



MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1976

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL
 P.W.D. PRODUCES NEW COUNTRYSIDE MAP FOR RAMBLERS
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MORE OF HONG KONG'S LOVELY COUNTRYSIDE IN OUTLYING AREAS IS BEING OPENED UP FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF CITY DWELLERS.

AND THIS SUMMER, FINDING A QUIET SPOT AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE CITY WILL BE AN EASIER AFFAIR, THANKS TO THE PUBLICATION OF A NEW COUNTRYSIDE MAP PRODUCED BY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CARTOGRAPHERS.

ENTITLED '+LANTAU AND ISLANDS+', THE MAP FEATURES THE PICTURESQUE ISLANDS OF LANTAU, CHEUNG CHAU, PENG CHAU, LAMMA AND MA WAN — REGARDED BY MANY AS PROBABLY THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF HONG KONG'S OUTLYING ISLANDS.

THE MAP IS IN COLOUR WITH LEGENDS IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH. IT IS THE THIRD IN THE POPULAR COUNTRYSIDE SERIES PRODUCED BY THE P.W.D.'S CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE TO PROMOTE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

THE FIRST TWO WERE '+HONG KONG ISLAND+' AND '+NEW TERRITORIES - WEST+', BOTH OF WHICH SOLD OUT SO QUICKLY THAT NEW EDITIONS HAD TO BE PRINTED.

+QUITE HONESTLY WE WERE A BIT SURPRISED BY THE RESPONSE,+ COMMENTED MR. HAL EMPSON, THE P.W.D.'S CHIEF MAP-MAKER, '+BUT IT HAS BEEN A GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO US IN PRODUCING THIS SERIES.

+THE COUNTRYSIDE HAS, OF COURSE, LONG BEEN A POPULAR PLAYGROUND WITH URBAN RESIDENTS, BUT ONLY THE MORE ADVENTUROUS REALLY VENTURED OUT IN THE MORE REMOTE AREAS WHICH, BY THEIR VERY NATURE, ARE MORE INTERESTING.

+THE MAPS ARE DESIGNED TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO EXPLORE THE COUNTRYSIDE, NOT ONLY FOR THEIR ENJOYMENT, BUT ALSO THAT THEY CAN DEVELOP A GREATER APPRECIATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

+WITH THESE MAPS, THEY CAN NOW VENTURE FARTHER AFIELD AND ENJOY THE COUNTRYSIDE TO THE FULL,+ HE SAID.

THE '+LANTAU AND ISLANDS+' MAP IS NOW ON SALE AT \$4 A COPY, AND LIMITED STOCKS OF THE OTHER TWO ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S SALES COUNTER ON THE 19TH FLOOR OF MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG= THE KOWLOON CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY OFFICE, 10TH FLOOR, KOWLOON GOVERNMENT OFFICES= AND AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATION CENTRE AT STAR FERRY.

A SMALL HANDBOOK OF GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ISLANDS IS DISTRIBUTED FREE OF CHARGE WITH THE LANTAU MAP.

THE BOOKLET, IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH, GIVES A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS PLACES OF SPECIAL INTEREST, AND LISTS SUCH DETAILS AS FERRY AND +KAI-DO+ SERVICES, TOURIST FACILITIES, AND EVEN THE TYPE OF HOSPITALITY BEING OFFERED BY THE ISLANDS' VARIOUS RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND MONASTERIES.

IT ALSO CONTAINS SOME INTERESTING HISTORICAL NOTES ABOUT THE ISLANDS, AND OFFERS A SERIES OF SUGGESTED ROUTES FOR TRIPPERS.

ON LANTAU ISLAND, FOR INSTANCE, IT SUGGESTS THAT TRIPPERS COULD START WITH THE SHORTER, EASIER WALKS FROM TRAPPIST HAVEN PIER TO THE POPULAR MUI WO AREA WHICH IS ALREADY A MAJOR RESORT AREA, OR FROM MUI WO TO CHI MA WAN.

FOR THE MORE ADVENTUROUS HIKERS, IT SUGGESTS WALKS FROM MUI WO TO TUNG CHUNG (FIVE HOURS) VIA THE FAMOUS SILVER MINE CAVE, OR FROM TAI O TO TUNG CHUNG (FIVE HOURS) AND ON TO TUNG CHUNG FORT. THIS FORT DATES BACK TO THE 17TH CENTURY AND WAS REPUTEDLY OCCUPIED BY THE NOTORIOUS PIRATE CHEUNG PO-TSAI AT THE TURN OF THE 18TH CENTURY. THE FORT STILL HAS CANNON — ONE DATED 1809 — AIMED OVER ITS WALLS, BUT TODAY THE INSIDE BUILDINGS SERVE AS A SCHOOL.

MR. EMPSON SAID THE MAP HAD DELIBERATELY BEEN MADE SIMPLE SO THAT EVEN THE MOST INEXPERIENCED MAP READER COULD USE IT.

+FOR EXAMPLE, FOOTPATHS AND WALKING TRAILS ARE CLEARLY SHOWN IN RED, WITH A BROKEN LINE TO INDICATE PATHS WHICH MAY BE SEASONALLY OVERGROWN, AND VARIOUS FEATURES SUCH AS PICNIC SPOTS, APPROVED BARBECUE PLACES, REST PAVILIONS, BOATING AREAS, PUBLIC TELEPHONES, MONASTERIES, BUS TERMINI AND CARPARKS, ARE DENOTED BY APPROPRIATE ILLUSTRATIVE SIGNS FOR QUICK AND EASY REFERENCE.+

TWO SYMBOLS ARE USED TO INDICATE THE MANY MAGNIFICENT BEACHES ALONG THE ISLANDS. ONE SHOWING A GIRL SITTING UNDER A BEACH UMBRELLA, DENOTES A BEACH WITH LIFEGUARDS, WHILE BEACHES WITHOUT SUPERVISION ARE INDICATED BY A BIKINI CLAD GIRL HOLDING A BEACH BALL ALOFT.

FOOTPATHS ARE SHOWN AS MAJOR AND MINOR. IN THIS CONTEXT MAJOR PATH INDICATED A POPULAR ROUTE, EASILY WALKED WITHOUT SCRAMBLING AND USUALLY WELL DEFINED AND MAINTAINED. MINOR PATH INDICATES A LESS POPULAR, LESS FREQUENTED ROUTE WHICH MAY BE STEEP, NARROW OR ROUGH AND ILL-DEFINED IN PARTS.

IN KEEPING WITH THE MOVE TOWARDS METRICATION, THE MAP EMPLOYS METRIC UNITS, BUT FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF RAMBLERS' DISTANCE SCALES ARE ALSO GIVEN IN MILES AND FEET.

THE LANTAU MAP, WHICH OCCUPIES ONE SIDE OF THE SHEET, HAS BEEN DRAWN TO A SCALE OF 1 : 35,000. TWO SPECIAL INSETS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED SHOWING IN GREATER DETAIL THE ISLAND'S POPULAR MUI WO AND NGONG PING AREAS.

THE OTHER ISLANDS ARE SHOWN ON THE REVERSE OF THE SHEET WHICH CAN BE FOLDED TO HANDY POCKET BOOK SIZE WHEN NOT IN USE. LAMMA ISLAND (ALSO KNOWN AS POK LIU CHAU) IS DRAWN TO A SCALE OF 1 : 20,000, WHILE CHEUNG CHAU, PENG CHAU AND MA WAN HAVE ALL BEEN DRAWN TO 1 : 7,500.

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A PROMINENT FEATURE OF THE MAP IS A SECTION LISTING SAFETY HINTS FOR HIKERS IN BOTH CHINESE AND ENGLISH. ALSO INCLUDED IS THE COUNTRY CODE WHICH IS SPELLED OUT IN A MESSAGE ON THE FLAP COVER.

+THE NEED TO OBSERVE THE COUNTRY CODE AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT CANNOT BE OVERSTRESSED,+ SAID MR. EMPSON.
+THE MAP IS INTENDED TO HELP PEOPLE ENJOY THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND WOULD BE TRAGIC IF THIS WERE TO BE SPOILT BY THOUGHTLESSNESS OR CARELESSNESS.+

HE REMINDED TRIPPERS TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE DANGER OF FIRE AND EMPHASISED THAT BARBECUES SHOULD ONLY BE HELD AT APPROVED BARBECUE SPOTS THE LOCATIONS OF WHICH ARE CLEARLY INDICATED ON ALL COUNTRYSIDE MAPS.

HE ALSO EMPHASISED THE NEED TO KEEP THE COUNTRYSIDE CLEAN BY DISPOSING OF LITTER IN BINS PROVIDED. IN MORE REMOTE AREAS WHERE NO BINS ARE PROVIDED, PICNICKERS SHOULD TAKE THEIR LITTER WITH THEM AND DISPOSE OF IT IN BINS ON THE WAY HOME.

+AS STATED IN THE CODE, THE PRINCIPLE TO FOLLOW IS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRYSIDE CLEANER THAN YOU FIND IT,+ HE SAID.

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