

Again, thanks for writing to me about my proposal. I have had a small but enthusiastic response to my RAS insert.

I would like say that I have limited knowledge about the Industrial History of HK. And that my interest is non-academic. I have lived in HK for twenty years. During this time I have maintained a spasmodic interest in its industrial transitions. Now I have almost retired I am able to give some time to this.

I think I would like to start by exchanging information to get an idea of the range of subjects and identify what sources are available to us. It's a wide area and I think it might be best at least initially to limit the subject matter to "manufacturing" during the colonial period which I suppose would exclude related topics such as utilities, transport, mining and quarrying (though I am particularly interested in the last two if only because the sites won't disappear).

I have information (sometimes as limited as a single mention in a book or website) on around 80 "products". These vary in scale from one-person operations such as paper lanterns up to large employers like shipbuilding. Some lasted for only a short time, others for a much more extended period. Some were almost exclusively Chinese, others run by foreigners, some mixed.

My sources include:-

1. The RAS Central Library Collection
2. The Carl Smith collection
3. HK Public Libraries
4. (University libraries – though I currently have no access to these)
5. Maps
6. The Web in general
7. Specific websites eg http://www.grs.gov.hk/ws/english/org_pro.htm
8. Books – a very small personal collection of relevant titles
9. Gwulo
10. HK newspapers
11. Observations made during twenty years of walking around HK – both urban and rural. I am very fond of the mountains of HK but also its industrial underbelly!

I welcome suggestions about which direction you think we should move in.

However, a) I think it would very useful at the outset if you could provide other sources, or specific ones within the list above, which I may not have come across. I can then attempt to collate and circulate this information.

b) If you are interested in a specific area let me know and I'll pass on any information I have.

c) If you know of any industrial buildings or sites, of particular interest please let me know and I can also put this information together. There is a huge number of buildings, areas, and vanished sites of an industrial nature here , but I have to start somewhere!

Please pass on my email address to any individuals or organisations who you think may be interested.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Hugh

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