A Junk Shop Treasure

Engineering Society 1926

Mr John Rux-Burton, a fundraising consultant based in the UK was browsing in a junk shop in Oxford Street when he came across an old sepia tone photo. It turns out that this is a treasured piece of HKU history; a snapshot of the Hong Kong University Engineering Society of 1926. John purchased it with great consideration and personally delivered it to HKU’s Alumni Office last Fall. Since the return of the photo, University Archives has been busy with preservation and restoration work.

Readers might note two of the photo’s rather more unusual aspects. Firstly, seated in the first row is Professor C A M Smith holding a terrier, presumably his pet, on his lap. Secondly, also seated in the first row, is the society’s only female member, Miss Tsang Tin-chien (BScEng 1930). This is notable given that this was still essentially a “man’s club” at the time.

We welcome donations of memorabilia. Please contact the Development & Alumni Affairs Office: alumni@hku.hk