



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1976

HONG KONG'S ANCIENT ROCK CARVINGS

* * * * *

HONG KONG'S UNIQUE ANCIENT ROCK CARVINGS, BELIEVED TO BE AROUND 3,000 YEARS OLD, ARE IN DANGER OF BEING DESTROYED BY NATURAL EROSION AND VANDALISM.

MOVES ARE NOW AFOOT BY THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MUSEUM OF HISTORY TO PROTECT THEM IN SITU AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF HONG KONG'S CULTURAL HERITAGE.

PRESENT PLANS INCLUDE PUTTING UP TEMPORARY FENCES TO THWART IRRESPONSIBLE PEOPLE FROM DEFACING THEM. A MAJOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO IMPRESS ON THE PUBLIC THEIR GREAT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE IS ALSO BEING UNDERTAKEN.

ACCORDING TO THE CURATOR OF THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MUSEUM OF HISTORY, MR. BRIAN PEACOCK, VANDALISM HAS ALREADY TAKEN PLACE.

+IF WE DON'T DO ANYTHING NOW, THESE CARVINGS WILL BE GONE IN A MATTER OF A YEAR OR TWO,+ HE WARNED.

THESE CARVINGS, MANY OF WHICH ARE OF GEOMETRIC DESIGN, DO NOT SEEM TO FIGURE SIGNIFICANTLY IN PRESENT DAY LOCAL TRADITIONS. THEY ARE FOUND IN BIG WAVE BAY, SHEK PIK ON LANTAU, PO TOI ISLAND, TUNG LUNG ISLAND, CHEUNG CHAU AND KAU SAI CHAU.

APART FROM TRYING TO PRESERVE THESE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS IN SITU, MR. PEACOCK SAID, WORK IS NOW PROCEEDING TO MAKE A PERMANENT RECORD OF THE CARVINGS BY PRODUCING REPLICAS BY A MOULDING PROCESS.

+WE FIRST PAINT ON THE SURFACE OF THESE CARVINGS LIQUID RUBBER LATEX, TOPPING IT WITH A SHEET OF COTTON GAUZE,+ HE SAID.

+FOLLOWING THIS, PLASTIC RESIN IS APPLIED ON THE TOP OF THE GAUZE TO GIVE THE MOULD GREATER RIGIDITY AND STRENGTH.

+WHEN THE VARIOUS LAYERS HAVE DRIED, WHICH NORMALLY TAKES ABOUT A DAY, THE MOULD IS REMOVED AND TAKEN TO THE MUSEUM OF ART LABORATORY IN THE CITY HALL WHERE IT IS USED TO PRODUCE AN EXACT REPLICA IN THE FORM OF A CAST,+ MR. PEACOCK SAID.

HE REVEALED THAT WHEN THE ENTIRE MOULDING AND CASTING WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS, AN EXHIBITION OF THE REPLICAS OF THE CARVINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY.

+TO GIVE THEIR PRECISE AGE IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT,+ HE SAID.

/+HOWEVER,

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1976

- 2 -

+HOWEVER, SINCE MANY OF THE DESIGNS IN THE ROCK CARVINGS RESEMBLE PATTERNS ON POTTERY AND METAL ARTEFACTS OF THE BRONZE AGE, IT IS LIKELY THAT THEY ARE CONTEMPORARY.

+IT WOULD NOT THEREFORE BE UNREASONABLE TO ESTIMATE THAT THEY WERE PRODUCED AS EARLY AS THE FIRST MILLENNIUM B.C.

+SINCE THEY ARE THE ONLY VISIBLE MONUMENTS OF HONG KONG'S PREHISTORIC PAST, THEY ARE OF VERY GREAT CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE,+ HE ADDED.

MR. PEACOCK SAID THAT SIMILAR CARVINGS WERE EXTREMELY RARE ELSEWHERE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

+THUS,+ HE POINTED OUT, +THE CARVINGS ARE ALSO IMPORTANT AS FAR AS THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION IS CONCERNED.+

WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE SIX CARVINGS RESEMBLE EACH OTHER, MR. PEACOCK SAID FIVE OF THEM SHOWED SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS.

+THE ONE AT TUNG LUNG IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE IT IS LESS GEOMETRIC,+ HE STATED.

ON THE FUTURE OF THESE ROCK CARVINGS, HE POINTED OUT, +CONSIDERABLE WORK IS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THEIR EXISTENCE.+

AT PRESENT, HE INDICATED, THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO PREVENT EROSION AND STOP WATER FROM SEEPING THROUGH CREVICES IN THE MONUMENTS WAS BEING INVESTIGATED.

+THE FINAL SOLUTION FOR THEIR PRESERVATION WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT AESTHETIC CONSIDERATIONS AS WELL,+ HE ADDED.

- - - - 0 - - - -

STREET CLOSURE
* * * * *

WAI YIP STREET BETWEEN KWUN TONG ROAD AND SIU YIP STREET IN KWUN TONG WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 11 P.M. AND 6 A.M. FROM SEPTEMBER 28 TO 30.

THE CLOSURE IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE A FLYOVER TO BE CONSTRUCTED ACROSS WAI YIP STREET TO THE WEST OF THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY KOWLOON DEPOT SITE.

MOTORISTS AFFECTED BY THE ABOVE CLOSURE SHOULD USE KWUN TONG ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE POSTED TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

- - - - 0 - - - -

/3

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1976

- 3 -

GOVERNMENT TV PROGRAMME POPULAR
* * * *

GOVERNMENT PRODUCED TELEVISION PROGRAMMES ARE GROWING IN POPULARITY WITH THE "BELOW THE LION ROCK" DRAMA SERIES STILL MAINTAINING ITS LEAD ON OTHER SIMILAR TV PRODUCTIONS.

THIS CANTONESE DRAMA SERIES NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR OF PRODUCTION, IS STILL THE MOST INFLUENTIAL DRAMA SERIES.

AUDIENCE FIGURES REMAIN CONSISTENTLY HIGH WITH A COMBINED AUDIENCE WELL OVER 2.3 MILLION. IT IS SEEN BY MORE HONG KONG PEOPLE THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE PROGRAMME.

ACCORDING TO THE LATEST SURVEY, ALTHOUGH THE WEEKLY EPISODE WAS SHOWN FIRST ON CTV AND RTV, TVB IN THIRD PLACE COULD CLAIM AN AUDIENCE FIGURE OF 1,505,000 MAKING IT THEIR SIXTH MOST POPULAR PROGRAMME.

AMONG THE THEMES TACKLED WERE DRUGS AND THE YOUNG, CORRUPTION, AND DIFFICULT SUBJECTS WHERE A MASS AUDIENCE NEEDED EDUCATING SUCH AS HAWKER CONTROL POLICY AND THE DANGER OF UNLICENSED FOOD CATERERS.

ONE OF ITS EPISODES "SUNRISE, SUNSET" WON A SPECIAL PRIZE AT THE ASIAN BROADCASTING UNION YOUNG FILM MAKERS FESTIVAL AT SHIRAZ IN IRAN.

ANOTHER POPULAR RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG PROGRAMME "VIEWPOINT AND ANGLES", WHICH IS SCREENED NIGHTLY AFTER THE NEWS HAS A COMBINED AUDIENCE OF 2.5 MILLION PEOPLE.

- - - - 0 - - - -

SCOUT MOVEMENT PRAISED
* * * * *

THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR. JOHN CHAMBERS, TODAY PRAISED THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT IN SHAPING THE FUTURE AND BUILDING THE CHARACTER OF YOUTHS.

HE WAS SPEAKING AT THE INAUGURATION OF OFFICE BEARER OF THE TAI PO (SOUTH) DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL OF THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION.

AFTER PRESENTING CERTIFICATES OF APPOINTMENT TO LAY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, MR. CHAMBERS SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE GROUP HAD MARKED UP SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SCOUT MOVEMENT IN SUCH AREAS AS ORGANISATION TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT.

+I BELIEVE THAT THE SCOUT MOVEMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCH PLACES AS TAI PO, WHERE THERE IS A LARGE NUMBER OF YOUTHS,+ HE SAID.

+THIS IS BECAUSE THE MOVEMENT'S STRICT DISCIPLINE, LOFTY CONCEPT OF SERVING OTHERS AND THE VARIOUS TYPES OF TRAINING INVOLVED WILL BENEFIT THE YOUTHS TO A GREAT EXTENT IN SHAPING THEIR FUTURE AND BUILDING THEIR CHARACTERS.+

- - - - 0 - - - -