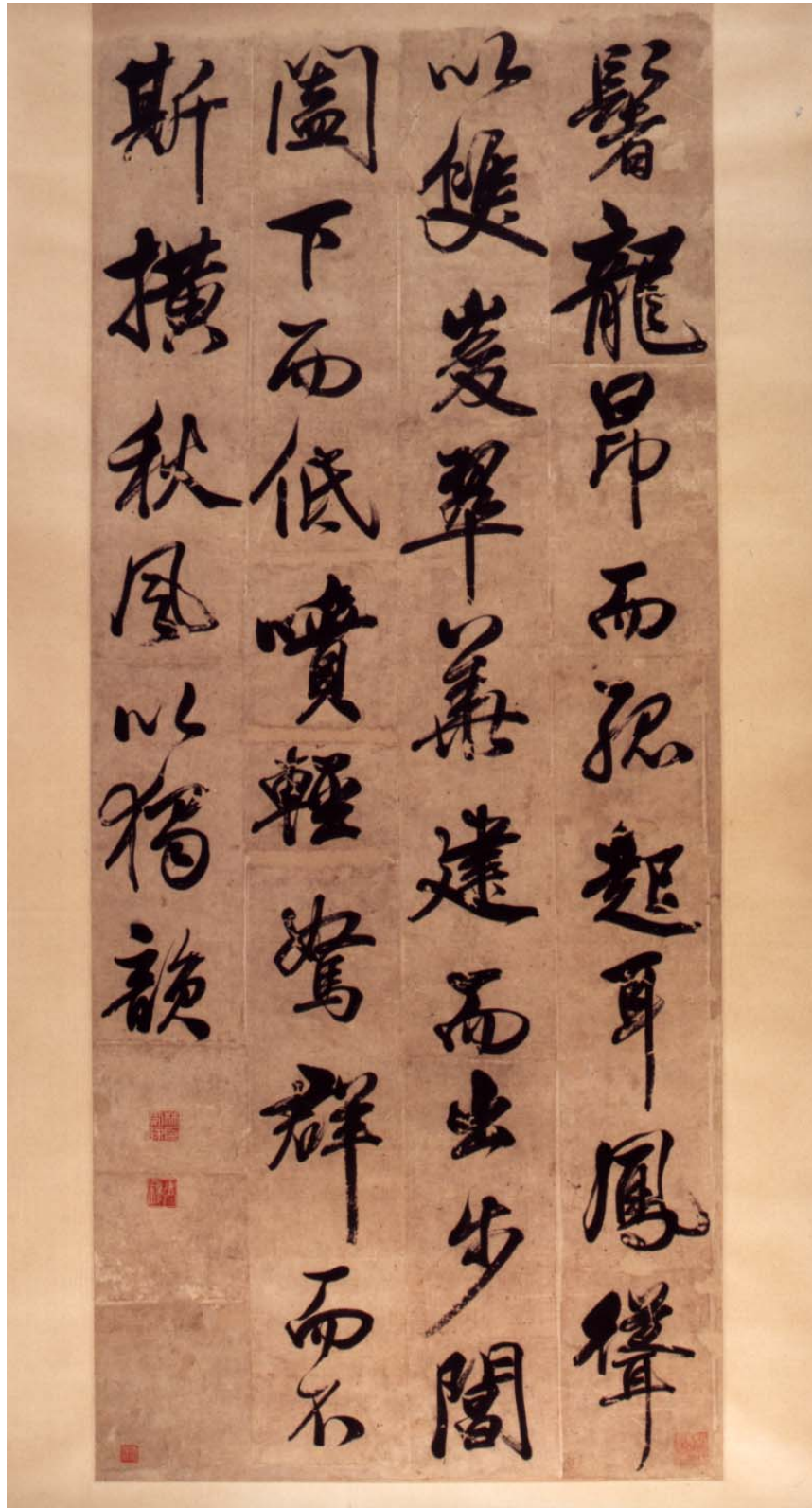


The Arch of Fountain

The Arch of Fountain formerly stood at Possession Point (now Hollywood Road Park) where British troops first landed on 25 January 1841. It was removed in 1978 to the Hong Kong Museum of History.



A vertical scroll in running script by Commissioner Lin Zexu



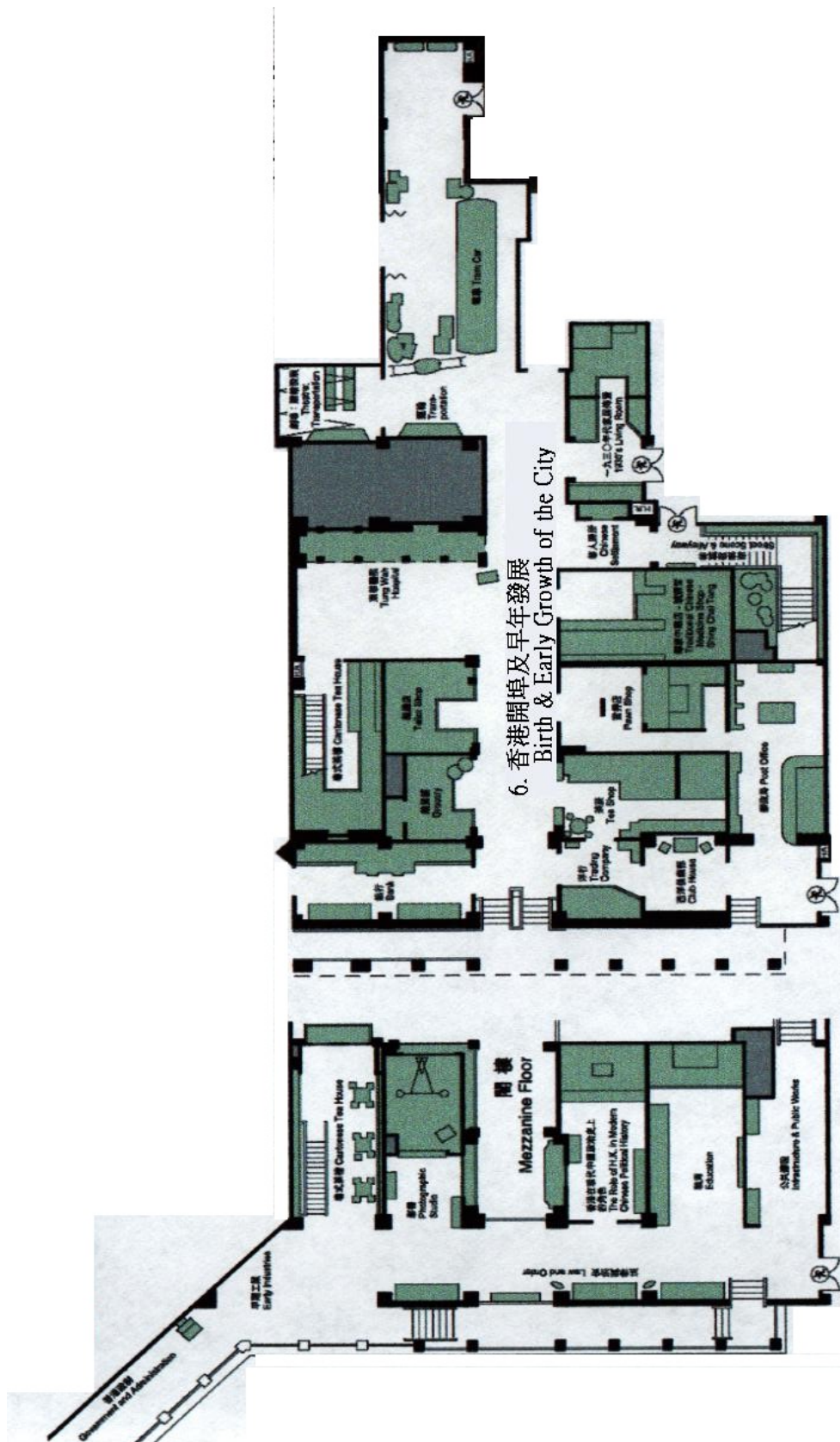
Gallery 6: Birth and Early Growth of the City



Gallery Information

On entering this gallery, visitors will be astounded by the sight of an imposing three-storey European style structure adjacent to a port scene and against a background which is an enlarged old photograph of Kowloon. Moored to the bank is an old steam launch. Behind the building stretches an old street scene lined with a variety of shops : tea shop, tailor's shop, pawnshop, grocery store, Cantonese teahouse, post office, bank, as well as the delightfully quaint *Shing Chai Tong* selling herbal medicine. There is even a double-decker tram. Each of these is animated by sounds peculiar to it - vendors calling out their wares, the sound of tramcar, cart, and so on. The whole area is lit with a dim yellow light from street lamp, imbuing the scene with an ambiance of the days before 1941. Developments in Hong Kong's political structure, the law, people's livelihood, industry and education are highlighted in the displays in the mezzanine. A further topic is Dr. Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary activities in Hong Kong and the role the territory played in the modern history of China.

Gallery Layout



Highlight Exhibits

Hong Kong \$25 banknote issued by the Oriental Bank in 1879

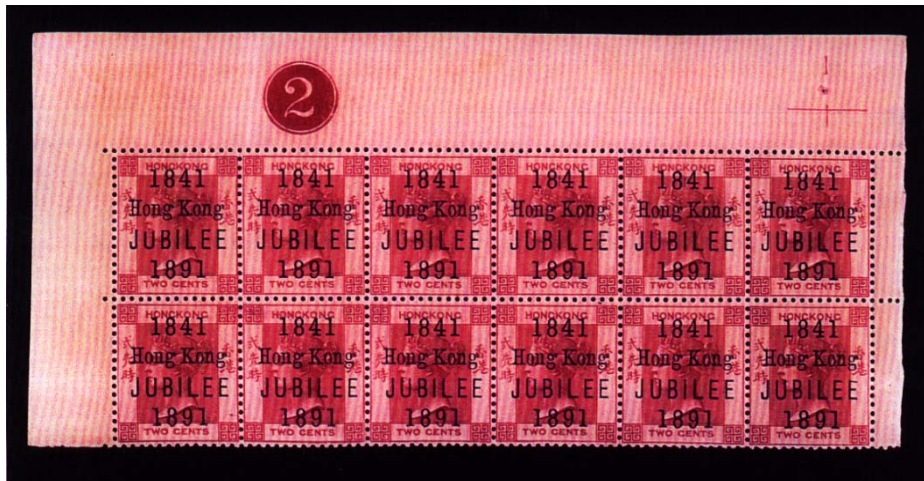


This banknote was issued by the Oriental Bank on 7 May 1879 and signed personally by the Bank Manager.

The Oriental Bank Corporation was formerly known as the Bank of Western India and was founded in Bombay of India. Back in the 1820s, the bank was among the first to set up branches in Shanghai and Guangzhou to provide banking services in the Mainland. In 1845, the bank reorganized itself and established its branch and the very first bank in Hong Kong. The same year the bank started to issue banknotes in Hong Kong with a total face value of HK\$56,000 claiming to be the first note-issuing bank in Hong Kong history. It was not until 1851 did the bank finally obtain the Royal Charter to officially issue Hong Kong banknotes. Over the years, the bank issued four denominations of banknotes, namely HK\$5, HK\$25, HK\$50 and HK\$100. The bank had its heyday in Hong Kong from the 1840s to 1870s, even the Hongkong Bank and the Standard Chartered Bank were not its rival at all. Yet due to a business failure in coffee investment, the bank collapsed abruptly in 1884 closing its brief chapter of 39 years in the history of Hong Kong currency. We could only catch a glimpse of its glory from those rare and precious banknotes which still remain today.

A block of twelve of Hong Kong Jubilee commemorative stamps, 1891

The Hong Kong Jubilee stamps were issued on 22 January 1891 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the colony. It was the first commemorative stamp ever issued in Hong Kong. Words showing “1841/Hong Kong/Jubilee/1891” were printed in four rows over an 1883 Victoria carmine 2-cent stamp. Only 50,000 Jubilee stamps were issued. Their limited supply aroused quite a sensation on the day of issue. The post office was packed with philatelists since early morning. Unexpected high demand forced the post office to limit sales to 25 stamps, and later to 20 stamps for each customer.



Pillar Boxes of Colonial Hong Kong

The postal service in Hong Kong was modeled on the British system. Many postal items used in Hong Kong, including pillar boxes, used to be produced and imported from Britain and therefore sharing the same signature style. It was until the 1980s that Hong Kong began to produce its own pillar boxes. Marked with number 25, this pillar box used to serve the Yau Ma Tei area standing at the junction of Waterloo Road and Portland Street. This wall posting box made during the reign of George V from 1910 to 1936 with the insignia inscribed in the cursive script “GR” & “V”. Written in cursive script, “GR” is the abbreviated term for “GEORGIUS REX” in Latin, it meant George V.



Herbal Medicine Shop – Shing Chai Tong Herb Company



Shing Chai Tong was formerly located at 180 Queen’s Road Central. It was one of the first Chinese herbal medicine shops in Hong Kong. The furniture and fittings of more than hundred years of age were acquired by the Museum in 1980 when the shop closed for urban redevelopment. Our Museum dismantled the entire shop and reconstructed in this gallery according to its original layout.

Running most of the length of the store is a counter made of solid wood, called the “Long Dragon”. The head of the counter where money was collected was called the “Precious Dragon Head”. Behind this part of the counter sat the chief shopkeeper. The far end is the “Dragon Tail”, on which always stood a brass mortar. Every morning a simple ritual known as “Prospering the Dragon” was performed to commence the day. The chief shopkeeper behind the counter head would take up his abacus and shook it to make some sound. This was echoed by the stamping sound of a pestle against the mortar on the far end of the counter, done by his deputy. This ritual was meant to evoke a prosperous business.

Moon cake price list from Tim Nam Lau Teahouse, 1937

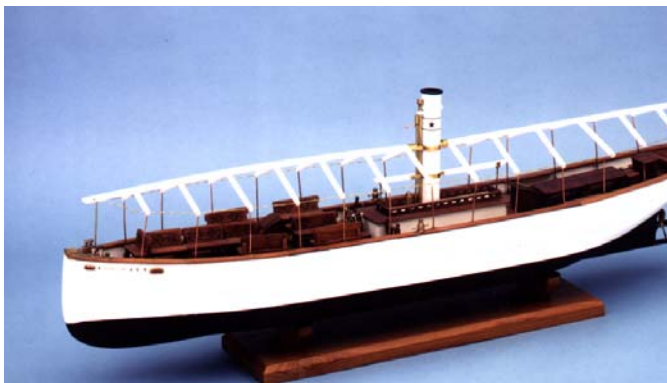
Worshipping and admiring the full moon during the Mid-Autumn Festival (15th day of the 8th lunar month) are folk customs whose origin could be traced back to the Pre-Tang period. Early moon cakes were largely homemade. From the Ming dynasty onward, bakeries specializing in making moon cakes emerged to meet the growing demand of the market. Moon cakes varied in appearance, filling and taste from region to region. Cantonese versions were known



for their thin crust and wide choice of rich fillings. Here is the moon cake paper or price list issued by Tim Nam Teahouse in 1937 shows the rich variety of Cantonese moon cakes they offered. In addition to regular lotus seed paste filling, there were also straw mushroom with roast duck, and pork marinated with fermented red bean curd to choose from. Moon cakes in the shape of Buddha and the Three Immortals were also available.

Trouser Suit of Chinese Lady in 1910s and 1920s

In early years of Hong Kong, from the 19th to the turn of the 20th century, *aoqun* in a set became the favoured outfit of the wives and daughters of the notable and wealthy families for joyous and formal occasions. These vividly coloured jacket and skirts were exceedingly elaborate in styling and detail, showing excellence of workmanship. A rich variety of techniques including embroidery and appliquéing were employed to add auspicious symbols and beautiful patterns. *Ao* (upper garment) of the earliest style was amply cut to create a loose garment with wide sleeves, usually long enough to reach the knee. It had a low collar or no collar at all. The garment continued to have a right or mid-front fastening lapel. The skirt *qun* was of Qing style, and consisted of two segments wrapping round the lower part of the body. One of the preferred kinds was the pleated skirt. The pleats were folded and stitched at the sides of the skirt. There might be as many as 100 pleats and therefore the skirt bore the name “skirt of one hundred pleats”. The trouser suit shown here was one of the popular patterns of the 1910s and 1920s.



Model of the Star Ferry “Rising Star”

In the 1870s, Dorabjee Nowrojee, the founder of the Star Ferry named his steam launches as “Star”, but the Star Ferry Company Limited was only established in 1898 and continued running steam launches between

Tsimshatsui and the Central. The “Rising Star” came into services from the 1890s to 1902, and was the last single-deck ferry of the Star Ferry Company Limited. The ferry was provided with a canopy to protect passengers from unstable weather conditions, and fitted with wooden bench seats for the first class passengers whereas standing capacity was given in the stern for the third-class passengers. The vessels were all wooden hulled before 1904, but replaced by steel then.

Pawnshop - Chun Yuen Ngat



This pawnshop was founded 200 years ago by Tang Lim-ming, father of a local gentry, Tang Pui-king. The original structure of Chun Yuen Ngat is largely intact. A traditional signboard hoisted at the entrance with a shape of bat and coin in which “Chun Yuen” and “Ngat” characters were written meaning “fortune is plenty”. The doors and wooden gates as well as the strong walls insured it against robbers. Today, Chun Yuen Ngat still preserves its traditional pawnshop building and structure erected in the Old Market of Yuen Long.

Pawnshop, a traditional trade, existed even earlier before Hong Kong was occupied by the British. Before the establishment of banking institutions in Hong Kong, pawn shops played the role of financial institutions where people deposited personal belongings as a pledge for money borrowed. In the past, people pawned precious objects such as gemstones, antiques, jewellery, watches, clocks; and daily necessities including clothing and cotton quilts. Pawnshops were busy during the beginning and the end of Lunar New Year. Some customers would pay to retrieve their cotton quilts and jewellery for use during the Lunar New Year. In a pawnshop, the counter manager is the most experienced person who was responsible for appraising the offered objects and rating its value. Ticker writer, whose main duty is to write pawn-tickets which state client’s particulars and their pawned items. This display area was modeled after the interior of Chun Yuen Ngat, a pawnshop located in Yuen Long over a century ago.

Calendar Poster Printed by A. S. Watson & Co. Ltd., 1914

This calendar poster was printed by A. S. Watson & Co. Ltd. for the year of 1914. Posters of similar design were also printed in 1900 and 1912. Other than the auspicious motifs constituting the large hollow character “Yi” (meaning “beneficial”) at the centre of the poster and the year calendar right underneath it, most spaces were printed with pictures and texts promoting the company’s goods. Thus the poster was a utility as well as a promotional item. Calendar posters and calendar plaques were popular agents for advertising commercial and industrial products in pre-war Hong Kong.



The Yellow Dragon, 1907

Queen’s College, founded in 1862, was originally named as the Central College and then the Victoria College. It was renamed Queen’s College in 1894. It’s school magazine, the *Yellow Dragon*, published since June 1899, is the longest-standing school magazine in Hong Kong. It mainly reports on school activities as well as news of graduates.

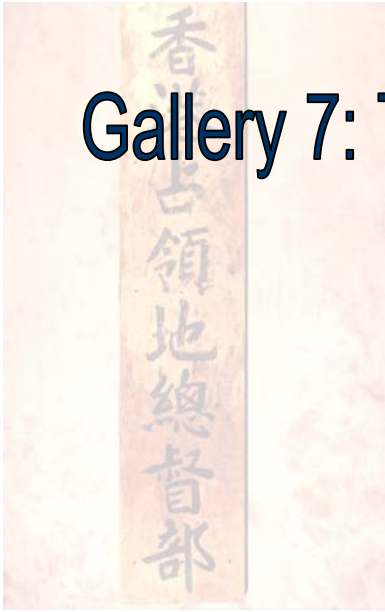
Calendar Poster

These calendar posters were designed by Kwai Wai Hung, and printed by the Asiatic Lithographic Printing Press Ltd. in 1932. Calendar posters were very popular in the 1920s and 1930s, and printed by colour lithography which enabled less chance of colour-fading and made the colours fresh and vivid, somewhat alike the original paintings. The production cost could also be greatly reduced with the use of machine for printing.

The designer, Kwan Wai Nung, came from a painters' family and learnt Chinese paintings with Gui Koo Chuen, who was a pioneer in Lingnan paintings. He set up the Asiatic Lithographic Printing Press Ltd. in 1915. He produced many “calendar girls” to promote a variety of goods and services, including general commodities, cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, foodstuffs, Chinese herbal medicines and western pharmaceutical products, banking services, insurance services, shipping services, and industrial products, and earned the name as “King of Calendar Art”. His specially designed calendar posters reflected the trend of the period.



Gallery 7: The Japanese Occupation



Gallery Information

This gallery has been designed as a dark air-raid shelter in order to conjure up the atmosphere of war. After 18 days of fierce fighting the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Mark Young, surrendered to Japan on 25 December 1941, and Hong Kong entered a dark age which was to last for three years and eight months. Through the display of relics, historic photographs and videos, visitors can witness the horrific battles during those 18 days, learn about the harsh conditions of life in Hong Kong under Japanese occupation, empathize with people's feelings of insecurity and fear, and marvel at the bravery of the guerrillas of the East River Column. An interesting relic is exhibited for the first time: the wooden plaque of the Governor's Office of the Captured Territory of Hong Kong previously installed outside the Hong Kong Bank in Central.



Theatre: Three Years and Eight Months

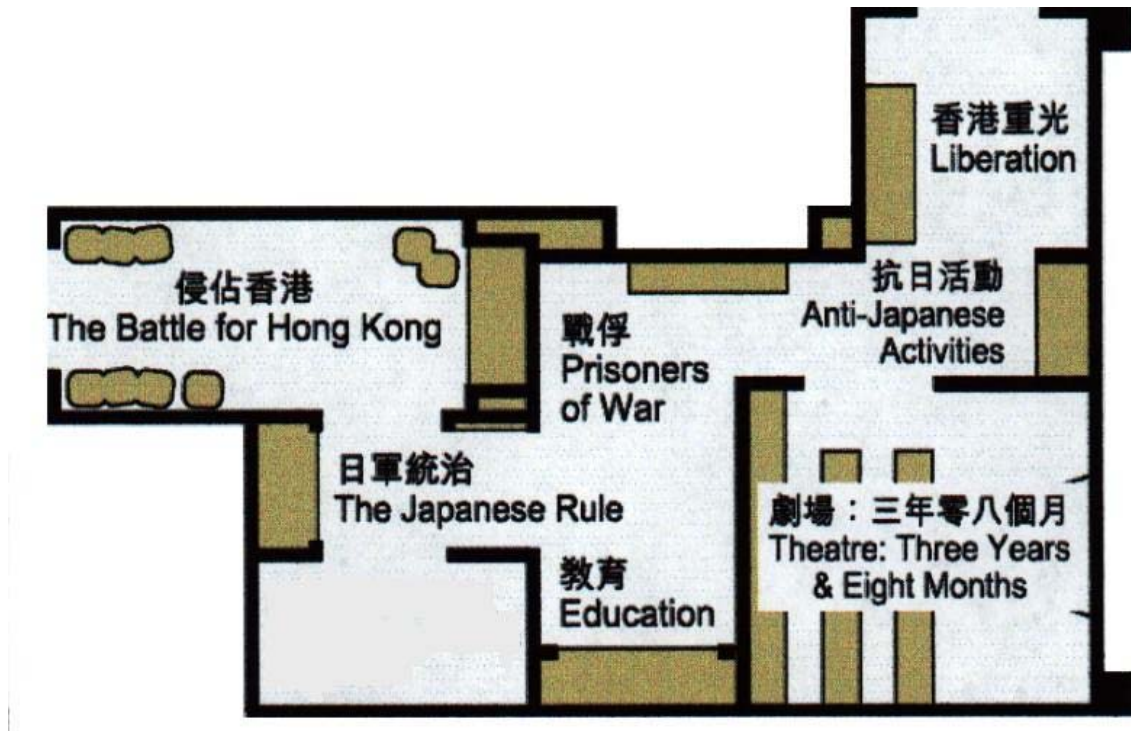
Duration: 6 minutes

Capacity: 20

Screened in Cantonese, Putonghua and English by rotation.

The physical privations and mental anguish inflicted on Hong Kong people during the three years and eight months of Japanese occupation have left indelible memories among those who suffered them throughout 1942-45. The film will take them on a journey to the past, and enable the younger generation to appreciate the hardships suffered by their elders. It is our hope that Hong Kong people and peace-loving people everywhere will not forget the terrible lessons from this episode of history.

Gallery Layout



The Battle for Hong Kong

The Shadow of Japanese Militarism

The growth of militarism in Japan from the late 19th century created the hostile atmosphere in which the ambition to conquer China was conceived. The first move was the annexation of Manchuria in 1931, followed by full-scale war in 1937. Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing fell one after another, and the Japanese conquerors committed appalling atrocities in Nanjing, massacring 300,000 civilians. In 1938 Guangzhou (Canton) fell into Japanese hands, and Hong Kong came under direct threat. Hong Kong's defence at the time comprised only four battalions and some auxiliary artillerymen, plus the locally-raised Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps. To reinforce these meagre forces, the British government deployed two Canadian battalions of 2,000 men to Hong Kong in late 1941.

Japanese Attack Hong Kong

Japanese planes bombed Kai Tak Aerodrome on the morning of 8 December 1941 soon after the attack on Pearl Harbour. The suddenness of the attack caught the Royal Air Force in Hong Kong unprepared and its air defences were destroyed. Having gained control of the air, the Japanese sent their troops across the Shenzhen River, and they marched unimpeded through the New Territories. At the Shing Mun Redoubt the defenders engaged the Japanese in fierce fighting, but the Redoubt was lost, and the defences along Gin Drinker's Bay collapsed. The relentless Japanese advance gave the British commanding officer Major-General Maltby no alternative but to order a retreat to Hong Kong Island. In the next several days the Governor, Sir Mark Young, twice rejected Japanese demands for Hong Kong's surrender.

Fall of Hong Kong

On the night of 18 December Japanese troops landed at North Point, Quarry Bay and Shau Kei Wan. They swiftly captured Mount Parker and Mount Butler, and pressed on to Jardine's Lookout and Wong Nai Chung Gap. In the next few days Mount Nicholson and Mount Cameron both fell into Japanese hands. The defenders attempted several times to launch counter-attacks, but all failed. Major-General Maltby advised the Governor that he was unable to turn the tide, and on the afternoon of Christmas Day, 25 December 1941, Sir Mark Young surrendered to the Japanese, ending the futile struggle.

Hong Kong under Japanese Administration

The "Governor's Office of the Captured Territory of Hong Kong" was established in February 1942, with Lieutenant-General Rensuke Isogai as governor. The government structure comprised the Gendarmerie, the Defence Corps, Civil Administration, Finance, Transportation and Communication. The Japanese government tried its utmost to win over prominent local Chinese so as to exercise control of the Chinese community through them. Under Japanese auspices the "Chinese Representative Council" and the "Chinese Co-operative Council" were set up in March 1942. Under the two councils, the government set up three regional offices in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New

Territories. Each was headed by a Japanese, beneath whom were 28 district bureaux, each headed by a Chinese. Thus the Japanese administration of Hong Kong was carried out on a district basis.

Population and Repatriation

Before the war the estimated population of Hong Kong was 1,600,000, including refugees newly arrived from China. The Japanese were quick to realize that it would be a problem to provide a population of that size with food, housing and other necessities. In order to relieve the pressure, the government set up, as early as January 1942, a "Repatriation Committee" within the Civil Administration Department to organize trains and ferries to forcibly repatriate large numbers of people to China. By December 1942 the population had been reduced to 1,000,000. Despite this, the shortage of daily food became more acute. Gendarmes would catch people in the street and have them forcibly transported out of Hong Kong. By this and other measures Hong Kong's population was reduced to 600,000 at the time of Japan's surrender in 1945.

Social and Economic Conditions

The three years and eight months under Japanese occupation was a time of untold misery for the people of Hong Kong. Rice, sugar, salt and cooking oil were rationed and other foodstuffs such as vegetables and meat were extremely scarce and exorbitantly priced. Fuel was equally scarce so that electricity, gas and public transport services were gravely affected. To tighten its control of Hong Kong's mercantile activities, the Japanese government organized the majority of trades into cartels. British and other enemy banks were liquidated, and the Hong Kong dollar was replaced by the Japanese military yen as the legal currency. Profligate issuing of the military yen debased the currency, caused runaway inflation and paralyzed Hong Kong's economy.

The Cartels

Hong Kong's economy was plunged into depression. Many shops closed and did not resume business until a degree of social order was restored. The government turned the majority of trades into cartels and placed them under Japanese control. Anyone wishing to start a trade would have to register with the cartel, the registration form tantamount to a business licence. Acting as tax collectors and disseminators of messages, the cartels helped the government to keep the people under control.

Banking and Currency

Following the liquidation of all "enemy banks" such as the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the Chartered Bank and the Mercantile Bank of India, only Chinese banks were allowed to provide limited services. The Yokohama Specie Bank and the Bank of Taiwan were given the prerogative of issuing and exchanging military yen, the legal currency. As time went on, Hong Kong was flooded with so much military yen that it became virtually worthless.

Food Supply

Under food rationing during the occupation, those holding a ration card were entitled to 6.4 taels (320 gms) of rice a day. In 1944, when stocks of rice were exhausted, the government did away with rationing, leaving consumers to fend for themselves in the free market. Sugar, salt, cooking oil, vegetables, meat and fuel were in extremely short supply and prices rocketed. The poor were reduced to subsisting on peanut bran, cassava flour and roots of trees. So desperate were the starving that food snatching was a common occurrence.

Public Transport

Public transport was crippled after the fighting in December 1941 as most conveyances had been destroyed or damaged, or commandeered by the Japanese. Buses, trams, cable cars and ferries returned to service in 1942, and trains in 1943. But since there was a desperate shortage of fuel during the occupation, people resorted to bicycles, tricycles and rickshaws as the main means of transport. They even turned to horse-drawn carts, which carried passengers between Tsim Sha Tsui, Hung Hom and Kowloon Tong.

Education: Japanization of Education

During the Japanese occupation, education in Hong Kong atrophied as there were no school places for many school-age children. The number of students shrank sharply from 118,000 in 1941 to 4,000 in 1945. The policy was to instill Japanese culture by presenting Japan in a favourable light. In middle and primary schools there was compulsory teaching of the Japanese language for four hours a week, and Japanese culture and Japanese etiquette were taught as major subjects in government schools. These measures were designed to exercise more effective control over Hong Kong citizens, and to realize Japan's long-term goal of creating the "Greater East Asian Co-prosperity Sphere".

The East Asia Academy

On 1 April 1943 the Japanese government founded the East Asia Academy as the highest institute of learning in occupied Hong Kong. At first the Academy was well attended because it charged no fees and employment prospects for graduates were good. However, enrolment dropped after some time as the population declined sharply and vacancies in government service became few and far between. All in all, education during the Japanese occupation was poorly run.

Prisoners of War

Prisoners of War

After the fall of Hong Kong, some 9,000 captured soldiers were interned in prisoner of war camps in North Point, Sham Shui Po, Argyle Street and Ma Tau Chung, while 2,700 nationals of Japan's enemy countries were detained in camps at Stanley. The POWs did all the work in their camps; some were sent to Japan to do hard labour for the Japanese army. Congested conditions at the camps and shortage of food meant that internees were afflicted with diseases and hunger for a long period of time, and many died of dysentery and cholera. At the end of the war, a third of the POWs who survived were suffering from infectious diseases, and most were pitifully underweight.

Anti-Japanese Organizations

During the occupation, patriots of the "Hong Kong-Kowloon Brigade of the East River Column" used guerrilla tactics to attack Japanese soldiers and gendarmes, as well as Chinese collaborators working for the Japanese. Another anti-Japanese organization working underground in Hong Kong was the British Army Aid Group. It made a significant contribution by getting food and other necessities into the camps, and passing news to and from them.

Guerrilla Activities

Under Communist Chinese leadership, the Hong Kong-Kowloon Brigade of the East River Column staged fierce underground resistance against the Japanese. One of five brigades of the East River Column, the Hong Kong Brigade, had some 500 members at its height. It was made up of six companies covering Tai Po, Sai Kung, Yuen Long, Lantau, Urban Districts and the Marine Sector. Wu Kau Tang in Sha Tau Kok and Chek Keng in Sai Kung were the guerrilla stamping-grounds. The Brigade's tasks were to rescue intellectuals and foreign prisoners of war trapped in Hong Kong, eliminate local bandits, sabotage the Japanese army's infrastructure, and assassinate Japanese officers and Chinese collaborators.

The Liberation

The United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 and another on Nagasaki three days later, and the Japanese Emperor unconditionally surrendered on 15 August. On 1 September a British Military Administration was established in Hong Kong under Rear-Admiral Harcourt, Commander of the British Pacific Fleet. The ceremony of surrender was held at Government House on 16 September. On behalf of Britain and China, Rear-Admiral Harcourt accepted the Instrument of Surrender from Major-General Umekichi Okada and Vice-Admiral Ruitaro Fujita who represented the Japanese armed forces. On 30 April 1946 Sir Mark Young resumed the governorship of Hong Kong. On the following day the Military Administration ceased to exist, giving way to the re-established civil government which immediately began the task of rebuilding Hong Kong after the ravages of war.

Unconditional Surrender

"On behalf of the Emperor of Japan and the Japanese Imperial Headquarters, we do hereby unconditionally surrender ourselves and all forces under our control to Rear-Admiral Cecil Halliday Jephson Harcourt, C.B., C.B.E., and undertake to carry out all such instructions as may be given by him or under his authority and to issue all necessary orders for the purpose of giving effect to all his instructions."

Major-General Umekichi Okada and Vice-Admiral Ruitaro Fujita
16 September, 1945, at Government House, Hong Kong

Highlight Exhibits

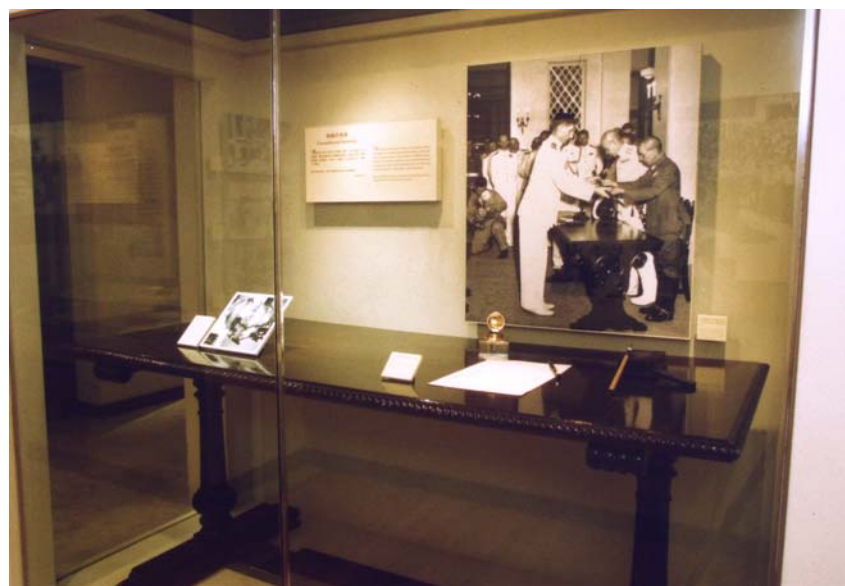
Wooden plaque of “Governor’s Office of the Captured Territory of Hong Kong”

During the Japanese occupation, the Headquarters of Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Central was requisitioned as the “Governor’s House of the Captured Territory of Hong Kong” as proclaimed on this plaque. This plaque was originally placed at the entrance of the bank and was dismantled by Chew Lee Building Contractors in early September 1945, under a commission from Mr. McAlpine who was then the engineer of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. It was presented to the Museum by Mr. Leung Ying Kin on behalf of the late Mr. Leung Hon Cheung, owner of Chew Lee Building Contractors.



Ceremony table

Used during the ceremony of Japanese surrender in Hong Kong held at Government House on 16 September 1945.



Street map of some of the urban districts of Hong Kong Island in 1942

Street map of some of the urban districts of Hong Kong Island in 1942. Note that many main roads, places and buildings had new Japanese names.



Military notes savings book issued by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Hong Kong branch

During the Japanese occupation period, Hong Kong dollar was replaced by the Japanese military yen as the legal currency. The exchange rate for the military yen and Hong Kong dollar was 1:2, and later changed to 1:4. The Yokohama Specie Bank and the Bank of Taiwan were given the prerogative of issuing and exchanging military yen. This booklet is a military notes savings



book issued by the Yokohama Specie Bank, Hong Kong branch, during the occupation period. Dated 1942, this savings book listed out the terms and conditions inside.

Artist’s impression of the Japanese war memorial on Mount Cameron

The Japanese war memorial was built to honour their troops killed during the battle for Hong Kong and the “War of Greater East Asia”. It was high up in the western part of Mount Cameron, at the juncture between Magazine Gap Road and Peak Road. Since it was at the top of the hill, this conspicuous memorial overlooks Hong Kong. The foundation ceremony was held on 9 February 1942. Lieutenant-General Rensuke Isogai led the officials to attend the ceremony and laid down a sword. Although the building cost of the memorial was huge, the Japanese insisted on its construction even in the most difficult period of Hong



Kong in 1944 and 1945. The Japanese enslaved a lot of Chinese labourers to carry out the construction work; but the memorial was never entirely completed before the Japanese surrender. This artist impression shows the Japanese war memorial on Mount Cameron. Being the most conspicuous symbol of the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, this memorial survived for a short time after the occupation in view of its huge scale. The Hong Kong government finally ordered that this 80-metre-high, 900-ton-heavy memorial be demolished on 26 February 1947.

Application by “Vitasoy” to resume operations in 1942

The Hong Kong Soya Bean Products Company was established in March 1940 with its first factory in Causeway Bay. The then population of Hong Kong was around 1,800,000, among whom there were many new immigrants from the mainland. The majority of these people fell into victims of all kinds of illness as a result of malnutrition. In view of the circumstances, Law Kwai-cheung, founder of the Hong Kong Soya Bean Products Company, produced an inexpensive and nutritious substitute for milk, which is known as “Vitasoy”, hoping that the drink could help improve the health of the Hong Kong people. At first, this soymilk



drink was delivered fresh door-to-door on bicycles, and it had to be sold at once or it would spoil. Business grew very slowly. Having produced “Vitasoy” for only one year and nine months, the Hong Kong Soya Bean Products Company stopped its production in December 1941, in the wake of the collapse of Hong Kong into Japanese hands, and sales were merely 1,000 bottles a day. At that time, Hong Kong’s economy was plunged into depression. Many shops were closed and the Hong Kong Soya Bean Products Company was no exception. In 1942, when a degree of social order was re-established, the company began to apply for the resumption of its “Vitasoy” production.



Gallery 8: Modern Metropolis and the Return to China

A Post-war classroom



Gallery

Information



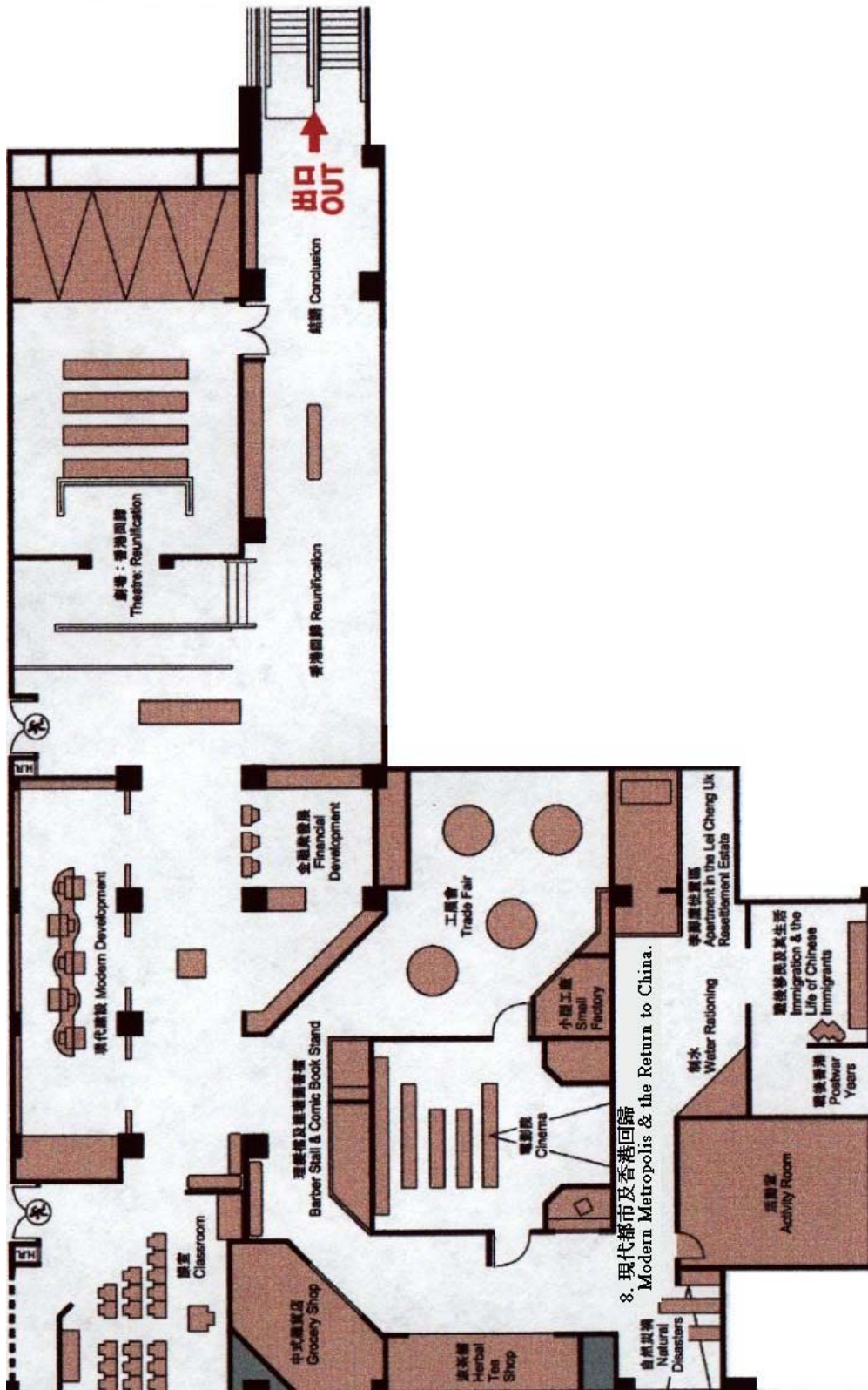
The last gallery of "The Hong Kong Story" traces the story of Hong Kong's postwar development into a modern metropolis. The first part deals with the rapid advances in housing, industry, finance and trade using multimedia and interactive displays. In this area are reconstruction of a herbal tea shop, a grocery shop, a barber shop, a

cinema, and part of the Hong Kong trade fair, all dating to the 1960s. These give a vivid impression of Hong Kong's postwar economic and social climate and the emergence of a commonality shared by the population as a whole. The second part is devoted to the Sino-British negotiations, the signing of the Joint Declaration and the Handover Ceremony marking the return of sovereignty to China, the process recorded by relics, memorabilia and important



documents. A multimedia presentation on the theme of the relations between China and Hong Kong after the war brings "The Hong Kong Story" to a close.

Gallery Layout



8. 現代都市及香港回歸
Modern Metropolis & the Return to China.

Highlight Exhibits

Hong Kong One Dollar Note Issued in 1949

Hong Kong one dollar currency used to be silver coins and issued by the bank. Under the Currency Ordinance in 1935, the Hong Kong Government took over all silver coins in circulation, set up the One-Dollar Notes Exchange Fund and issued one dollar notes itself. Issued by the government for the first time, this lot of one dollar notes featured the reigning British monarch, King George V, and signed by the Financial Secretary of Hong Kong. It was followed by other issues in 1937, 1945 and 1949 with similar design but the new monarch, King George VI; printed in purple, blue and green respectively, together they were known among the collectors as the “Tri-coloured Set”. By 1960, the Government stopped issuing one dollar notes, instead nickel brass coins were minted to become the new currency of Hong Kong one dollar.



E79.307 (Back)



HK\$100 Note Issued by the Mercantile Bank Limited in 1958



E79.53



The banknote shown here features a landscape scene on its front and a Western mythical figure on its back. This was a popular design adopted by paper money of the mid-20th century. The Mercantile Bank Limited, originally known as Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China, began operation in Hong Kong in 1857. After obtaining the Royal Charter a the same year, it started issuing paper money in Hong Kong in 1860. In 1892, it forfeited the Royal Charter and renamed itself “The Mercantile Bank of India Limited”. In 1912, it regained the Royal Charter and resumed the issuing of paper money. In 1958, its name was shortened to “The Mercantile Bank Limited”. From 1964 onward, only \$100 notes were issued. In 1974, it ceased issuing banknotes.

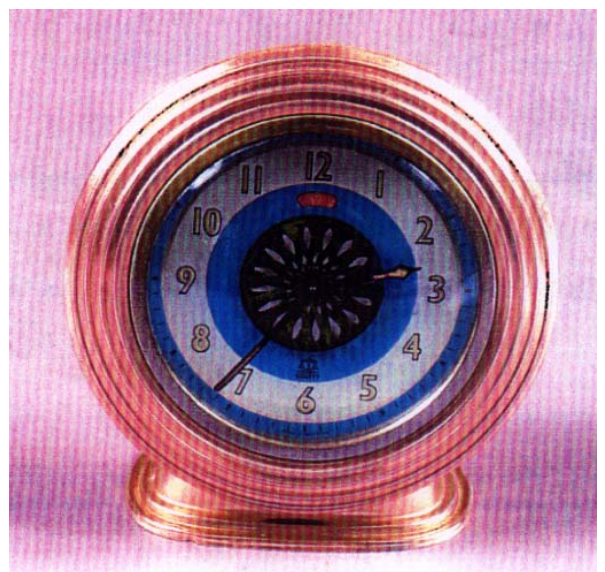
The movie poster for “Fist of Fury”, 1972



Facing competition from Mandarin movies and television programmes, production of Cantonese movies nearly came to a halt. Cantonese movies suffered continuous loss of audience in the late 1960s. In the early 1970s, Bruce Lee returned to Hong Kong from abroad to play a leading role in “The Big Boss”, “Fist of Fury”, “Enter the Dragon”, and “The Way of the Dragon”, subsequently setting off an upsurge of *kungfu* movies in Hong Kong. With the injection of new elements and new styles, local movies saw significant revival. Cinemas were once again full of moviegoers. In the 1970s, *kungfu* movies became the mainstream of Hong Kong movies and many distinguished works were produced. Bruce Lee’s contribution was indisputable.

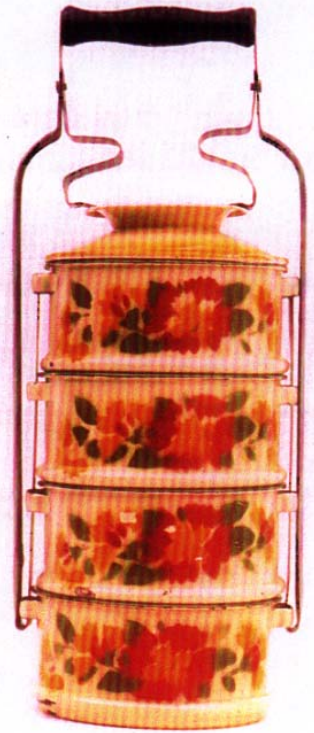
Alarm clock manufactured by Chiap Hua Clocks and Watches Ltd.

Chiap Hua Clocks and Watches Ltd. started making alarm clocks in 1952. The clock shown here is one of its products. The design of this clock was awarded a prize in a design competition launched by the Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong in 1961. Founded in 1933 by the industrialist Cheng Chik-chi, Chiap Hua manufactured mainly military supplies before the war. It was the largest, both in size and output, of all Chinese private factories in pre-war Hong Kong. After the war, Chiap Hua extended its business into light industries. Among its products were torches, stainless steel and silver-plated hollowware, electronic parts, toy motors and electrical household appliances.

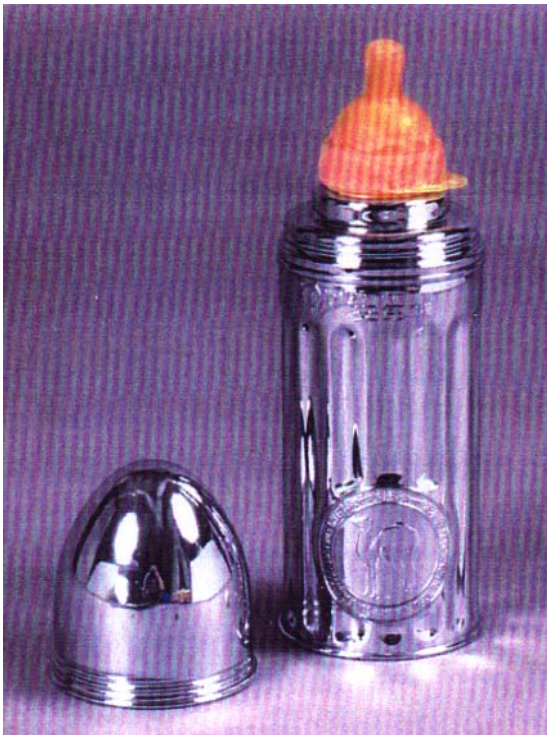


Food container Manufactured by Hong Kong I-Fung Enamelling Co. (HK) Ltd., 1930s

Traditional Chinese food containers were usually made of bamboo, rattan and wood. Until the introduction of enamel in the 1930s, the enamel manufacturing industry became prosperous. Shown here is a tier food container combining traditional shape with novel design and material. It was produced by Hong Kong I-Fung Enamelling Co. (HK) Ltd. In the late 1930s, I-Fung was one of the oldest and largest enamelware manufacturers in Hong Kong. It was firstly founded in Shanghai in 1920. Its products varied greatly in type and style, among which included enameled containers, fireproof utensils, enameled art objects, heat-resistant glass, enameled portraits and enameled tiles, and enjoyed great popularity in Hong Kong and abroad. Export markets included the Southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas.



“Camel Brand” Baby Feeder of the 1950s



Hong Kong started manufacturing vacuum flasks in 1933. Development of this industry picked up momentum in the next few decades while the products became increasingly varied in style. “Camel Brand” vacuum flasks manufactured by Wei Yit Vacuum Flask Manufactory were advertised for their exceptional heat-preserving power. These flasks were well received both in Hong Kong and overseas, and had a large market in Southeast Asia. Wei Yit, specialized in making quality vacuum flasks, was founded by the industrialist Leung Tso-hing. A wide variety of styles was produced to meet diverse needs. Among the products were water flasks, wide-mouthed soup flasks, travel soup flasks, vacuum water flasks, mini refrigerators as well as the “Pion” vacuum baby feeders shown in the picture.

Public Seal of the Colonial Hong Kong Government



Following the colonization of Hong Kong in 1843, Governors of Hong Kong were vested with the right of keeping and executing the Public Seal. The Public Seal was used principally for sealing all Ordinances made by the Governor and adopted by the Legislative Council, and for sealing Proclamations and other important documents bearing the Governor's signature. The seal shown here was specially made for the colonial government of Hong Kong when Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne in 1952, and remained in use until China resumed sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997.

Jumbo Teapot of Wong Lo Kat Herbal Tea

This area demonstrates the typical interior setting of a herbal tea shop in Hong Kong in the 1960s. Situated in the South China region, Hong Kong is characterised with months of hot and humid climate, local Chinese used to drink herbal tea, especially



those bitter ones, such as niansiwei (24-ingredient tea) to lessen the sub-tropical fever. For those who prefer sweeter taste, there are also sugar cane juice, wuhuacha (five-flower tea) and huamaren (a kind of hemp seeds for medical use). To increase the income, some herbal tea shops also manufactured pills and ointments for sale. Special recipes of herbal tea were also sold in packet. By the end of World War II all the way to the 1960s, herbal tea shops were very popular in Hong Kong. Each bowl of herbal tea only cost ten cents at that time. Most of the herbal tea shops were installed with radios and jukeboxes. Customers could listen to the radio or choose their favourite songs from the jukeboxes, and enjoy their drinks. It was especially well-received by the youths. As Hong Kong's economy took off, the entertainment industry diversified, jukeboxes began fading out in the 1970s and vanished in the mid-1980s. Meanwhile, the price of herbal tea has been rising. By the late 1990s, the price for a bowl/cup of herbal tea ranged from HK\$5 to HK\$7. To attract more customers, snacks, such as Chinese cakes and deserts are also served in some herbal tea shops. In recent years, some shops are operated at the modern chain-store mode branching across the territory. Herbal tea shops through a traditional industry are adapting well in modern Hong Kong.

Gold Bar Scale used by the Chinese Gold and Silver Society

In 1910, the Hong Kong merchants set up the Gold and Silver Trading Company for trading gold and foreign currencies. After the international financial turmoil caused by World War I, transaction volume increased tremendously. The Gold and Silver Trading Company expanded, and was registered as the Chinese Gold and Silver Exchange Society in 1920. Business flourished in 1934 when the United States fixed the price of a gold coin, weighing 0.89 tael at US \$20. To avoid losses in foreign exchange fluctuations, big firms in Hong Kong booked gold coins from the Society in advance against their transactions in US Dollars in anticipation of future settlement. At that time, it saw the flourishing period of the Society. But in 1962, the Society encountered the technical difficulties in handling transactions in foreign currencies. It led to the drop in trading, and hence the Society only concentrated on trading in gold bars.



Entries of Regional Flag and Emblem for the Prospective Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

On display here is the collection of the entries of regional flag and emblem for the prospective Hong Kong Special Administrative Region submitted in 1988.

According to the Sino-British Joint Declaration, a panel of 11 members was formed by the Basic Law Drafting Committee in May 1987 to select the regional flag and emblem for the prospective Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. A public notice was put up in *Renmin Ribao* to invite submissions of designs across the nation and overseas. A total of 7,147 entries were received during the period from 20 May 1987 to 31 March 1988, out of which 26 were chosen in May and 6 were further singled out in October of the same year. The selected 6 entries were tabled for discussion at the 8th Plenary Session of the Basic Law Drafting Committee in January 1989. When none of the entries managed to get more than half of the votes as stipulated to win, the panel came up with 3 sets of new designs revised from the selected entries and put forth to the Drafting Committee on 16 February 1990 for a secret ballot. At the 3rd Session of the 7th National People’s Congress held on 4 April 1990, the regional flag and emblem of the prospective Hong Kong Special Administrative Region were eventually chosen and adopted.



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