





The Letters Patent from the College of Arms granting the University full Armorial Bearings - 1913



The Coat of Arms was assigned by letters patent in 1913 through the College of Heralds. It consists of a shield, beneath which there is a Latin inscription, *SAPIENTIA ET VIRTUS*, literally meaning "wisdom" and "virtue". The Chinese motto is taken from the Confucian classic the Great Learning and refers to moral and intellectual enrichment of human lives.



The shield



Main Building, 1912



The Laying of Foundation Stone Ceremony, March 16, 1910: H.N. Mody (standing) presenting the Main Building to Hong Kong in an address to the Governor, Frederick Lugard (not in the photo)

Overview



An early Chinese map of the Pearl River Delta before Hong Kong had become a British colony

What is in a university?

A university enjoys unique fame and status because it is there to serve the advancement of knowledge; but what distinguishes a university from a pure research institute is that it has students, and hence graduates. This is perhaps the essence of John Henry Newman's *The Idea of a University* (1852), that it is about “the culture of the intellect” and the “real cultivation of mind”. Such notions, ancient as they are, have even more relevance today in a knowledge society where people thrive beyond boundaries of disciplines, occupations, organisations, geography and nations.

These ideals underpin the compilation of this monograph. The artificial division into chapters, based on professions, should not mask the pervasiveness, versatility and diversity so conspicuously demonstrated by generations of graduates of the University of Hong Kong. Their footprints are all over the public and private sectors, among officialdom and advocates, entrepreneurs and the populace, and across rival political affiliations. It is also not unusual for a HKU graduate to have



The Victoria City built by the British after 1841: the Central District in early 20th century

gone through several occupations, served a variety of communities and worked across organisations of different cultures. But it is in transcending “characteristic excellences”, again quoting Newman, that HKU graduates have made the most impact at different stages of Hong Kong’s economic, social and political developments. And that is what a university is about.

The ceding of the fishing island to Britain in 1842 marked the beginning of the end to the Qing Dynasty in China. It was Sun Yat-sen, an alumnus, who put the final nails to the coffin of the monarchy, coincidentally in 1911 when the University was formally established in the colony, succeeding the College of Medicine (founded as early as 1887). The first and oldest university in Hong Kong was born in paradoxical circumstances, and has lived the past 90 years with a miraculous intertwining of cultures and ideologies.

As such, the University has never developed as a pure colonial apparatus. The University, modelled after red-brick autonomous academic institutions, highlights freedom, diversity and integrity. The liberal campus life and the diverse learning experiences have nurtured graduates

who carry with them the missions of the time, and have given them the enormous capacity to accommodate new ideas, new challenges and new ventures. They have thus become key actors in the dramatic development of Hong Kong.

In the early years until the 1950s, HKU graduates served Hong Kong as professionals, as medical doctors and engineers in particular, but they also emerged as the handful of prominent community leaders with local upbringing. During the economic take-off from the 1960s through to the early 1980s, HKU graduates were the privileged intellectuals. As civil servants, teachers and other professionals, they were instrumental in building the infrastructure for a cosmopolitan city which then became part of the “East Asian Miracle”.

In recent years, more HKU graduates have risen to the helms in private enterprises that harbinger and champion the knowledge economy. But many are also crucial players, movers and shakers, before, during and after the change of Hong Kong’s sovereignty. Together with the people of Hong Kong, and with graduates from other institutions, local and



Hong Kong in the early 1960s, looking from the West side of the Island

abroad, they now face the daunting task of bringing Hong Kong through the challenges of the new economy and new polity.

What then are the “characteristic excellences” among HKU graduates? Read through the chapters and a few themes unfold. Commitment stands out as the most prominent characteristic: commitment to the community and commitment to self-fulfilment. With commitment comes the determination many HKU graduates have in navigating the arenas, transcending political regimes and surfing economic fluctuations. With that they dare to lead at difficult times in sophisticated institutions. With that they champion social movements and advocate social justice.

HKU graduates are cosmopolitan. The multicultural nature of the University has made an essential impact on its graduates who, with their privileged positions in society, have in turn shaped the cosmopolitan culture of Hong Kong. Conversely, Hong Kong has provided the fertile soil for HKU graduates to grow in their cosmopolitan orientations. Hong Kong is a place where traditions and philosophies cross, where East and West meet, and this is typified by HKU and its graduates.



Hong Kong in the early 1970s



HKU students, 2001

HKU graduates have demonstrated unusual comfort and ease in moving across cultures and over the international arena. The liberal education at HKU is reflected among its graduates in their liberal thinking and characteristic openness. They have learnt to accommodate diverse opinions, conflicting interests and even rival ideologies. They enjoy exposing themselves to the unexplored, breaking through the status quo and taking on the risks in pioneering and innovating. As such, HKU graduates are unconventional, at times even controversial. As such, they sail through changes and sometimes herald trends. They are keen in preserving their own cultural heritage, but are equally known for challenging cultural bounds.

HKU graduates are perhaps more individualistic than intellectuals in other Chinese communities. Their confidence could easily be mistaken as arrogance. But in the bosoms of HKU graduates live the ideals of commitment, loyalty and even sacrifice, qualities that have long been expected and respected as virtues among Chinese intellectuals. These are the very qualities HKU graduates treasure.

Such “characteristic excellences” are also what Hong Kong society cherishes. Growing with Hong Kong, the life-history of HKU graduates

has also rendered this monograph a document of Hong Kong's development, not only its up and downs, but also its evolving dreams and values. Indeed, HKU graduates are part of the intellectual mosaic that has made up Hong Kong.

HKU has been privileged, and with this comes a distinct sense of duty and responsibility among its graduates. At this juncture, when Hong Kong is repositioning itself within China and redefining its role in the global community, so are HKU and its graduates. We face a new era where privileges are redistributed, achievements short-lived and confidence challenged. With the tradition of excellences and most of all commitment, the next generations of graduates must now scale new heights in order to brave the new world in front of them.

A monograph like this necessarily indulges in the past. But the past is no guarantee – even though it may serve as guidance, oracle or inspiration – for the future. As a testimony of graduates' impact from the oldest tertiary institution in Hong Kong, this monograph will serve to illuminate the future, and shed light on the meanings and idea of a university, in particular the University of Hong Kong.



Beijing celebrating the Hong Kong handover, 1997



Traditional High Table of Lee Hysan Hall at Loke Yew Hall, 2001



Inauguration of the HKU Mentorship Programme, 2000



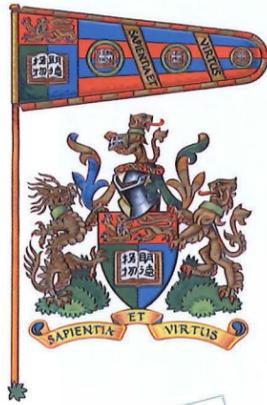
Fung Ping Shan Library, 1930s



Lily Pond, early 1950s

The University of Hong Kong

Growing with Hong Kong



Frederick Lugard

1872

A.B. Hutchison of the Church Missionary Society first suggested a university for Hong Kong.

1878

John Pope-Hennessy (Governor, 1877-1882) proposed a medical school for Hong Kong.

1887.10.1.

Hong Kong College of Medicine for Chinese inaugurated with Sun Yat-sen as one of its first two students.

A meeting between Chinese officials and University planners, 1910



1905

W.H. Donald, Australian editor of *The China Mail*, campaigned for a university in Hong Kong.

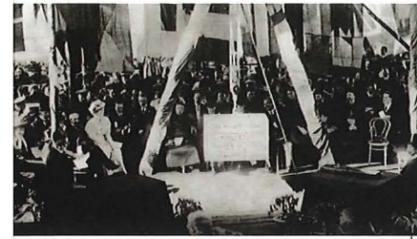
1910.3.16

The University of Hong Kong evolved from the Hong Kong College of Medicine. Frederick Lugard, Governor, laid the Foundation Stone of the Main Building.



1911

The University of Hong Kong incorporated by ordinance. The first two faculties were Medicine and Engineering. There were 71 students in the first year.



1912

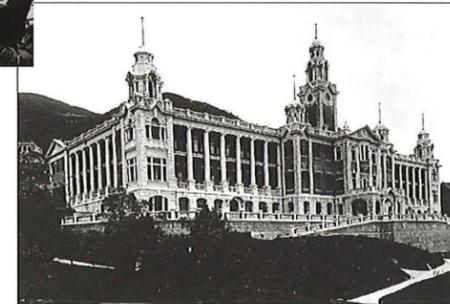
Main Building officially opened

1913

Faculty of Arts established

1916.12

The First Congregation was held with 23 graduates.



1919

Students' Union Building (currently Hung Hing Ying Building) opened

1921

First female undergraduate, Rachel Irving, admitted



First female student hall: St Stephen's Hall, 1923



19th Century

1840 - 1890



1841-2

Hong Kong became a British colony.

1860

Peking Convention – Kowloon added to colony

1898

Britain leased New Territories from China for 99 years.

1905

Qing government abolished the Civil Service Examination. A modern school system and a number of universities established.



1911.10.10

The 1911 Revolution, led by Sun Yat-sen, founded Republic of China



Central School (now Queen's College) established in 1862, where Sun Yat-sen studied before joining the College of Medicine

20th Century

1900

1910

1920



Celebration in Hong Kong



1919

May 4th Movement, Beijing

1912

Kowloon-Canton Railway completed



1925

Canton – Hong Kong General Strike



China and Hong Kong

The University of Hong Kong



Hsu Ti-shan, Founding Professor of Chinese (third right, front)

1927

Institute of Chinese Studies (currently the Department of Chinese) founded

1932

Fung Ping Shan Building opened as the Chinese Library



1937

Queen Mary Hospital opened. HKU Students' Union Medical Relief Association was formed to collect supplies for Chinese army.

1938

Lingnan University re-opened in HKU's library.

1939

Basic science subjects have been taught since 1912 but the Faculty of Science was formally launched only in 1939.



1941

Women undergraduates constituted about 20 per cent

1941.12.4

The students in the Volunteer Defence Force, including some who were in the middle of their examinations were mobilised for war service. Main Building served as a relief hospital.



1941-1945

Life of the University interrupted by the Japanese Occupation

1946

Wartime degrees conferred in the Great Hall on March 22. Classes resumed from October 23.

1948

The University re-opened.



The Main Building and the Great Hall without roof

1923.2.20

"Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong were the birthplace of my knowledge..." Sun Yat-sen (cited from his famous visit to HKU)



Wartime

1940

1930

1934

Long March of the Red Army



1937

The Sino-Japanese War broke out. Influx of immigrants from China doubled Hong Kong's population to 1.6 million.



Hong Kong, 1935



1941.12

Hong Kong occupied by Japan



1945.8.15

Liberation of Hong Kong. Population reduced to 600,000; rose to 1.8 million by the end of 1947.



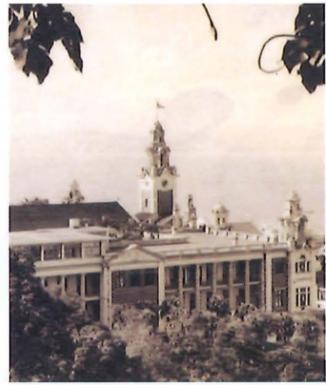
1949.10.1

People's Republic of China established



China and Hong Kong

The University of Hong Kong



Post-War

Demand for higher education opportunities soared, coupled with the influx of mainland intellectuals and students.



1950

Faculty of Architecture established



1952

Student number reached 1,000 (95 per cent local).

1956

Department of Extra-mural Studies established (became the School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPACE), the largest tertiary institution of continuing education in Hong Kong in 1992)

1959

Convocation was established as a statutory body comprising graduates and teaching staff.

The 1960s

Grants and loans as financial aids launched



1961

The University celebrated its golden jubilee with more than 2,000 students. Main Library building completed.



Tea time at the Vice-Chancellor's Lodge in the early 1960s

1965

The University came under the University Grants Committee.

1967

Faculty of Social Sciences launched

1969

Department of Law established (Faculty since 1984). Requirement for undergraduate students to live in halls of residence was lifted.



The former Students' Union Building



The classrooms of the Law Department, Caine Road

20th Century (Post-War)

1950

1950

Hong Kong-China border was closed from April.

1950-53

Korean War – Hong Kong suffered from United Nations embargo

1956

Influx of immigrants from China

1958

“Great Leap Forward” in China



Shek Kip Mei squatter fire, 1953

1959

Kai Tak airport extension opened.



1960

The 1960s

Industrialisation of Hong Kong began

1962

Influx of Chinese immigrants

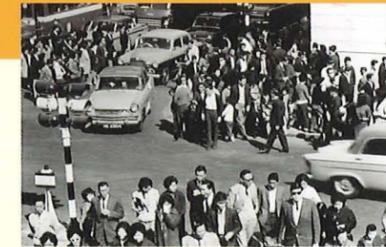


1966

Cultural Revolution started

1967

Riots occurred. Free television service commenced.



Water shortage



Cultural Revolution



City life, 1950s



China and Hong Kong

The University of Hong Kong

The 1970s

HKU student population reached 4,000 from diverse backgrounds and social strata. Student Movements marked "the Fiery Red Era"



1976

The School of Education was formed from the former Department of Education (Faculty since 1984).



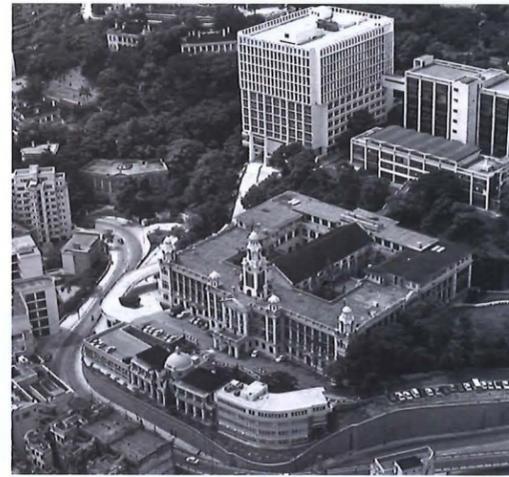
Students running for the executive posts of the Students' Union



Big-character poster as students' voice was popular in the 70s.



Defend Diaoyutai Movement



The 1980s

The University expanded further. The population was over 10,000. The graduates totalled over 40,000.

1982

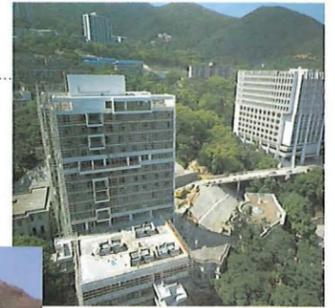
Faculty of Dentistry, based at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital, was launched.



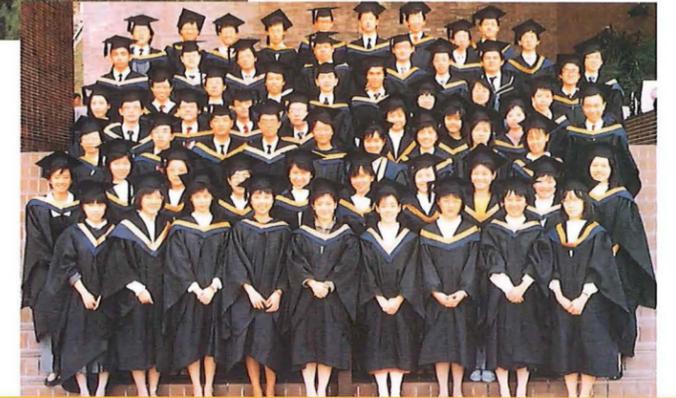
A Royal visit to the Faculty of Dentistry

1987

Faculty of Medicine Centenary Celebrations



Law graduates, 1980s



1970

The early 1970s

Economic fluctuations. Unemployment and crime soared. Stock and property markets collapsed.

1972

Hong Kong's first cross-harbour tunnel opened. Nixon, President of the United States, visited Beijing.

1973

New Town development launched

1974

Independent Commission Against Corruption established. Chinese and English became statutory languages.



1976

Beijing: Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai died. Fall of the Gang of Four

Late 1970s

Hong Kong economy took off, soon became one of the Four Little Dragons of Asia

Emergence of a "Hong Kong" culture



1980

1978

Nine-year compulsory education introduced

1979

Mass Transit Railway opened.



The 1980s

Hong Kong population reached 5.2 million. China Open Door Policy



1984

Sino-British Joint Declaration signed. Emigration exodus

1989

Beijing: June 4th Incident



Legislative Council elections, 1985

China and Hong Kong

The University of Hong Kong



80th Anniversary Celebrations

The 1990s

The number of higher education institutions in Hong Kong increased to eight.



New wing of the Main Library



1991

A major extension was added to the Main Library on the site of the old Students' Union Building.

1998

Thorough undergraduate curriculum reform, including credit-based curriculum, student-centred teaching, problem-based learning, pervasive use of IT, etc



2000

Kadoorie Biological Sciences Building opened.



2001-2002

The University celebrates its 90th Anniversary with a student population of over 14,000 and over 90,000 alumni.



MBA (International) students graduated in Shanghai, 2001



The Faculty of Medicine Building opened, 2002

2001

Faculty of Business and Economics established



Grand Reunion, 2001

21st Century

2000

2000-2001

Economic downturn. Hong Kong population reached 7 million. China joined WTO.

Chairman Jiang Zemin visited Hong Kong



2002

Government restructuring



Shanghai



The new team of the Principal Officials Accountability System, July 2002

1990

1990

Basic Law of Hong Kong adopted by the National People's Congress

Early 1990s

Hong Kong stock and property markets soared after Deng Xiaoping's visit to Guangdong. Industries began to move north.

1997.7.1

Hong Kong celebrated reunification with China.

1998

Asian financial crisis. New Airport opened.



China and Hong Kong