

胡適：香港

Hong Kong: excerpts


By Hu Shi

Translated by Zhu Zhiyu

ON THE MORNING of New Year's day, I boarded the *President Harrison* and began my journey south. I arrived in Hong Kong on the morning of the fourth, and stayed in the home of Sir William Horneil, the Vice-Chancellor of Hong Kong, University. I had already asked the Dean of the Faculty of Arts of the university, Mr L. Forster, to arrange my schedule in Hong Kong. Western people can be quite considerate: all my luncheon lectures started at one o'clock in the afternoon, leaving me the mornings to myself. Thus during the five days I was in Hong Kong, I had a lot of free time and got to visit many places.

The ship docked before dawn. Seen from the ship, lights dotting the mountain in the thin mist looked like stars in the sky. The Vice-Chancellor's residence was located in the Mid-levels, as was Hong Kong University. From there the bay and the islands near and far looked more magnificent than similar vistas in Qingdao and Dalian. Though not very high, the mountains of Hong Kong are entirely surrounded by the sea. The scenery here is characterized by the proximity of mountains and sea. One day Mr and Mrs Forster invited me on a day-tour of the southern side of Hong Kong island, where our destinations included Repulse Bay, Deep Water Bay, Aberdeen, and Stanley. January is without a doubt the best time of year to be in Hong Kong. There are green leaves all over the mountains and a profusion of gorgeous flowers. This can give those of us who have lived in the north for years the happy feeling of "having caught up with spring". We enjoyed the seascape from the mountain roads and drank tea at St. Stephen's Girls' College as the sun set over the sea. It was all so peaceful and beautiful. In the evening, we had dinner at Mr

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Forster's home and then took the peak tram to the Peak. By the time we got there it was already dark and there was a thin mist. From there, we could see the lights of the entire city, a night view even more magnificent than that of New York or San Francisco. A friend of mine who had travelled all over the world once said that only Rio de Janeiro and Sidney could match Hong Kong in this respect. Two days later, I was invited to tour Kowloon. We did not go very far since we started out late, but the beautiful scenery around Tai Po and the reservoirs alone was quite stunning.

One day at a Rotary Club luncheon lecture, I mentioned the beauty of Hong Kong and suggested that Hong Kong should have its own poets and artists to eulogize its fine natural setting. Some of the listeners were surprised by what I said. They had become so accustomed to the place that they had grown tired of it, and looked upon Hong Kong as a market, where they do business and earn their keep. They were no longer able to enjoy the scenery. Some three weeks later, however, when I returned to Hong Kong from Guangxi, I learned that the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce had decided to publish a pamphlet describing the beauty of the local scenery. They were planning to print twenty thousand copies!