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SEPTEMBER 2011

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President's Message

I have three topics this month. First, I will thank the first member to step forward after last month's appeal with a "raspberry" for us all. Next, I have an appeal for ideas, or, more specifically, for idea sourcing. Finally, there are some positive points to share regarding our recent reduction of inventory.



On November 18, at the Visual Arts Centre, the first "raspberry" from a member will be offered; our speaker will be Mr David Bellis. David, in his spare time, runs a Hong Kong-centric website. He focuses on historic places and his research combines people's narratives with images (which help trigger those narratives/memories) and with traditional historical narratives. David achieves this through ad hoc collaborations with people who join his inquiries due to their interest in a photo or a place or a topic referenced on his site. Crowd-sourced research might be how the pundits would describe this.

Mr Bellis will be selecting some of the old Hong Kong pictures he has researched and will talk about what he has discovered including old stories that have been unearthed through his research and the passion for a living past which he has tapped into through his website. He was the first member to respond to my appeal, last month, for members to present talks and lead visits; I hope more follow his example and I look forward to his talk.

Moving from the past to the present, Hong Kong's economy has shifted over time from storage of goods to production of goods to service provision including the sourcing of goods. I will expand last month's appeal along the vein of Hong Kong's economic trajectory. Last month I asked you to volunteer your personal knowledge to present talks or lead visits; this month I'd like you to help us source presenters for future talks, walks and visits.

Is your next door neighbour an explorer? A retired missionary focused on social justice who can talk about the changes she witnessed over time? A captain of industry who can talk about the changes in her industry and their effects on society or on a place? Who do you know who presents well and possesses a knowledge base or body of expertise which would be relevant to our society? They don't have to live here—they might be a relative or a friend or a colleague who is coming to Hong Kong for a short trip.

The next step goes even further...

Who do you know who would be a source, themselves, for multiple, future talks or visits? Who do you know who knows everybody? Who connects with interesting people? Which head-hunters, rainmakers, fixers, publicity people or exceptional extroverts or connectors do you know? Would you ask them to suggest speakers or event leaders for us?

We need you to liaise with them, and with us, and we need sufficient lead time to secure a venue and to publicise an event for our members and, possibly, the public. I am not advocating complete crowd-sourcing. The RAS still has to approve prospective talks or visits and provide guidelines, and we need you, your help and your network of contacts to achieve that.

My final topic takes me back to the summertime inventory reduction discussed last month. I focused on the 'down' side of the news, last month, to get that out of the way. The 'up' side of the news is that we donated a considerable number of complete sets of journals, and other RAS publications, to schools throughout Hong Kong. Many thanks are due to Dr Peter Cunich who, with the assistance of the History Department at the Hong Kong University, took the lead in this charitable re-distribution and educational outreach.

So, even in times of adversity you should know that your society is giving back to Hong Kong, and hopefully inspiring new generations of potential members in their initial, formative, academic years. This will hopefully inspire you to continue supporting your society and to support it in new ways, too.

Until next month,

Chris Young
clbyoung@gmail.com

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Future Activities

LECTURE

The Macau Mandarin House – A Miracle of Modern Conservation The Helena May • Friday, 30 September 2011

The Macau Mandarin House is the former residence of Zheng Guanying (1842-1922), an enlightened and forward thinking reformer of the late Qing Dynasty. He was a native of Xiangshan (modern day Zhongshan) and at the age of sixteen went to Shanghai where he worked in the family business and learnt English. He subsequently worked as a comprador for Butterfield Swire. His most influential work, written during his residence in Macao, was a book on modern economics entitled *Shengshi Weiyan (Words of Warning in Times of Prosperity)*. This work was read by the Guangxu Emperor and had a profound effect on the ideas of Dr Sun Yat sen and Chairman Mao Tse tung.

Zheng's father, Zheng Wenrui started construction of the residence following, it is said, a dream in which he was instructed to build the house by an 'Immortal'. The exact year of commencement is not known but couplets inscribed on wooden tablets in the main hall of the 'Yu Qing Tang (Yugqing Mansion) indicate that the building may have been started before the year 1869. The residence, covering an area of 4,000 square metres is situated in Travessa Antonio da Silva, adjacent to Lilau Square, on the southern most tip of the Macao peninsula. It is still the largest private residence in Macau and is built in the traditional style of a Guangdong courtyard dwelling.

When completed the residence reflected the unique prestige and wealth of the Zheng family and is a rare example of a Chinese merchant's mansion of this size. It commanded a fine unobstructed view of Macao's inner harbour and the hills and river beyond. It was constructed with two adjacent courtyards separated by a small alley. The complex consisting of a gatehouse, garden, family rooms, and servant's quarters consisted of more than sixty rooms rising in parts to three storeys high. Not only was the house finely decorated in traditional Chinese style but it also incorporated western design elements.

For almost a century the Zheng family occupied the residence until the 1950's when it appears they dispersed. The residence was sub-let and it is recorded that at one stage was occupied by three hundred families. Subsequently the complex declined due to neglect and in more than one case fire, causing parts of the building to collapse. In July 2001, the Cultural Institute of the Macau R.A.E. Government purchased the property and commenced a project to restore the residence, which took eight years. We are very fortunate to have as our speaker Sra Carla Maria Figueiredo who has been intimately acquainted with this project and will tell us how this conservation miracle was made possible.

Sra Carla Maria Figueiredo was born in Mozambique but has been living in Macau since 1981. Her early education took place in Macau but she subsequently returned to Portugal to undertake university studies in Lisbon, where she gained a degree in architecture. She went on to study for her Master's degree at the Technical University of Lisbon (Portugal). She has worked for several major Portuguese architectural companies on projects in Portugal but in 1997 returned to Macau to work for the Cultural Affairs Bureau. During her tenure with the Macau Government, she has been actively involved with Macau's accreditation on UNESCO's World Heritage List and has managed several heritage and conservation projects in the Macau R.A.E.

Date: Friday, 30 September 2011
Time: Talk begins at 6.30 pm (cash bar is available at 6 pm)
Location: Garden Room of The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central
Booking: Please complete booking form on page 12 and return it to Mr Michael Broom

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Future Activities

LECTURE

Ghetto at the Center of the World – Life in Chungking Mansions The Helena May • Thursday, 6 October 2011

“Chungking Mansions, a dilapidated seventeen-story commercial and residential structure in the heart of Hong Kong’s tourist district, is home to a remarkably motley group of people. Traders, labourers, and asylum seekers from all over Asia and Africa live and work there and even backpacking tourists rent rooms in what is possibly the most globalized spot on the planet. But as *Ghetto at the Center of the World* shows us, the mansions is a world away from the gleaming headquarters of multinational corporations – instead it epitomizes the way globalization actually works for most of the World’s people. Through candid stories that both instruct and enthrall, Gordon Mathews lays bare the building’s residents’ intricate connections to the international circulation of goods, money and ideas.” (From ‘Ghetto at the Center of the World’ by permission of Prof Gordon Mathews.)

Some members will recall Professor Mathew’s previous lecture to the Society some years ago. Please note this is a new lecture and not a repeat of the previous one, it will be based on his recently published book *Ghetto at the Center of the World*. More recently, his research has been the subject of a ‘Pearl Report’ programme on TVB, which some of you may have seen. Thank you to Ms Felicity Shaw for her suggestion of this subject, and further suggestions from RASHKB members on subjects which may be of general interest would be welcome.

Professor Gordon Mathews, PhD is a native of Alaska, USA. He read anthropology at Cornell University in the USA where he gained his doctorate in 1993. He has lived and worked in Hong Kong since 1994 and is a professor of anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He has written books about what makes life worth living in Japan and the United States, about the global cultural supermarket, and about Hong Kong people’s learning to belong to a nation. For the past five years he has been investigating Chungking Mansions and its role in what he calls ‘low end globalization’ which he will explore in his talk.

Date: Thursday, 6 October 2011
Time: Talk begins at 6.30 pm (cash bar is available at 6 pm)
Location: Garden Room of The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central
Booking: Please complete booking form on page 12 and return it to Mr Chris Young

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LECTURE

Dreaming Spires and Ivory Towers: The Building of HKU, 1910-12 Visual Arts Centre • Friday, 21 October 2011

The University of Hong Kong is celebrating its centenary in 2011-12, and the focus of many of these celebrations is the Main Building (sometimes known as Loke Yew Hall), one of the most recognisable architectural icons in Hong Kong today. The Main Building is also one of the few buildings to survive intact from the great building boom of the first two decades of the twentieth century and is still being used for its original purpose. A gift to the colony from the Parsee real estate tycoon Sir Hormusjee Mody, and designed by the firm of Leigh and Orange, the construction of the ‘University Buildings’ between March 1910 and July 1912 was a civic project that caught the imagination of the whole colony.

Despite its enduring significance for the history of higher education in Hong Kong, little is known about the origins and erection of the Main Building and its ancillary structures. Dr Peter Cunich will discuss the genesis of the HKU scheme and the central role that the building project played both in establishing Hong Kong’s first university and later influencing its future development. The lecture will be illustrated with rare original drawings and photographs from HKU’s University Archives.

Future Activities

Dr Peter Cunich teaches history at the University of Hong Kong and has been Honorary Editor of the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch for the last five years. While his main area of research interest is sixteenth-century English history, he has also written widely on the history of universities and higher education. His books include *A History of Magdalene College Cambridge* (1994, with Eamon Duffy, Ronald Hyam and David Hoyle), *HKU SPACE and Its Alumni* (2007, with Lawrence Chiu), and a volume edited with Chan Lau Kit-ching, *An Impossible Dream: The University of Hong Kong from Foundation to Re-establishment, 1910-1950* (2002). He is currently Director of the HKU Centenary History Project and next year plans to publish *Light of the Orient: A History of the University of Hong Kong*.

Speaker: Dr Peter Cunich, Department of History, HKU
Date/Time: Friday, 21 October 2011
Venue: Centre for Visual Arts, 7A Kennedy Road, Hong Kong
Booking: Please complete the booking form on page 13 and send to Mrs May Holdsworth

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VISIT University Museum and Art Gallery & Hong Kong University Campus HK University • Saturday, 22 October 2011

This year marks the foundation of the Hong Kong University. To celebrate the centenary of Hong Kong's oldest university and to compliment the lecture by Dr Peter Cunich, the Branch has organised a visit to the University's campus on Bonham Road. The visit will be comprised of two parts:

1000 - 1100 hours Visit the University Museum and Art Gallery, 94, Bonham Road
1100 - 1200 hours Tour Hong Kong University Campus.

University Museum & Art Gallery

The University Museum and Art Gallery was established in 1953. It is the oldest museum in Hong Kong and was formerly known as the Fung Ping Shan Museum. The original building was named after its donor (Fung Ping Shan), and was erected in 1932 as a library for Chinese books. In 1962 the Chinese books collection (the Fung Ping Shan Library) was transferred to the University's Main Library Building. The building was subsequently converted into a museum for Chinese art and archaeology. Among its prized treasures are ceramics, pottery and bronzes. The Fung Ping Shan Building is now listed as a Grade 1 Historic Building. Our host on this occasion will be Ms Tina Pang, Curator (Art) who will tell us something about the origins of the museum and some of its treasures as well as the aims of Hong Kong's oldest museum.

Tour of HKU Campus

Hong Kong University is the oldest tertiary institution in Hong Kong and the only college with declared monuments on campus. With the assistance of Dr Elizabeth Sinn, RASHKB member and former Vice President, a special tour of the campus has been arranged. This tour is called the 'Green Gown Tour' and our guides will be undergraduate students of HKU. They will lead us through the university's most famous buildings and landmarks. The tours normally take place on Wednesdays but this tour has been specially arranged for the RASHKB. The tour will involve some walking and members are advised to wear comfortable shoes and bring water if required.

Speaker: Ms Tina Pang (University Museum & Art Gallery) and HKU Green Gown Guides.
Date/Time: Saturday 22 October 2011, please meet at 0945hrs
Venue: Assemble outside of Fung Ping Shan Building, 94 Bonham Road
Booking: Please complete the booking form on page 13 and send to Mr Michael Broom

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Future Activities

LECTURE

Strangers on the Western Front: Chinese Labourers in the Great War (WW1) **City Hall Library • Friday, 11 November 2011**

During World War I, Britain and France imported workers from their colonies to labour behind the front lines. The single largest group of support labour came not from imperial colonials, however, but from China. In this lecture, Professor Xu Guoqi, a professor of History at the University of Hong Kong, tells the remarkable story of the 140,000 Chinese men recruited for the Allied war effort. The labourers, most illiterate peasants from north China, came voluntarily and worked in Europe longer than any other group. Professor Xu explores China's reasons for sending its citizens to help the British and French (and later, the Americans), the backgrounds of the workers, their difficult transit to Europe — across the Pacific, through Canada, and over the Atlantic — and their experiences with the Allied armies.

In recounting this fascinating story, Professor Xu will highlight the Chinese contribution to World War I and illuminate the essential role these unsung labourers played in modern China's search for a new national identity on the global stage.

Prof XU Guoqi was born in Anhui Province, the People's Republic of China. In 1984, he graduated from Anhui Normal University. He subsequently studied at the prestigious Nankai University in Tianjin where he gained his MA, and where he taught in the Institute of History. In 1999, he was awarded a PhD from Harvard University. In addition to teaching in Mainland China, he was the first permanent holder of the Wen Chao Chen Chair of History and East Asian Affairs at Kalamazoo College, an elite private college in the USA. He was a fellow at Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University before he joined the History Department of the University of Hong Kong in July 2009. Professor Xu is a leading authority on the international history of modern China. His recent publications include *Strangers on the Western Front: Chinese Workers in the Great War* (Harvard University Press, 2011), *Olympic Dreams: China and Sports, 1895-2008* (Harvard University Press, 2008), and *China and the Great War* (Cambridge University Press, 2005, 2011).

Speaker: Prof Xu Guoqi, Associate Professor, Department of History, HKU.
Date/Time: Friday, 11 November 2011 at 6.30 pm
Venue: Extension Activities Room, City Hall High Block, HK City Hall, Central
Booking: There is no charge for this talk and seating is on a first come basis

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LECTURE

Photos of Old Hong Kong and the Tales They Tell **Visual Arts Centre • Wednesday, 16 November 2011**

Mr David Bellis will be delivering a talk on places and people of old Hong Kong focusing on old photos and the stories he has discovered that illuminate and enliven those photos. Mr. Bellis' research combines people's narratives with images and with 'traditional' historical narratives. He achieves this combination through ad hoc collaborations with people who join his inquiries due to their interest in a photo or a place or a topic referenced on www.gwulo.com.

David's website, www.gwulo.com has grown into a community of collaborators who have published 660 articles and forum topics revolving around 1,550 places and 4,900 photos of old Hong Kong. Not only is Gwulo.com's collective research prolific but their audience is engaged as demonstrated by over 14,000 comments on the website. David's talk will be a "best of" collection focusing on both unexpected gems which gwulo.com has uncovered and on people's passion for historic Hong Kong.

Speaker: Mr David Bellis
Date/Time: Wednesday, 16 November 2011 at 6.30 pm
Venue: Visual Arts Centre, 7A Kennedy Road, Central
Booking: Please complete the booking form on page 14 and submit to Mr Chris Young

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Future Activities

LECTURE

On the State of the Forests of Indonesia: From Deforestation to Reforestation The Helena May • Tuesday, 29 November 2011

Dr. Willie Smits, a knighted conservationist, is regarded as the world's most prominent protector of orang-utans and their natural environment. In his forestry work, Dr. Smits has seen illegal logging and palm oil plantations destroy rainforests and all the animals in these ecosystems. This eco-destruction motivated Dr. Smits to fight for the rainforest and to work on sustainable solutions that expand the forest and benefit human beings, especially local people.

In partnership with Microsoft, National Geographic and others, Dr. Smits is working on a global project called 'DeforestAction' to both halt the destruction of vital forests and to reforest large areas of deforested land in Indonesia. Dr. Smits' talk will be on DeforestAction, the state of the forested environment in Indonesia and ways to effect environmental change.

This is a collaborative lecture with the Helena May's Green Team, which has committed to donate 50 HKD per person to the Hong Kong entity affiliated with Dr. Smits' work. This means the price for the lecture will be \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members.

The Helena May is also organising two dinners; the first will be from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, before the talk, and the second will be from 8:30 pm to 10:00 pm, after the talk. Pre-reservations for either dinner are mandatory and must be made through the same reservation form you will use to book your place for the lecture, as space remains available. The three course meal will be \$298 and the two course meal will be \$248.

This talk is a collaboration between the Helena May Green Team and the RAS. **Please note the time of the talk is 7.30 pm.** The contact person for this event is Chris Young, who is a founding director of the Hong Kong entity which supports Dr Smits' mission of environmental advocacy and environmental reclamation.

Speaker: Dr Willie Smits
Date/Time: Friday, 29 November 2011 at 7.30 pm
Venue: The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central
Booking: Please complete the booking form on page 14 and submit to Mr Chris Young

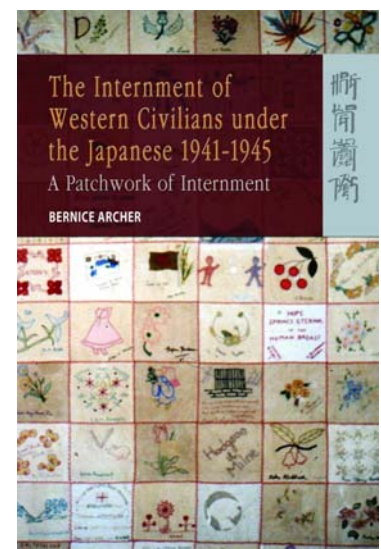
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LECTURE

The Women's Perspective of Internment in the Far East 1941-1945 The Helena May • Friday, 2 December 2011

Dr Bernice Archer will speak about civilian internment in the Far East during the Second World War, with special reference to women. Of special interest to us in Hong Kong is the extraordinary story of a bed sheet embroidered secretly during internment in Hong Kong by Daisy Mary Sage, a teacher and member of the Auxiliary Nursing Service. The sheet survived the war and is now in the Imperial War Museum, London.

Dr Archer is the author of *The Internment of Western Civilians under the Japanese 1941-1945*, first published by RoutledgeCurzon in London in 2004 and issued by HKU Press as a soft back book in 2008. She first visited Hong Kong and the site of Stanley Civilian Internment Camp in 1991, when as a mature student at the Bristol-based University of the West of England, she was beginning research into civilian internment in the Far East. This led to a PhD at the University of Essex. She has since spoken at meetings not only in the U.K. but also in Singapore and South Africa. A resident of Bath, she is coming to Hong Kong this year as a participant in the Stanley Internment Camp Reunion/Gathering being held from 28 November to 5 December.



Future Activities

Speaker: Dr Bernice Archer
Date/Time: Friday, 2 December 2011 at 6.30 pm (Cash bar available from 6.00 pm)
Venue: The Helena May, 35 Garden Road, Central
Booking: Please complete the booking form shown on page 15 and sent it to Mr Chris Young. (Note: it is important to return this booking form as seats will be reserved for participants in the Reunion/Gathering and thus seating is limited.)

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LECTURE
The Fall of Hong Kong 1941 and
the Role of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps
Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Association Clubhouse
Friday, 9 December 2011

This year marks the seventieth anniversary of the Fall of Hong Kong. The Battle of Hong Kong began on 8th December 1941, and ended with the capitulation of British forces to the Imperial Japanese Army on Christmas Day 1941, thereby commencing one of the darkest chapters in Hong Kong's history.

During the eighteen days of bitter and sometimes savage fighting and atrocities, first in the New Territories and Kowloon and subsequently on Hong Kong Island British forces, comprising soldiers, naval and air force personnel from many nations, staged a heroic but doomed defence. The Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, comprising part-time (local Territorial Forces) sometimes called 'weekend warriors' were in the battle from the start and faced the initial Japanese assault. The Corps was also one of the last to see action on Hong Kong Island, when British forces finally surrendered at Stanley. In this anniversary year our speaker, Major Ronald Taylor (Ret'd), will explain the role played by the 'Volunteers' and some of the key engagements they were involved in. Major Taylor will draw on Evan Stewart's account *Record of the Actions of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps in the Battle for Hong Kong* first published in 1953.

Major Ronald D. Taylor, MBE, TD, ED joined his university OTC, as it was the 'best club' in the university. He later served in the Royal Artillery 'the Gunners' TA. In 1975, he arrived in Hong Kong and served in the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (V) until the Regiment disbanded in 1995. During this time he commanded both 'D'Squadron and the Training Squadron. He is currently the Chairman of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Association, the association of those who served in the Regiment

Dedication

This lecture is dedicated to the memory of those personnel who sacrificed their lives or were interned as POWs during the fall of Hong Kong, especially the Officers, NCOs and Other Ranks of the HKVDC

Appreciation

The use of the Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Association Clubhouse for this talk is by kind permission of the President, Major (Ret'd) N. Pavri, MBE, ED and the Board of The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Association. The Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch would like to record its sincere appreciation for the privilege of using the Association's clubhouse.

Speaker: Major (Ret'd) R.D. Taylor, MBE, TD, ED.
Date/Time: Friday 9 December 2011, 6.30 pm (cash bar available from 6 pm)
Venue: Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Association Clubhouse, 9/F Grandstand, Happy Valley Racecourse
Booking: Please complete the booking form on page 15 and send it to Mr Michael Broom. Pre-booking is required.

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**Any member who would be willing to write a review of these talks for the Newsletter,
please contact Mr Michael Broom, Hon Activities Co-ordinator.
His telephone number is 2719 4958 and e-mail is stgeorge_hk@yahoo.co.uk.**

Recent Activity

VISIT The Hong Kong Observatory Saturday, 4 June 2011

Written by Michael Broom



Photo Courtesy of Geoffrey Lam



Photo Courtesy of Pricilla Tam

Hardly a day goes by, for most of us, when part of our routine does not include listening to a weather report on the radio or watching ‘Freddy’ on the evening news. The service provided by the Hong Kong Observatory is something which has become indispensable and yet, perhaps, something we take for granted. Accurate weather forecasting not only affects our personal daily lives but also plays a major part in the commercial, business and transportation operations of one of Asia’s busiest cities. At the personal invitation of the former Director of the Hong Kong Observatory a large group of RASHKB members got a ‘behind the scenes look’ at the Observatory and how it provides its essential services to the Hong Kong SAR.

The establishment of a meteorological observatory in Hong Kong was first proposed to the Royal Society in 1879. However, it was not until 1881, when Major H.S. Palmer, giving specific details, submitted a report that the proposal was given serious consideration. The report was subsequently rejected on the grounds of cost. In 1882, the Surveyor General, John MacNeile-Price drew up a revised proposal that was subsequently approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies thereby establishing Hong Kong’s observatory.

The site chosen for the construction of the observatory was Mount Elgin, a small hill overlooking Nathan Road, bounded on the southern side by Kimberley Road. By 1883, the main building was completed with Dr W. Doberck appointed as the first Government Astronomer and Mr F.G. Figg as his assistant. The keeping of meteorological records commenced on 1 January 1884 with the principal operations consisting of meteorological and magnetic observations as well as a time service.

On a rather sultry and humid Saturday morning in June, the RASHKB members gathered in Tsim Sha Tsui to undertake a visit to the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO). Our guide for this visit was Mr David Hui Tai-wai, a Scientific Officer working for the HKO. The first stop on our visit was a rather welcome twenty-minute retreat, into the air-conditioned auditorium, where we were shown a film produced by the HKO showing its history and development and its current role in monitoring Hong Kong’s weather. The group was then allowed to visit the main Operations Room in the modern Centenary Building, situated next to the original 1883 building, where we watched Observatory staff plotting weather patterns. Mr Hui also took the group to the Observatory’s onsite television studio where he explained how weather forecasts were prepared for broadcasting to the public. Following this, the group visited the HKO’s Visitor Centre with its various exhibits detailing the various roles, which the Observatory undertakes. The group was also shown a special collection of early records and artefacts housed in the original 1883 building detailing the early history of the Observatory and a tour of the grounds where large exhibits are kept.

This was a well-attended and interesting local visit, which was appreciated by the members who participated in it. The RASHKB would like to extend its thanks to the Director of the Hong Kong Observatory and to Mr David Hui Tai-wai for an interesting and informative visit.

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Of General Interest

RAS PRE-ORDERS FOR THE *DICTIONARY OF HONG KONG BIOGRAPHY*

The RAS has negotiated a special deal with the Hong Kong University Press for you, our members. If you order copies of the Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography you will get the volume for \$370, a 25% discount, and your Society benefits, too. Please use the Order Form on the next page to take advantage of this offer as well as show your support for your society.

Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography (香港歷史人物誌)

*Edited by May Holdsworth and
Christopher Munn*

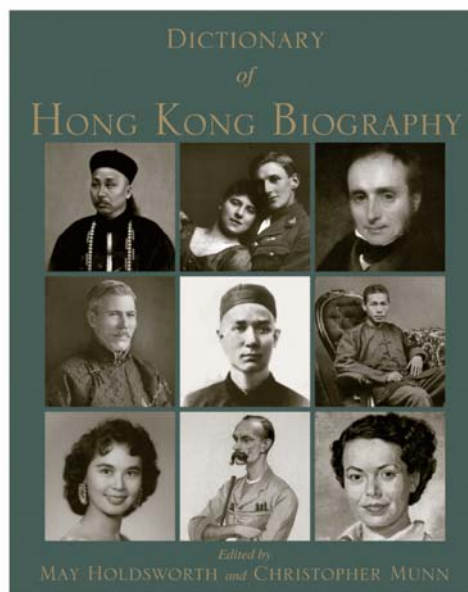
Hong Kong's history is rich in colourful characters and fascinating life stories. This illustrated dictionary collects in one volume a lively cross-section of the personalities who have made the city the cosmopolitan place it is today. The cast of characters includes men and women from different parts of the world, diverse cultural traditions and all walks of life. The great and the good are here: governors, admirals, film stars, taipans, writers, revolutionaries and other famous names. But there are surprises too: long-forgotten movers and shakers of their day; ordinary folk who illustrate some aspect of Hong Kong history; gangsters and scoundrels – even a few eminent failures. In short, the *Dictionary* is a kaleidoscope through which Hong Kong's many faces are revealed.

This collection of more than 500 specially commissioned entries is the first dictionary of lives spanning the whole of Hong Kong history. Ninety contributors, including prominent academics, journalists and other experts, have crafted entries.

May Holdsworth's books include *Foreign Devils: Expatriates in Hong Kong*, and *The Palace of Established Happiness: Restoring a Garden in the Forbidden City*. **Christopher Munn** is the author of *Anglo-China: Chinese People and British Rule in Hong Kong, 1841-1880*.

"Hong Kong has always had its full measure of remarkable people. Both saints and sinners, they have come from all the ethnic groups in Hong Kong's ebullient population. What has been missing is an accessible record of who these people are and what they did. Their stories will now come to life again in the *Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography* and, let us hope, be joined by new entries in the years to come."

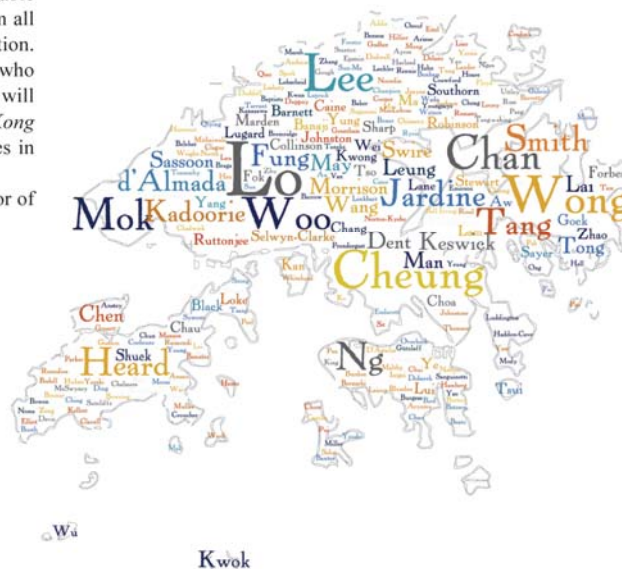
— **David Wilson** (Lord Wilson of Tillyorn), Governor of Hong Kong, 1987-92



Reference / Biography
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Of General Interest

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I wish to order _____ copies of *Dictionary of Hong Kong Biography* edited by May Holdsworth and Christopher Munn at the special rate of \$370 each. Please mail this form with cheque payable to University of Hong Kong and mail it to: Hong Kong University Press, 14/F Hing Wai Centre, 7 Tin Wan Praya Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong.

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WE NEED A NEW ADMINISTRATOR, NOW!

By Chris Young, President

Our able Administrator, Katherine Fenton, has recently moved to Singapore. Of course, this means that we at the RASHKB need to find a new Administrator. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in applying to become the new Administrator of the RASHKB, please contact me, Chris Young, at clbyoung@gmail.com.

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WE ALSO NEED A NEW HON. ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR!

By Chris Young, President

Activities — the walks, talks and visits we offer our members — are as fundamental to our Society as our Journal is.

Further, many of you have also asked me why we have had so few walks, talks and visits. My answer is that we all need to pitch in. We all need to give our “raspberries” to the world.

Right now, we need a new Hon. Activities Coordinator to step forward because our existing Hon. Activities Coordinator, Michael Broom, is not standing for re-election.

To make the job easier, I am very willing to consider dividing the existing position into two. Under this proposal, one person would take responsibility for coordinating talks while another person would take responsibility for walks and visits.

I have some other ideas which I would like to help implement, but I need your help - we need you.

Please contact me, Chris Young, at clbyoung@gmail.com, to help your Society put on more of the talks, walks and visits that you have enjoyed attending in the past.

Thank you very much, in advance, for volunteering your time and your passion; we need you to make talks, walks and visits happen.

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