DISTRIBUTION OF TEMPLES ON HONG KONG ISLAND AS RECORDED IN 1981

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Hong Kong Island lies to the south of mainland China. It was not known until the later part of the Ming Dynasty, when the names of Heong kong, Tit Hang 鐵坑, Chung Hum 春輝 Chek Chu 赤柱, Tai Tam 大潭, Shoo-ke-wan (shau kei wan) 稚箕灣 and Wong Nei Chung 黃泥涌 were recorded in the book called Yuet Tai Kee 粵大記.

During the 1st year of the Kang Hsi reign of the Ching Dynasty (1661), the people living in the coastal area had to move back to the inland. Seven years later, in the 8th year of the Kang Hsi reign (1669), they were allowed to come back. At that time, only the villages of Heong Kong (Hong Kong village or Shek Pei wan Village) and Wong Nei Chung were rebuilt. However, the other villages were abandoned during the Coastal Evacuation. Then in the Chia Ching reign (1796-1820), two more villages were founded: they were the Pok Fu Lam Village and the So Kon Po Village.

From then on, the population increased rapidly, with people flocking to the area. In 1841, Hong Kong Island came under British rule. At that time, there were the villages of Chek Chu (Stanley), Heong Kong (Hong Kong Village), Wong Nei Chung, Kung Lam (A Kung Ngam), Shek Lup (Shek O), Shoo-ke-wan (Shau kei Wan), Tai Shek-ha, Kwantai-loo (Victoria City, i.e. Central), Soo-Kon-poo (So Kon Po), Hung-heong-loo (Causeway Bay), Sai Wan (Chai Wan), Tai Long, Too-te-wan (To Tei Wan), Tai Tam and Shек-tong-chuy (Sai Ying Pun).

Tseen suy Wan (Repulse Bay), Sum Wan (Deep Water Bay) and Shek-pae (Shek Pei Wan) were deserted fishing hamlets. Since then many local temples were built and repaired.

The temples listed below are in existence in 1981. Though some are ruined, we can still get information about their previous existence.

Tin Hau Temple 天后廟

1. Causeway Bay: Built in the early Ching period, repaired in 1848,

2. Wong Nei Chung: Removed to the present site in 1971. No bell.


5. Chai Wan: Removed to the present site in 1976. No bell.

6. Tai Long: No information, completely disappeared now.


10. West Point: No information, completely disappeared now.

11. Middle Island: No information. No bell.

Hung Shing Temple 洪聖廟


Pak Tai Temple 北帝廟


Kwun Yam Temple 觀音廟


4. Tai Ping Shan Street, Central: Built in 1841, rebuilt in 1885, repaired in 1971. No bell

Tam Kung Temple 譚公廟


Pak Tai Tam Kung Temple 北帝谭公廟


Man Mo Temple 文武廟


Shui Sin Temple 水神廟

Stanley: No information. No bell.

Hoi Sun Temple 海神廟

Shek O. Built in 1975. No bell

Yuk Wong Temple 玉皇廟

Shau Kei Wan: Built in 1912. No bell.

Fuk Tak temple 福德祠


2. Stanley: No information. No bell.
Kong Fuk Yee Chi 廣福義祠

Tai Ping Shan Street, Central: Also known as Pak Shing Temple 百姓廟. Built in 1856, repaired in 1895 and 1977*. Bell 1858.

Pak Ka Temple 百家祠

Wong Nei Chung: Removed to the present site in 1971. No bell.

Ngok Wong Temple 岳王廟

North Point. No information. No bell.

Chai Kung Temple 濟公廟

Wanchai: Built in 1899, removed, and completely disappeared since 1981. No bell.

Tai Shing Temple 大聖廟


Lu Pan Temple 魯班廟


Shui Ching Pak Temple 絹靖伯廟

Tai Ping Shan Street, Central: Built in 1890, repaired in 1895, 1901 and 1976. No bell.

Yee Pak Kung Temple 二伯公廟


The number of temples found in each area is as follows:-

1. Central: 5
2. Wanchai: 4
3. Causeway Bay: 1
4. Chai Wan: 2
5. Shek O: 2
6. Tai Long: 1
7. Chai Wan: 2
8. Tai Long: 1
9. Shek O: 2
10. Tai Long: 1
5. Wong Nei Chung: 3 13. Aberdeen: 1
7. Quarry Bay: 1 15. West Point: 2
8. Shau Kei Wan: 4 16. Middle Island: 1

NOTES

* Indicates that commemorative tablets exists for these repays

1. See the Map of the Kwangtung Coastland. Ch 32 Yue Tai Kee. Man Lik edition 明郭聚粤
   大記卷一 廣東沿海圖

2. In 1661 the Order of the Coastal Evacuation was carried out to stifle the coastal supply of
   Kompan Tainan people living along the coast had to move inland.


5. Ch 2. San On Gazetteer 1891 edition 清嘉慶新安縣志卷一

6. See P. 203. Appendix II. Original Gazetteer and Census. May 15th. 1841. of G. R. Saye’s,
   Hong Kong 1841-1862. Birth, Adolescence and Coming of Age