

NOTES AND QUERIES

THE POTTERY KILNS AT WUN YIU, TAI PO

So far as I know, the printed official papers of the Hong Kong Government contain only a few references to these local kilns. They all relate to the period 1899-1912 and in chronological order are as follows:—

- (a) "One village we visited was engaged entirely in the manufacture of pottery, the clay for which is found in the mountain immediately above the village. The villages are said to have learned the art of manufacturing pottery from an Italian missionary who formerly resided among them." J. H. Stewart Lockhart's Report on the New Territory, *Hongkong Government Gazette*, 8 April 1899 p. 544.*
- (b) "The pottery works at Un lu near Tai Po manufacture very coarse ware for export to Kong Mun and local use. The trade done is quite small." *Eastern No. 88, Correspondence relating to the Kowloon-Canton Railway* (London Colonial Office, 1907) Enclosure B to No. 59 to Lyttelton, 11 January 1905.
- (c) "The only *Potteries* are at Wun lu near Taipo, about 400,000 pots, rice bowls and plates are here turned out every year, of an average value of 6 cash each; most of them are exported to Tam Shui in Chinese Territory; Some also to Hongkong." G. N. Orme. "Report on the New Territories 1899-1912" *Sessional Papers 1912*, para. 83, p. 55.

There were at least two kilns. One of these was built over some years ago for a school extension. The other, or part of it, is still to be seen. There are said to be others in the area.

A temple dedicated to Fan Sin Kung (樊仙宮) stands near the site of the kilns. It is in good repair and contains commemorative

* Appendix No. 2 to the Report, which deals with the geology of the New Territory, adds 'Some excellent pottery clay exists on the slopes of Taimo Shan, of which we saw specimens in the village of Un-iu, of a light brown colour and extremely fine texture'.

tablets showing a major repair or reconstruction in 1897-98 and 1925-26. A large Roman Catholic chapel, now in ruins, once stood close by. It is shown as being in existence in Father Volonteri's 1866 map of the San On District—see *JHKBRAS* Vols 9 & 10 (1969 & 1970), pp. 141-148 and 193-196 respectively—but unfortunately receives no mention in Father Ryan's *The Story of A Hundred Years. The Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions (P.I.M.E.) in Hong Kong 1858-1958*.

Hong Kong 1975

JAMES HAYES

THE NOON DAY GUN

The following extract from the *Hong Kong Daily Press*, January 3, 1870, is not without a historical and — for present day residents faced with an increase in our defense contribution—topical interest :

It is interesting and just to note that the renewing of the twelve o'clock gun firing is due to liberality of Mr. Magniac of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, who when the Home Government ceased to provide this small return for the heavy Military Contribution forwarded annually from this Colony, purchased a gun, etc. and had it fixed up at Messrs. Jardine's, where it is fired daily.

NOTE: Herbert St. Leger Magniac was admitted a partner in the firm of Jardine, Matheson and Company, July 1, 1862.

Hong Kong, 1975

CARL T. SMITH

THE GERMAN CONGREGATION IN HONG KONG UNTIL 1914

A note on "'Bethesda' and the Berliner Frauenverein für China" by Pastor Albrecht Plag appeared in vol. 9 (1969) of this Journal. He there asks where Bethesda was located.

Early maps of Hong Kong and a search of title in the Land Registry indicates it occupied the site of the present Mid-levels Police Station on the north side of High Street at its junction with Bonham Road. The original lot extended down to Hospital Road. The plot consisted of two Inland Lots numbered 624 and 607.