



<b>Title</b>	<b>Worth a Thousand Words: Hong Kong Images project at the University of Hong Kong Libraries</b>
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# Worth a Thousand Words:

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Hong Kong Images project at the  
University of Hong Kong Libraries

K.M. Ku, Eunice S.Y. Chan & Y.C. Wan

The University of Hong Kong Libraries

PRDLA 2014 Meeting ◦ Macau ◦ 2 December 2014

# Hong Kong in Brief

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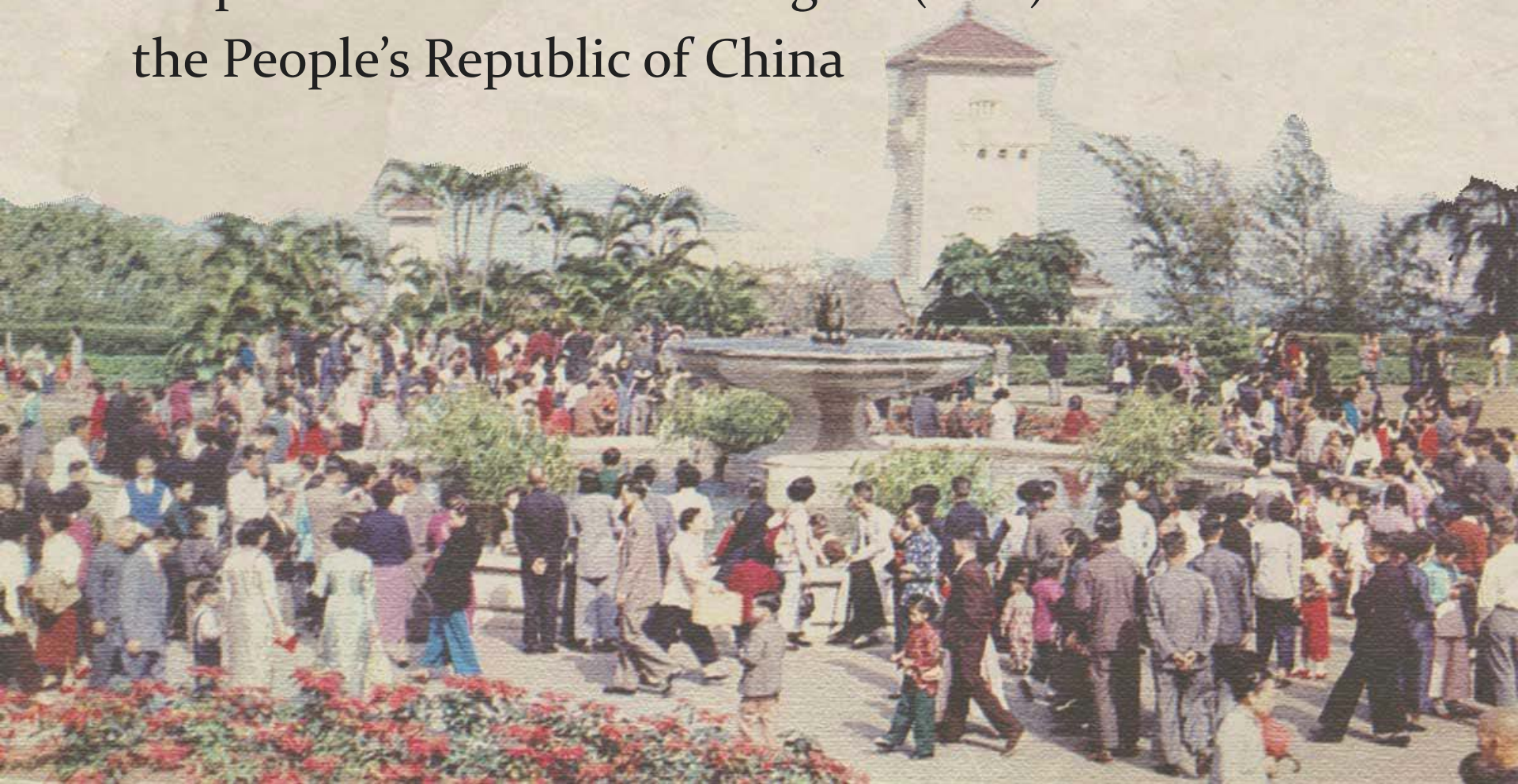
# Profile

- Situated at the south-eastern tip of China
- A total area of 1,108 square kilometres, comprising Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Peninsular and the New Territories



# Profile

- A population of about 7.1 million, mainly ethnic Chinese
- A Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China



# A Vanishing City

- 'A barren rock with hardly a house upon it', some 170 years ago
- Ruled by the British for more than 150 years



# A Vanishing City

- From a place of no particular importance to a financial, trading and business centre
- A city with many histories, each written for its age, with different audiences in mind and from different points of view





Perhaps, there is nothing better than images to tell the stories of this city



However, our rich collection of images are scattered and work needs to be done to improve access

# Some Examples

Dated 1816, probably one of Hong Kong's first images



*J. Fielding Sculp<sup>t</sup>*

THE WATERFALL, AT HONG CONG.

Abel, Clarke, Narrative of a journey in the interior of China ... London: Orme and Brown, 1818, insert between p.60 & 61

*Published by Longman, Hurst, Ross, Orme & Brown, London, Dec<sup>r</sup> 1818*

# Some Examples

Dated 1816, probably one of  
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2014



THE WATERFALL, AT HONG CONG.

*Published by Longman, How & Ross, Ormeau, Brown, London, Oct. 7, 1816*

Abel, Clarke, Narrative of a journey in the  
interior of China ... London: Orme and  
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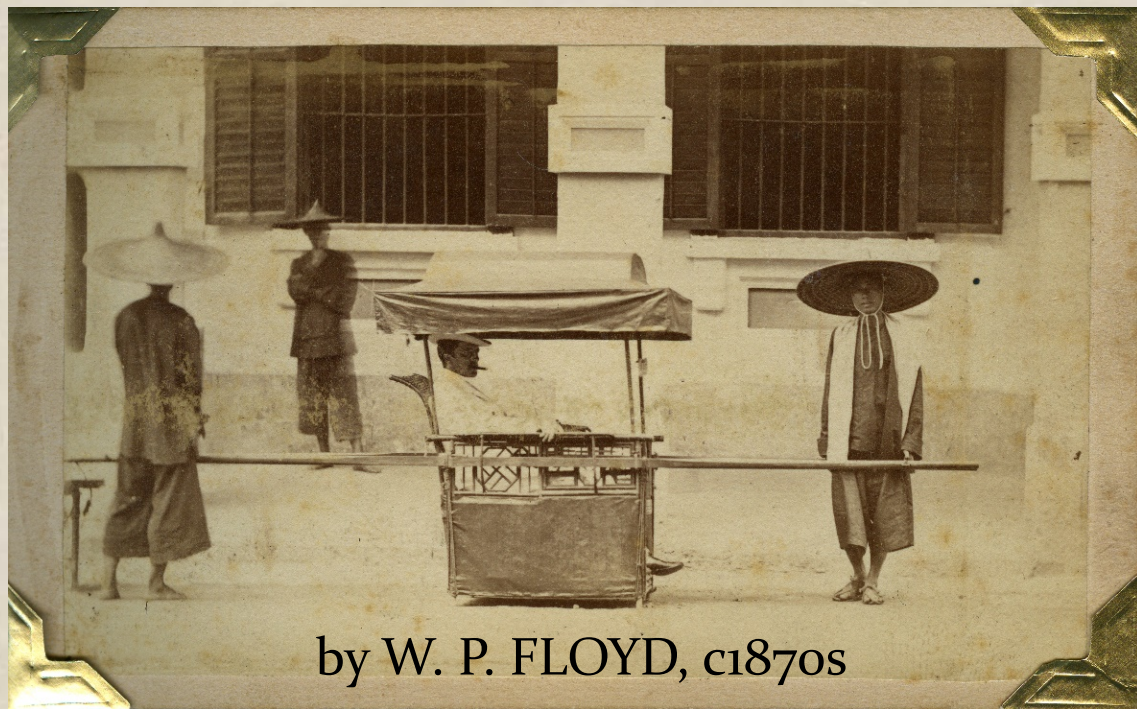
Photo of Waterfall Bay taken on September 20, 2014  
Credits and thanks to Kevin Dharmawan  
[www.kevindharmawan.com](http://www.kevindharmawan.com)

# Newspapers



HARBOUR OF HONG-KONG,

# Photographs



by W. P. FLOYD, c1870s

# Photographs

Kowloon City, 1986



# Slides



Wong Tai Sin. c.1960s

# Previous Efforts

- Awarded funding by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charity Trust to build a “Hong Kong Places” database
- Provided staffing to organize the Libraries’ collection of Hong Kong images





# Previous Efforts

- Selected and annotated some 3,000 images from the collection



# Previous Efforts

- Mostly building photographs, street views and aerial images, taken since the mid-nineteenth century



# Digitization



Original  
source

Change of  
file formats

Metadata input,  
records and media  
files upload, record  
publishing

Browse and search  
on web

# Hong Kong Places

## HONG KONG PLACES

- ▶ About the Collection
- ▶ Acknowledgements

### BROWSE BY:

- ⌘ Categorized by Topic
- ⌘ View All Items (2914)

### RECENTLY VISITED

- About the Collection
- 關於特藏

## About the Collection



### Hong Kong Places Diversity in a Changing City

Through full-color images and historical illustrations, take a relaxing virtual journey from present-day Hong Kong back to more than a century ago. The Hong Kong Places Collection shows you not only the geographical and social changes but also how this metropolis grew from an undeveloped place.

The Collection comprises some 3,000 pictures of Hong Kong places, mostly building photographs, street view and aerial images, taken since the mid-nineteenth century. It has a strong emphasis on Hong Kong as a geographical entity and aims at providing glimpses of Hong Kong in the bygone days and its transformation into a world city as it is today.

These pictures are from the Hong Kong Collection (Hung On-To Memorial Library) of the University of Hong Kong Libraries, which has been actively collecting and organizing Hong Kong contents since the early 1970s. Staff members of the Library have contributed to the creation of the Collection by identifying and selecting pictures from the library collections, annotating the pictures, creating the indexes and deciding on the user interface of the database.

### RECOMMENDED COLLECTION



# Hong Kong Images Database

To build an image database that covers places, people and events , using the new Fedora Commons platform which is able to assert semantic relationships among images

# Fedora Commons

Digital object  
repository system



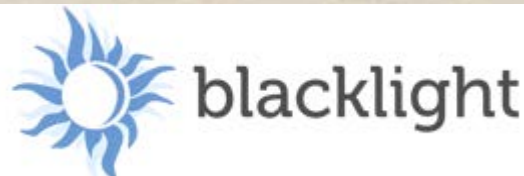
[www.fedora-commons.org/](http://www.fedora-commons.org/)

Search Engine



[lucene.apache.org/solr/](http://lucene.apache.org/solr/)

Discovery  
interface

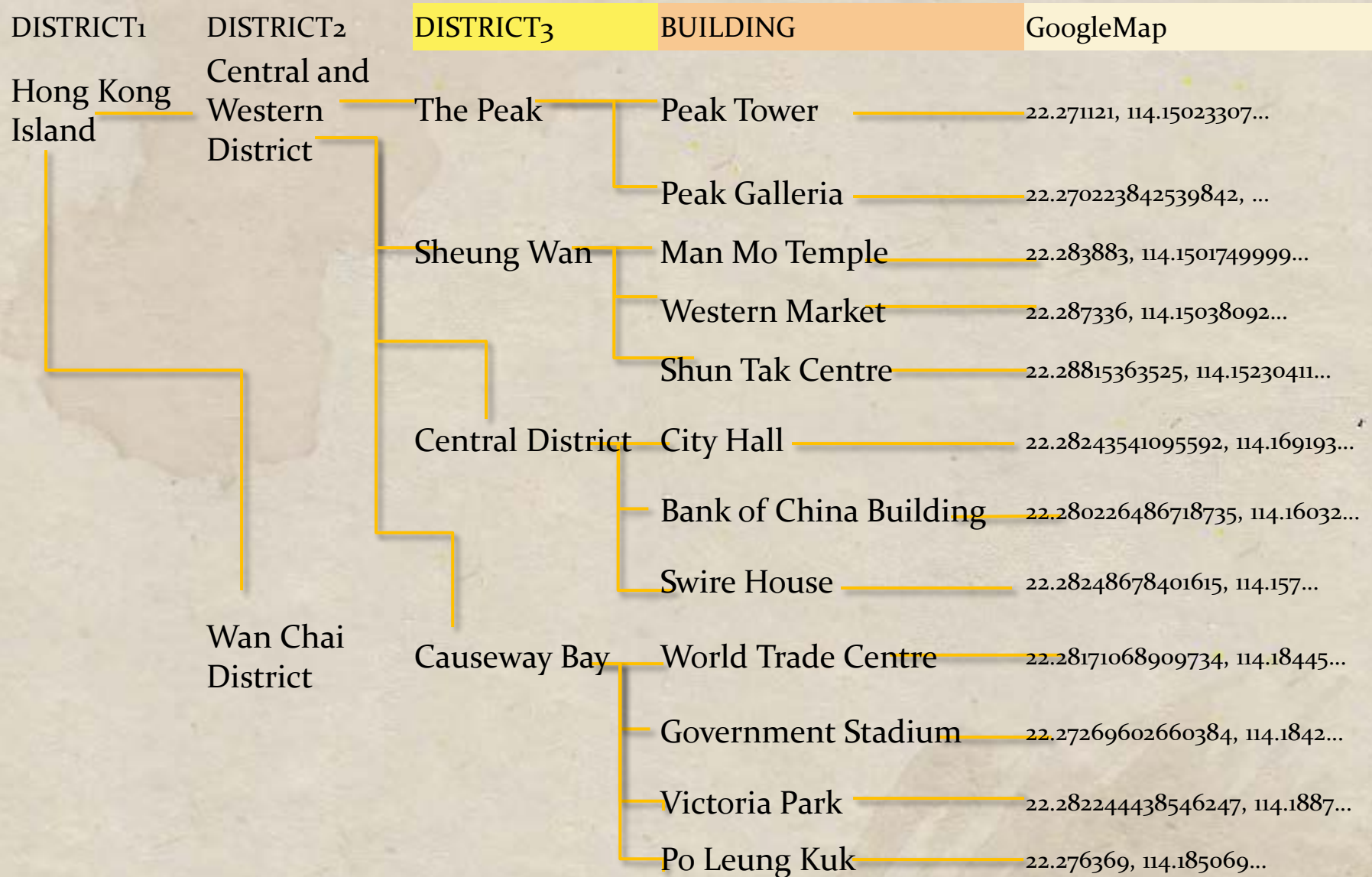


[projectblacklight.org/](http://projectblacklight.org/)

# Fedora Commons

- Store all types of content and its metadata
- Scale to millions of objects
- Full-Text search, faceted search and browse capabilities
- Optimized for high volume web traffic
- Near real-time indexing
- Provide RDF search
- Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH)

# Taxonomy tree - Place





# Taxonomy tree – Place and Time

DISTRICT

BUILDING

TIME

Central District

Jardine House

C.1950S

Central District

Connaught  
Centre

1973

Central District

Jardine House

1988



# Taxonomy tree - Place

## City Hall and Cenotaph, Central District

Centre of Hong Kong's civil activities in the early years and once a landmark on Central District's waterfront, the City Hall is the first civic centre in Hong Kong. It houses a recital hall, an exhibition gallery, libraries and a marriage registry in its high block and a fine concert hall, a theatr... [show more](#)

[Previous Record](#) | [Next Record](#)



**Date** c.1970s

**Place** Hong Kong Island/Central and Western District/Central District/(Street)/City Hall|Hong Kong Island/Central and Western District/Central District/(Street)/Cenotaph

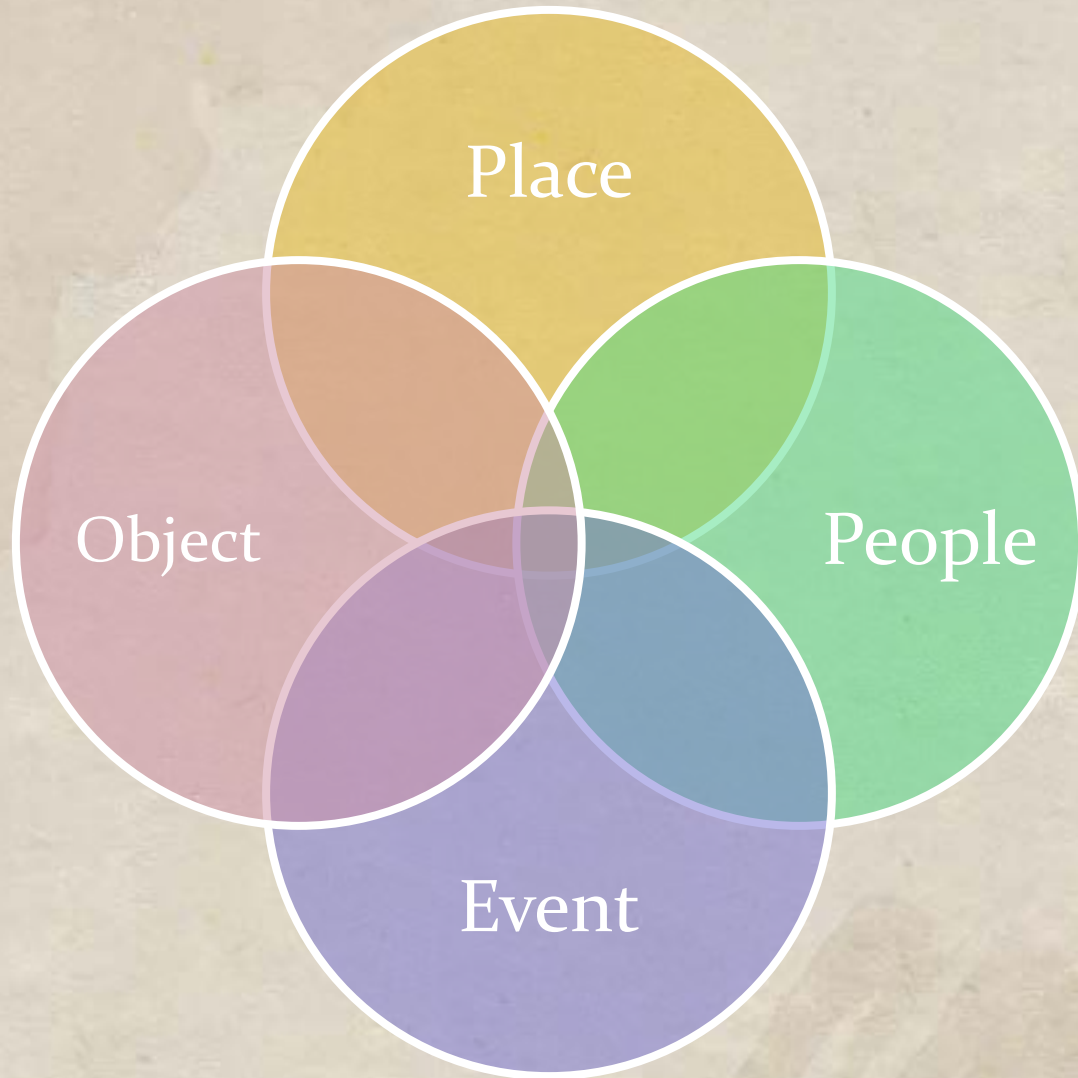
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### OTHER PHOTOS



# Semantic relationships



# Semantic relationships





## View of Victoria (Central District) and the Victoria Harbour looking west from Murray's Battery along Queen's Road, 29th November 1846

This picture was drawn from higher up Battery Path. The old Hong Kong Club in Wyndham Street, with its arched porte-cochere and rectangular upper window, is visible further down Queen's Road. Behind the first projecting point on the left is today's Ice House Street. The house on the hill (with the flagstaff) was the old Harbour Office; from here Captain Pedder ruled the harbour. The projecting Pedder's Wharf, visible on the right of the picture, is now somewhere under the foundations of the Gloucester Tower.



**Date** 1846  
**Place** Wan Chai District/Victoria Harbour  
**Source** The University of Hong Kong Libraries  
**Repository** The University of Hong Kong Libraries  
**Accession No.** R2008.0011



Tag



Comment



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This picture was drawn from higher up Battery Path. The old Hong Kong Club in Wyndham Street, with its arched porte-cochere and rectangular upper window, is visible further down Queen's Road. Behind the first projecting point on the left is today's Ice House Street. The house on the hill (with the flagstaff) was the old Harbour Office; from here Captain Pedder ruled the harbour. The projecting Pedder's Wharf, visible on the right of the picture, is now somewhere under the foundations of the Gloucester Tower.



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Comment

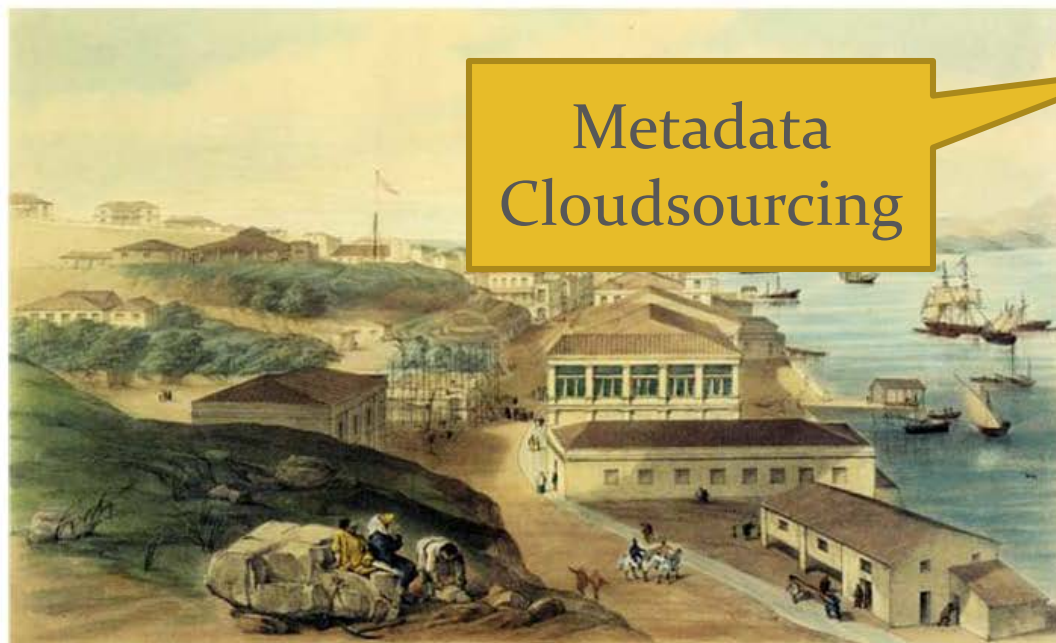


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Metadata  
Cloudsourcing



Similar images | [View all](#)



# HONG KONG IMAGES 香港圖像



Refine your search



central

View as timeline ▾

Refine by **Year**

Early 20th century(2) Early 1970s(1) c.early 20th century(4) c.1980s(2)

c.1970s(1) c.1960s(6) c.1905(1) c.1890(1) c.1880(4) c.1875(1) c.1860(1)

Refine by **Topic**

Aerial Photos (380) Airport (54) Ancestral Halls (9) Bank Buildings (70) Beaches (73)

Cinemas (16) Commercial Buildings (182) Festivals (108) Hotels (176) Housing (246)

Libraries (14) Markets (21) Museums (42) Night Views (69) Parks (127)

Performing Venues (59) Religious Buildings (237) Reservoirs (19) Restaurants (51)

Schools (80)





# HONG KONG IMAGES 香港圖像



Refine your search ∨



central

View as timeline

Related searches : [Wan Chai](#), [Central](#), [Victoria Peak](#)

Select column:  Place  People  Event



# HONG KONG IMAGES 香港圖像














Refine your search ▾



central

View as timeline ▾

	Place	People	Event
1900s	 <a href="#">+more</a>		
1910s	 <a href="#">+more</a>		
1920s	  <a href="#">+more</a>		
1950s	  <a href="#">+more</a>		

# Copyright Protection - Watermark



# Copyright Protection - Image Viewer



Thank You