RESOLUTION

2002 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FRIENDS OF THE HONG KONG BRANCH
OF THE
ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY (UK)

This is the Friends’ fifth annual report since its inauguration in 1998, and is therefore a cause for celebration. Members may recall that it was with some trepidation that a few past members in Hong Kong circulated known members living in the United Kingdom as to whether they would be interested in forming a Friends Association as an offshoot of the Royal Asiatic Society in Hong Kong. The response was very encouraging and around 75 to 80 people responded positively, most of whom are still members; indeed since then new members who were living in Hong Kong have also joined, and numbers continue to increase slowly.

A great deal of the success of this is due to the encouragement the Friends received and continue to receive from Hong Kong. Visits by members to Hong Kong are warmly received, and in the United Kingdom we welcome any members, particularly if they are able and willing to participate in our activities or give a talk. In the last year we have received Dr Dan Waters, past President, Dr Patrick Hase, President, and Dr Elizabeth Sinn, Vice President. Members may recall that in the previous year we also had a talk by Mr Anthony Lawrence.

One of the great strengths of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society is the publication of the Annual Journal, and the Friends would like to pay tribute to Dr Peter Halliday, who has been the Editor for ten years. The Friends are always pleased to receive the journal, which continues to reach a high academic standard (it is noted that the forthcoming journal has six contributions from the Friends) and is well received by United Kingdom education institutions: It is hoped that Friends’ contributions will increase in future, since this is an effective way of improving the link between the two organisations [Hon. Ed. - Thank you, David, for this most handsome tribute. I’ll “keep with it” for as long as Council and members wish.]

A report would not be complete without paying tribute to those on
the Friends’ Committee, particularly to Mrs Rosemary Lee and Mrs Anita Wilson, Events Organisers. Other active members are Mr Paul Bolding (Secretary), Mr Roger Chandler (Treasurer), Mrs Kirsty Norman, Mr Keith Stevens and Mr David Mahoney. The last of these will be retiring this year and we would like to thank him for his past support and particularly for last year’s Annual General Meeting Lecture.

The Friends normally meet once a quarter in London on a Saturday at the School of Oriental Studies. There is a Chinese lunch gathering followed by a lecture [Hon. Ed. - Suggest you consider doing it the other way around!]. Once a year there could be a weekend away. In the last year Friends started its programme (April 2002) with a very successful week to Cornwall, when around 25 members visited the well known Gardens (Caerhayes, Trewthen, Pine Lodge, Heligan and the Eden Project) with particular reference to the Asian connection; a very sincere thanks to Mrs Penny Byrne who co-ordinated this.

The programme continued with a very well informed lecture by Mr David Mahoney on Awards to Britons in China. David has been collecting medals for some 50 years, some of which he brought to the meeting; the lecture was illustrated with slides which showed the extent of the awards systems to Britons who served in China in the 19th and 20th centuries.

In September 2002 the Friends were fortunate to benefit from a visit to the United Kingdom by Dr Elizabeth Sinn, who gave a talk entitled The Ultimate Return: Transhipment of Chinese Migrants’ Bones to the Native Village and Hong Kong’s Role in the Chinese Diaspora. This was a fascinating insight into the methods and motives as to why the Chinese living in America transported bones of relatives and friends back to China in the 19th Century.

More recently, (February 2003) the Friends held their Annual Chinese New Year lunch at the Joy King Lau Chinese Restaurant in Leicester Street, London. Around 50 members attended to welcome in the Year of the Ram, of whom six were new members.

For the future the Friends are looking forward to the Annual General Meeting (17th May 2003), when Dr Frances Wood, Curator of Chinese Collections at the British Library will be the speaker on Marco
Polo. Later in the year it is hoped to arrange an away visit to Bath (China Artefacts and Porcelain Museum) and Bristol (British Empire and Commonwealth Museum). If any members in Hong Kong are in the United Kingdom we hope you will be able to join us.

Finally, the Friends convey its very best wishes to all members of the Society in Hong Kong for your Annual General Meeting; we look forward to a year of future expansion and interaction.

DAVID GILKES
CHAIRMAN
MARCH 2003
RESOLUTION
HONG KONG BRANCH
OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY
MARCH 21ST 2003

At the Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, held at the Hong Kong Club, on 21st March 2003, the following Resolution was adopted:

Resolved:

That, with effect from 1st April 2004, any annual Member or Family Member paying an annual subscription by any method of payment other than by Autopay, and resident in Hong Kong, shall be required to pay an annual Supplement to the annual Subscription of Hong Kong Dollars 50 (HK$50), and that any such Member paying an annual Subscription by any method of payment other than by Autopay shall not receive the Journal for that year until his full subscription plus the Supplement has been received.

The Society shall, however, before the 1st April 2004, draw to the attention of all such Members resident in Hong Kong who are currently paying an annual Subscription by a method other than by Autopay the implications of this, and will give such Members every assistance to switch their payment method to Autopay.

PATRICK H. HASE
PRESIDENT
MARCH 2003
RESOLUTION
HONG KONG BRANCH
OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

MARCH 21ST 2003

At the Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, held at the Hong Kong Club, on 21st March 2003, the following Resolution was adopted:

Resolved:

That the Society should, at the earliest opportunity, formally establish a Scholarship Fund, as a legal entity separate from the general funds of the Society, to allow the Society to make grants and disburse money for the purpose of sponsoring research in the field of Hong Kong studies, and of assisting publication of books in this field, subject to the Rules for the control and disbursement of such a Fund being agreed by Members, those Rules to include provision for the establishment of a Management Board to oversee the Fund, and for the Annual General Meeting of the Society to see and agree the audited accounts of the Fund year by year.

That the Hon. Treasurer of the Society be appointed Hon. Treasurer of the Scholarship Fund as well as Hon. Treasurer of the Society.

That the Society should, for the future, keep a cash reserve approximately equal to one year’s routine expenditure, as assessed by the Hon. Treasurer of the Society.

That the present cash reserves of the Society being approximately HK$400,000 greater than one year’s routine expenditure, HK$350,000 should be transferred from the general funds of the Society as soon as a Scholarship Fund has been formally and separately established into a Foundation Fund, so that the income from this sum so transferred can be devoted to the purposes of the Fund, subject to the sum transferred being kept as a Capital Sum, not to be spent, but only to be used for the purposes of generating income for the Fund.
That once the Scholarship Fund has been formally and separately established the Society should seek donations from Members and well-wishers of sums which might be added to this Capital Sum to generate income for the Fund, or of sums which might be donated as income for spending in the following year.

That, in addition to the $350,000 to be transferred to the Foundation Fund as resolved above, a further sum of $50,000 be transferred to the Current Account of the Fund at the same time, that is, as soon as the Fund is formally established, to allow the Fund an initial sum for disbursements during the first year or two of the Fund's operations.

PATRICK H. HASE
PRESIDENT
MARCH 2003