

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, HONG KONG BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

Telephone/fax : 2813 7500

e-mail address : <mailto:membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk>

web address : <http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org.hk/>

20th JANUARY, 2006

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Friday, 24 th February	City Hall Lecture	Liu Chi-wen – Revolutionary Leader
Saturday, 4 th March	Local Visit and Talk	University of Hong Kong Library Visit
Saturday, 11 th March	Local Visit	Sheung Shui Ta Tsui
3 rd -15 th April	Overseas Trip	Study Tour to Yunnan and Tibet
Friday, 28 th April	AGM	Annual General Meeting and Dinner, Hong Kong Club

City Hall Lecture

Friday, 24th February

Liu Chi-wen – Revolutionary Leader

Liu Chi-wen (1890–1957), from Canton (Guangdong), was a follower of Sun Yat-sen in the revolution that toppled the Manchu Dynasty in 1911. He was educated in Japan, at the London School of Economics and at Cambridge. He was best man at the wedding of Chiang Kai-shek and Soong Meiling in 1927. In 1928, Liu became Mayor of Nanjing and in 1932 Mayor of Canton. Roads, bridges and noted civic buildings that Liu was responsible for still stand; these include the Mausoleum of Sun Yat-sen in Nanjing and the Pearl River Bridge in Canton. Liu Chi-wen became a household name in China during the middle decades of the 20th century, for his political prominence as well as for his personal glamour and the rumours that surrounded him.

Dr. Betty Wei, a historian and a Council Member of the RAS, is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College, New York University and the University of Hong Kong. She is perhaps best known to members of the RAS for her book, *Shanghai: Crucible of Modern China*. Having been a schoolmate and longtime friend of two daughters of Liu Chi-wen, the family asked Betty to compile his biography, which was privately published in 2005. Dr. Wei's research was based on Liu's diary and letters, and interviews with his wife, children and colleagues, as well as academic and general publications.

Each person attending the lecture will be given, *gratis*, a copy of the 184-page book, *Liu Chi-wen: Biography of a Revolutionary Leader*, which is lavishly illustrated with family photographs.

Speaker: Dr. Betty Wei Peh T'i

Time: 6:15pm
Venue: Extension Activities Room, 8/F, City Hall High Block, Central
Cost: The lecture is free and open to the public
Booking: No booking is required

Local Visit and Talk

Saturday, 4th March

The University of Hong Kong Library

Dr. Anthony (Tony) W. Ferguson is from America, from the western state of Idaho. His earliest memory of things Chinese was looking up into the second floor office of the Hip Sing Association whenever his father's car passed by it in the capital city of Boise, then populated by 35,000 people. Red lanterns and incense burning was very exotic stuff for an Idaho boy. He later took Chinese when a first year university student and subsequently lived in Taiwan from age 19 to 21 where he developed a total fascination with all things Chinese and learned to speak Putonghua. Upon returning to the U.S. he resumed his studies and eventually obtained masters degrees in political science and library science but always taking more Chinese classes along the way. Nearly 10 years ago he went back to school and earned a doctorate in comparative education and academic administration at Columbia Teachers College. He has served in library management positions at three universities, including 16 years at Columbia University, before coming to the University of Hong Kong in 2001.

Tony will talk about the digital revolution as it has affected the study of Asia, with particular attention to the amount of scholarly electronic information that there is in Chinese. He will conclude with observations on how the use of electronic information has, and is continuing to transform libraries. The University of Hong Kong's library system is about to celebrate the addition of their one-millionth e-book. About half of these are in Chinese and the other half in English. During his talk he will link to examples from a number of collections to illustrate his topic. Following his presentation optional library tours will be given along with information on how to get reader's and borrower's cards.

Speaker: Dr. Tony Ferguson

Time: 10:00am. Meet in the foyer of the University Library. Among many means of transport to the University, convenient buses include nos. 23, 40 and 40M from Pacific Place and no. 3 from Central outside Jardine House; alight at the University bus stop on Bonham Road, going up the stairs and lift. Maps and signs show the location of the Library.

Cost: Members: \$50; Guests: \$100.

Booking: Please return the booking form on page 10 by 25th February. Space is limited and as usual 'first come, first served'. Those accepted will not be notified.

Local Visit

Saturday, 11th March

Visit to the Sheung Shui Ta Tsiu

The villagers of many places in the New Territories hold periodical major religious rituals known as the Tai Ping Ching Tsiu ("Pure Sacrifice for Great Peace"), but more colloquially as the Ta Tsiu ("Celebrating the Sacrifice"). The Ta Tsiu usually lasts for several days and nights (usually five). The aim is threefold. On the one hand, the villagers hire Taoist priests to hold a long series of rituals which placate the ghosts of all the men and animals who have been killed since the previous Ta Tsiu, and which cleanse the area from all malevolent spirits. At the same time, all the Gods known to the villagers are invited to enter a specially erected temporary temple, so that the villagers can worship them all, to ensure that the deities are aware that, if the villager does not normally worship one of the gods, this is not through any unwillingness. Every village sends a group of elders to worship "all the gods" on behalf of the village every day of the Ta Tsiu, and every family does the same. This ensures that the area is brought back into a good and mutually satisfactory relationship with all the deities. Finally, the Ta Tsiu is an essential factor in the local indigenous society: those villages which jointly

celebrate the Ta Tsiu recognize each other as “brothers”, and it is at the Ta Tsiu where this brotherhood is most deeply celebrated and publicized. Anyone can take part in the rituals, but only the villagers may take a formal, ritual, role.

The Ta Tsiu is immensely colourful and exciting. The temporary temple for all the gods, and the temporary temple for the Taoist priests, with stalls selling good-luck tokens, offices for the organizers, and shelters for great rattan and paper statues of the Gods of Wealth and the Underworld are set up on some open ground, with a huge matshed for Chinese opera. Every day processions headed by the Taoist priests are to be seen, and visiting groups of elders accompanied by lion and unicorn dances, and hundreds of happy people visiting, worshipping, and watching the opera.

Since holding the Ta Tsiu is immensely expensive (several million dollars), few places can afford to hold one every year (the Bun festival at Cheung Chau is an annual Ta Tsiu). Some places hold it once every five years, most once every ten years. A few places hold it less frequently. Sheung Shui is one place which holds it only once every sixty years. The Sheung Shui people will hold their Ta Tsiu this year, from Monday, 6th March to Saturday, 11th March (six days). Since the last celebration, in 1946, had to be small-scale because of problems in the immediate post-War period, no-one alive can be said to have witnessed a full-scale Sheung Shui Ta Tsiu. The Sheung Shui elders have been planning their Ta Tsiu for well over a year, and it promises to be highly spectacular.

Dr. Patrick Hase, Immediate Past President, will lead a group to the Sheung Shui Ta Tsiu on Saturday, 11th March. The group will meet at Sheung Shui KCR Station at 9.15am (implying departure from East Tsimshatsui KCR Station by 8.30am latest), and walk to the Ta Tsiu ground. The members may stay for as long as they wish, and can make their own way back. It is hoped that a vegetarian meal will be available for those Members who remain at the Ta Tsiu ground until 12.30pm.

Please note that everyone involved in the Ta Tsiu is required to be vegetarian for the period of the Ta Tsiu: Members and their guests attending should ensure that they bring no meat products with them (e.g. in sandwiches). While opinions differ as to whether alcohol is permitted during the Ta Tsiu, it would be best not to bring any alcohol along either.

Participants: Members and Non-Members travelling with and as the guests of Members (spouses of Members who are not themselves Members are treated as Non-Members)

Meeting Time and Place: 9.15am in the main foyer of Sheung Shui KCR Station

Cost: \$100 for Members and \$150 for Non-Members, to include lunch (no reimbursement should Members leave before lunch)

Booking: A Booking Form is on page 11 of this Newsletter. Please return it no later than 27th February.

Overseas Visit

3rd - 15th April

Study Tour to Yunnan and Tibet

We now have 35 members in this group. As the concerned domestic airlines (both CZ and MU) have not yet (20th January) opened the Zhongdian(Diqing)-Lhasa/Gonggar sector for reservations (nor confirmed the sector timings and pricing) beyond 24th March, final calculation of total costing – still expected to be below \$15,000 per person – will be made after Chinese New Year. Consequently, final payment (originally due 10th February) will now be payable by 28th February; participants will be advised of the details as soon as these are available. For further details contact Dr. Brian Shaw: bcjshaw@hkucc.hku.hk.

Annual Event

Friday, 28th April

Annual General Meeting and Dinner

The Annual General Meeting is something that happens ... well ... every year. But that is not to say that it is supposed to be the same thing every year. For this year we are hoping to spice things up a bit. Yes - it will be in the good old Hong Kong Club. But you have to admit - that is not a bad place to be, is it? We may not have singing and dancing (but then again ...) but we are hoping to have a guest speaker of some considerable repute. Seriously - somebody whose books you will most likely

already have on your bookshelf. A name has not been confirmed yet, but we are hoping for some exciting news. However, the most exciting thing about this year's AGM is that YOU are going to be there! This is your Society, and the AGM is the most important opportunity you have in the whole year to come along and make your views heard (if you so wish) or hear the views of others being expressed. Or simply meeting many of our varied and talented (and famous) members.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

We had been discussing the idea at Council meetings for a long while, and then suddenly there it was - the first Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch **Quiz Night**. There was some scepticism as to how popular it would be, but around 35 members and guests came along on the evening of Friday, 25th November. The number of people was a bit on the low side, but all who went were absolutely sure that this event should become an annual fixture in our activities calendar. The organising team of May Holdsworth, Peter Stuckey, Jenny Wu and Richard and Valery Garrett did a first class job of setting questions that were relevant to our Society's interests, thought-provoking and, one has to say, very taxing! The overall theme was "Asia" and there were a number of rounds, with a different group of questions for each round - Hong Kong history (of course!), films (who played the title role in Suzy Wong?), geography (where would you find the Ob?) and a very good section trying to identify Valery's pictures of old Macao and Canton. Six teams competed, the winners being the aptly named "Wind Breakers" (Elizabeth Sinn and her son, Carl Yuen, Hugh Baker, Veronica Pearson and Andrew Olson.) May they go on to break many more!

A large audience of members and friends gathered in City Hall on 2nd December for a tribute to The Reverend **Carl T. Smith**, now 87 years young, our Hon. Vice President. Three close friends of Carl and the Royal Asiatic Society (Hong Kong Branch) spoke movingly about their experiences and close association with Carl. Dr. Elizabeth Sinn, present Vice President, spoke of how she came to know Carl first through his work, in particular his writing about Tung Wah Hospital and Chinese elites, and later through a personal friendship now spanning several decades. Elizabeth spoke particularly of Carl's writings about women in Hong Kong history. She said that Carl "put women back into the picture and made them come alive". Summing up her feelings about Carl, she said that his non-judgmental approach reflects his great humanity and great humility.

Dr. Christopher Munn, the second speaker, wrote the Introduction to the recent re-publication by HKUP of Carl's book, *Chinese Christians: Elites, Middlemen, and the Church in Hong Kong*. Christopher spoke of Carl's 140,000-plus index cards as re-creating the landscapes of Hong Kong, and he felt that perhaps Carl's most outstanding contribution has been the great encouragement and practical help he has given to so many other historians, being responsible for building a community of Hong Kong studies. Finally, Dr. Paul Van Dyke, who has been working with Carl in Macao for the past three years, called it his destiny to meet Carl. Paul, who had researched archives in Europe found he had only half the story. Meeting Carl, who had the other half from Hong Kong and Macao stories, continues to be a wonderful experience to this day. Paul also spoke of the fact that today Carl is working not with index cards but with computers, saying "the electronic Carl has blossomed in Macao". Paul ended by showing slides of the ceremony on 30th October of Carl being awarded an honorary PhD from the Inter-University Institute of Macao, an overseas branch of the Catholic University of Portugal at the Cathedral in Macao.

Following these three tributes, Carl spoke to the audience, thanking everyone, including his wonderful assistant, Ms. Dolly Dabuco Eusala, without whom he would have been unable to continue his research in recent years. Others then added their voices in appreciation of Carl. Afterwards 16 people enjoyed dinner at Maxim's in City Hall, with Carl as the guest-of-honour.

On 9th December, a full house turned out for a talk by **Mr. Ken Raby**, author of *Hong Kong Temples* published earlier this year. Making excellent use of a PowerPoint presentation, Ken included four very interesting videos of temple celebrations as well as many slides of temples and things seen in Hong Kong temples. Particularly interesting was a video of the Fire Dragon, which appears in Tai

Hang, Causeway Bay for three nights each year during the Mid-Autumn Festival. On the day following the talk some 30 members and guests joined Ken for a guided tour of four temples in Shaukeiwan. The group visited the Sing Wong Temple, the Tin Hau Temple, the Tam Kung Temple and the Yuk Wong Temple. Before the tour, several members enjoyed a dim sum lunch with Ken in Shaukeiwan. As the tour was heavily over-subscribed and many were unable to join, it is possible another tour will be arranged at a later time in 2006.

On Friday 16th December a very interesting and detailed lecture, “Crisis in Command: B.A.A.G. and the Politics of Intelligence in China 1942-45”, was delivered by **Lady Sue Ebury** at the Museum of Coastal Defence in Shaukeiwan. Confused and conflicting agendas between the British, the Americans and both the Chinese Nationalists and Communists provided the backdrop for intelligence activities in wartime China. How the British Army Aid Group (B.A.A.G.) was established in 1942 and somehow managed to achieve a large measure of operational success despite numerous obstacles was well-covered.

Our speaker lived in Hong Kong for several years in the 1980s and 1990s, and now resides in Australia. She is probably best known there for her excellent biography of legendary Australian surgeon Sir Edward “Weary” Dunlop. Lady Ebury recently started gathering material for a biography of Sir Lindsay Ride, the wartime B.A.A.G. Commandant who later became Vice-Chancellor of Hong Kong University, which helped form the basis for this fascinating paper. We hope to have her speak to the Society again in the future as her research progresses.

It was ‘full house’ for the visit to the **Maritime Museum at Stanley** on Saturday, 14th January 2006. Dr Stephen Davies, the Museum Director, guided the group and gave a fascinating and informative commentary as members walked round the exhibits. In the Ancient Gallery, the group learnt about the maritime history of the China coast from the Eastern Han to the Qing, the evolution of shipbuilding and design, and the growth of the Eastern trade. Beautifully constructed models of vessels are on display, from a pottery boat from Sichuan Province to a small-scale replica of the junk ‘Keying’, which sailed from Hong Kong to England in 1845-48. These are augmented by spectacular scrolls, paintings, maps and samples of trade goods such as ceramics, tea caddies, fans and silk garments.

Shipping in the modern era is the theme of the second gallery. Some members had fun steering a vessel around the harbour on the interactive mock-up of a ‘Navigation Bridge’. Hong Kong’s role in shipping is reflected in a well-presented range of exhibits and photographs. These show the development of its dockyards and the switch to containerisation. One display focuses on the shipowners who did so much to turn Hong Kong into an international port and maritime centre, particularly Zhejiang-born C.Y. Tung and Y.K. Pao from Ningbo, who became magnates with merchant fleets that were at one time the world’s largest in terms of tonnage. A poignant display tells the story of the tide of emigration from China beginning in the mid-19th century, and of the coolies who sought work and opportunity in the ‘Golden Mountains’ of Australia or North America.

A delicious lunch in a Stanley restaurant, Lucy’s, rounded off the tour.

PRIVATE TALK FOR RASKHB MEMBERS

Don Cohn, local Chinese scholar, collector, tour guide and translator, will be exhibiting some of his extensive Asian collection at Cloth Haven Gallery, in Upper Station Street, Western in early February. The largest section of the exhibition will be Chinese textiles—embroidery, weaving and costume—but there will also be a significant collection of Cultural Revolution posters, as well as other artefacts, including books and Chinese tribal silver jewellery.

As part of the exhibition, Don is offering, free of charge, three time slots for private talks and RASHKB members are invited to attend one of these from 6.30-7.30pm on Saturday, 11th February. He will share his experience of collecting in China over the past 25 years and give the historical, cultural and technical background of a few of his favourite objects, with a focus on the costumes and accessories of the Miao and other ethnic groups of Southwest China, in particular Guizhou Province.

He will talk about what first attracted him to collecting tribal pieces, and how they differ from the Chinese folk art collections, for which he is most renowned.

This is a small intimate gallery and can accommodate no more than twenty people.

Venue: Cloth Haven, 7 Upper Station Street, (look for the yellow sign with a coathanger, just up the hill from 184 Hollywood Road)
Time/date: 6.30-7.30pm, Saturday, 11th February
Booking: Call Jenny Day at 2813 7500 or email membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk if you wish to attend. There is no charge.

CARL SMITH'S INDEX CARDS

Thanks to May Holdsworth, RAS Librarian Julia Chan, and Agnes Lee at the Central Library, all Carl Smith's index cards - some 140,000 - have been moved over to the Central Library in Causeway Bay. They will be stored in new plastic boxes for better preservation and will be placed in locked cabinets beside the RAS Reference Collection. Users will be directed to these index cards on request. The relocation project is still under way so anyone interested should call the Central Library first to check on their availability.

Carl's work on Hong Kong and Macao is unparalleled and these cards are a veritable treasure trove of information for researchers. The Society is indeed very, very fortunate in having this resource in their possession. Apparently at one time Carl was thinking of giving them all to the Library of Congress but instead is passing them on to RASHKB. How much better that they should stay right in here in Hong Kong! Carl has been asked to do a write-up about his cards for the website.

Our thanks go to everyone involved, most of all to Carl himself, for making this transfer possible.

A REQUEST FOR OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF HONG KONG

Newly joined RAS Member Mark Roberts may well be known to a number of you. He recently retired from the distinguished law firm Deacons, where he was Managing Partner. Now he has more time to indulge in his favourite hobby of watercolour painting. He had an exhibition in November in Exchange Square, where he showed a number of his works. These are mainly scenes of Hong Kong, in particular sea-scapes. Mark would like to paint some historic scenes of Hong Kong, and to do so he would very much like to borrow old colour photographs or slides of Hong Kong scenes from 20 to 30 years ago which show scenery, the old junks and fishing vessels, older village houses, temples, shanty type settlements and the like. If you have any that you would be willing to lend, please contact Mark at watercolour2382@hotmail.com. Given his professional standing, you can be absolutely sure that any submissions will be kept safely and returned to you when finished with!

DONATIONS TO THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY HONG KONG BRANCH LIBRARY

This month we thank six donors (one of them unknown) for their contributions to our library.

From Arthur May and Ronald Taylor

§ Hongkong album. Hong Kong: compiled and published by P.C. Lee.
(Vol. 1961-2, 1963-4, 1967-8)

From Robert S. Ward

§ Notes in explanation of the Chao Hui, and such other forms of communication between legation and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as may comprise the seventh quarter's assignment of the work of language attaches in the American legation. [s.l.] : [1993].

From Christine A. Fegan Will

§ The administration of Hong Kong 1940-1945. 1972 (Thesis, University of Queensland)

From Betty Wei

§ Wei, Betty Peh T'i (2 volumes). Liu Chi-wen: Biography of a revolutionary leader. 2005

From an Unknown Source

§ Kin, Bunkyo: Sangokushi no sekai: Gokan sangoku jidai. Tokyo: Kodansha, 2005.

PROFILES AND PEOPLE

This month we bring you the last of the profiles of current Council Members, together with the bios of two members who serve on the Activities Committee, plus the Assistant Secretary.

Dr. Elizabeth Sinn, Vice-president

I was born and raised in Hong Kong but before the 1980s, like many others here, I didn't know much about the history of the place. Then things changed in the 1980s. First I decided to write my PhD thesis on Hong Kong's social elite in the 19th century and started digging away in the archives. As importantly, I joined the Royal Asiatic Society and started to visit places all over the territory and learn interesting aspects of Hong Kong's culture and history. What an eye-opener! I am still learning. This may sound corny, but the RAS is one of the most wonderful things that has happened to me. I made many good friends, too many to list, but among them are Carl Smith and James Hayes, who have been such inspiring teachers. I owe them so much. There were few women on the Council back in the 1980s, but those who were there, Robyn McLean and Anita Wilson, were just fantastic people, and we had terrific fun making things happen and providing mutual support, especially when I became the first Chairman of the Activities Committee. A friend once asked, "Why are you always so happy when you are with 'your RAS people'?" I guess the simple answer is that it's a great experience making discoveries about the place I love with others who share that passion.

I have recently retired as Associate Professor and Deputy Director of the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong. I am currently researching and writing a book on the history of Chinese emigration and its impact on Hong Kong's development. Hopefully at some point I shall be able to share my findings with the Society.

Vanda Cole, Activities Committee

I have been a member of RAS since 1998, and am married with two sons, both of whom were born in Hong Kong and have returned to live here. We arrived in Johore Bahru in 1962 and came to Hong Kong in 1973 – and have never left. For ten years I managed the bookstore at St. John's Cathedral, where I met many interesting customers and authors with wonderful tales to tell of times past. Most weekends I am in Pak Sha O, walking and bird watching.

Robert Candler, Activities Committee

Robert Candler has recently joined the Activities Committee. He grew up on the edge of London and studied politics at the University of Durham, then education at the University of Birmingham. He has spent most of his adult life travelling and working in Asia, including three years in India, working for a charity for street people in Calcutta for some of that time, and a year teaching in Kyoto. He has taught in Hong Kong for ten years and has studied for an MA in applied linguistics at the University of Hong Kong. He enjoys attending as many talks and visits with the RAS as he can and appreciates the way the society has enriched his life in Hong Kong.

Jennifer Day, Assistant Secretary

A long time ago I grew up in England. A few years after getting married and living in London, Scotland and Cambridge, my husband was given the opportunity to work in New York for three years. We said: Yes, great! but definitely only for two years. Then if it didn't work out well for our two school-age children it would have been a great life experience but we could all return home. However,

as so often happens, we never did. After 22 years in the USA we came to Hong Kong and now we are not quite sure where 'home' is to return to! In a past life I had a small weaving business and sold hand-woven clothing locally. Now it is just a hobby but I would like to spend more time at the loom in future. One day last year Mary Painter suggested we had lunch together and after some clever questioning and much discussion about the RASHKB, she asked if I would like her job when she left for England. It then dawned on me that our ladies' lunch had in fact been an interview. I have now been in the job for just over a year. It is a varied and very rewarding position that brings me into contact with many interesting people all over the world and I have Mary to thank for giving me the wonderful opportunity to be a working part of this Society.

OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

The Enchanting Art of Paper-Cutting, Switzerland and Foshan, China

This exhibition features 45 paper-cuts by anonymous artists and ten contemporary Chinese artists from Foshan, Guangdong province, and 55 recent paper-cuts by fifteen contemporary Swiss artists. The Chinese exhibits can be divided into three categories dating to the late Qing/early Republican period, the Cultural Revolution and Modern period. The Swiss paper-cuts, on the other hand, are all recent works by contemporary artists. These exhibits not only express strong local characteristics but also demonstrate the artistic achievements of paper-cutting in both the East and West.

This exhibition can be seen at the University Museum and Art Gallery, The University of Hong Kong, 94 Bonham Road, through to 19th March. Opening hours are Monday to Saturday 9.30am to 6.00pm; Sunday 1.30pm to 5.30pm. The Museum is closed on 29th–31st January and 16th March. Enquiries: 2241 5512.

The Silk Road: Treasures from Xinjiang

The Hong Kong Heritage Museum's current exhibit of Bronze Age to 14th-century artefacts collected from Xinjiang, includes gold ornaments, bronze ware, textile products and funerary items. Opening hours are Monday to Saturday 10.00am to 6.00pm; Sunday and Public Holidays 10.00am to 7.00pm (closed on Tuesdays). The museum is located at 1 Man Lam Road, Shatin. Enquiries: 2180 8188.

Photography Exhibition at the Siam Society

Anyone visiting Bangkok in early February will have the opportunity to see **The Siam Society's** photography exhibition of recent works by Charles Freeland, "In the Presence of the Spirits".

The exhibition features 40 photographs from six countries in Southeast Asia taken over a two-year period. The photographs document the Buddhist and Hindu religious art and architecture of the region. This exhibition accompanies the launch of a DVD-ROM by Charles Freeland entitled, "The Arts and Culture of Thailand on DVD-ROM". Sponsored by the Mahidol University International College where Dr. Freeland is Director of the Humanities Program, the DVD itself is a multi-media presentation with both Thai and English language versions. Adopting a regional and historical approach, the DVD features more than 1,800 photographs and 480 pages of text describing the many dimensions and places of religious arts in Thailand and the neighbouring countries of Sri Lanka, Laos, Cambodia, Burma, and Indonesia.

The Siam Society's address is 131 Asokemontri Road (Sukhumvit 21), Bangkok, and the exhibition runs through until 10th February, 10.00am to 5.00pm, Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, Tel (66) 2 661 6470-7, Fax: (66) 2 258 3491, or email info@siam-society.org.

Royal Academy of Arts, London

If you plan to be in London between now and April 17th, do make time to go to the exhibit at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly; "**China: The Three Emperors, 1662-1795**". RAS members who have already seen it say it is truly excellent, a must-see. This magnificent exhibition is devoted to the artistic and cultural riches of Imperial China. Spanning the reigns of three Emperors, Kangxi (1662-1722), Yongzheng (1723-1735) and Qianlong (1736-1795), it focuses on the most powerful rulers of China's last dynasty: the Qing. Each Emperor employed the greatest artists and workshops of his day to glorify his rule. For more information go to www.royalacademy.org.hk. Tickets can be booked

through this website and are for staggered hours of entrance, commencing 10.00 hours. One should allow probably 2.5 hours to tour the exhibition.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Moving House and other Poems from Hong Kong with an essay on new Hong Kong English language poetry, Hong Kong, Proverse Hong Kong, December 2005. Distributed by the Chinese University Press, Chinese University of Hong Kong. \$98 with audio CD.

RASHKB member Gillian Bickley's second poetry collection speaks of people seen and known and general subjects of daily life observed in a Hong Kong context; an itinerant knife sharpener, a fortune teller at Tai Wai, a Hakka grandmother, even academics at a conference. The essay on literary history and criticism has a Hong Kong focus with international application.

Moving House and other Poems ... is available in local bookshops and through The Chinese University Press. For more information email proverse@netvigator.com

ADVERTISING IN THE RASHKB NEWSLETTER

In an effort to defray newsletter costs, we are accepting ads that would be of interest to RAS members. Would you like to advertise a business or a service you can provide, or do you know someone who might be interested? Our rates are very reasonable: Full Page \$1,150.00; 2/3 Page \$850.00; 1/2 Page \$725.00, 1/3 Page \$450.00. If you have a short ad and would like to pay according to the number of words in the ad, you may do so at the following rates - first 10 words \$70.00, each additional word \$2.50. Phone/fax 2813 7500 or email <mailto:info@royalasiaticsociety.org.hk>.

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