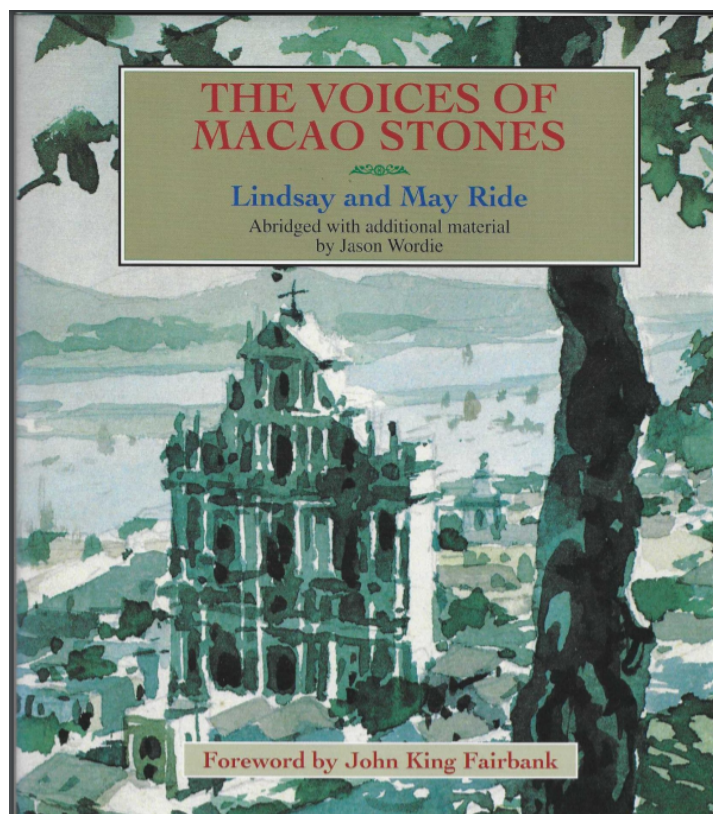




From the Foreword to "*The Voices of Macao Stones*" edited by Jason Wordie.

THE CHINESE LODESTONE has attracted foreigners from the earliest times, yet the country has ordinarily been so self-sufficient that its governments have kept foreigners quarantined on the borders. For the Westerners who came by sea after 1513, Macao became the chief frontier post, as Hong Kong still is today. Macao after 1557 and Hong Kong after 1841 played the role for seafarers that Kiakhta played after 1728 for those travellers who approached China by land, via Siberia.

Sir Lindsay and Lady Ride have recounted how a casual pastime, looking at inscriptions, developed into an avocation, began to occupy their travels on leave, and finally produced not one book but several. The Old Protestant Cemetery, one key to Macao, led them on to the monuments of the colony itself, described in this volume. But the colony of Macao was of course the precursor, indeed progenitor, of the colony of Hong Kong, the scene of Sir Lindsay's academic, official and military careers. His interest in researching the past has thus steadily broadened, without ever leaving home.

As all genealogists know, antiquarianism is its

own reward. For the social scientist intent on ordered analysis, it can be a welcome relief. Instead of selecting data according to categories leading to conclusions, the antiquarian puts himself at the disposal of the data, uncovering the record for its own sake. An historian of course is part social scientist, part antiquarian, mixed according to taste. As historian-antiquarians, the Rides have used the solid three dimensional stones of Macao for work literally in the fourth dimension, to go back in time and see the origins, trace the persistence, of these monuments, and discover the people who made them. The result is a vivid impression of Macao's international past.

Sir Lindsay Ride's whole career has contributed to this current interest. Born in Victoria in 1898, he was schooled in Melbourne before going to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar in 1922. Australia, though part of the New World, is nevertheless within the periphery of old China's attraction. After studying life at New College and rowing at Henley, he studied medicine at Guy's Hospital, London, and by 1928 was Professor of Physiology at the

University of Hong Kong. Two decades later, he began his great contribution there as Vice-Chancellor from 1949 to 1965.

Lindsay Ride was not only an athlete but a soldier who served in the Australian forces 1916–1919 and indeed was twice wounded. After the Japanese seizure of Hong Kong in 1941, he escaped to the mainland and soon organized and commanded the British Army Aid Group, an agency headquartered in Kweilin that kept track on events in Hong Kong, spirited people out and in, and in general prepared for whilst hastening the Japanese defeat. Colonel Ride's leadership of the B.A.A.G. was very impressive to me, as a young American official who visited Kweilin in the hot summer of 1943 in search of the war effort there. As far as I could see, he was it. After the war and while piloting the University through an era of revolution and uncertainty, Sir Lindsay also commanded the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force from 1948 to 1962.

His interest in Hong Kong's heritage, the men of all countries who have congregated on the China coast and mediated Sino-Western contact, thus

comes from his immediate experience through five active decades. Now nominally retired, he and Lady Ride have quite naturally expanded their researches, but even when in office, Sir Lindsay was a part-time historian and published several basic contributions to the cultural history of the Macao-Hong Kong nexus. He has traced the origin of the University of Hong Kong up to 1911, and described the life work of two principal missionary sinologues, Robert Morrison, the pioneer translator of the Bible into Chinese, and James Legge, the pioneer translator of the Chinese Classics into English. It is in keeping with Sir Lindsay's broad theme that in successive generations Morrison accomplished his great work at Macao, and Legge at Hong Kong.

John K. Fairbank

*This Foreword was written in November 1970, during the Rides' work on the project, by John K. Fairbank, then Francis Lee Higginson Professor of History, Harvard University.*