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In 1924 and 1925, the British Empire Exhibition was held at Wembley Park in London to promote cooperation within the British Empire. Hong Kong took part, with its own exhibition area – the Hong Kong Section – which was the only comprehensive showcase of Hong Kong to take place in Britain during the colonial era.

The exhibition occurred at a time of great ferment in Hong Kong. In the 1920s, British imperialism and Chinese nationalism shaped the city's sociopolitical environment. Two large general strikes, both of which involved two major political parties from China (the Communist Party of China and the Nationalist Party), also took place in Hong Kong before and during the exhibition. The organising of the Hong Kong Section, the design of the pavilion, the exhibits, and the contemporary responses in both Britain and Hong Kong all reflect Hong Kong's relationship with Britain and China in the 1920s.

Hong Kong's involvement in the exhibition is not very well known in Hong Kong. None of the buildings from the British Empire Exhibition survive today. This book is based on the author's archival research, and more than 180 items he has collected to tell the story of the Hong Kong Section. The items are a tangible reminder of the era, which bring us back to the 1920s.

在1924及1925年，位於英國倫敦的溫布萊公園舉辦了大英帝國博覽會(時稱「英京賽會」)，藉以推動大英帝國內的合作。香港於專屬的「香港展區」參展，是在殖民統治期間，香港唯一一次在英國進行的綜合展覽。

這次博覽會在香港燥動的年代舉行。在1920年代，香港的社會政治環境深受英國帝國主義及中國民族主義的影響。在籌備及展覽期間，亦發生了兩場牽涉兩個中國主要政黨(共產黨及國民黨)的大罷工。這次博覽會的組織過程、展館設計、展品選擇，以至當時香港及英國的反應，都說明了香港在1920年代與英國及中國的關係。

甚少香港人知道香港曾參與英京賽會，而博覽會的所有建築物現時已不復存在。本書根據作者的檔案研究的研究成果，以及他所收集的超過180件藏品，重組香港展區的故事。這些見證時代的藏品，將帶我們回到1920年代。

英京賽會

British Empire
Exhibition.
Wembley.

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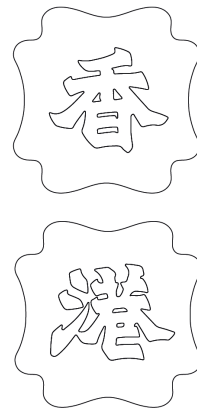
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**Two Exhibitions
between Two Strikes:**
Exhibiting Hong Kong
at the British Empire Exhibition
a Collection of Items

1924
-1925



兩次大罷工之間的兩次博覽會
在英京賽會展示香港
藏品集



兩次大罷工之間的兩次博覽會：
在英京賽會展示香港(藏品集)
Exhibiting Hong Kong at the British Empire Exhibition (a Collection of Items)

British Empire Exhibition.
Wembley.

**Two Exhibitions between Two Strikes:
Exhibiting Hong Kong
at the British Empire Exhibition
(a Collection of Items)**

兩次大罷工之間的兩次博覽會：
在英京賽會展示香港
(藏品集)

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TWO EXHIBITIONS BETWEEN TWO STRIKES: EXHIBITING HONG KONG AT THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION

兩次大罷工之間的兩次博覽會： 在英京賽會展示香港

Hong Kong is many things today – global city, international financial centre, former British colony, southern Chinese city, a society with a distinctive local culture and identity, and so on. Each highlights a specific dimension of the city. When Hong Kong was exhibited in Britain a century ago, what dimensions were emphasised?

In 1924 and 1925, two seasons of the British Empire Exhibition (BEE) were held at Wembley Park, in northwest London. As a colonial exhibition showcasing the history and latest developments of the British Empire, most dominions, colonies and dependencies of Britain took part. The Hong Kong government exhibited

今時今日，香港擁有多重身份——從全球城市、國際金融中心、前英國殖民地、中國南方城市，以至一個擁有獨特本土文化及身份的社會等等，每種表達方式都強調香港某個特點。當香港在一世紀前在英國展出時，會被突顯出哪些面向？

在1924及1925年，倫敦西北部的溫布萊公園舉辦了兩季大英帝國博覽會（當時稱為「英京賽會」，本書沿用這個名稱），作為展示大英帝國歷史及最近發展的殖民地博覽會，大部份英國自領地、殖民地

the tiny colony in the BEE's Hong Kong Section. The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, representing the city's Chinese and British merchants respectively, and some British former Hong Kong residents living London coordinated the preparation and execution.^[1]

The Hong Kong Section was the only comprehensive showcase of Hong Kong seen in Britain during the colonial era. In 1842, the Great Qing ceded Hong Kong to the United Kingdom under the Treaty of Nanking. By 1924, Hong Kong had been colonised for eight decades. How would the history of Hong Kong and its contemporary developments be presented to the British public? What was its response? Were Hong Kong's British and Chinese communities happy with the way the city was represented?

The organisation, the design of the pavilion, choice of exhibits, and responses in both Britain and Hong Kong at the time, all illustrate Hong Kong's relationship with Britain and China. In the 1920s, British imperialism and Chinese nationalism shaped the sociopolitical environment of Hong Kong.^[2] In terms of territory, Britain's empire had reached its greatest extent when it acquired a number of colonies and protectorates from Imperial Germany after the First World War. But Britain's dominance in global politics and economy had begun to decline. The UK government attempted to rejuvenate the nation by promoting economic cooperation and building a sense of community among the constituent territories of the British Empire. The BEE was one of the initiatives of Department of Overseas Trade mounted to this end. But resistance to imperialism in Britain's dominions, colonies and dependencies was on the rise. Native peoples in the colonies were especially sensitive to representations of their culture and history at Wembley Park. As I will illustrate in this book, the

及屬地都參與其中。香港政府亦在博覽會場內的「香港展區」展示這個細小的殖民地。分別代表香港本地的華商及英商的華商總局(即現時的香港中華總商會)及香港總商會,以及一些在倫敦居住的前香港居民則負責統籌及執行過程。^[1]

香港展區是香港在英國殖民統治期間,唯一一次在英國進行的綜合展覽。在1842年,大清帝國根據《南京條約》割讓香港予英國,及至1924年,香港已被英國殖民統治了80多年。那麼,該如何向英國公眾展示香港的歷史及新近發展?觀眾對此有甚麼反應?香港的華人及英國人社群又是否滿意以這種方式表述香港?

這次博覽會的組織過程、展館設計、展品選擇,以至當時香港及英國的反應,都說明了香港在1920年代與英國及中國的關係。在1920年代,香港的社會政治環境深受英國帝國主義及中國民族主義的影響。^[2]英國在第一次世界大戰後自德意志帝國繼承大量殖民地及保護國,以領土範圍來說,達至其頂峰,但對全球政治及經濟的領導地位卻開始下滑。英國政府企圖透過促進大英帝國領土內的合作及塑造社群意識,藉以重振其國力——英京賽會正是英國海外貿易部(Department of Overseas Trade)達至這些目標的舉措之一。然而,自領地、殖民地及屬地的反抗運動亦持續發展。這些殖民地的本地社群,對於他們的文化及歷史在溫布萊公園

BEE inadvertently encouraged or intensified awareness of anti-imperialism in some colonies, such as the Gold Coast, India and Nigeria.^[3]

The Xinhai Revolution of 1911 brought an end to the feudal rule of the Great Qing, establishing the Republic of China. The following decade brought frenetic change, with market economy and rapid urbanisation taking hold. But the new republic was soon fractured, with competing military factions dividing the country into different fiefs. The conflicts between warlords in 1924 were particularly catastrophic, giving rise to the most chaotic situation since the Qing abdication. The central government in Beijing went bankrupt. Economic expansion and industrialisation ground to a halt. The lives of merchants, students, workers and intellectuals in urban areas were severely affected. They began to explore alternatives for the future of China. Therefore, the years of 1924 and 1925 would become critical to the formation of nationalism and support for the ideas of communism in China.^[4]

Hong Kong took part in the BEE at a time when both Britain and China were facing tremendous changes. Moreover, Hong Kong also experienced two general strikes – the largest in the colony’s history – before and during the BEE. Both strikes involved the Nationalist Party (KMT) and the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Canton (now officially known as Guangdong; to the north of Hong Kong). Both parties intended to challenge the presence of Britain’s influence in China and the Crown’s rule in Hong Kong. The British government was suspicious of the Nationalist government in Canton and Sun Yat-sen, the Extraordinary President and leader of the KMT, as he supported the general strikes and also cooperated with the CPC. To contain anti-imperialism movements and communism in the colony, the Hong Kong government started to collaborate with some

的錯誤表述尤其敏感。正如我會在本書闡述，英京賽會意外地刺激或加強了英屬黃金海岸、印度及尼日利亞等殖民地的反帝國主義意識。^[3]

在中國，1911年的辛亥革命結束了大清帝國的封建統治，並成立了中華民國。在隨後的十年間出現翻天覆地的轉變，市場經濟及城市文化迅速發展，當中在城市地區尤甚。然而，軍閥卻割據全國各地，令民國迅速分裂。1924年那幾場在軍閥間發生的內戰極具破壞性，造成了自大清帝國被廢止後最混亂的情況。北洋政府宣告破產，而經濟增長及工業化亦被迫停止，嚴重影響在城市生活的商人、學生、工人及知識份子。他們開始為中國的未來探索其他出路，1924及1925年因而成為中國民族主義及共產主義在中國萌芽的重要年份。^[4]

香港在英國及中國出現鉅變期間參與了英京賽會。與此同時，香港在籌辦及參展期間，經歷了兩場在香港殖民地歷史中最大規模的大罷工。兩場大罷工都牽涉在廣東的中國國民黨及中國共產黨——兩黨均企圖挑戰英國在中國的影響力及對香港的統治。自孫中山（中華民國非常大總統及國民黨領袖）支持大罷工及與中國共產黨合作後，英國政府開始猜忌他和廣東的國民政府。香港政府開始聯合部份本地華人領袖，透過宣揚中國傳統文化，遏止反帝國主義運動及共產主義在香港擴散。^[5] 香港

local Chinese elites to promote traditional Chinese culture.^[5] The Hong Kong Section was organised against a backdrop of a challenge to British imperialism by the burgeoning Chinese nationalism. So, for the colonial government and the organising committee, the choices made for the representation of Hong Kong at the BEE were highly important.

As was the case with other colonial sections at Wembley Park, and in colonial exhibitions elsewhere in the world, the Hong Kong Section was dogged by disputes. There had been plans to bring coolies (labourers), rickshaw pullers and sedan chair bearers to work at Wembley Park. But Chinese labourers in Hong Kong rejected such a notion, the idea being shelved after strong objections. A plan to build a “Chinese Village” in the Hong Kong Section, showcasing Chinese people’s daily lives, was also abandoned. More significantly still, the Canton-Hong Kong Strike caused great destruction to the economy of Hong Kong, and affected the transport of exhibits from the colony to Wembley in 1925.^[6]

Even so, the Hong Kong Section was a success. In the early 1920s, Hong Kong was one of the lesser known of Britain’s colonies in the mother country. It was usually perceived as just a British trade port in China. The Hong Kong Section did little to change this perception. The pre-colonial history of Hong Kong and its connection with Chinese culture were illustrated through the exhibits and, in a more visually striking way, the design of the Hong Kong Pavilion itself. But the Section also presented new images of Hong Kong to exhibition visitors and the British media. Promotional materials and souvenirs from the BEE predominantly represented Hong Kong with stereotypical images of ancient China. But more modern images of Chinese communities in Hong Kong were carried in the English press once the BEE began. There was also a spotlight on British-

展區正正在英國帝國主義被迅速發展的中國民族主義挑戰的背景下進行，因此對於殖民地政府及籌備委員會來說，選擇以甚麼方式表述香港，就變得相當重要。

跟其他在溫布萊公園的殖民地展區，以及在上世界上其他地方進行的殖民地博覽會一樣，香港展區亦出現各種紛爭。例如，曾有計劃建議將咕喱（勞動工人）、人力車車夫及人力轎轎夫帶到溫布萊公園工作，但最終在華工的強烈反對下擱置。另外，亦有計劃建議在展區建立「中華村」，即是向遊客展示華人的日常生活，但也被擱置。更甚的是，省港大罷工嚴重影響香港的經濟，亦大大阻礙了香港在1925年運送展品到溫布萊。^[6]

儘管如此，香港展區卻頗為成功。在1920年代，香港在英國只是那些默默無聞的殖民地之一，通常僅被視為是一個英國在中國的貿易港口而已。香港展區沒有用力改變這種印象，只是通過展品，以及香港館本身的建築設計風格所帶來的視覺衝擊，勾勒出香港成為殖民地前的歷史、及其與中國文化的聯繫。不過，展區亦向遊客及英語傳媒展示了香港的新形象。例如，不少英京賽會的宣傳資料及紀念品，都以刻板的古代中國影像來表述香港。但在英京賽會一開始後，報刊就開始報導香港華人社群的現代形象。英商在港經營的造船廠，也成為報導的焦點。對於香港的英國社群來說，英京賽會某程度上促進了

owned shipbuilding industries in Hong Kong. For the British community in the colony, the BEE managed to strengthen their sense of belonging to the metropole. [7]

Unlike in some other parts of the Empire, the BEE did not inspire anti-imperialism in Hong Kong. Hong Kong's Chinese merchants, who were the leaders of the local Chinese community, generally supported colonial rule and were much more heavily involved in the exhibition's preparation and execution than natives of other colonies were in their respective sections. They were able to channel the concerns of the Chinese community to the government. They also had a greater focus on their own business interests at Wembley. Through sharing power with the local Chinese elites, the colonial government in Hong Kong avoided problems of the sort that the exhibition's Gold Coast, Indian and Nigerian Sections gave rise to. Besides, the seeds of Chinese nationalism did not find fertile soil in Hong Kong in the 1920s. Hong Kong's Chinese elites withdrew their financial support from the mainland's military cliques after Chinese nationalist movements radicalised and militarised. They gradually developed a different version of Chinese identity. Their frustration with Chinese politics prompted them to shift their focus to Hong Kong.^[8] The representation of Hong Kong itself in Wembley Park might not have been the most accurate but the city's Chinese merchants were happy to see Hong Kong's historical links with China presented in the Hong Kong Section.

This book is based on my archival research, and items I have collected to tell the story of the Hong Kong Section. Through these items, I will discuss and evaluate the Hong Kong Section, its architectural design, choice of exhibits, images of participants and media representation. The organising of the BEE, the arrangements and happenings at Wembley Park, and

他們對帝國中心的歸屬感。^[7]

與大英帝國的部份殖民地不一樣的是，香港並沒有因英京賽會而激起反帝國主義意識。香港的華商——亦是本地華人社群的領袖——一般來說是支持殖民統治，亦比其他殖民地展區的本地社群更深入地參與展區的籌備及執行工作。本地華人社群所關注的事項，可以通過這些華商向政府反映。另一方面，他們亦更專注於他們在溫布萊的業務。通過與本地華人精英領袖分享權力，香港殖民地政府因而避免重複英屬黃金海岸、印度及尼日利亞展區所產生的問題。另外，中國民族主義在1920年代亦未能在香港生根。自從中國的民族主義運動變得激進及軍事化後，香港華人精英亦撤回對軍閥的財政支援。他們漸漸地發展出一種不同的華人身份。他們對中國政治的沮喪，亦令他們將視線轉移至香港。^[8] 雖然在溫布萊公園內所展示的香港並不一定最準確，但這些華商卻樂意看到香港展區強調香港與中國歷史的聯繫。

本書根據本人的檔案研究的研究成果，以及我所收集的藏品重組香港展區的故事。通過這些藏品，我將會探討香港展區的安排，例如建築設計、展品選擇、參加者的形象及傳媒的表述等；並勾勒英京賽會的運作過程、溫布萊公園的安排及活動、自領地、殖民地、屬地以及其他參展商的參與。英京賽會的所有建築物亦已被拆毀，但這些藏品卻是溫布萊公園的時代見證。

the participation of dominions, colonies, dependencies and other exhibitors in general will also be outlined. The original buildings from the BEE are now gone, but these items serve as reminders of those days in Wembley Park.

Unless otherwise specified, all images and information are from items I have collected. I would like to take this chance to give thanks for the generous financial support of the Lord Wilson Heritage Trust, which allowed this research to be completed. Sincere thanks also to my research assistants, including Athena Chan, Yoyo Chan, Yu-ming Ho, Quintina Jiang, Rocky Keung, Claudia Law, Wai-sze Leung, Wren Li, Quinn Luo, Sinnie Ng, Winnie Wei and Yau-sing Wong. Without their help scanning and cataloguing the items, searching through and reading historical archives and old newspapers, this project would not have been possible.

Hong Kong's participation in the British Empire Exhibition is little known in Hong Kong, and has not been well documented or thoroughly reviewed. This book is the first step in recollecting this part of Hong Kong history.

Gary Pui-fung Wong
September 2020
Hong Kong

除另外標明外，本書所有影像及資料皆從本人收集的藏品得來。藉此機會，我亦希望鳴謝衛奕信勳爵文物信託的財政支持，否則這次研究將無法完成。另外，我亦要感謝研究助理陳慧儀、陳熹瑤、何裕明、姜澤晶、姜錫永、羅慧妍、梁慧思、李文睿、羅沁怡、吳倩怡、魏崢及王猷勝的協助，沒有他們協助掃描藏品及將它們分類、搜尋及閱讀歷史檔案及舊報紙，這個計劃將不可能完成。

香港在英京賽會的參與在香港鮮為人知，亦沒有全面的紀錄及回顧。這本書是重拾這段香港歷史的第一步。

黃培烽

2020年9月

香港

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