

## Letter from the Chairman

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2012. Elements of the forthcoming programme are carried within these pages and I hope that you will see early signs of a mix which is more varied than before. We are working hard at retaining the main themes of the programme familiar to all long-standing members of the Society, but, at the same time, introducing new elements which will attract the interest of the young and of Hong Kong Chinese living in this country. At its most recent meeting, your committee decided to hold each year at least one major dinner, a Chinese New Year Dinner, three Chinese lunches, one lecture, one gallery visit and also to lead on the organisation of regional lunches from our London office in Swire House (the exception being Scotland where Roy Dewar continues to do marvellous work). This last will mean that the resourcing of the regional lunches will be "from HQ" but of course generous local help will be sought wherever possible. There is going to be greater emphasis on modern communications (LinkedIn, Facebook and the like) too but I do urge you not to be concerned if you are not deeply 'into' these things: ample provision will always be made for those of a less electronic persuasion.

Please also have a look regularly at the website, [www.hkas.org.uk](http://www.hkas.org.uk); a lot of work is being undertaken on it. We are hoping to develop our 'Membership Offers' section, by which bona fide members can be offered discounts by members of either the Society or The Hong Kong Association. There will also be a 'Jobs in Hong Kong' page and another for the advertising of other organisations' activities. Karen Luard is masterminding a Women's Group and that too has its own web-page.

The aim is to make the Society as relevant as possible to all the people we want to attract. The big request I have of everyone is that you recruit new members to the society - anyone with an interest in contributing to, and celebrating in a way that we can all share, strong and enduring Hong Kong-UK relations.

I hope that all members will accept best wishes from myself, Robert Guy and Faye Ye, and, more importantly, will really make the most in 2012 of the benefits of our vigorous, modernising and--above all--enjoyable Society.

**Clinton Leeks, OBE, JP**  
Chairman

## The Women's Group of The Hong Kong Society

Please join us to launch the women's group of the society on 22nd March at its inaugural lunch (see inside page).

The primary aim of the Women's Group of the Hong Kong Society is to provide women in the UK who have a history of living or working in Hong Kong, with opportunities to meet or keep in touch with other former residents at lunches which feature relevant guest speakers. In addition, it aims to establish close collaboration with women currently living and working in Hong Kong and provide a foundation of volunteer support for newcomers from the UK to Hong Kong and vice versa. It is intended also that the Women's Group will offer a dedicated 'marketplace' of promotional opportunities for professional women working in the UK and in HK.

The women's group is being convened by Karen Luard, a society committee member.

## Society Forthcoming Events

- 22 Mar** - Women's Group Inaugural Lunch
- 26 Mar** - Reception and special talk at BADA
- 29 Mar** - Ceremony of the Keys at Tower of London
- 25 Apr** - Spring Dim Sum Lunch
- 25 Apr** - EGM (5pm)
- 25 Apr** - "Life Interned in Stanley Camp" Lecture (6pm)
- 15 May** - HK University Centenary Seminar & Lunch at Draper's Hall (watch the website for details)
- 1 Jul** - London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival
- 8 Jul** - Society Polo Day at Ham Polo Club
- 26 Jul** - A reception with the Hong Kong Olympic team (tbc)
- 3 Sept** - Ceremony of the Keys at Tower of London
- 17 Oct** - Society Annual Dinner

(Further details see inside page)

### Other Relevant Events

- 13 Apr - 13 May** - Wild Swan Stage Performance
  - 3-4 May** - Tang Shu Wing Studio's Performance of Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus"
  - 14 May** - "Dunhuang and Hong Kong: Gateways to Ancient and Modern China" Seminar
- (Further details see back page)

### “Speical announcement”

I have no doubt that my fellow letter writers on behalf of the Hong Kong Society are correct in praising the huge overall improvement in English in Hong Kong. I just wish that those entrusted with producing large and small notices – ‘special announcement’ was plastered all over the local ferry service from Lamma to Hong Kong – would ask someone with an understanding of English to check it out.

The letters to the Hong Kong Society have been a constant pleasure for me to write and I can only hope that scribing for the Society once a year will be enough to keep my somewhat addled brain from atrophying. When queer words and odd spellings begin to proliferate just call my doctor.

I thought I would also take up a little space explaining the background to the recent gift of prints, and this is not a commercial. In 1988 the Hong Kong Government suddenly became enthusiastic about our heritage of buildings and monuments. Someone must have pointed out that Hong Kong was fast running out of history, except for some of its senior government members, and a last minute reprieve and a rejuvenation of interest were to be encouraged. The result was a book with an introduction by Jan Morris called ‘Heritage of Hong Kong’. Much of the very interesting narrative was written by Peter Moss, a recent contributor to Hong Kong Society newsletters. I was given the task of narrowing down, from a list of over three hundred, fifty monuments, buildings and carvings and then, at the rate of one fairly large painting per week, completing the book. It is from this volume, still available in Hong Kong, that the prints were produced. The hope was that the eight selected pictures would help devoted Hong Kong people, attending the farewell celebrations at a well known English racecourse in 1997 as the flag came down, to buy a few souvenirs and thus swell the Gurkha fund. I have to confess to also playing Father Christmas with more of the prints by giving members of the Hong Kong Gardening Society a take-away folder at the Annual Dinner. As a result next Christmas has been cancelled.

I only did the paintings – the excellent photography was done by GIS (God is speaking) photographers who were happily following up my selection of temples and ancestral halls when they chanced upon one which had been taken over and was wholly run by a somewhat aggressive triad organisation. The photographers fled. The other aspect of the work that I particularly remember is the enormous god-like power it gave me to ‘blow up’ entire estates or individual eyesores if I felt they intruded upon my theme and composition. I can’t imagine how many thousands of people were theoretically made homeless by my cavalier brush strokes. The original paintings were put on sale in what I like to think of now as an eminently appropriate place, the Court of Final Appeal.

Originally this building was known as the French Mission and stands just opposite the Cathedral of St John from whose hallowed portals comes yet another strange tale. Unlike most of the other forty nine I didn’t sell the painting of St John’s Cathedral, I gave it into the safe-keeping of the Dean. The present remarkable gentleman, who has just been appointed Bishop of Hong Kong, once told his congregation that Adam and Eve could never have been Chinese because they would undoubtedly have eaten the snake! But he had no say when one of the many committees necessary to run the cathedral decided to use my painting of the building, or rather just the main tower, in what I can only assume was some deeply sub-conscious association with phallic verticality. All I know is that the result was a charming bookmark advertising the need to use condoms.

As the government warmed to its task wall charts were produced for schools and colleges, depicting suitable groups - ancient temples, ancestral halls, clock towers or whatever - complete with a brief history in Chinese and English on separate panels. School children were then encouraged to visit in specially arranged coach trips. Bravo! Unfortunately, like the buildings, the government’s enthusiasm is now history. The grass at Tai Fu Tai which features the banyan tree print with the two Hakka women, available from the Society recently, has now grown so high where the coaches used to park that it could eventually produce a saga on the lines of the re-discovery of Angkor Wat in Cambodia by the French explorer, Henri Mouhot. And the charming Stanley Police Station, famous for its brave force having to hunt down the last wayward tiger growling round the largely fishing village, has now been converted internally into a Wellcome supermarket. As for the famous tiger, its moth eaten skin is still nailed to the wall of the local Stanley temple just opposite the splendid re-erection of Murray Barracks. I might just add, though it is hysterical rather than historical, that the development between the temple, Murray House and the Stanley waterfront is now into its second year. It looks absolutely ghastly in brown and dark grey and still boasts one of the craziest and most confusing car parks in captivity.

Thank goodness Flagstaff House, another of the Society prints, has become an excellent tea museum and the old Victoria Barracks a joyful park full of beauty with its plants, rocks and many water features. The description beneath the print was researched and written by General Sir John Archer who was the gentleman who asked me to do what really was the last historical painting of Britain’s military presence in Hong Kong.

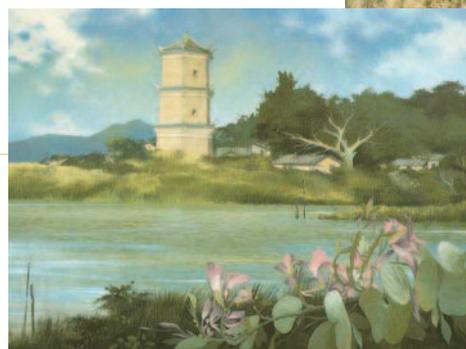
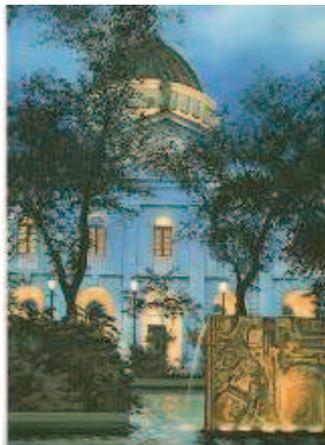
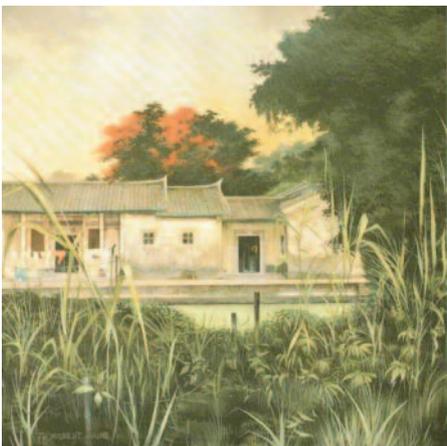
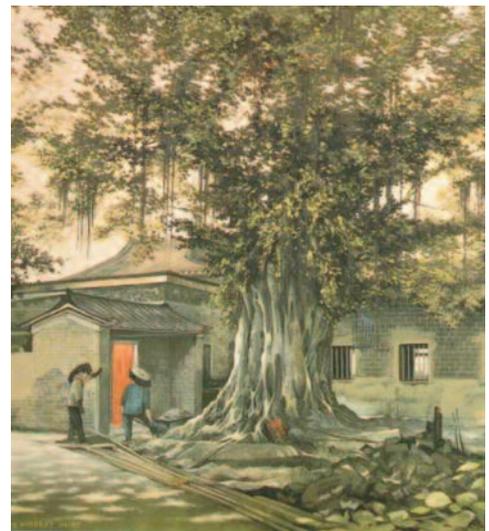
I also remember another military man in charge of the Hong Kong Garrison, General Sir Richard Ward, who made my family welcome and even went so far as to offer his full backing if I should choose to go into forbidden China in order to paint. He then rather took the fun out of it by gently suggesting that I should report back to him on my return, assuming I hadn’t got shot, to be de-briefed on all I had seen. I believe it’s called canvassing information.

The very last military man I had any dealings with was a member of the famous Redgrave family. A major general, the garrison being smaller as 1997 approached, he it was who helped write the final postscript for an outpost of the empire about to be abandoned. A book was produced for which I did the illustrations. In many ways it wasn't so much a history of Victoria Barracks but more a final chapter to military times both peaceful and turbulent.

The old frontage of Hong Kong University continues to be respected as part of our heritage, though subsequent architects, and I use the term loosely, have done their unlevel best to surround it with monstrous 'carbuncles'. A description made famous by the famous. One major addition to the university actually ended up being built back to front due to a monumental mix up. And while it is still under threat, the Kowloon Clock Tower does its ancient best to distract attention from the appallingly banal frontage of the Cultural Centre. In fact all over Hong Kong from Hollywood Road to Fanling heritage designated places continue to exist. My own favourite has to be Pak Sha O in the MacLehose Country Park beyond Sai Kung. Many years ago it was a stronghold of Catholicism in the New Territories and an empty church still stands as a forlorn testimony. At the time I painted it, sitting out in what had once been crucial paddy fields, the only inhabitants in the village were two Chinese families who had not talked to each other for fourteen years since one family had given the other family suspect prawns. More recently the village has come back to life through the efforts, imagination and investment of mainly expat contributors.

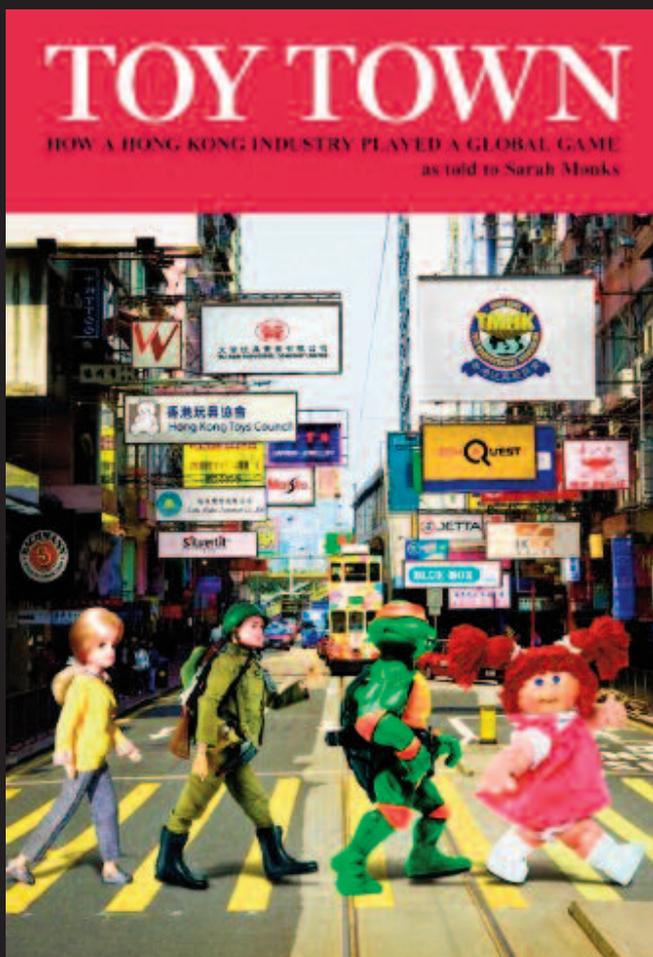
If only Hong Kong had been half as caring as Macau. It is difficult to grasp that despite supporting over twenty casinos including the Venetian, the biggest in the world, Macau is a major conservation area and thoroughly deserves its listing as a world heritage site. To finish on a truly cultural note the Hong Kong Singers, almost part of history themselves, continue to perform several times a year. But they no longer do any Gilbert and Sullivan. The D'Oyly Carte shows were a mainstay decades ago. This last year for example they did – aaiyaah – the Full Monty.

**Brian Tilbrook**  
Jan 2012



Some of these free prints are still available. For your copies, please contact the society office on 020 7963 9447 or via email [communications@hkas.org.uk](mailto:communications@hkas.org.uk)

## “Toy Town”, a Hong Kong story



Hong Kong was a most unlikely place for a major toy manufacturing region to flourish, but ‘Toy Town’ written by Sarah Monks, commissioned by the Toy Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong and published by PPP Company Limited shows so very clearly why it did. It is a history of the Hong Kong toy industry over the last sixty years or so. That sounds a little dull, you think? No, not at all, thanks to the combination of Sarah’s skill and the intrinsic interest of the subject.

There are facts and figures about the spectacular rise of Hong Kong to the position of the world’s largest exporter of toys by the early 1970s and its trajectory thereafter to power the rise of Mainland China to become the largest toy producer. The real attraction, though, is that the story is mainly told through the experiences of Hong Kong’s toy industry pioneers, often in their reminiscences related in their own words.

This being Hong Kong, there is inevitably something of the picaresque about some of these tales. There is a nice selection of photos, one showing three middle aged gentlemen drinking tea on a pleasant day in Deep Water Bay around the year 2000. The caption gives their names and laconically observes that “Harry ‘Lucky’ Lam Hon-lit met an untimely end when he was shot while breakfasting at the Luk Yu Teahouse in Central in 2002.” Not so lucky after all, one might say. There are also a few sad stories like that of Cheung Shu-hung, a byword for honesty and diligence, who in 2007 was accused (unfairly, as it turned out) of supplying toys made in China with

excessive lead content and had his Chinese export licence revoked. Cheung’s last act was to tour his factory to ensure that his workers had been fully paid; he then went and hanged himself in his warehouse.

Mostly, though, there is what we who love Hong Kong have become so used to: the entrepreneurial spirit, doubled in spades, an ability to survive disasters of every kind and an almost frightening industriousness. It would, for instance, have surely been daunting to marry into the family of H.C. Ting of Kader Industries who worked seven days a week and expected his offspring to do the same. In traditional Chinese style, married sons and their families lived with the patriarch in a great penthouse above the Kader Industrial Building in North Point and thus could more easily attend the Sunday afternoon business meetings. The biographies seem to disprove the aphorism, popular in China as well as UK, of “clogs to clogs in three generations”. In our history, the grandchildren of the penniless refugees who started things off come back from expensive educations in the U.S. equipped with the technical know-how to make more sophisticated products. This sort of flexibility is essential as changing social conditions mean that, for example, little girls nowadays play with dolls for a shorter time than ever before and that instead of traditional toys the demand is for those with a heart of electronic circuitry.

Then there is the bigger picture too. One of my cousins wrote a history of our family brickworks in Buckinghamshire and it proved that this tiny world was in fact a microcosm of economic changes in the big world outside. How much more the case with something as massive as the Hong Kong toy industry. There are culturally fascinating references to the affinity that the Chinese refugee manufacturers in Hong Kong and the Jewish refugee merchandisers in the U.S. found with each other. At the other end of the spectrum, Henry Keswick recalls the involvement of the grand Colonial house of Jardines with Cecil Coleman, one of the early pioneers. Demonstrating the best British understatement, Keswick sums it up: “Our name was quite good so I think it was quite convenient for him to be partners with us.” One of the most triumphant episodes may be a little poignant for British readers since it describes how David Yeh in 1982, aided by the support of Willie Purves of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, used his Universal Group to buy Matchbox, the famous British manufacturer of miniature cars. This could be interpreted as an early sign of the swing from West to East that is now such a marked feature of the global economy. Symbolically enough, the deal was signed while Margaret Thatcher was in Beijing to discuss the future of Hong Kong and on the very day on which she stumbled and fell on the steps of the Great Hall of the People, an incident which rattled the already quite neurotic collective Hong Kong psyche.

The Hong Kong toy industrialists were pioneers in the opening up of manufacturing in China from the late 1970s onwards, and there are plenty of anecdotes about those tough early days. Deep down, though, they must have known that the situation was promising. For instance, Forward Winsome Industries, a major Hong Kong toy maker, originally set up

factory premises in China in a village meeting hall in Nanhai. "When we first arrived, a large Mao Zedong portrait and banner with the characters for 'self-reliance' were on display. My Mainland partners discarded the Great Helmsman and his principle and replaced it with a banner that stated 'Utilise Western Science and Technology.'"

I was introduced to "Toy Town" at a breakfast meeting of Vision 2047, to which both Sarah and I belong. Vision was set up in 1989, after Tianmen Square, when the world was in one of its customary fits of believing that Hong Kong was doomed. The aim was to bring together international people, especially from the business sector, who had lived in Hong Kong for a long time, as well as locals with substantial overseas experience, who would be able to give a more realistic picture and remind the global community to focus on 2047, since the Basic Law had promised that our capitalist system would be maintained at least until then. I count it a great privilege to be part of this group, not least because the membership brings together an immense knowledge of Hong Kong, its history and its inner workings, often as a result of being directly involved in some of the most significant events.

Sarah was telling us about Louis Marx, the famous "toy king" of the US, whose forays into buying from Hong Kong were essential to the growth of our toy industry. She described his flamboyant lifestyle: how he "took up residence for weeks on end at the Repulse Bay Hotel ..[and]....sometimes ran up and down the beach holding an English dictionary, learning new words to improve his vocabulary." This stirred the memory of our Chairman, Ken Morrison, who, despite his Scottish look and accent, is Hong Kong born and bred. Ken's father had from time to time bumped into Marx when he was on one of these jaunts and had eventually been presented with a toy truck to take home for his small son. Ken went to show his new possession to his friend Orlando Lobo, one of the ten children of Vision founding member Sir Roger, former senior member of the Executive and Legislative Councils and one of Hong Kong's "Great and Good" if ever there was one. The toy truck was supposed to have a sophisticated mechanism to lift loads so they decided to try it out on the family's sofa. To their amazement, delight and mild alarm it proved to be just as effective as claimed on the box!

If Ken wants to lift sofas these days, he doubtless calls on the services of his son who otherwise plays Rugby for Scotland. And, of course, the patterns of Hong Kong's economy have changed just as much: it's almost all services nowadays and even those who have shifted their manufacturing into Mainland China are finding it increasingly difficult to make their way and are beginning to consider locations like Vietnam. Our own priorities are changing too; Markus

Shaw, one of Vision's members, is now at the forefront of efforts to put right the depredations caused by years of over-fishing while Nicholas and Maggie Brooke are as much interested in conservation as responsible property development.

For local people of a certain age, one of the most meaningful cultural touchstones is "Below the Lion Rock", a television series made by Radio Television Hong Kong, which was first broadcast in 1974 and which showed realistically, although perhaps with a little touch of sentimentality, the lives of the ordinary working people, mostly quite recently arrived refugees who were building the prosperity of the then Crown Colony. The series' theme song came later, in 1979, but it became one of the best known songs in the whole Cantopop repertoire, as well as one of the greatest hits of singer Roman Tam. When he delivered his 2002 Budget, Antony Leung, the then Financial Secretary, ended on a nostalgic note by quoting the song's lyrics, given in English translation as:

"Of one mind in pursuit of our dream

All discord set aside

With one heart on the same bright quest

Fearless and valiant inside

Hand in hand to the ends of the earth

Rough terrain no respite

Side by side we overcome ills

As the Hong Kong story we write."

"Toy Town" is amazing but perhaps just as striking is the thought that there could be so many more chapters to be written in our story, dealing with those other fields like textiles, watch making and shipping in which tiny Hong Kong became a world leader in those hectic, glorious years of our recent past. It is to be hoped indeed that they will be recorded soon so that the memories of those directly involved can be tapped and the resilience, optimism, energy and imagination that were such important elements in that success can be captured for posterity.

**Rachel Cartland**  
Jan 2012

## Hong Kong Society Committee 2012

### Clinton Leeks (Chairman)

Bob Bell (Elected 2009)  
Emily Fan (Elected 2011)  
Judge James Hanratty (Co-opted)  
Shanyan Koder (Co-opted)  
Tanc Lidbury (Elected 2009)  
Karen Luard (Elected 2011)  
Mark Patterson (Hon Treasurer)  
Dana Robinson (Elected 2009)  
Stuart Tait (Co-opted)

Sue Thistlethwaite (Elected 2011)  
Priscilla Turner (Elected 2009)  
Betty Yao (Elected 2011)  
Alastair Yip (Elected 2009)

Committee members serve for three years.  
The committee includes no more than 10 elected members. It meets every three months to discuss matters related to the Society.

The committee is keen to hear your view on the running of the society. You can reach them through the staff

Executive Director - Robert Guy  
Communications & Marketing Manager - Faye Ye  
Membership Officer - Fiona Duong

email [admin@hkas.org.uk](mailto:admin@hkas.org.uk) or telephone 020 7963 9447.

## 22nd March - Society Women's Group Inaugural Lunch

**Date:** Thursday 22nd March

**Time:** 12.00pm Drinks 1.00pm Lunch

**Cost:** £50 per person (members & members' guests), £60 per person (non-members)

**Guest Speaker:** Kate Blewett

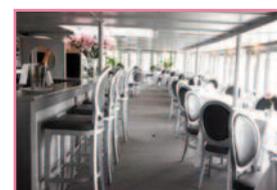
The guest speaker at the Society Women's Group Inaugural lunch is Kate Blewett. Kate is a multi BAFTA and Emmy award-winning documentary director who has harnessed the power of television to bring about social change. Her discovery of the conditions in China's state-run orphanages led to the making of "The Dying Rooms" – a documentary that caused global outcry, leading to governments and organisations of the world challenging the Chinese government. Since then, Kate has worked extensively in over 70 countries, unearthing stories of abuse, exploitation and neglect. Her programme include The Dying Rooms, Slavery, The Transplant Trade, China's Stolen Children, Undercover in Tibet, Mum loves Drugs, Not Me, and Bulgaria's Abandoned Children.

As a direct result of her exposes, government and large corporations have been shamed into action, laws have been changed, prisons shut, institutes closed down, traffickers imprisoned, and many lives have been saved. The Dying Rooms was recently named the most important documentary of the last decade by the Mail on Sunday. Kate lived in Hong Kong for a decade from 1986 – 1996, Kate will talk about the challenges she faced making the documentary and what has happened in China in the decade since it was first aired.

The inaugural lunch is being chaired by Karen Luard.

### **The Yacht:**

Built in 1927, this permanently moored luxury steam Yacht has been restored to its former elegance. Situated on what is known as the "Mayfair of the river" a short distance from the Houses of Parliament and where the City meets the West End, it boasts magnificent views over the river Thames. Many distinguished guests including The Queen, other Heads of State, Sir Winston Churchill, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, President Brezhnev of the USSR and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan were on board when it was used as a VIP vessel by the Port of London Authority.



## 26th March - Visit, Reception and Talk at the BADA and Fine Art Fair

**Date:** Monday 26th March 2012

**Venue:** Duke of York Square (off Sloane Square), London SW3 4LY

**Time:** 6.00pm Reception 6.30pm Private visit to the special exhibition

**Cost:** £12 per person (members & members' guests), £20 per person (non-members)

A reception and special talk at the British Antique Dealers' Association Fair has been organised for Society members and their guests. With approximately 100 members of BADA exhibiting from throughout the UK, this is the UK's leading annual national art and antiques fair. A visit is a 'must' for anyone interested in art and antiques, where a dazzling array of top quality furniture, paintings, clocks, ceramics, jewellery and silver can be viewed and bought. The group will be entertained to a champagne reception and given a gallery tour of the special loan exhibition "Pomp, Pageantry and Protection" - a private collection of polearms never before exhibited.

The Fair is open to the public each day at 11 am between 21st March and 27th March 2012. (Normal admission is £10 single, £15 double - without the BADA handbook). To book a place, please complete the booking form and return it with your cheque, payable to "BADA Ltd", to the address shown below.

The entry deadline is 19th March.

In association with:



## 25th April - Society Spring Dim Sum Lunch

**Date:** Wednesday 25th April  
**Venue:** Imperial China Restaurant, 25 Lisle Street, London, WC2H 7BA  
**Time:** 12.00pm Cashbar 1.00pm Lunch  
**Cost:** £26 (members) £31 (non-members)

We plan a relaxed lunch in a private room of the Imperial China Restaurant. Please do come, meet friends and enjoy a good Chinese meal. The cost will include VAT & Service. Drinks are not included but will be available for purchase at the bar.

## 25th April -EGM & Lecture on 'Life Interned in Stanley Camp'

**Date:** Wednesday 25th April  
**Venue:** East India Club, 16 St James's Square London SW1Y 4LH  
**Time:** 5.00pm EGM 5.45pm Cashbar 6.30pm Lecture  
**Cost for the lecture:** £12 (members & members' guests) £15 (non-members)

### **EGM**

Notice is hereby given that a General Meeting of The Hong Kong Society (the "Society") will be held at The East India Club on Wednesday 25th April 2012 at 5.00pm to consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution:

"That the Bye-laws produced to the Meeting and initialled by the Chairman for the purposes of identification be and are hereby adopted as the Bye-laws of the Society in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing Bye-laws."

By order of the Committee 2012

### **Lecture - 'Life Interned in Stanley Camp'**

by Dr Bernice Archer and Mr Bill Macauley

When the Japanese invaded Hong Kong in 1941, allied civilians were interned in Stanley Camp. Some nationalities, including the Americans, were repatriated, but the British remained there in very unpleasant conditions until the Royal Navy returned in 1945. In this lecture, which will be joined by a number of those who were in the camp as children, Bill Macauley, who was interned aged nearly 16 and who assumed an organising role as a 'quartermaster' of an accommodation block, will describe conditions, the way of life and the routine: food was scarce, discipline strong, punishments harsh and guards unpleasant but there are good memories as well as bad. The scene will be set by Dr Bernice Archer, a historian who has written extensively about the Asian POW and internment camps of that time and who will describe the context and setting up of the camp and how it came to be where it was.

The talk will last for a total of 45 minutes and there will then be plenty of opportunity for discussion and also participation by others who were there.

A cash bar will be available from 5:45pm (or immediately after the EGM) and for a short time after the lecture. There will be a supper (max attendance 20) with the speakers afterwards in a nearby pub for £30 per head including a two-course meal and half bottle of wine.



## Society Forward Programme

### The Society Dragon Boat Team is Recruiting Again!



This year London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival will be held on Sunday, 1st July and The Hong Kong Society is once again planning to compete with a society boat. We are looking for enthusiastic rower/oarsmen to join our team.

If you are interested, please put the date in your diary, and email [communications@hkas.org.uk](mailto:communications@hkas.org.uk) to register.

### Society Annual Dinner - 17th October

Members will want to know that we are planning the Annual Dinner to be on Wednesday 17th October. Our president, The Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, has kindly agreed to be the Guest of Honour. There will be a cash bar from 6.30pm and the dinner itself will be at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Dress will be suit.

The only thing as yet unconfirmed is the location. At the time of going to print, we are locating a venue which provides western food in central London, and does not charge an arm and a leg. Please save the date in your diaries and start arranging your table.

### Events organised by other organisations with special offers to HKS members

#### 13th April - 13th May - Wild Swan - stage production of Jung Chang's best selling book

Venue: Young Vic, 66 The Cut, Waterloo SE1 8LZ



China at the heart of the 20th century. A nation transformed beyond recognition.

Through the eyes of one fiercely courageous family, Wild Swan takes us on a journey from the early days of Communist hope and struggle, through the chaos and confusion of Mao's Cultural Revolution to the birth of a superpower.

An astonishing human story, Wild Swans has sold 13 million copies in 36 languages, making it the best-selling non-fiction book in British publishing history.

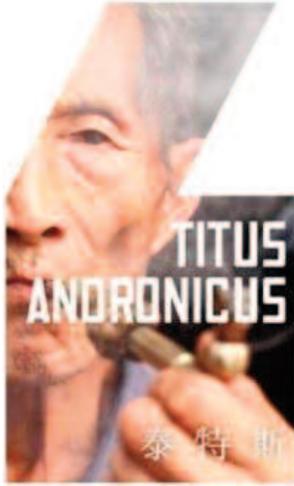
This first ever stage version brings together Jung Chang with playwright Alexandra Wood, director Sacha Wares, designer Miriam Buether and Beijing video artist Wang GongXin.

15% discount offer to HKS members for purchasing tickets. Use the promotion code 'swans15' for booking. Box office: 020 7922 2922.

A Q&A session with the author Jung Chang is being arranged. Further announcement will be made on our website [www.hkas.org.uk](http://www.hkas.org.uk) and by email.

**3rd-4th May - Tang Shu Wing Studio's Performance (in Cantonese) of Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus"**

Venue: Shakespeare's Globe, Bankside, 21 New Globe Walk, London, SE1 9DT  
Time: 3rd May 2:30 PM; 4th May 7:30 PM



The hybrid culture of Hong Kong informs this production of Shakespeare's grisliest play from eminent Hong Kong director Tang Shu-wing's outstanding and groundbreaking troupe. Described as the 'alchemist of minimalist theatre', Tang Shu-wing works with simple staging, voice and movement, to release the energies of classic texts. His ensemble has toured to Singapore and the US, and the Globe to Globe festival is their first visit to the UK. Mr Tang was the Dean of Drama at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

Performed in Cantonese with an English synopsis.

Globe to Globe is an unprecedented multi-lingual programme of Shakespeare productions produced by Shakespeare's Globe as part of the World Shakespeare Festival. Over six weeks every one of Shakespeare's plays will be performed by a major company from a different country in its own language.

The Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office is planning to organise a reception & talk after the performance on 3rd May, and a workshop on 4th May. Members of the society will be invited to participate. If you are interested, please contact the society office nearer the time for further information.

Tickets can be booked online at [www.shakespearesglobe.com/calendar/d/3-5-2012](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/calendar/d/3-5-2012) or call the box office on 020 74019919

**14th May - "Dunhuang and Hong Kong: Gateways to Ancient and Modern China" Seminar**



Venue: The British Library Conference Centre, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB  
Time: 2.30pm-7.00pm

The seminar is organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office and co-hosted with the British Library to compare the roles of Dunhuang and Hong Kong as the gateways to ancient and modern China. Confirmed speakers include experts from Hong Kong (Prof. CF Li of HKU's Jao Tsung-I Petite Ecole), Mainland China (Madam Fan Jinshi, Director of Dunhuang Academy) and the UK (Dr. Susan Whitfield, Director of Dunhuang Project of British Library). The Vice Chancellor of HKU (Prof Tsui Lap-chee). The half-day programme will be followed by a reception. Members of the Hong Kong Society are invited to attend both the seminar and the reception. Please contact the society office if you would like to attend.