

中文版在第 8-14 頁

賴恬昌 -- 香港西區扶輪社第十四屆 1967-1968 年度社長

T. C. Lai – The 14th President of Hong Kong Island West Rotary Club

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)

1 December 2022



T. C. Lai, DipAdEd (*Manchester*), BA (*HKU*), JP (賴恬昌太平紳士) (1921-2022) by profession was an administrator for adult education, while he was a scholar of Sino-English translation, and an artist of Chinese calligraphy and painting. He has served the Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West (香港西區扶輪社) as the 14th President in 1967-1968. On 11 March 1970, T. C. was appointed an Unofficial Justice of the Peace for Hong Kong by Governor Sir David Clive Crosbie Trench (香港總督戴麟趾爵士).



T. C. Lai was born in 1921 to a family of scholars in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong. His father Dr. Lai Tsi-Hsi (賴際熙太史) was a Hanlin scholar (翰林學士) and prominent historian in the late Ch'ing Empire (大清國). He served as the Chief Editor of the Imperial History Bureau of the Hanlin Academy. After the 1911 Xinhai Revolution (辛亥革命), the Ch'ing emperor abdicated, and some of the remaining Hanlin scholars, including Lai Tsi-Hsi and Ou Da-Dian (區大典), fled to Hong Kong. In 1927, they participated in the founding of the School of Chinese Studies at the University of Hong Kong (香港大學中文學院), with Lai and Ou appointed readers (教授) of Chinese history and classics. Lai Tsi-Hsi along with other patriots, advocated for the preservation and promotion of traditional Chinese culture, collecting books and lecturing. In 1920, they rented No. 27 Caine Road in Mid-Levels, Central (中環半山堅道 27 號), Hong Kong Island, to hold lectures on Chinese studies twice a week. In 1923, seeing the enthusiastic enrollment, Lai Tsi-Hsi proposed establishing the "Hok Hoi Library" (學海書樓) with its aims to promote and lecture on Chinese classics.

With generous donations from prominent business leaders, he purchased the premises at No. 20 Bonham Road (般含道 20 號) for his Library and lectures. In 1963, due to the demolition and reconstruction of the Hok Hoi Library's Bonham Road site, the Library deposited its entire collection with the City Hall Public Library in Central for long-term preservation. By 2001, the collection of over 30,000 books had been relocated to the Hong Kong Central Reference Library, where it remains available for public reading. Besides, readers can also make use of the Digital Collection to access the authorized digital materials from 2014 onwards, thus continuing the legacy of Chinese studies in Hong Kong for a century.

The Hok Hoi Collection consists of some 34,600 volumes with over 1,900 titles of Chinese classics across the disciplines. They include works by famous Ch'ing scholars like Chen Feng (陳澧) and Kang You-Wei (康有為), and also valuable Kwangtung editions of "13 Classics with Commentaries" 《十三經注疏》 and "Kwangtung Tong Zhi" 《廣東通志》. In addition to these rare books, the Hok Hoi Library published reference works such as catalogues as well as collections of lecture notes. A great deal of the collection is classical Chinese thread-sewn rare books with the most valuable ones being out-of-print books, manuscripts of Chinese classics, lecture notes and the Hok Hoi Collection catalogues. The books published by the Hok Hoi Library are also worth reading as they are of high academic standards.

T. C. Lai, who received family education from a young age, possessed a solid foundation in Chinese studies. He graduated from the Department of English at the University of Hong Kong in 1942, excelling in both Chinese and English. The following year, he was admitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Chungking (*Chongqing*) (重慶), Republic of China (中華民國). From 1944 to 1948, he was stationed at the Embassy of the Republic of China in London, United Kingdom, where he worked on Chinese cultural affairs.

T. C. returned to Hong Kong in 1949 and taught at St. Paul's College (聖保羅書院) and the Department of English at the University of Hong Kong. In 1963, he went to the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, to study adult education. After completing his studies, he became the first Director of the Department of Extra-Mural Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) (香港中文大學校外進修部) in 1965, a position he held until his retirement in 1984. CUHK's diverse extra-mural programs attracted tens of thousands of adult students.

It was both fate and coincidence that the father Lai Tsi-Hsi helped to establish the Faculty of Chinese at the University of Hong Kong, and that his son would lead the Department of Extra-Mural Studies in CUHK. T. C. managed the Hok Hoi Library, founded by his father, for many years and served as Chairman of the Board from 2002 to 2010, tirelessly promoting traditional Chinese culture.

Rotarian T. C. Lai passed away in the morning of 21 November 2022, at the age of 101.



Scholar of Sino-English Translation

T. C. had a deep connection with Sino-English translation, having been exposed to traditional literature and art from a young age. Although he majored in English in college, he also studied Chinese with masters of Chinese studies such as Hsu Ti-Shan (許地山), Tschen Yin-koh (陳寅恪), and Ma Meng (馬蒙). Having studied translation in secondary school and university and lived in England for several years, he gained a certain understanding of Westernization and subsequently worked in language education and translation. T. C. has been writing in English, introducing and translating Chinese culture. He recalled that in the 1970s, there were very few books on Chinese culture, and those that existed were mostly academic research. It was difficult for foreigners to find suitable books to understand China and Hong Kong. Therefore, he began translating and introducing Chinese culture and art, including poetry, idioms, calligraphy, paintings, seals, couplets, customs, food, local customs, music, and drama. His books primarily cater to a general Western readers, using simple writing and translation techniques. Many Hong Kong readers also enjoy reading his books to learn about Chinese culture. His first book promoting Chinese paintings was about the master Ch'i Pai-Shih (齊白石), the only Chinese painter at the time who could be accepted and appreciated by foreigners. To make his calligraphy easier to understand, he provided over 200 examples. He said that most books introducing Chinese culture assume readers already have a basic understanding of Chinese culture, while he started from the most basic level. For example, when introducing seal carving, he began by discussing why Chinese people love stone and why they carve characters, which was very interesting to Western readers. In his translation of poetry, he wasn't obsessed with the author's identity. He primarily focused on the reader's ability to understand and appreciate the text, rather than being bound by the original source. Furthermore, if the translated text is too profound, it would be meaningless if the reader couldn't understand it.

T. C.'s contributions to language education include being a founding member of the Hong Kong Translation Society (香港翻譯學會) and the first person to organize a diploma program in translation. Recognizing Society's thirst for translation talent, T. C. invited translators such as Stephen C. Soong (宋淇), Yao Ke (姚克), and Chien Shan (錢山) to launch a translation program in 1970. He also advocated for a change in the subordinate status of Chinese and,

along with other scholars, successfully campaigned with the Government for Chinese to be recognized as a legal language.

T. C. has been a member of the Hong Kong Translation Society's Executive Committee since its founding in 1971. Initially serving as Vice President, he served as President from 1974-1976 and 1980-1986, and was awarded the title of Honorary Fellow in 1986. He became Honorary Advisor in 1996, continuing to support young artists and contribute to the Society's development. In 2005, he was conferred the title of President Emeritus.

T. C. has published over 40 books and translations in English, including 《Chinese Paintings》 (Oxford University Press), 《Chinese Calligraphy》 and 《Chinese Seal Carving》 (University of Washington Press).

Calligraphic skills inherited from Four Masters

T. C. Lai, educated at a young age, developed a love for calligraphy and painting, becoming a renowned calligrapher. Chinese ink painter Wucius Wong (王無邪) commented that his calligraphy skills were derived from the four masters: Wang Xizhi (王羲之), Chū Suiliáng (褚遂良), Su Shih (蘇軾), and Mi Fu (米芾).

A man of profound scholarship and exceptional artistic skill, T. C. served as an advisor to the Hong Kong Museum of Art in the 1970s. After retiring from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1984, he devoted himself full-time to painting. He enjoyed painting for pleasure, held exhibitions, and published albums. His paintings combine the characteristics of Chinese and Western skills, exploring the aesthetic fusion of the two. His subject matter blends ancient and modern, Chinese and international, and he was particularly renowned for his unique Hong Kong landscapes. He believed that Hong Kong, as a cultural intermediary, "... ..has a mix of ancient and modern, Chinese and foreign elements. We all possess some of them. Why not seize this opportunity and experiment more?"

A scholar of Chinese classics with a strong Western influence, T. C.'s paintings are a unique blend of ancient and modern, Chinese and international. His most representative works draw viewers into his paintings, allowing them to view the scenery from multiple perspectives, a hallmark of traditional Chinese landscape painting. T. C. was particularly renowned for his Hong Kong landscapes, including Victoria Harbour, Lion Rock, the Zoological and Botanical Gardens, and Sha Tin Racecourse, etc.

Alisan Fine Arts Gallery has represented T. C. Lai's paintings since 1992 and has hosted four solo exhibitions, including the most recent in 2013. T. C. has also held solo exhibitions at the University of Hong Kong Art Museum, the Hong Kong Central Library, and the Hong Kong City Hall. His works are collected by the Peabody Essex Museum, the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the University Museum and Art Gallery of The University of Hong Kong, Art Museum of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and several art connoisseurs.

Biography

- 1921 Born in Hong Kong to a family of scholars
- 1940s BA, University of Hong Kong; Dip Ad Ed, University of Manchester, England
- 1946-49 Worked for four years in jobs related to Chinese cultural affairs, London, England
- 1954-58 Returned to Hong Kong and became a tutor in the English Department, University of Hong Kong
- 1965-84 Director of Extramural Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- 1967-68 President of Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West
- 1970s President, Hong Kong Translation Society; Adviser, Hong Kong Museum of Art
- 1975 Published the book《Chinese Calligraphy, an introduction》, University of Washington Press, Seattle, United States & London, England
- 1976 Published the book 《Chinese Seals》, University of Washington Press, Seattle, United States & London, England
- 1977 Published the book 《Chinese Motifs in Modern Art》, Kelly & Walsh Ltd, Hong Kong
- 1984 Retired from Chinese University of Hong Kong and started painting professionally
- 1980s Published more than 35 books on Chinese culture
- 1992 Published the book 《Chinese Painting》, Oxford University Press, New York, USA
- 1994 Published the catalogue 《Hong Kong, A Pictorial Homage》, Hong Kong Book Centre
- 1997 Published the catalogue 《Hong Kong Rhapsody, The Art of T C Lai》, Hong Kong Book Centre, Hong Kong
- 1999 Published the catalogue 《Dreamscapes, The Art of T C Lai》, University Museum and Art Gallery, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- 2005 Published the catalogue 《Paintings and Calligraphy Works of T C Lai》, Hong Kong Translation Society, Hong Kong
- 2010 Painting entitled 《Panorama Hong Kong》 selected by Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children for a greeting card
- 2015 Honorary advisor to the Hong Kong Translation Society
- 2022 Passed away in Hong Kong, at the age of 101.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2013 Flights of Fancy: Landscapes of T C Lai, Alisan Fine Arts, Hong Kong
- 2011 Chinese Calligraphy and Paintings by T C Lai, City Hall, Hong Kong
- 2005 Paintings and Calligraphy Works of T C Lai, Hong Kong Translation Society Charity Exhibition, Hong Kong Central Library, Hong Kong
- 2003 Calligraphy of T C Lai, Grotto Fine Art, Hong Kong
- 2002 Brave New City: The Hong Kong of T C Lai, Alisan Fine Arts, Hong Kong
- 1999 Dreamscapes: The Art of T C Lai, University Museum and Art Gallery, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

- 1997 Wonders of Hong Kong, Alisan Fine Arts, Hong Kong
 1994 Hong Kong: A Pictorial Homage, Alisan Fine Arts, Hong Kong

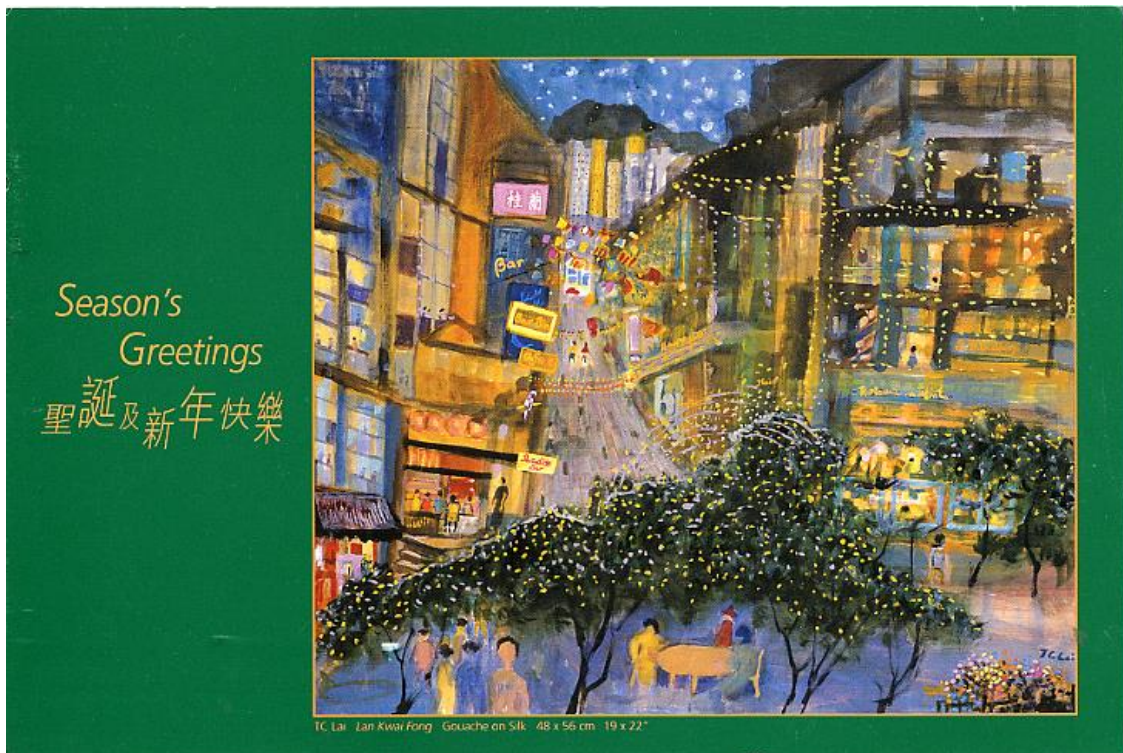
Publications

T. C. Lai has published more than 35 books on Chinese culture including, Chinese Painting (Oxford University Press 1992), Chinese Calligraphy (University of Washington Press 1975), and Chinese Seals (University of Washington Press 1976).

- Three Contemporary Chinese Painters
- Kweilin: China's Most Scenic Spot
- Ch'i Pai Shih, painter, 1863-1957
- More Chinese Sayings
- The Eight Immortals
- A Scholar in Imperial China
- Mountain Love Songs
- Romance of the Western Chamber
- Noble Fragrance: Chinese Flowers & Trees
- Chinese Decorated Letter-paper
- Visiting China: A Cultural Guide
- Rhapsodic Essays from the Chinese
- Understanding Chinese Painting
- Chinese Characters
- At the Chinese Table
- A Chinese Book of Friendship
- T'ang Yin (poet-painter) 1470-1524
- Chinese Couplets
- Things Chinese
- Selected Chinese Sayings
- Chinese Proverbs
- Pa Ta Shan Jen, Monk-Painter (1625-c.1705)
- Chinese Poetry
- Treasures of a Chinese Studio
- Hong Kong: Images on Shifting Waters
- The Young Cowherd & Other Poems
- Chinese Food for Thought
- A Wild Swan's Trail
- Animals of the Chinese Zodiac
- Huang Bin Hong 1864-1955
- Brushwork in Chinese Landscape Painting



賴恬昌《花園一角》《View from a garden》 T. C. Lai



賴恬昌《賴恬昌的新香港》《Brave New City : The Hong Kong of T C Lai》 T. C. Lai (2002)

賴恬昌太平紳士

香港西區扶輪社第十四屆 1967-1968 年度社長



賴恬昌太平紳士 (T. C. Lai, DipAdEd (*Manchester*), BA (*HKU*), JP) (1921-2022) 的職業是成人教育行政，學術上是翻譯學者、書畫家。他是香港西區扶輪社(Hong Kong Island West Rotary Club)第十四屆 1967-1968 年度社長。1970 年 3 月 11 日獲香港總督戴麟趾爵士(Sir David Clive Crosbie Trench)委任為非官守太平紳士。

賴恬昌出生於 1921 年香港的書香世代，父親是晚清翰林學士賴際熙太史，曾任大清國翰林院編修國史館總纂。1911 年辛亥革命後，清帝遜位，部分翰林學士包括賴際熙、區大典等遺老避居香江。1927 年，參與香港大學中文學院(School of Chinese Studies, University of Hong Kong)創立，賴際熙、區大典受聘教授史學和經學。人稱「賴太史」的賴際熙，與愛護國粹人士倡議保存發揚中華傳統文化，聚書講學。1920 年先租下港島中環半山堅道 27 號(No.27, Caine Road)設壇講國學，每周兩次。及至 1923 年，賴太史見報名者踴躍，乃建議成立「學海書樓」。得到殷商名流踴躍捐資，購下般含道 20 號(No.20, Bonham Road)作為藏書和講學之所。

1963 年，學海書樓般含道樓址需拆建，「學海書樓」把全部藏書寄存於中區大會堂公共圖書館。至 2001 年，三萬多冊藏書再遷移至香港中央圖書館繼續供讀者在館內閱讀，令一個世紀以來在香港的國學香火得以延續。

賴恬昌幼承庭訓，國學根底深厚。1942 年畢業於香港大學英文系，中英兼擅。翌年考入重慶國民政府外交部，1944 年至 1948 年派駐英國倫敦中華民國大使館，從事有關中華文化事務。1949 年回香港，任教於聖保羅書院(St. Paul's College)及香港大學英文系。1963 年赴英國曼徹斯特大學(University of Manchester)進修成人教育。學成後，1965 年任香港中文大學校外進修部第一位主任(Director, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)，直到 1984 年退休。中大校外課程種類琳琅滿目，吸引數以萬計成年人修讀。

賴太史有份創建港大中文學院，兒子則領導中大校外進修部，是緣分也是巧合。賴恬昌多年來打理父親創辦的「學海書樓」，2002-2010 年間更出任董事會主席，弘揚國粹，不遺餘力。

賴恬昌於 2022 年 11 月 21 日早上辭世，享壽 101 歲。

翻譯學者

賴恬昌與翻譯的淵緣深厚，他從小接觸傳統文學與藝術。讀大學時雖然主修英文，但也跟隨許地山、陳寅恪、馬蒙等國學大師讀中文。中學、大學都讀翻譯，又留居英國幾年，對西方化有一定理解，後來一直從事語文教育及翻譯的工作。

賴恬昌一直以英文寫作，介紹和翻譯中國文化。他回憶七十年代，很少書籍涉獵中華文化這種題材，有的都只是學術研究的書籍。外國人要了解中國、香港，很難找到適合的書籍。因此，他就開始著手翻譯介紹中國文化、藝術，包括詩詞、成語、書法、繪畫、印璽、對聯、習俗、飲食、風物、音樂、戲劇等。他的書主要是滿足一般西方讀者，盡量從簡單的寫法和譯法著手，不少香港讀者也樂於讀他的書來了解中華文化。

他第一本宣揚中國畫的書是介紹國畫大師齊白石，這是當時唯一外國人能接受、欣賞的中國畫家。介紹書法時，為了使讀者容易理解，他舉了二百多個例子。他說一般介紹中華文化的書，往往把讀者當作已對中華文化有一定了解，而他則從最基本的認識開始。例如介紹篆刻，就從中國人為什麼喜歡石頭，什麼要刻字開始，西方讀者都感到非常有趣。而在詩詞的翻譯方面，他並不拘泥於作者的身份。主要從接受能力、欣賞能力入手，不拘於原著。而且太深奧的地方，譯了出來讀者也不能理解，就沒什麼意思。

賴恬昌對語文教育的貢獻包括，他是香港翻譯學會(Hong Kong Translation Society)的創會會員，還是第一個籌辦翻譯文憑課程的人。賴恬昌有感於社會對翻譯人才的渴求，1970年，他邀請了宋淇、姚克、錢山等翻譯家開辦了翻譯課程。他還主張改變中文從屬的地位，並與其他學者一起向政府成功爭取中文成為法定語言。

香港翻譯學會自1971年成立以來，賴恬昌一直是執行委員會成員。最初是副會長，1974-76及1980-86年間任會長，1986年獲頒榮譽會士銜。1996年起任名譽顧問，繼續獎掖後進，為學會出謀獻策，2005年獲頒榮休會長銜。

賴恬昌出版了四十多本英文著作和譯作，包括《國畫》(牛津大學出版社)、《中國書法》和《中國篆刻》(華盛頓大學出版社)。

書法功力 得自四家

賴恬昌幼承庭訓，自幼喜愛書畫，及長成為書法名家。王無邪評論其書法功力，得自「王羲之、褚遂良」、蘇軾、米芾」四家。

賴恬昌學養淵博，藝術水平精湛，於1970年代任香港藝術館顧問。1984年從香港中文大學退休後，開始全情投入繪畫創作。以畫畫自娛，舉行畫展，出版畫冊。其畫作結合了中國畫與西洋畫的特點，探索兩者揉合的美感。題材融滙古今中外，尤以別開生面的香港風景畫最為著名。他認為香港作為文化中介的背景，「在香港古今中外的東西都有，我們都會一些。為什麼不把握這一點，作多些嘗試？」

賴恬昌是位具有濃厚西方文化氣息的中國古典學者，其畫作融合古今中外，獨一無二。他最具代表性的創作，是引領觀者進入其畫中，從多個不同的角度眺望美景，這亦是傳統中國山水畫的特色之一。賴恬昌尤其以香港風景畫最為著名，包括香港維多利亞港、獅子山、動植物公園和沙田馬場等等。

藝倡畫廊(Alisan Fine Arts)自 1992 年開始代理賴氏的畫作，期間為他舉行過四次個展，包括最近一次於 2013 年。賴恬昌亦曾於香港大學美術博物館、香港中央圖書館和香港大會堂舉行個展。作品獲美國皮博迪埃塞克斯博物館(Peabody Essex Museum)、香港藝術館(Hong Kong Museum of Art)、香港大學美術博物館(University Museum and Art Gallery, The University of Hong Kong)、香港中文大學文物館(Art Museum, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)、及一些藝術鑑賞家收藏。

簡歷

- 1921 生於香港的書香世代
- 1940s 畢業於香港大學和英國曼徹斯特大學
- 1946-49 在中華民國駐英國倫敦大使館從事有關中國文化事務四年
- 1954-58 返港後任香港大學英文系導師
- 1965-84 任香港中文大學校外進修部主任
- 1967-68 香港西區扶輪社社長
- 1970s 香港翻譯學會會長，香港藝術館顧問
- 1975 出版英文著作《中國書法》，華盛頓大學出版社，西雅圖，美國；倫敦，英國
- 1976 出版英文著作《印章》，華盛頓大學出版社，西雅圖，美國；倫敦，英國
- 1977 出版英文著作《現代藝術的中國圖像》，必發印書館，香港
- 1984 退休後專心繪畫創作
- 1980s 出版英文著作超過 35 本，全以中國藝術和文化為題材
- 1992 出版英文著作《中國畫》，牛津大學出版社，紐約，美國
- 1994 出版畫冊《香港頌贊》，香港圖書文具有限公司，香港
- 1997 出版畫冊《香江遐思集—賴恬昌的畫藝》，香港圖書文具有限公司，香港
- 1999 出版畫冊《江山卧遊—賴恬昌書畫》，香港大學美術博物館，香港
- 2005 出版畫冊《賴恬昌書畫選》，香港翻譯學會，香港
- 2010 畫作「香港全景」獲香港保護兒童會選印賀卡
- 2015 香港翻譯學會榮譽顧問
- 2022 於香港逝世，享壽 101 歲

主要個展

- 2013 「妙想天開：賴恬昌的山水畫」，藝倡畫廊，香港
- 2011 「也無風雨也無晴：賴恬昌書畫展」，香港大會堂，香港
- 2005 「賴恬昌書畫選：香港翻譯學會慈善展」，香港中央圖書館
- 2003 「賴恬昌書法展」，嘉圖畫廊，香港
- 2002 「賴恬昌的新香港」，藝倡畫廊，香港
- 1999 「江山卧遊：賴恬昌書畫」，香港大學美術博物館，香港
- 1997 「香港之妙境」，藝倡畫廊，香港
- 1994 「香港頌贊」，藝倡畫廊，香港

主要英文著作

出版超過三十五本英文著作，全以中國藝術和文化為題材，包括《中國畫》（牛津大學出版社，1992年）、《中國書法》（華盛頓大學出版社，1975年）、《印章》（華盛頓大學出版社，1976年）。

藝術：

- Brushwork in Chinese Landscape Painting
- Ch'i Pai Shih, Painter 1863-1957 齊白石
- Chinese Calligraphy 中國書法
- Chinese Characters
- Chinese Deorated Letter Paper 箋譜
- Chinese Motifs in Modern Art
- Chinese Painting 中國畫
- Chinese Seals 印章
- Huang Bin Hong, Painter 1864-1955 黃賓虹
- Pa Ta Shan Ren, Monk-Painter 1625-c.1705 八大山人
- T'ang Yin, Poet-Painter 1470-1524 唐寅
- Three Contemporary Chinese Painters 張大千,丁泂庸,程十髮
- Understanding Chinese Painting

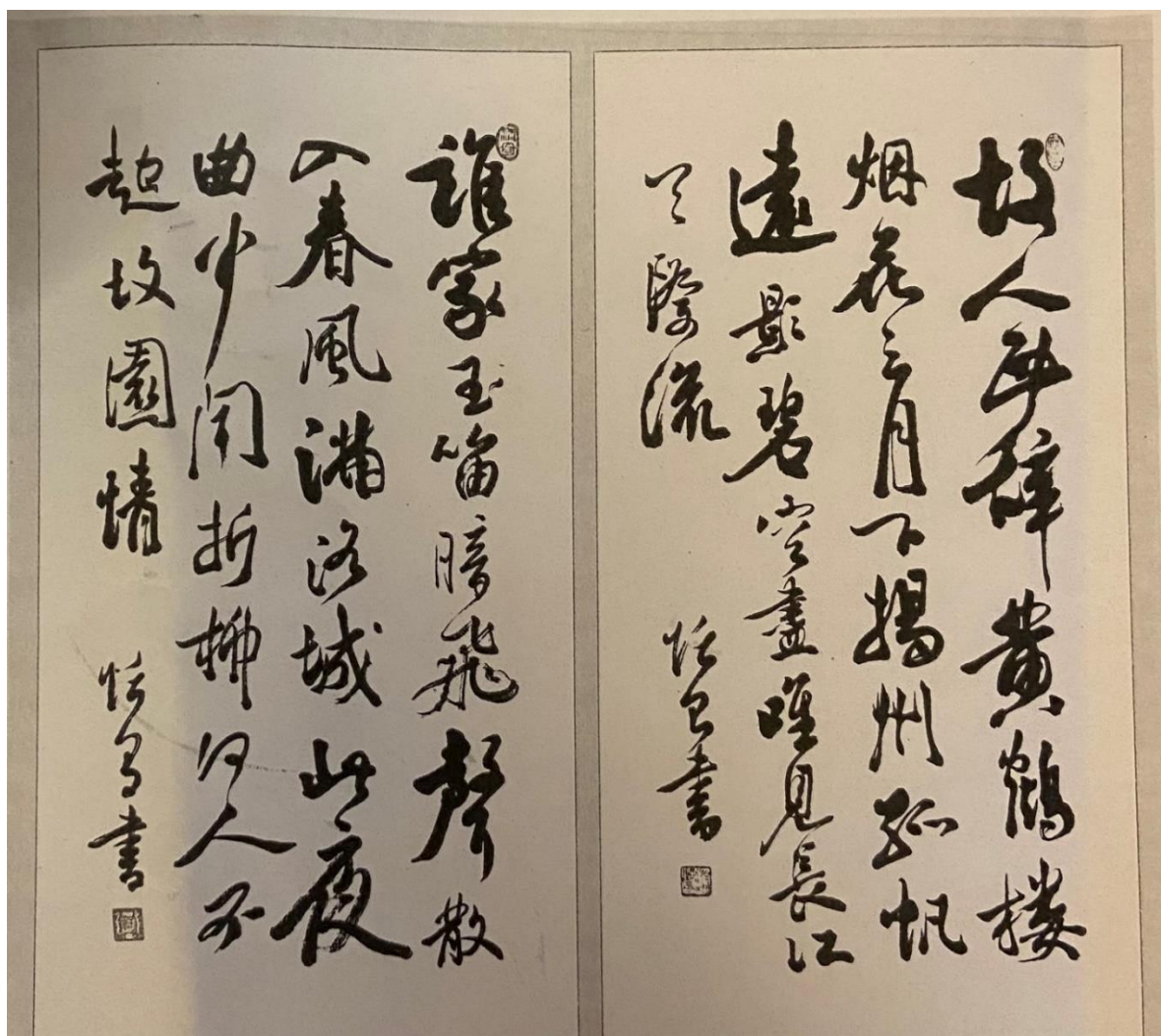
文學：

- A Chinese Book of Friendship
- Chinese Couplets 對聯
- Chinese Poetry
- Chinese Proverbs
- More Chinese Sayings
- Mountain Love Songs 山歌
- Noble Fragrance: Chinese Flowers & Trees
- Rhapsodic Essays from the Chinese 賦與序選譯
- Romance of the Western Chamber 西廂記
- Selected Chinese Sayings 成語選譯
- A Wild Swan's Trail: Travels of a Mandarin
- The Young Cowherd & Other Poems

其他：

- Animals of the Chinese Zodiac 十二生肖
- Chinese Food for Thought 食談

- The Consort of Peace 曹禺：王昭君
- The Eight Immortals 八仙
- Hong Kong: Images on Shifting Waters
- Jade Flute: The Story of Chinese Music
- Kweilin: China's Most Scenic Spot 桂林
- A Scholar in Imperial China
- Things Chinese
- Treasures of a Chinese Studio 文房四寶
- Visiting China: A Cultural Guide

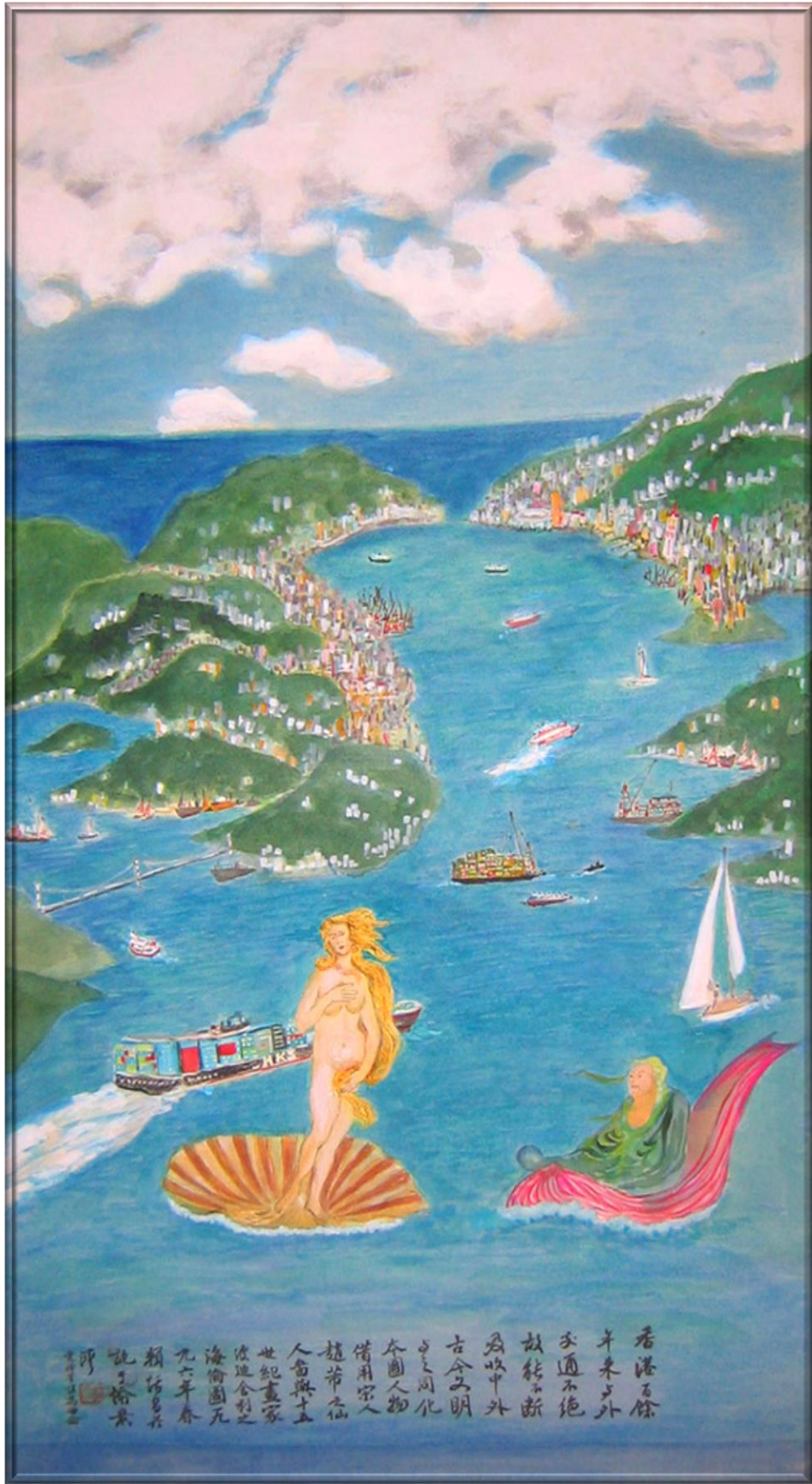


賴恬昌的書法



江南好風景舊曾諳日出江花
紅似火春來江水綠如藍
能不憶江南
九八年長夏錄
東坡先生句 賴恬昌并記

賴恬昌《江南好》《Jiangnan Landscapes》 T. C. Lai



賴恬昌《中外古今》《Harbour with Venus》T. C. Lai