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#### **Preface**

Hong Kong has undergone fundamental changes over the past decades – from a land of nothing but rubble after the war in the 1950s, a city of a booming economy and rapid development in the 1970s and 1980s, to a metropolis of affluence and prosperity today. Despite the changes, there are yet some relatively poor families or less fortunate children in the society. Every change in our economics, politics, society or people's livelihood has exerted a profound influence on our life. In the early post-war period, life in Hong Kong was a bitter struggle. Many people fled from Mainland China to Hong Kong and many children were abandoned. They could not find a home and had to live on the streets. In order to help these children find a stable and permanent home, sending them overseas for adoption would be the best solution.

The International Social Service Hong Kong Branch (ISS-HK) was born at that time in response to the needs of these abandoned/homeless children. Thanks to our ISS headquarters, with its many years of experience in intercountry adoption and an extensive network overseas, ISS-HK was able to immediately manage numerous cases of intercountry adoptions. Now, more than 50 years later, ISS-HK has succeeded in helping to place thousands of Hong Kong children overseas with approved adoptive families. Some of these adoptee children, who are now adults, have come back to Hong Kong to trace their roots, or root-tracing as it is known here. They hope to be able to reconnect with their past and meet their birth parents. Some

of these adoptees have written about their unique root-tracing experiences and we have compiled their accounts in this book.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the social workers and colleagues in the ISS-HK Adoption Programme. Over the years, not only have they assisted the children by preparing a multitude of documents and reports, they also devoted tremendous efforts to helping the children integrate with their overseas adoptive families, for example by creating a lifebook for the children, escorting them overseas, accompanying the overseas adoptive families during their stay in Hong Kong, following up thoroughly with the living conditions of the overseas adopted children, and supporting them when they grow up and come to Hong Kong for root-tracing. We treat them all as if they are our own sons and daughters, taking the best care of them throughout the adoption process. We take their best interests to heart.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Social Welfare Department of Hong Kong, which has been subventing our Intercountry adoption programme for many years. The liaison work between the Department and our agency has helped many children awaiting adoption to find the most suitable adoptive families that can best meet their needs.

Finally, I would like to give my heartiest thanks to the adoptees and adoptive families who shared their root-tracing stories with us. It is our greatest achievement to see the adoptees grow up healthily and to see them making contributions to society. I wish them all the best in their root-tracing endeavours, continuing to pick up more bits and pieces of their past, and, eventually, completing a beautiful picture of their life.

Stephen Yau Chief Executive, ISS-HK 序

香港國際社會服務社「國際社」就是在這時代誕生 。憑著國際社會服務社總部多年的跨國領養服務經驗 及國了多宗跨國領養國案。在50年後的今天,可的領 理」已認助了數年名香港兒童在海外投到認可婚領 家庭。近年,這些已成年的領養「兒童」陸陸續 東京、希望等可包畴的生活片投,或與親人相見 等寫下的回港尋根故鄉外家庭領養的香港兒童親 筆寫下的回港尋根故事。

我希望藉此機會感謝多年來在本社領養服務工作的 於常處理繁複的文件及報告外,他們 大為他們,將本讓就趣,以紀錄他們在港的日子、 造兒童到這至美國等國家交予領養父母、陪同人 領養父母在港鄉理手續、跟追領養後報告及了經 童春海外的生活情亂如如們的親生 養養物的生活者緣如如們的親生 養養物的生務。這些被子都緣如如們的親生 個額養過程均以兒童的福祉為依歸。 我也十分感謝多年來買助本社國際領養服務的社會 福利署。過去多年,我們合作緊密,合力為每一位待 領養兒童尊找最適合的領養家庭:

我更感謝每位為這本書撰寫故事的被領養者及領養家 庭,感謝他們願意分享導根路上的一點一滴:他們能健 康成長,對社會有貢獻,就是對我們工作的肯定。根顯 他們每位在導根的旅途順利,找到過去的片片投段,組 成美滿的人生旅程。

香港國際社會服務社 行政總裁 邱浩波

#### **Editor's Note**

Root-tracing is a term used in Hong Kong that touches the hearts of millions. It sums up the hopes of adoptees seeking to reunite with their birth parents, including overseas adoptees who take the trouble and time to travel thousands of miles to reach back to their birthplace.

Who doesn't have roots? Who doesn't yearn for a family reunion? Who doesn't crave for a sense of belonging?

"Root-tracing" is such a powerful term, especially for adoptees. Apart from re-connecting them to the land where they were born, root-tracing more importantly helps the adoptees answer heartfelt questions concerning their birth parents and families. "Why did my birth parents abandon me?", "In what situation did they relinquish their parental rights?", "Are they well?", "Are they still alive?", "Have they ever missed me?" and "Do I have siblings?" All these questions can be troublesome during the whole life of an adoptee. It was tragic that in the 1950s and 1960s many children placed for overseas adoption were abandoned on the streets and had no identity documents. These adoptees suffered a loss of identity — a pain that is intangible yet difficult to bear.

Although most adoptees are not able to get in touch with their birth parents, a few of them have an opportunity to meet other members of their birth families, such as their grandparents. Some adoptees who had lived in foster homes could meet their foster parents again. Their reunions were usually very touching experiences, as if long-lost, shattered pieces of a puzzle were found and put together again, completing a beautiful picture. Such reunions are important not only for the adoptees, their birth family and foster family, but also for the adoptive parents as well. If the adoptive parents did not receive the consent of the adoptee's birth parents, perhaps they could never have adopted their new sons and daughters.

We were thrilled to receive many stories written by adoptees. What impressed us most is that all of them expressed their love for Hong Kong regardless of whether or not the orphanages were still there and despite the drastic changes in the urban landscape. Their lasting affection for Hong Kong, as can be seen in their stories, transcends differences in geography, language and culture. We are highly gratified that, despite having left Hong Kong in their childhood, Hong Kong still has a place in their hearts and they still feel deeply connected with it.



Key decisions in root-tracing naturally include, initially, whether to start the procedure or not, and then how to approach it, and the extent to which it will affect the birth parents, the adoptive parents and the adoptees' own families. But most important of all is whether the adoptees can accept their past and form an identity that makes a coherent whole.

Separation and reunion are inescapable features in everyone's life, but all the more so for adoptees. We hereby sincerely wish that each and every adoptee has a fruitful conclusion in their root-tracing process, and that they enjoy a life filled with peace, joy and love.

#### **Editorial Board**

Wind Au
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#### 編輯的話

尋根——單看這兩個字已夠觸動人心。誰沒有根?

哪個領養兒童長大後尋根,不希望能與親生父母重聚?

重返故土,誰不渴望找獲一絲歸屬感?

尋根對被領養者意義重大,除了與自己來自的土地連繫,更重要的是解答被領養者對親生父母及家庭的疑問。為什麼生父母要遺棄他/她,生父母是在什麼情形下放棄父母的權利?生父母的健康狀況如何?生父母仍在生嗎?生父母有沒有掛念他/她?他們有沒有其他兄弟姊妹?一連串的問題有時會纏擾被領養者一生。很可惜,50、60年代被送往海外的香港兒童大多是被遺棄在街頭,沒有身份證明文件,身世成謎戰承載失去身份的痛,對這些被領養者是莫大的挑戰。

雖然大部分被領養者未能與生父母接觸,但其中一些有機會與其他原生家庭成員接觸,如祖父母或外祖父母或外祖父母或外祖父母或外祖父母重聚的月段均十分窩心,就好像本來四散的拼圖小塊重整成一幅漂亮動人的圖畫。這些重聚,對被領養者、親人或寄養家庭均甚具意義,對領養父母來說也往往觸動心靈——如沒有被領養兒童的生父母同意,或許他們沒有機會領養到他們的子女。

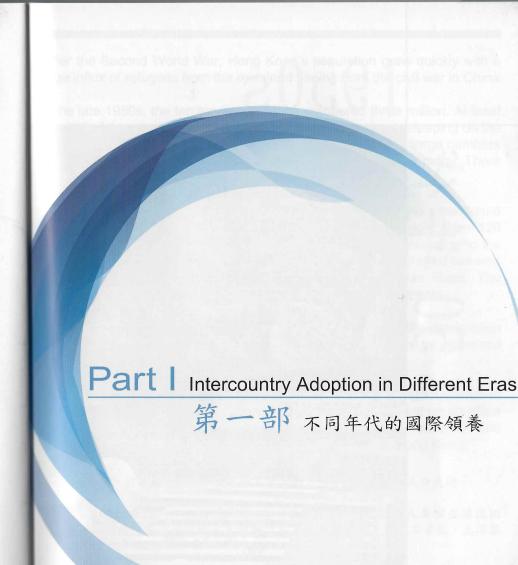
收到書中多篇被領養者親筆撰寫的文章,我們的內心都很激盪。最令人印象深刻的,是每一位被領養者對香港的情。即使經過數十年的變遷,很多兒童院、但舊等已面目全非;即使他們被領養時只是嬰兒,但他們仍對香港有深厚的感情,並能與香港保持聯繫,令我們感到非常欣慰。縱使有地域、語言和文化的差異,香港在他們的心中仍然佔據著獨特的地位。

是否開始尋根、如何尋根、尋根對生父母、領養父母 及自己家庭的影響等,通常都是尋根的關鍵問題。但 最重要的是,被領養者在這過程中能否接納自己的身 世和過去,成為更完滿的自己。

分離、重聚,是人生無可避免的課題,對被領養者尤甚。祝願每一位被領養者繼續有美好的人生,也祝願每一位在尋根路上的被領養者都有一個美好的尋根故事。

編輯委員會

區張徐孔劉李廖盤鳳玉佩燕康綺金玉鄉清玲琼琳嫺鳳銘



## 1950s

Central, Hong Kong, in 1953.

A view of Tai Wo Hau Resettlement Estate, 1962.

After the Second World War, Hong Kong's population grew guickly with a large influx of refugees from the mainland fleeing from the civil war in China.

In the late 1950s, the territory's population numbered three million. At least 300,000 of them were living in flimsy squatter huts or simply sleeping on the streets. Hospitals and medical staffs could not cope with the large numbers of the sick. Wages were low, and life was a bitter struggle for many. There were many abandoned children.1

Women police officers were kept busy in dealing with the abandoned children, who were almost invariably girls. On average more than 120 abandoned children were sent to police stations annually, according to the Public Records Office.<sup>2</sup> Babies were left on doorsteps. A child aged two was found wandering at midnight along Kowloon's busy Nathan Road. The immediate job of the women officers was to trace the kids' parents.

In 1957, the United States Congress passed a law allowing the immigration of orphaned children under 14 years of age for adoption by approved American families.

On 17th February, 1958, Miss Boester wrote to Hong Kong's Director of Social Welfare, Kenneth Keen, formally proposing that ISS set up an office in Hong Kong to make use of the organisation's overseas network to find permanent adoptive homes for homeless children living in Hong Kong.<sup>3</sup>

——次大戰後,國共內戰爆發,大量難民從內地湧進香港,令香港人口大增。

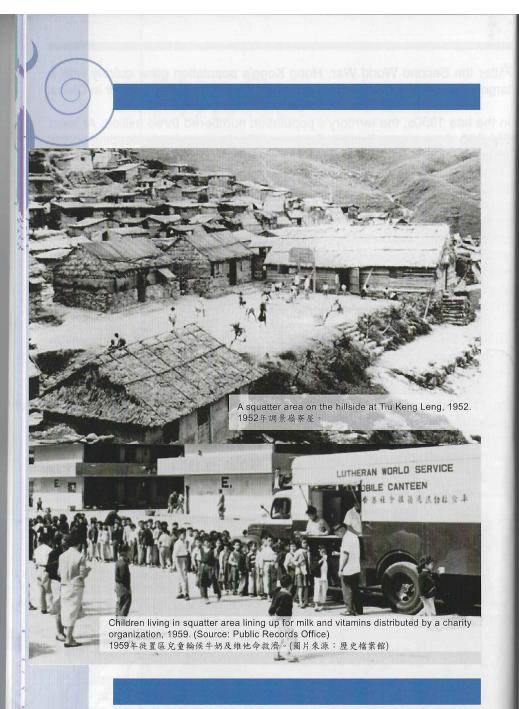
50 年代後期,香港人口已達至 300 萬,當中有不少於 30 萬人居住在破落的 ₩屋或露宿街頭。醫院和醫務人員都應付不了大量的病人。當時工資低,生活艱 ₩,有很多兒童被遺棄。1

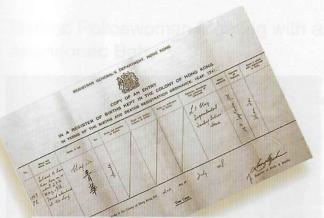
▶↓↓,平均有超過120個被遺棄的兒童被送到警署。2 被遺棄的幾乎全都是女童 - 有嬰兒被遺棄在門階,有兩歲兒童被發現午夜在彌敦道遊蕩。女警們都忙於 ▲型被遺棄的兒童,她們首要的工作就是要尋回兒童的父母。

1957年,美國國會通過了一項法例,允許已被認可的美國家庭領養未滿14歲的

1958年2月17日,寶埃斯特小姐致函給香港社會福利署署長肯尼斯·基恩, 為國際社會服務社正式提出在香港設立辦事處。其主要目的是善用其海外網絡, \*\*力為香港無家可歸的兒童尋找一個永久的家。3

兒童入籍。





A birth certificate of an abandoned child born in the late 1950s. (Source: The Enterprise Blog)

一位出生於50年代後期被遺棄的兒童的出世紙。
(圖片來源: The Enterprise Blog)



Tak Oi-shi from Hong Kong, adopted by the Skinner family of Tacoma, Washington State, and renamed Susie, in 1954. (Source: The Adoption History Project)<sup>4</sup> 来自香港的卓愛詩(譯音),於1954年被來自塔科馬的斯金納家庭領養,並改名為蘇西。 (圖片來源:歷史領養網站)<sup>4</sup>





Baby girl, Chang Ling-kuen, was found abandoned on a street and picked up by a policewoman.

(Source: Photo taken by Dennis Stock in 1959) 女童鄭玲娟(譯音)被遺棄在街上,由一名女警檢拾。 (圖片來源:丹尼斯·多攝於1959年)

## Retired Policewoman Meeting with an Abandoned Baby

Sergeant Chan Miu-fong, now retired, was posted at the Wong Tai Sin Police Station. She recalled how she had managed numerous child abandonment cases, her first mission was to handle abandoned babies.

Staircases, alleys and public washrooms were popular spots for parents to leave their babies. Madam Chan recalled that some babies were found naked, as if they had just been born. Others were few years old, left with nothing except perhaps a note. On hearing about an abandoned baby, a policewoman would usually be sent to the scene. She would first take the baby to a hospital or clinic for a checkup, and then bring the baby to the police station for arrangements to be made for a children's home for him or her. The police station always had supplies of baby formula, diapers and basic necessities for the abandoned babies. After finding a children's home, the policewoman assigned to the case would escort the baby to the home. Madam Chan noted that in these days many poor families lacked information about and access to contraceptive methods. As a result, such families had many children they could ill afford. Some families would then give away their children. Others would simply abandon their children on the street, hoping that the social welfare system would take care of them.

If searches for the baby's parents proved futile, the policewoman in charge of the case would take the baby to attend a court hearing on a guardianship order, as arranged by the Social Welfare Department in Hong Kong. Madam Chan recalled that the Court had to manage a number of cases simultaneously, so she and other policewomen had to carry the babies in court along with a bag full of baby supplies.

What has been most gratifying for Madam Chan was the emotional meeting she had with a lady whom she had taken care of long ago. The lady was less than one year old when found abandoned and was later adopted by a family in UK. Through the help of the Social Welfare Department and the Hong Kong Police Force, the lady came back in 2007 to trace her roots and re-established contact with Madam Chan. It was a highly memorable moment, she recalled, as it was her first and only time she had met an abandoned baby who came back for root-tracing. She said it was indeed highly gratifying to see that the child who had lost her parents was able to grow up well and succeed in life. It was wonderful recognition of all the hard work that Madam Chan had done.

#### 退休女警長與長大後的棄嬰重聚

退休女警長陳妙芳女士於1962年加入警隊後便在黃 大仙警署執勤,經常遇上棄嬰個案。而處理棄嬰案件 就是陳女士離開警察學堂後的首項任務。

如未能尋找到生父母及親人,最初接案的女警會帶同嬰孩出席法庭就社會福利署提出申請監護令的聆訊。陳女士憶述,當時法庭會同時間處理多宗案件,故她和其他女警都是一手抱著嬰孩,一手拿著大袋嬰兒用品出庭。



而令陳女士感到最 安慰的是重遇一名 當年由陳女士跟進 , 還未滿一歲的嬰 兒。這名嬰兒其後 被領養到英國, 2007年回港尋根。 在社會福利署及警方 的協助下, 這名被 領養者與陳女士取 得了聯繫。陳女士 憶述,該次會面令 她印象深刻,那是 她唯一一次與回來 尋根的被領養者會 面。她表示能看到當 天失去父母的嬰孩 健康成長並有所成 就,是非常大的安 慰,也對她當年辛 勞工作的莫大肯定。



Madam Chan when working as a police constable. 任職警員的陳妙芳女士。

## 1960s

60 年代



Victoria Harbour, 1961 1961年的維多利亞港。



The Fanling Babies' Home. (Source: The Fanling Babies' Home)<sup>14</sup> 粉嶺育嬰院。(圖片來源:粉嶺育嬰院網頁)<sup>14</sup>

In the 1960s, Hong Kong continued to develop and expand the manufacturing industries that had started in the previous decade. People had to work long hours to achieve a better standard of living. More women joined the work force in order to support their families.

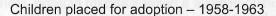
In 1962, Typhoon Wanda, one of the most disastrous typhoons of Hong Kong, killed 130 people and left 72,000 homeless. This tragedy was followed by serious droughts in 1963 and 1967. The government had to introduce a water restriction policy with periods when the water supply was restricted to 4 hours every 4 days.

In those days, children placed for overseas adoption were of two characteristics. Some children were actually known to overseas Chinese families who planned to adopt them. Some of them were relatives of the adoptive families. They were also older children, most frequently boys and often refugees recently arrived from China. It was often not easy to reach them as they lived in huts on the hillsides, in crowded cubicles on the rooftops or on the streets. Besides, it was also difficult to get sufficient documentary evidence to prove they were eligible for visas.<sup>5</sup>

More and more children's institutions were built to accommodate the homeless. The Precious Blood Children's Village in Fanling and the reception centres at Chuk Yuen and Kowloon City were some of the examples. These facilities were greatly expanded in the 1960s. More and more nurseries were also opened for younger children by charitable organizations.

A mass influx of refugees made headlines globally and focused attention on Hong Kong's humanitarian problems. Many parts of the world began opening their hearts and doors to Hong Kong children. There were always more homes waiting for children than there were children available.<sup>6</sup>

In 1960, ISS offices in Britain and Canada managed to obtain approval for orphans in Hong Kong to be placed with families in those two countries. In 1962, New Zealand also passed legislation to allow the entry of fifty adopted children from Hong Kong.



In its first five years of operation from 1958 to 1963, ISS-HK organized the adoption of over 770 Hong Kong children overseas — including 696 to the United States and 56 to Britain. Most of the children placed in the United States were with Chinese families. These children were reported to have got on very well in their new surroundings.<sup>9</sup>

The number of children that ISS-HK placed in each country between 1958 and 1963:<sup>10</sup>

| US Mainland         | 636 |
|---------------------|-----|
| US Hawaii           | 60  |
| Great Britain       | 56  |
| Canada              | 6   |
| Japan (US Citizens) | 6   |
| New Zealand         | 6   |
| Panama              | 2   |
| Caribbean           | 2   |
| France              | 1   |
| Honduras            | 1   |
|                     |     |

According to the Social Welfare Department's records, some children were adopted by families in the Netherlands, West Pakistan, Malaysia and Indonesia through other agencies such as Caritas.

The number of children fostered by the following local institutions for intercountry adoption between 1958 and 1963:<sup>11</sup>

| Children's Garden                     | 3   |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Eric Bruce Hammond Memorial Orphanage | 7   |
| Fanling Babies' Home                  | 151 |
| Po Leung Kuk                          | 154 |
| Precious Blood Babies' Home           | 28  |
| St. Christopher's Home                | 164 |
| St. Paul's Crèche                     | 2   |
| Shatin Children's Home                | 56  |

#### Help from Western families

To prepare children for overseas adoption, Western families serving as volunteers played an important role. They prepared the children mentally for the tremendous changes involved in leaving the daily routines of a Hong Kong orphanage and entering a completely new family life in a strange country.<sup>12</sup>

Adoption: a means of giving a child a family, not giving a family a child.

In 1960, when the European Office of the UN Social Welfare Programme convened a seminar on Intercountry Adoption in Leysin, Switzerland, ISS was able to establish a firm principle that had grown out of its experience in this expanded field of child welfare: namely, that it would consider participating in international adoption only when it was clear that a satisfactory solution could not be found for a child in his/her home country, and that, whenever adoption was considered, the first concern must be to focus on a particular child's needs rather than on the needs of an interested family. This principle later has been incorporated as one of the important international guidelines for the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption.

60年代,香港持續發展製造業。為了改善生活,很多人需長時 間在外工作,很多女性更選擇投入職場以幫補生計。 60年代的香港也天災頻生。在1962年,颱風溫黛襲港,它可說

是吹襲香港最具災難性的颱風之一,引致130人死亡,72.000人 無家可歸。隨後在1963年及1967年,香港面臨嚴重旱災,政府 需實施限制供水政策,每四天只供水四小時。

當時,被領養到海外的兒童有兩大特點:一是已認識領養他們的 海外華裔家庭而當中部分有親屬關係,二是他們都是較為年長的 兒童(當中大多數是男孩及剛從中國抵港的難民)。由於他們很多 都居住在山上、天台劏房或街上, 聯絡他們並不容易。此外, 要 為他們拿取足夠證明文件來辦理簽證也有一定難度。5

為收容更多無家可歸的兒童,愈來愈多兒童院被興建,如粉嶺的 寶血兒童村、竹園兒童院和九龍城兒童院等。60年代,這些設施 更被大大擴充,亦有不同的慈善團體為年幼的兒童設立更多的育 兒所。

由於大量難民湧港,香港的人道救援成為全球焦點,很多國家 開始為香港兒童伸出援手,出現待領養的兒童有供不應求的情 况;今申請領養香港兒童的家庭往往比待領養的兒童多。6

1960年,英國及加拿大的國際社辦事處獲得批准安排香港孤兒被 英國及加拿大的家庭領養。7 另一方面,新西蘭於1962年也通過 法例,允許50名來自香港的被領養兒童入籍居留。8

#### 1958-1963年被領養的兒童

香港國際社會服務社成立最初的五年,即1958至1963年,共安排 了776名香港兒童被領養到海外,其中696名前往美國、56名往 英國。大多數前往美國的兒童都是由華裔家庭領養,據報他們 都非常適應新的環境。9

1958至1963年期間由「國際社」安排跨國領養的兒童數目:10

| 美國內陸     | 636 |
|----------|-----|
| 美國 夏威夷   | 60  |
| 英國       | 56  |
| 加拿大      | 6   |
| 日本(美國公民) | 6   |
| 新西蘭      | 6   |
| 巴拿馬      | 2   |
| 加勒比海地區   | 2   |
| 法國       | 1   |
| 洪都拉斯     | 1   |
|          |     |

根據社會福利署的記錄,有些兒童也會透過明愛等其他機構,被 领養到荷蘭、西巴基斯坦、馬來西亞和印度尼西亞。

以下是本地機構收容將被海外家庭領養的兒童數目:11

| <b>兒童新村</b>      | 3   |
|------------------|-----|
| 埃里克·布魯斯·哈蒙德紀念兒童院 | 7   |
| 粉橫育嬰院            | 151 |
| 保良局              | 154 |
| 資血兒童院            | 28  |
| 业基道兒童院           | 164 |
| 型保羅托兒所           | 2   |
| 沙田兒童之家           | 56  |
|                  |     |

#### 外籍家庭的協助

為了準備兒童海外領養,作為義工的外籍家庭擔當了一個重要的 **角色。他們會協助這些兒童離開兒童院的原有生活模式,並為投** 入一個新國家、新家庭作好準備。12

#### 「 領養是給孩子一個家,不是給家庭一個孩子。」

1960年,在國際社、國際兒童福利聯合會和瑞士政府的贊助下,聯合國社會福利署的歐洲辦事處在瑞士里森召開了一個跨國領養的研討會。基於多年兒童福利的經驗,國際社得以在會上發表其一直堅守的原則:必須確認兒童在原居國找不到合適的照顧,才可考慮跨國領養。此外,在為兒童安排跨國領養時,首要關注的必須是兒童的需要,並非欲領養家庭的需要。13 這項原則,日後成為海牙跨國領養公約中之重要綱領。



Orphanage in Lung Yuek Tau Fanling built by the Sister of the Precious Blood, with the assistance of their benefactors at its opening ceremony in 1952. The orphanage was renamed officially as the Precious Blood Children's Village in 1962.

由寶血女修會籌募經費,於善長支持下在粉嶺龍躍頭興建孤兒院,後於 1962年易名為寶血兒童村,圖為1952年的開幕典禮盛況。



A family living in squatter area in the 60s, most of them had many children at home.

(Source: Photo taken by Chow Chi-tat)

60年代居住於徙置區的家庭,大部分育有多名子女。周志達攝。





Six years after ISS-HK was established, Sir Shiu-kin TANG sent off the 1,000th child leaving Hong Kong for overseas adoption in October 1964.<sup>15</sup> 1964年10月,香港國際社會服務社成立六周年後,鄧肇堅爵士專程歡送第一千名被領養到海外的兒童。<sup>15</sup>





Tea party sponsored by the International Police Association. (Source: Public Records Office) 兒童院的茶會由國際警察協會贊助。(圖片來源:歷史檔案館)

Thursday June 21, 1962

#### BACKOROUND INFORMATION ON SPECIAL CRIMINA PLANE

About 50 orphans whose adoption by individual fasilies in the United States has been arranged by the International Social Service will leave Hong Hong on or about June 26 on a specially chartered plane which will arrive in los Angeles the following day. Ten qualified escorts will accompany the children until they are met by their new parents at various points in the U.S. All but six will be going to Chinese-American families.

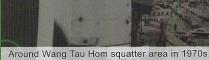
This is part of the normal program of the International Social Service which has made possible the movement of 650 orphans to the United States since it extended its activities to the Colony in early 1956. The placement of each child has involved detailed case work procedure in which the best family has been selected after careful investigation by recognized social welfare agencies in the United States. In addition to orphans referred to INS by children's institutions, of whem the Director of Social Welfare in Hong Kong is normally the legal guardian, many relatives in the United States have sought INS assistance in being rounited with orphaned members of their families. Seventeen on Lednesday's plane will be going to relatives. All will be legally adopted as seen as the necessary procedures of the various state laws can be complied with.

At the present time there are approximately 2,500 babies and children in residential institutions in the Colony supported by various local and foreign religious and charitable organizations, several of which receive generous annual grants from the Hong Kong Government to carry on their

A press release record of the Social Welfare Department: A special plane was arranged by ISS to send 50 orphans to their adoptive families in the US on 26th June, 1962. (Source: Public Records Office) 计 自福利署的新聞稿,記載於1962年6月26日,國際社為50名孤兒安排專順前任美國的領養家庭。(圖片來源:歷史檔案館)

## 1970s

Wan Chai Skyline from Victoria Peak, 1971. 1971年由山頂俯瞰的灣仔對出海港。



Around Wang Tau Hom squatter area in 1970s (Source: Photo taken by Chow Chi-tat) 70年代橫頭磡徙置區一帶。周志達攝。

Hong Kong in the 1970s underwent many changes that were instrumental in shaping its future. Economically, it reinvented itself from a manufacturing base into a financial centre. With China beginning to adopt its open door policy, many Hong Kong manufacturers moved their production lines to the mainland to take advantage of cheaper labour. People were growing richer entering the 1970s and the stockmarket rush began.

To Improve the quality of education, the Hong Kong government introduced 6-year free compulsory education in 1971, and expanded it to 9 years in 1978.

The introduction of family planning services led to a drop in the birth rate. As the economy improved, fewer children were being abandoned. The overwhelming majority of these children who were abandoned were physically handicapped, some severely, while others were considered hard to place because their parents were mentally ill or retarded. The overwhelming majority of these children who were abandoned were physically handicapped, some severely, while others were considered hard to place because their parents were mentally ill or retarded.

The number of children declared wards of the Supreme Court decreased from 90 in 1958-59 to 21 in 1969-70. Local adoption applications, however, increased from 95 in the year of 1958-59 to 257 in 1969-70. On average there were 70 children adopted by overseas families annually, two thirds of them to the United States.

It is not an uncommon practice for foreign families in Hong Kong to go alsowhere in Asia to look for children to adopt. Some families placed advertisements in newspapers to show their interest in adoption and the amount they were willing to pay. This led to the concern if adoption was used as a means of child trafficking. In view of this, the Social Welfare Department of Hong Kong and adoption agencies put in much effort into aducating the public about the appropriate procedures and legal requirements of adoption.

Mefore December 1972, so-called Chinese Customary Adoption was legal in Hong Kong. Children could be adopted through complying with simple Chinese customs.

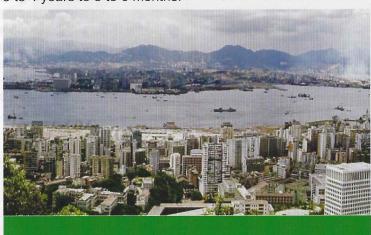
Under this system, the birth parents or a mediator wrote on a red-coloured paper the name, date of birth of the child they intended to release for adoption and reason for giving up the parental rights. The paper was signed and then co-signed by a witness and the adoptive parents.

35

If the adoptive child was a girl, the adoption had to be registered with the Social Welfare Department or the Secretary of Chinese Affairs, according to the Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance issued in 1951. The girl would then be automatically placed under the guardianship of the Director of the Social Welfare Department. Supervision of the condition of the adopted girls would be exercised until the children reached age of 21. However, for boys who were adopted through Chinese customs, the registration was totally voluntary.

From 31st December, 1972, a person who intended to adopt a child could only do so on the basis of the provisions of the Adoption Ordinance, under which the Director of Social Welfare had to advise the Supreme Court as to the suitability of the adoptive parents.

In June 1976, the backlog of adoption applications was said to have been virtually cleared. The waiting time for adoptive parents to be matched with a child had been shortened from 3 to 4 years to 3 to 6 months.



70年代的香港經歷許多的變遷,隨著中國的門戶開放,很多廠 家將其生產線遷移內地,以減低成本。這些轉變奠定了香港的未 來——由一個製造業基地發展為一個國際金融中心。踏入70年 代,香港人逐漸富裕起來,投資股票也開始熾熱。

為了改善教育質素,香港政府於1971年推行6年免費強 血牧育,其後於1978年將其延長為9年免費教育。

家庭計劃服務的推行,促使香港的出生率下降。隨著經濟得 刊改善,愈來愈少兒童遭遺棄。<sup>16</sup> 被遺棄的,大多數是有「 特殊需要」的兒童,即身體有缺陷,部分甚至有嚴重的殘疾 有些則基於他們的父母患有智障或精神病,而沒法提供合 過的照顧。<sup>17</sup>

№ 然需受最高法院監護的兒童人數從1958至1959年的90人減至
1969至1970年的21人,但本地領養的申請卻從1958至1959年
的95份增至1969至1970年的257份。每年平均有70名兒童被安
排海外領養,其中三份之二被安排到美國。

幣時,有些居住在香港的外籍人士在亞洲各個地區尋找兒童 係。部分人會在報章刊登廣告,表示有興趣領養兒童及願 為付出的金額。這些情況令人關注領養兒童會否成為非法販 份人口的方式。<sup>18</sup> 有見及此,香港社會福利署和領養機構致力 批育普羅大眾正確的領養程序及法規。

1972年12月前,香港依習俗領養還是合法的。親生父母或中介人只需依據簡單的程序,把兒童的名字、出生日期和放棄撫養的原因寫在紅紙上,最後由親生父母或中介人、見證人及領養父母簽名便成事。

不過,若被領養的是女童,便需根據1951年生效的《保護婦孺條例》,向社會福利署和華民政務司署登記。女童會自動被安排給社會福利署署長監護,直至女童滿21歲為止。若依習俗被領養的是男童,家長可自願登記。

自1972年12月31日起,欲領養兒童之人士必須依《領養條例》的規定,由社會福利署署長向最高法院推薦申請人為合適領養父母。

1976年6月,積壓多時的領養申請已幾乎全部得到處理。領養兒 童的等候時間由過往3至4年縮短至3至6個月。





Sample of Identification Ticket for Adoption. (Source: Public Records Office) 領養兒童登記證明書樣本。 (圖月來源:歷史檔案館)

## 1980s

# 80 年代



An aerial view of the northern shore of Hong Kong Island in 1986 by Paddy Briggs 1986年 香港島北 空中俯瞰照,Paddy Briggs攝。

In 1984, the Sino-British Joint Declaration was signed by the Chinese and UK governments. Under this agreement, Hong Kong would cease to be a British Dependent Territory on 1st July, 1997, and would thenceforth be a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China. Some citizens' opposition to the handover started the first wave of emigration.

On the other hand, the Hong Kong government had introduced measures to deter illegal immigrants from Mainland China entering Hong Kong. On 23rd October, 1980, the government abolished the so-called "touch-base" policy. After that date, any illegal immigrants who were captured were sent back to their originating countries immediately.

An increasing number of older children, those aged between 5 and 8, were referred to ISS-HK for overseas adoption. We had to spend more time and use new approaches in helping these children to understand their background and to accept overseas adoption as a better alternative to growing up in children's homes.<sup>19</sup>

We had been very much encouraged by the good progress made in the efforts by the ISS-USA to find homes in the United States for these children. To better prepare our older children for adoption in a non-Chinese family, we tried to find Caucasian families locally to become volunteers to visit the children in the orphanage, teach them English, take them for day visits, and if possible, arrange home leave on weekends or short holidays in their home.<sup>20</sup>

In the late 1980s, children available for adoption were much younger in age (some were under one year old) and the majority were male. This led to the decision for the ISS-HK to close applications for the adoption of female children from May 1988.<sup>21</sup>

In those days, ISS-HK sent escorts to take the adoptive children to the United States to join their new families. One or two escorts needed to take care of 2 to 6 children. Each trip needed to stop at two or three US cities.

Ms. Yu Shuk-hing, an ISS-HK social worker and her husband served as escorts to bring the children to the United States. One of the most memorable children she escorted was a 3-year-old limbless boy.

Instead of using ISS-HK escort service to take children overseas, a majority of adoptive families chose to escort their children home themselves and this had proved beneficial to both the adoptees and the adopters. The children were able to get to know their adoptive parents in person and to feel safe and comfortable in a new country to start a new life.<sup>22</sup>

ISS-HK also actively sought to enlist the assistance of the Australia Branch and the Adoption Desk in Canada to find more permanent and stable homes for an increasing number of children with special needs, for whom the chance of local placement in Hong Kong was almost nil.<sup>23</sup>

从一方面,香港政府實施一連串的措施以阻止非法入境者從 內地來港。政府於1980年10月23日取消了抵疊政策──所有 #法入境者若於此日期後被發現,即需被遺返回國。

個際領養方面,愈來愈多較年長(5至8歲)的兒童需被海外領養,我們要用更多的時間和不同方式來幫助這些兒童,使他們了解自己的背景和明白海外領養比留在兒童院長大更好

人國的國際社會服務社積極為這些較年長的兒童尋找 《家庭,良好的進度使我們感到鼓舞。為了幫助這些兒童 《個在非華裔的家庭生活,我們在香港努力尋找外籍家庭作 《本》,前往兒童院探訪兒童,教導他們英語;甚至安排一天 《個週末或一個短假期在他們的家庭生活。20

BO年代後期,可被領養的兒童較年幼(有些在一歲或以下) 上大多數都是男童。這使我們決定自1988年5月開始,不再 14受領養女童的申請。21

過去,香港國際社會服務社會派出職員護送兒童到美國,把 他們交到領養父母手中。每趟旅程,皆由1至2位護送員看護 2至6名兒童及到2至3個美國城市。

香港國際社會服務社的社工余淑卿女士和她的丈夫曾擔任護送 員,把兒童護送到美國。余女士憶述在曾護送的兒童當中,最 令她印象深刻的是一個沒有手腳的三歲男童。

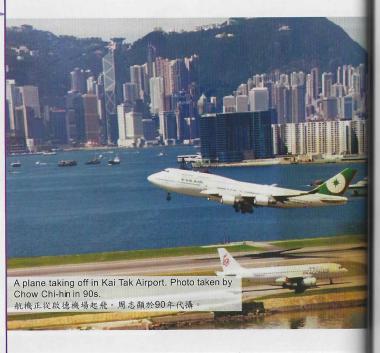
香港國際社會服務社亦積極與澳洲和加拿大分社及其他機構聯繫,向她們闡述為有特殊需要的兒童尋找領養家庭的需要,讓他們得到永久及安穩的居所。22

除了部分領養家庭選擇兒童護送服務,大多數家庭會親身來港,把領養子女接回家。這安排對領養家庭和被領養兒童均有好處,兒童能先在熟悉的地方認識領養父母,在抵達新的環境後更能適應新的生活。<sup>23</sup>



## 1990s

# 90 年代



The 1990s marked a dramatic transition for Hong Kong – the final years of colonial rule.

Following the Tiananmen Square protests in Beijing in 1989, plus general uncertainty over the status of Hong Kong after the transfer of sovereignty, the emigration rate rose and reached a peak in 1992. On 1st July, 1997, Hong Kong was returned to Chinese rule.

Due to a long waiting list, and the fact that all the waiting children had special needs, applications for healthy infants with uncomplicated backgrounds were still put on hold.<sup>24</sup> However, as there was a slight increase in the number of girls waiting for adoption, the applications for pirls, which had been closed since 1988, was re-opened in late 1995.<sup>25</sup>

In the past, most children were placed in children's homes prior to joining their overseas adoptive families. But from the mid-1990s, most children, except those with severe special needs, were placed in foster homes. These families were able to provide the children with individual attention and to help prepare them emotionally and psychologically for joining their future adoptive families.<sup>26</sup>

第100年代的香港處於一個過渡時期,亦是作為英國殖民地的最後年代。

1989年天安門事件後,港人對移交政權後的香港狀況普遍不感樂觀,1992 10人為港人移民的最高峰時期。1997年7月1日,香港回歸中國。

★ 大多數兒童都被安排在兒童院裡居住。但從90年代中期起,除了那些 业特別需要的兒童,其他的都會被安排在寄養家庭生活。這些家庭除了 為兒童提供更適切的個別照顧,亦能協助他們將來到領養家庭生活作好 」 17和情緒上的準備。26

# 21st Centur

21 市紀



At the start of the new millennium, Hong Kong was still feeling the effects of the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Then started in 2007 the global financial crisis rocked the financial well-being of Hong Kong's financial actor. The Lehman mini-bond crisis was one that affected the territory greatly.

The first suspected case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) was recorded in February, 2003, filling the society with anxiety and even panic. Children stayed at home, while schools closed their doors. Economic activity was greatly disrupted.

In September 2005, China ratified the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption. Hong Kong, as a Special Administrative Region of China, followed suit. The Hague Convention establishes safeguards to protect the best interests of children in intercountry adoptions.

To implement the Hague Convention in Hong Kong, amendments to the Adoption Ordinance took effect on 25th January, 2006. An accreditation system was introduced as a statutory requirement for agencies that plan to provide intercountry adoption services. With almost 50 years of experience in intercountry adoption, ISS-HK was auccessfully accredited by the Social Welfare Department for the arrangement of overseas adoption for children in Hong Kong.<sup>27</sup>

There has been an increase in the number of adoptees coming back to Hong Kong for root-tracing and reconnecting with their past. We are more than happy to help these adoptees search for their birth parents and arrange visits to their children's home and foster families. It is indeed joyful for our colleagues to meet these "children" who are now adults and hear about their current life.<sup>28</sup>

21世紀的香港在回歸中國後步入了新紀元。1997年爆發的亞洲金融風暴,引發延續6年的通縮,直至2004年7月才告終。幾年後,因美國雷曼兄弟的迷你債券危機,引發2007至2010年環球金融海嘯,使香港經濟大受打擊。

2003年2月,香港錄得首宗懷疑染上嚴重急性呼吸道綜合症(「沙士」)的個案。在疫症流行期間,香港瀰漫著感染沙士的恐懼:兒童需留在家中,學校被迫停課,經濟活動大受干擾。

於跨國領養方面,中國於2005年9月確認在海牙訂立的《關於跨國 領養的保護兒童及合作公約》(簡稱「《海牙公約》」),香港特區 因此依從實施。《海牙公約》的建立,確保國際領養必須以兒 童最大的福祉為依歸。

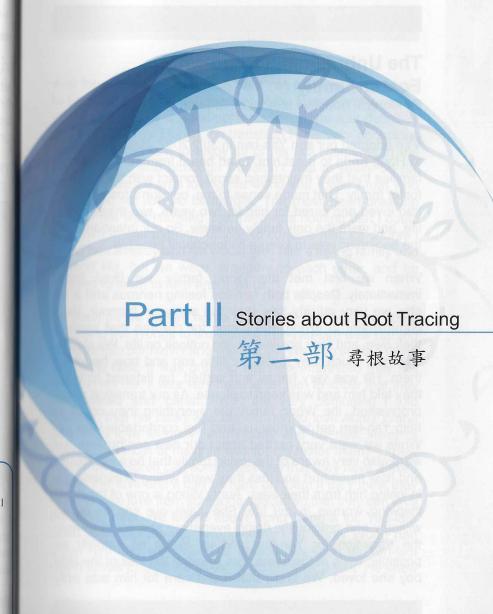
為了在香港履行《海牙公約》,經修訂的《領養條例》於2006 年1月25日正式生效。法例規定提供跨國領養服務的機構須獲 政府認可。香港國際社會服務社具有逾50年的跨國領養服務經 驗,成功獲得社會福利署認可,繼續為香港兒童安排海外領養 。27

此外,愈來愈多被領養的兒童長大後回來香港尋根。我們很高 興可以與這群長大了的兒童重聚,了解他們現在的生活點滴, 也很樂意為他們搜索其親生父母的資料,及協助他們到訪小時 曾照顧他們的兒童院及寄養家庭。<sup>28</sup>

#### Sources 參考資料:

1.3, 5.6, 7.8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15-28 Anthony Lawrence, Twenty-five Years of International Social Service Hong Kong, 1958-1983

- <sup>2</sup> Public Records Office, Government Records Service
- 4 http://pages.uoregon.edu/adoption/topics/internationaladoption.htm
- <sup>13</sup> Children and ISS, International Social Service
- <sup>14</sup> http://www.fanlingbabies.com/fanling babies home 002.htm



### The Unbreakable Bond with Foster Family

By Monica, Adoptive Mother of Yan-lam

We adopted our son Yan-lam in July 2007. Before we went to Hong Kong to meet him, I had heard from other adoptive families that they maintained some contact with their child's foster family. That made sense to me, our son's foster family had loved and cared for him for two years, two-thirds of his life, and were the only family he knew. So our intention from the beginning was to keep a connection if possible.

When we first met the Wong family, we liked them immediately. Despite both families feeling nervous and a bit shy, we very guickly saw their fun sense of humour, their commitment to loving and caring for children that weren't their own, and their positive, giving outlook on life. We clearly saw how much they loved our little son and how he loved them. He was very happy and settled, he listened to what they told him and was keen to please. As our transition week progressed, the Wong family did everything they could to help Yan-lam get to know us, and feel comfortable with us. While we were very excited about our new son/brother, we were also very aware of the loving family that he was leaving and how much hurt and loss they were willing to experience in losing him from their lives. Aunty Wong is one of the most inspiring women in my life. She gave our son to us so willingly and graciously, doing everything she could to help the transition for Yan-lam and us to be as smooth as possible, while at the same time grieving the loss of the little boy she loved. We know that foster care for him was only

ever intended to be temporary, that Yan-lam was never going to become a permanent member of the Wong family, yet he was not treated like a temporary addition, he was definitely one of the family. During the transition I was very conscious of wanting Yan-lam to enjoy all of his last moments in the Wong family, and although I couldn't wait to really be his Mum, I knew he was losing his wonderful foster Mum who had cared for him so beautifully. The most heart-breaking part for me was knowing that there was nothing that I could offer him in that moment of loss to console him. Of course I loved him already and we would give him a loving family and a good life, but we were strangers to each other, and he needed to learn to love and trust us.

As soon as we arrived home in Australia, we emailed some photos to the Wongs to show them that Yan-lam was starting to settle into our family and was happy. We also started using Skype to chat. It was great to see how interested they still were in his life, it was very healing for him to know that they still existed and cared. From the very beginning I told Yan-lam that his heart was big enough to love Aunty Wong and also love Mummy (and Daddy and his new sister of course, but most of his grief was for his foster Mum). I knew that small children can sometimes feel that they have a fixed amount of love and it can be hard on them if they think they have to take love from someone special so that they can love someone new. We talked about Hong Kong a lot, Yan-lam often wore clothes from Hong Kong that Aunty Wong had given him and we looked at photos. As soon as Yan-lam could speak English he asked to go back for a visit. He knew

he was always going to be in our family, but he loves Hong Kong and that is so much a part of him. We always made it clear that he didn't have to give up that part of him to become Australian, that he is a Hong Konger and an Aussie. After a few months home we began planning a trip to Hong Kong. It was still early days, but while Yan-lam was settling happily into our family and his beautiful personality was emerging more each day, he asked often about Hong Kong and we felt that it would be a good trip for him.

To prepare for the trip we talked little and often about what it would be like in Hong Kong, what we were excited to see, how things would be different from home, the connections we have between our families, the permanency of Yan-lam in our family and also that it would be difficult for him because while it is wonderful to see people that you love after a long time, it also hurts again when you say goodbye. I frequently reminded Yan-lam about how much he is loved by both his foster and forever families and what a blessing he is to all of us.

Our first trip back was when Yan-lam had been in our family 15 months. He was very, very excited and while we were a little nervous, we had maintained the Skype contact as well as emails and felt confident that Yan-lam, though only 4, would be able to integrate the different parts of his life. We finally arrived in Hong Kong and after passing through customs with our bags, the Wong family was in arrivals waiting for us. As soon as Yan-lam heard Aunty Wong calling his name, he dropped the case he had insisted on pulling and ran and jumped into her arms. They clung to each other

for ages, then when Yan-lam felt that Aunty Wong would never put him down, he leaned over to me and said "Mummy" while reaching out to me and climbed into my arms before making a quick escape to the floor. Aunty Wong said later that she hadn't been sure that Yan-lam would remember her - I knew that he would, the whole family are very much a part of our lives even though we don't see them often. The next three and a half weeks went very smoothly, we were staying about an hour away on the bus and visited every few days between sightseeing and generally absorbing the Hong Kong culture. Before that trip, Yan-lam and I had agreed on n special word together so that if he ever felt too uncomfortable or the situation was overwhelming, if he said that word I would immediately do whatever I could to take him out of that situation. The only time he ever used the word was when we were out at a restaurant and a man kept coming and paying a lot of attention to Yan-lam. A Chinese child in a Western family does make us quite noticeable!

There has never been any competitiveness between our families for Yan-lam's love and affection. It is just so clear that we can all love him, all be involved, and that he is free to love us all. I think that this has been really healing for Yan-lam because while he has lost his foster family from overyday life, they are our extended family who live a long way away. So far we have made four trips back to Hong Kong and had many wonderful times with the Wongs on each trip. Despite the fact that our Cantonese is fairly limited, we have no trouble communicating as we are all really intent on understanding and being understood so we make a lot of

effort with each other. Not to mention laughing continuously as we mime! It is also very helpful that the Wongs' now adult children speak excellent English. We had the blessing of Hei-man visiting us by herself when she was just 16. That was such a vote of confidence for me that Aunty Wong would send her precious daughter 6,000 kilometres from home to stay with us! It was a wonderful time and Hei-man enjoyed helping in Yan-lam's class at school and being involved in our family routines for a couple of weeks. The next year Aunty Wong and Hei-man came together to visit and just recently we have enjoyed Tsz-kin staying with us for a few weeks at the beginning of a 12-month working holiday to Australia.

It amazes me that we set out to adopt a child and it turns out we gained a whole family!



#### 莫尼卡: 恩霖與寄養家庭永遠的聯繫

我們於2007年7月領養了恩霖。在領養他前,我們聽說 順養家庭可與寄養家庭保持聯絡,我覺得這合乎情理。 事竟,恩霖的寄養家庭已經照顧他兩年(這相當於恩霖當 時三分之二的人生),而這也是他唯一的家庭。所以由一 開始,我們已打算維持這個聯繫。

第一次與黃氏家庭見面時,已立即喜歡他們。雖然大家 第十分緊張,也有點害羞,但他們的風趣幽默、積極的 人生觀,對恩霖的愛和關心,使大家很快打成一片。我 門清楚的看到他們如此愛恩霖,恩霖也愛他們。恩霖在 事養家庭裡很開心,十分適應與他們的生活。

我們經常提及香港,也不時翻閱舊照片,恩霖也常常穿著黃姨姨送他的衣服。當恩霖能夠和我們用英語溝通時,他就要求回香港一趟。恩霖知道他永遠是我們家庭的一份子,但他很愛香港,並認為香港是他的一部分。我們支持他不放棄自己的身份——香港人亦是澳洲人。

數月後,恩霖已完全適應在澳洲的生活。我們認為再訪香港是一個好主意。在準備旅程時,我們經常反覆思量:到底我們最想見的是什麼?香港和澳洲有什麼不同?我們兩家的聯繫,他要再次與黃氏家庭道別時,感到不捨和傷心,又如何是好?我經常提醒恩霖:他是我們兩個家庭的祝福,我們都很愛他。

留港的三個半星期,我們到處參觀,吸收香港文化之餘,每隔數天,我們就探訪黃家一次。之前,我與恩霖有一個協議——假如他在某情況感到壓力和不舒服時,他會跟我說某個字,而我聽到那字後便會立刻幫他脫離困境。他唯一一次使用那字是因為在餐廳用餐時,有一位男士過分注意他。我猜想一個中國小孩與一個西方家庭在一起實在是挺顯眼吧!

那次以後,我們再到訪香港4次,每次都與黃氏家庭共 好的時光。雖然我們的廣東話不太靈光,但兩個家 心之間的溝通並沒有問題,雙方也會盡力去了解對方的 心。有時候我們會跟他們學廣東話,結果弄得笑話百 一、黃氏的孩子長大了,英語很流利,能與我們溝通無 他們的女兒希文曾到澳洲探望我們。我們很開心獲 姨姨的信任。因為她讓只有16歲的女兒遠赴6,000公 以外到我們澳洲的家。在這數星期裏,希文不單指導恩 你的功課,更到他的學校幫忙,有如穩重的大姐姐,照 個外妹。這真是一段美好的時光!

一文打算明年跟媽媽一起到澳洲探望我們,真令人興奮 见!但原來不用等到明年,黃氏的另一成員子健也在澳 M展開為期一年的工作假期前,跟我們共度數星期愉快 的日子。希望他會享受這短短的數星期,並繼續努力完 成澳洲整個工作假期。

从文原文由領養母親莫妮卡撰寫 編輯會中譯





The Beginning of My Search

This is my story, not of reunion but of beginnings.

When I was a kid, dirt and I were not friends. Sure, I played in it, but I didn't like being dirty. My aversion to dirt could help explain why I didn't care much about roots either. I distinctly remember my mother asking me multiple times during my childhood, "Kit, do you ever think about your biological mother?"

After pondering for a second, I'd remember that I hadn't really thought about her. In my mind, she abandoned me. Nothing more. When I was older, I found her name, which I never could remember, on my Hong Kong birth certificate. The also appeared in a social worker report that gave the supposed context to why I was relinquished. Her IQ was low and she was promiscuous, which is why my father's name is unknown and why my grandparents thought she shouldn't raising a child. Looking back, I can see that always longetting her name was a way for me to reject her.

To me, roots were dirty. They mingle with bugs and worms. They were also hidden from sight. In many ways, I thought I wasn't supposed to love my roots. My fear was that if I thought about my biological mother or birth family, then this would hurt my adoptive parents' feelings. Plus my roots were long. They spanned the largest ocean in the world. Hong Kong was so far away it might as well have been on another planet.

Two years ago I was offered an opportunity to help run a summer camp in China as a part of a heritage tour for Chinese adoptees. Beyond ecstatic, I imagined how my roots would suddenly be much closer than they'd ever been before. So my spouse, Ma, and I decided that in addition to China we'd visit Hong Kong, Thailand and Japan. I was nearly four years old when I left Hong Kong and hadn't been back since.

Asia came upon me fast. I failed to do much advanced preparation for my visit to Hong Kong. I managed to scan some of my orphanage pictures and my birth certificate, but that was about it. Upon my arrival, I called International Social Services Hong Kong Branch (ISS-HK) to see if I could meet with a social worker. We were to meet the next day.

Getting to the ISS-HK office from my hotel was much more confusing that I had anticipated. The crude Google Maps directions that I scribbled down on a paper were of no help. Anxious that this was a sign of things to come, I was lucky enough to run into a friendly gentleman who identified the bus I needed to take. After some small talk, I told him that I

might try to locate my orphanage, Po Leung Kuk. I only knew this fact because I showed my Hong Kong friend, Wilson, my scanned baby photos, and he told me that some of the writing on the back of them said Po Leung Kuk. To my surprise, the nice stranger knew of the orphanage and said it's near Caroline Hill, which was not too far from the ISS-HK office.

The social worker at ISS-HK was very friendly. She confirmed that indeed, the building in my photos was Po Loung Kuk. My dilemma was that I needed an appointment to visit the orphanage and we were only in Hong Kong for four more days. The social worker at ISS-HK reached out to Po Leung Kuk, but I had to wait over the weekend for a response.

After my meeting with the social worker, Ma and I decided to check out Causeway Bay, a shopping mecca. Amazingly, only a few blocks away from this surreal affluence was Po Loung Kuk. The contrast was a stark reminder for how even places of wealth like Hong Kong and the United States need botter social systems set up to support families and children in need.

Without an appointment, we set out to find Po Leung Kuk. After trekking Caroline Hill Road without seeing signs of an orphanage, I was thinking maybe the earlier gentleman was confused. But to my pleasure, at the very end of the road, I have the building, mostly surrounded by a serious fence. It was odd being so close to my childhood yet unable to access it.

By Tuesday morning, there was still no word from Po Leung Kuk. I was beginning to think that there would be nothing else. Ma and I, along with Wilson, decided to visit the museum portion of Po Leung Kuk, which was open to the public. Maybe we could find evidence of my stay. Unbeknownst to me, while Ma and I browsed the rather small museum portion, Wilson stuck his head into the main office, asking if there are photo albums available from the mid-1980s. This of course led to a clarifying conversation that I had stayed at Po Leung Kuk.

As it turned out, one of the workers had been contacted by ISS and already pulled my file. After they confirmed my identity, the woman offered to give us a tour. We saw infants and older children, some of whom were orphans, while others were there temporarily or for schooling.

While much of the building had been renovated, there were still parts that were in original or at least older form. This was the case for the building's exterior, which prompted the woman assisting us to suggest that I take a picture outside to match my baby picture of me with a cheap remote-control car. Ma and two workers gleefully directed me to the exact spot and correct position. My eyes began to well, but I managed a laughing smile. I never would have thought this day would come.

I didn't meet my birth mother and didn't even know if that's what I wanted, but travelling to Hong Kong and seeing my orphanage opened a long-lost and locked door into my past. After the trip, I decided, I would try to search. My mother's

old address is on my birth certificate. After the orphanage tour, Wilson said, "Let's go. There's a good chance that she atill lives there." While it was tempting, I thought it would be botter to have some sort of mediation if fate would bring us together again because I don't know what she wants. I know that adoptee experiences with searches and reunions vary. Searching for roots can be a messy process, so I'm hopeful yot I'm maintaining realistic expectations. In any event, the boginning is now.



Picture of Kit at Po Leung Kuk. # 4 保良局的生活照。

傑:尋根的開始

這是我的故事:一個不是關於團聚而是關於開始的故事。

小時候的我很討厭污泥。當然我也和其他小孩一樣, 在泥堆裡玩耍,但我並不喜歡沾著泥的感覺。我猜這 就是為何我對「根」這種東西漠不關心吧。我很清楚 記得我的養母在我小時候曾多次問我:「阿傑,你有 想過你的親生母親是怎樣的嗎?」誠然,我從沒有認 真想過生母的事情。在我眼中,她只是一個遺棄了親 生骨肉的女性,僅此而已。在我大一點的時候,我在 出世紙上看見她的名字,卻從來沒有放在心裡。社工 的報告中也曾提及她:由於她智商不高及濫交,我祖父 母認為她並不適合撫養小孩。這也解釋了我的出世紙上 為何沒有父親的名字。回顧過去,我終於明白選擇忘 記她的名字,是我作為拒絕接受她的一個方法。對我 而言,根是一種骯髒的東西。它與蟲蟻混在一起,埋 藏於底,深藏不露。基於種種原因,我覺得我不應該愛 我的「根」。我亦很害怕若我想念親生父母,我的養 父母會不高興。再者,我的根——香港,離我很遠。在 一個横跨太平洋, 彷如在另一個星球的地方。

兩年前,一次偶然的機會,我得以前赴中國協辦一個夏令營。這是我自四歲後第一次這麼接近我的「根」,心情感到異常興奮。因此,除了中國外,我與妻子小瑪及朋友衛信更決定順道到香港、泰國及日本一趟。

业洲之旅隨即開始,我沒有時間做好事前準備,只能於出發所用電腦素描了幾張我在兒童院時的照片和望與際我在抵港後致電香港國際社會服務社,希望與歐洲在抵港後致電香港國際社會服務社會服務。由酒店去國上的的路途比我想像中複雜。縱使我已按照谷歌地圖上的路路上,有達遇到一位友善的路上去辦事處。與他閒談期間,我告訴則我知何乘巴士去辦事處。與他閒談期間,我告訴則我知何乘巴士去辦事處。與他閒談期間,我告訴則我知何乘巴士去辦事處。與他閒談期間,我告訴則我可乘巴士去辦事處。保良局的故事。他是與國際社辦事處的距離不遠。保良局的照片,發現有在照片背後的文字提及保良局。

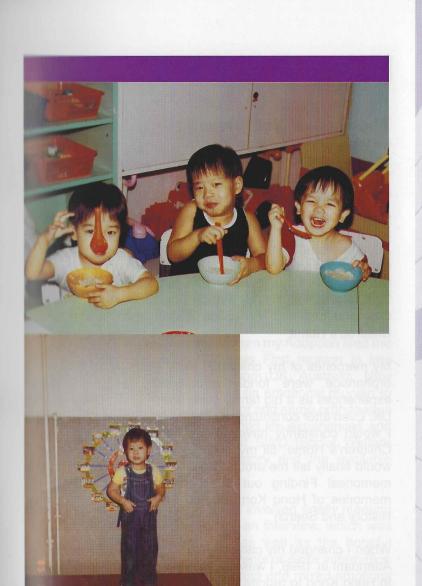
在國際社與社工見面,感覺很友善。社工確認照片裏的,感覺很友善。社工確認照片裏的,感覺不可保良局。難題是:我想預保良局多之。 與保良局聯絡,但需要過了週末才有答覆。這解於 也與保良局聯絡,但需要銅鑼灣一遊。發現這當 上面後,我和小瑪決定到銅鑼灣一遊。發現這當 上面與保良局只有數條街的距離,但我對兩者貧富 大反差感到的距離的對比提醒我們 地區強大反差感到的地方需要一個更完善的福利制度 支持有需要的家庭和兒童。 及後,我和小瑪決定即使沒有預約也要去尋找我的根。走在加路連山道,我看不見有類似保良局的建築物,心想早前那位男士可能把地方弄錯了。但當我走到街道的盡頭時,我終於找到了!雖然保良局被鐵欄重重包圍,我只能在外圍遠眺,但這是我第一次離我的童年這麼近。

其後數天,保良局還是沒有回覆,我對到訪兒童院一 事作最壞打算。然後,我和小瑪及衛信決定到開放予 公眾參觀的保良局博物館,看看能否找到我兒時在兒 童院待過的足跡。當我和小瑪在博物館裡參觀期間, 衛信走到博物館的辦事處,向職員查詢有沒有80年 代中期的相簿。職員得悉我曾於保良局的兒童院裡居 住,其中一位職員更已與國際社社工接洽,找到了我 的檔案!在核實我的身份後,職員便帶我們到兒童院 參觀。在參觀期間,我們看到內裡有嬰兒和比較年長 的兒童;他們有些是孤兒、有些只是暫住、也有些是 在那裡讀書的。兒童院雖然已被翻新,但仍然有一部 分保持著原貌,慶幸她的外牆並沒有太大改變。職員 提議我在兒童院外牆拍一張照片,跟我兒時於兒童院 門外、拿著玩具車拍的那張照片作對比。小瑪聽到後 便興奮地著我要擺出跟兒時一樣的姿勢。在職員的帶 領下,我來到當年的拍攝外牆,在鏡前擺出一副燦爛 的笑容,但我的眼睛卻開始感到濕潤了。我真的很高興 ,從來沒有想到這天的來臨。





英文原文由傑撰寫 編輯會中譯



#### The Pain of Not Knowing By Chris Wong (Yip Wing-yiu)

My adoption from Hong Kong to the United States began in 1964, when I was adopted there by American-Chinese elderly foster parents. I was born in Hong Kong in 1958, about December 10th, and lived and became part of the Adoptees family in the Shatin Children's Home, being one of the few boys among a majority of girl children and babies. My record shows I was found on 22 Lomond Road, across from St Teresa's Hospital, by Prince Edward Road in Kowloon City, and taken to the police station, then to the Shatin Children's Home.

My memories of my childhood early years in a Hong Kong orphanage were fondly remembered as many good experiences as a big family supervised by Ms. Debden from UK. Even after continuing my childhood in the United States, I would constantly have dreams of the life in the Shatin Children's Home, till my adopted sister, also from Shatin, would finally tell me around age 9 that it wasn't dreams but memories! Finding out about my Adoption Status and memories of Hong Kong started my search for my "Root History and Search".

When I changed my career to being a United Airlines Flight Attendant in 1996, I was excited and determined to fly back to Hong Kong to reunite my bond with my "Motherland" and research my root history!

Luckily, I have good friends in Hong Kong who helped me, re-established my Hong Kong identity and speaking the native language of Cantonese, which I unfortunately lost due my adopted parents not able to speak that dialect, and to focus English as my new primary language to little integrate in American schools and lifestyle.

After many trips back to Hong Kong and visiting the former of the Shatin Children's Home, which site is now protected as a Historical Preservation Site, my search turned to the root agencies and organizations that had involvement my adoption and relocation to the United States.

athering photos and documents from my Adoption lead me attend the Hong Kong Adoptees First reunion in late applember 2010 with adoptees from UK, Australia, New aland, Canada and USA. It was an emotional reunion to all fellow adoptees from different and same orphanages Hong Kong, sharing their Adoption life experiences and maring from ISS Hong Kong and SWD [Social Welfare Department] about informative history and the available mot tracing service!

March 2014 trip to Hong Kong involved finally meeting with a social worker of ISS-HK for an interview, which was both informative and emotional, as well as the hopeful potations of finding my birth parents or more information my adoption. Hence the waiting and mixed emotions the process and what to expect or being prepared for information or contact-searching disappointments!

Finally after a few months, I got an email from the social worker of ISS-HK that no "Root-Tracing contact or information" was found, and that clearly dashed my hopes. But I was also prepared for this possibility. Of course, hearing that my case was going to be closed was not the closure I wanted to hear, and I replied by encouraging ISS-HK social worker to keep my case open!

I finally came to accept the realization that perhaps there won't be any more information that ISS-HK can retrieve in its search, without the exposure to Hong Kong people by other media, to awaken someone who may have known my birth parents' situation and the timing of my abandonment in December of 1958.

My thoughts and prayers are to my birth parents and family that I do not hold any ill-feelings or blame against them over their decision to abandon me. I know that it was a difficult time for many Hong Kong residents and immigrants coming into Hong Kong for a better life, and that difficult decisions had to be made by each expectant and birth mother. Knowing that they wish us all the best in Life I do forgive her! I wish I could tell her how fortunate my Life was with my foster parents in America, and that "I AM OK and DOING WELL" and that my Love to my "Birth Mother" is being shared with my Loving and Wonderful Mother who is in Heaven now. If my "Birth Mother" is also in Heaven hope both of my Mothers will meet and smile upon me, and keep watch over me!

Many people always say, why don't we just forget or move on with our Life, and not pursue our quest to find out about our birth parents? Well, it's easy to say that, knowing who your birth parents are, even if your family is unconventional or apparated.

Hong Kong Adoptee, we have a sense of loss both in our birth parents and orphanage family in Hong Kong that we shared our beginning years with. So, there is a grief process and coming to the realization that we may never know who our real birth parents are, but we all have the bonds of our fellow adoptees and motherland, Hong Kong.

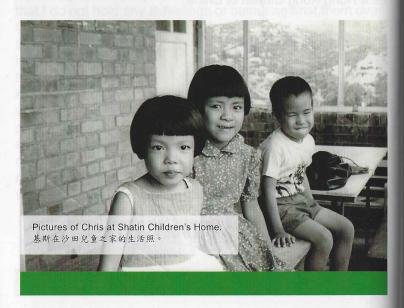
My hopes are for my fellow Adoptee Sisters and Brothers and potential foster parents to understand us, and allow us to soek our birth parent information and approve our validity as a Hong Kong Citizen of China.



#### 基斯:不知的苦

1964年,我由香港來到美國,被一對美籍華人夫婦領養。我在1958年12月10日(大約)出生於香港。根據記錄,我是在露明道22號被發現的,對面是聖德肋撒醫院,近九龍城太子道。當我被發現後,先被送去警署,最後被轉送到沙田兒童之家。到美國前,我居住在沙田兒童之家,是那裡絕少數男生的其中一名。

我在兒童院生活的回憶是美好的。兒童院像一個大家庭,院舍裡的兒童都是由英國來的廸登女士照顧。到美國後,我仍常常夢見在兒童院生活的片段。大約在9歲時,也是在沙田兒童之家被領養的姊姊告訴我,那不是夢而是回憶!於是我便萌生了尋根的念頭。1996年,我當上聯合航空的機艙服務員。我很興奮,打算藉此飛回香港與我的「祖家」團聚和尋找我的過去!





過往,我回港多次,亦曾到已 受到歷史文化遺產條例保護 沙田兒童院的舊址參觀,我再 把目標轉移至當地安排我到美 國生活的機構。

↑收集我兒時的照片和領養文件期間,我參加了一個在 ↑海舉辦的被領養者的聚會。大部分被領養者是來自英國 澳大利亞、新西蘭、加拿大和美國。這次團聚,大家都 李了自己被領養的故事(有些人更是來自與我同一所兒童院) 這是一個感性的會面,我從中獲益良多,也很感慨。並 ↓ 悉香港社會福利署與香港國際社會服務社都有尋根服務 便決定約見國際社的社工,期盼找到我的親生父母,或 些關於我被領養的資料。

此終於在2014年3月在香港與國際社社工會面,這會面令我 成個良多,也讓我獲得不少資訊,又令我對找尋親生父母或 更多關於我當年被領養的資料充滿期待。在等待的過程中, 成內心充滿矛盾:一方面,我滿心期待,盼望著收到好消息 但另一方面,理智叫我不要奢望,並做好心理準備接受 明望落空。幾個月後,我收到國際社的電郵,很可惜, 他們沒有找到任何相關的人士和消息。我感到絕望,並 也作最壞打算,但國際社卻仍然願意保持開啟我的檔案, 明找喜出望外! 我最終接受在沒有其他媒界下接觸到香港人,或許國際社真的不能再找到任何有關我生父母的資料,以及有關我於 1958年12月被遺棄的資料。

我時常為我的親生父母和親人祈禱,我不責怪他們當年遺棄了我。我明白當時香港人/新移民的生活艱難,放棄一個親生骨肉想必是一個相當困難的決定。我相信他們都希望孩子生活無憂,為此,我原諒了她!如果有機會,我很告訴我的生母,我人生有多麼的幸運——我能與美國的養告訴我的生母,我現在的生活過得很好。我慶幸能把愛我給親生母親也在天堂的話,我希望這兩位母親能遇上,直在天堂裡看顧地上的我。

很多人問:「為何你要尋找你的親生父母呢?不如忘記他們, 好好繼續生活吧。」

表面上看似容易,但他們不明白我和其他被領養者的渴望和掙扎,才可以輕言忘記。作為一個被領養者,我為自己失去親生父母,及離開兒童院這大家庭感到哀傷難過。我們在小時候得不到親生父母的愛護,長大後甚至要接受一生也無法得知自己親生父母是誰的現實。那種打擊,也許旁人無法感同身受。值得慶幸的是,我們與其他領養者,以至香港的連繫異常緊密。

我希望所有被領養的弟兄姊妹和將會成為領養父母的能明白,被領養者渴望得到親生父母的資料並確認他是中國(香港)人的身份。

英文原文由葉榮耀(現名:基斯)撰寫編輯會中譯



## I Was Found at the Staircase of Number 9, Austin Avenue

By Lucy Sheen, Chau Lai-tuen

In 2008, I was contacted by BAAF (British Association for Adoption and Fostering), asking me if I would like to take part in a unique research study on the 106 Hong Kong adoptees who were transracially adopted in the late 50s to early 60s. I was one of the 106 foundlings that ended up in Britain.

And it was from there that I decided that I would have a go at seeing if I could trace where I had come from, though I have thought about this for many, many years. The first time that I ever travelled to Hong Kong was back in the late 70s early 80s and I had fully intended to try and find the Fanling Babies Home which was where I was taken to after having been found on the street of Kowloon. But I got cold feet and never attempted the journey. I regret that now as the Babies Home no longer exists, pulled down and the land redeveloped, so I am told.

After agreeing to participate in the BAAF research, I was given a few contacts with regards to getting hold of my records. Records, I thought, what records? The people who had adopted me had always told me that there was nothing on file about me, that very little was known about me and where I had come from. Leaving aside the fact that my adoptive parents NEVER officially told me that I had been

was Chinese. It's not as if I wouldn't "find out". It was a question of when.

the National Children's Home. This organisation was appossible for my adoption to Britain and they held my memational Social Services file. I vividly remember trekking all the way over to South London to pick up my file. When it was given to me that was the first time that I had held in my mands something of me that was real and substantive. Something that connected me to Hong Kong. That the file was not insubstantial invoked in me very mixed feelings. Why was I not told about this when I was a child or at least a young teenager?

thad my actual birth certificate. It stated exactly where I had been abandoned and subsequently found. Number 9 Austin Avenue Kowloon, which back in the 60s had a public stallwell. I visited the place in 2012, it's now a night club. This just raised more questions in my mind: were my parents local Hong Kong Chinese or were they among the many refugees from mainland China? Given that in the 60s this location was not far from a main train terminal – or so I bollove.

What's sad for me in terms of being able to trace my roots, is that the ISS file is probably as far as I can go. I understand that a good deal of the records about the foundlings were destroyed back in the 80s and 90s (not sure how true this is).

图的地

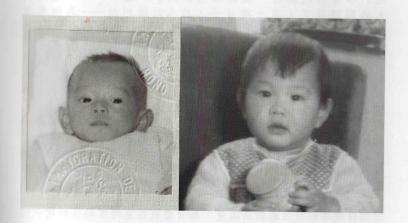
The Chinese name that I was given by the orphanage, Chau Lai-tuen, is not from my birth parents so there is no connection there.

I cling in some respects to both my ISS file and the red silk happy coat that I still have. This was the one that I wore on the trip to Britain for the first time back in 1963. These and my Hong Kong birth certificate are all that I have that connects me to Hong Kong. I was not permitted to learn Chinese. I've tried many, many times and have never been able to go beyond a very rudimentary point. Plus in 60s Britain, where would a white family that has no connections to the Far East find a Cantonese tutor for their transracially adopted daughter? Well they wouldn't and they didn't.

I'd love to be able to try and trace further but being in Britain so far away and even with the internet it's difficult. Like many transracially adopted children I don't truly belong in either the country of my birth or the country that I was sent to and grew up in. I'm older and wiser now and the anger has faded.

The one wish that I really have that I know is almost impossible would be to look on the face of my birth mother and father. To hold a photograph of my parents in my hand and see myself reflected in their image. But I know that realistically the likelihood of that happening is slim to none.

The limited root-tracing has solidified in my own mind who I am. No matter what others might superficially see. I am and always will be Hong Kong Chinese. It doesn't matter that I cannot speak Cantonese (though I feel this loss of my native tongue very keenly). My heart, my soul are rooted in Hong Kong. I just wish I had more than a birth certificate and a happy coat.



# 露茜:我被發現在柯士甸道9號的公眾樓梯

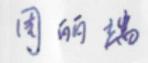
2008年,英國領養和寄養協會與我聯繫,問我是否有興趣參與一個研究計劃。他們要訪問106位在50年代後期至60年代初期被跨國領養的人士。因我是當年106個棄嬰中的其中一個,被領養到倫敦,所以他們邀請我參與研究。從那時開始,我決定認真尋找自己的過去。

於是我聯絡「兒童行動」(即前身是「國家兒童院」),是當年安排我被領養到英國的機構,他們還保留著國際社為我而開的檔案。因此我特意遠赴倫敦南部。當我拿著檔案的一刻,感到很實在,彷佛聯繫著我和香港。我還找到上面有我的香港出世紙,知道我被遺棄及被發現的地點——九龍柯士甸道9號的公眾樓梯。

這個發現帶給我很複雜的感覺,為什麼我在兒時不被告知這一切,至少在我青年也應該知道吧?

其實在此之前,我在70年代後期曾回到香港,一心想去尋找當年我所居住的粉嶺育嬰院 (當年有好心人在街道上發現我後,便把我帶到那裡去),但最終卻因莫名的恐懼而放棄愈頭。不久,育嬰院因土地重建而關閉,我感到十分後悔。2012年,我又回到香港,打算探索我兒時被遺棄的地方,卻發現那裡已變成夜總會。我不禁問:究竟我的規生父母是香港人或是從中國大陸來的難民呢?因在60年代那地方與火車站相距不遠。

周麗端是育嬰院院長給我起的中文名字,而不是由我親生 父母為我起的,所以不能從中獲得任何聯繫。



至今,我還收藏著國際社的檔案和一件紅色的絲質棉襖。這棉襖是我在1963年前往英國時穿著的。這件棉襖和我的出世紙就是我所擁有能與香港聯繫的物件,亦是我唯一的線索。我明白有很多紀錄已被大量銷毀,使我或其他尋根的人士沒有其他足跡可尋。

我無時無刻都想繼續尋根,但英國真的離香港太遠了, 即使有互聯網,要追尋半世紀前的事情仍然相當有 。就像很多被領養到外地的兒童,我覺得自己並不屬於 自己出生的國家,也不屬於自己其後被送到的國家 往每想及此,我便會感到很生氣。也許時間真的可 平傷痛,現在的我已學會不再太執著,怒氣也逐漸消退 。縱使學會放開,我仍然希望有機會看到我親生父母的相片 ,看看我像不像他們,但機會實在渺茫。

雖然我並未能從我的尋根過程中獲得很多關於小時候的資料,但卻叫我重新審視自己的心情和期望,加深了我對自己的認識。無論我懂不懂廣東話,其他人怎樣看待我,我永遠都是香港人。我的心、我的靈魂也是屬於香港的。我只希望能得到比一張出世紙和棉襖更多的東西,告知我更多關於我的過去。

英文原文由周麗端(現名:露茜)撰寫編輯會中譯



### When the Time Was Right By Sophie

In my story I will refer to my adoptive mother as mum and my birth mother as mother. My parents are keen genealogists. Mum promised, when the time was right, she'd help me search for my birth mother.

I went for a holiday to Hong Kong but I wasn't ready to begin my search. In about 2010 I finally asked mum to help me find my mother. Mum started with the background information in the case notes provided by ISS-HK when I was proposed to the McGill family for adoption. It contained my mother's name, her age when I was born and other vital clues. Mum tried many agencies including the Red Cross, Salvation Army etc. One agency directed us back to ISS-HK who organized and managed my adoption.

My ISS case worker, Kay, warned me that many adoptees never find their birth family and that sometimes the outcome is not a happy one. She warned me the search would take a long time. I signed all the paperwork and waited for over a year. Then mum asked ISS Australia to search the archives for my original file. She knew my grandmother had signed the release papers for my adoption.

We eventually got the file through Freedom of Information, and learned my grandparent's names, occupations and address. As they were Catholic, we asked our Hong Kong friend to request church records, and obtained my mother's baptism details.

Mum realized my grandparents would be very old if they were still alive so she asked our friend to request death certificates. As letters to my mother's last known address hadn't been answered she also requested a search for my mother's death certificate.

Sadly we learned that my mother died in 2011. My grandparents were also dead, but we identified an uncle who was present when they died.

Eventually, with help from our friend, we found my uncle, aunt and cousin in Hong Kong. They kindly sent photos of my mother, her parents, grandparents and brothers and sisters.

Although I was sad that my mother was gone, it was really exciting to have family living all over the world, to see what they looked like and to know that I look very much like my grandmother. I learned lots of things about my family from my aunt and uncle. One of the special things I learned was that I am named after my great grandmother – luckily mum kept my Chinese name, so I'm Sophia Sau Chi McGill, known as Sophie, the name my mum thought sounded most like my Chinese name.

My case file notes also contained information about the entre Facebook pages, so were able to connect with others on a similar root-tracing journey.

All of this took time. Mum, Kay, a counsellor and our Hong Kong friend helped me come to grips with the sad news that my mother had died. We got to know my aunt and uncle through letters, emails and phone calls. When I was ready, mum and I planned our trip to Hong Kong. The trip was my Christmas present from mum and dad. We were warmly welcomed at the airport by my wonderful Aunt and Uncle. After a meal they took us to our hotel.

The next day our special friend took us to Po Leung Kuk so I was able to see where I was living when my Aussie family came to adopt me. Amazingly, I met some carers who remembered me. We visited the hospital where I was born, the street where my mother lived and the Chuk Yuen Centre.

That night we had a special birthday dinner for mum, kindly organized by our lovely friend and wonderful aunt, uncle and cousin. They had more family photos for me and a brilliant surprise. They gave me some of my mother's jewelry that my grandmother had kept for me. How awesome! I can actually wear something very special, bought by my grandmother, and worn by my mother.

We spent many happy hours exploring Hong Kong with my aunt and uncle and enjoyed many delicious meals with them. I also had a great day out at Ocean Park with two adoptees from England.

Our friend introduced us to a social worker at ISS-HK and we visited the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children where I lived prior to Po Leung Kuk. I was lucky enough to meet Fifi who looked after me till my first birthday. She came on her day off with two photos for me – one at seven months and one with her on my first birthday.

Even more special: since 1987 mum and dad had been trying to find my sponsor who visited me in Po Leung Kuk and gifted us a precious photo album. Fifi, the carer from HKSPC, recognized another lady from the album, contact was made, and on our very last day in Hong Kong we met my sponsor and were finally able to thank her and tell her I'm ok.

We visited the last place my mother lived and I saw the hospital where she died. Since beginning this search, mum and I worked together on my Life Book. We used copies of pictures from my sponsor's album, photos from my file and internet images of locations. As we got more information, the book developed, recording my journey of self-discovery. We later made a gene-graph showing my Aussie family and my Chinese family. Obviously I had lots to add after the trip.

Although I had some sad moments, my visit to Hong Kong was excellent. People were kind and welcoming. I know who I look like and that I got my love of sport from my grandmother.

I love Hong Kong and plan to visit again, but I also know I have a good life in Australia. I am lucky – I have two families who love me and I love them all very much.

蘇菲:當時機成熟時

我的養父母是熱誠的系譜學家。養母答應我在適當的時候會協助我尋找生母。

我曾在假期的時候到香港旅遊,但那時候還沒有尋找生母的心理準備。直至大約2010年,我才終於向養母提出請她協助我尋找生母。

養母先從當年國際社向他們提供的領養個案記錄著手, 那裡記載著我生母的名字、她生我時的年齡,和其他重要線索。養母也同時向紅十字會、救世軍等機構求助, 而其中一間機構便轉介我們至當年辦理我領養事宜的國際 社。

養母請澳洲的國際社去尋找我的檔案,她知道當年是我的外祖母簽署放棄撫養權的文件,在檔案中或許能得到不少線索。處理我個案的國際社職員——琪,一開始便叫我做好心理準備——有很多被領養者最終也找不到他們的生父母,即使找到,也未必是一個開心的結局。而且尋根的路很漫長,好比一場考驗情緒和耐性的比賽。

等了一年,我們最後透過「資訊自由」拿到我的檔案,檔案除了記載我在香港三年半的資訊,還有我外祖父母的名字、職業和住址。因為外祖父母是天主教徒,我們便請香港的朋友幫忙提取教會的紀錄及我母親浸禮的資料。

倘若我的外祖父母仍在生,那他們也已經年紀老邁了,所以便請朋友幫忙,查看是否有他們的死亡登記紀錄。我們曾寫信給我的生母,但沒有收到回覆,於是我養母還請朋友查看是否有我母親的死亡登記紀錄。

不幸地,從死亡登記紀錄中,我們發現我的生母已於 2011年過身了。我的養母、琪、輔導員和協助我們的香 港朋友,在過程中提供協助,讓我能慢慢理解和消化生母 離世的壞消息。

另外, 我的外祖父母也已經過身。其後得到朋友的幫助, 我們找到了舅父、舅母和其他表親。

他們友善地給我寄了我生母、外祖母、曾外祖父母和生母的兄弟姊妹的相片給我。及後,我和舅父舅母透過書信、電郵和電話聯絡,逐漸熟絡起來。從他們口中得知很多關於我家庭的事情。

當中最特別的莫過於我的中文名字原來是以曾外祖母命名——秀智。我很高興我的養母保留了我的中文名字,還取其諧音起了我的英文名字為蘇菲亞,簡名蘇菲。

當我覺得準備好時,養母便陪我到訪香港。這次訪港是我的養父母給我的聖誕禮物。到達香港機場的那天,舅父和舅母熱烈歡迎我們,使我們倍感溫暖。他們帶我們用膳,又送我們回酒店休息。

第二天,一位朋友帶我們去保良局,看看我在被領養前生活的地方。令人驚訝的是,一些護理員還記得我。我們當天還參觀了我出生的醫院、我母親當年所居住的街道和竹園中心。

那天晚上,我們的朋友、舅父、舅母和表親準備了一個特別的生日晚宴給我的養母。他們帶來了更多的家庭照和神秘的驚喜——一些我生母曾配戴的首飾!這感覺真棒!我居然能擁有生母曾配戴的首飾,而且還是我外婆買的,並特別給我留起。

我的養母還找到香港領養家庭、保良局和竹園兒童院接待中心的面書網頁,使我們得以與其他尋根者聯繫。其中一天 我更與兩位被領養者到海洋公園玩個不亦樂平。

餘下的旅程,我們和舅父、舅母一同遊覽香港,一起享 用佳餚,共渡了許多快樂時光。

我們還參觀了我生母最後居住的地方,和她臨終時所待的醫院。我們的朋友介紹我們與香港國際社會服務社社工見面,她並帶我們參觀了香港保護兒童會,那是我在保良局居住前所逗留的地方。我很幸運遇上了當年照顧我直到我一歲生日的照顧者——菲菲。她還特意在放假的日子回來中心,為了送我兩張照片:一張是在我七個月時候拍的;另一張是在我一歲生日時和她的合照。

我的養父母自1987年便一直希望尋找贊助我在保良局生活並給我一本珍貴相簿的人。菲菲竟然認識相簿中那一位女士!我們在留港的最後一天重聚,我得以答謝她當年的照顧,並告訴她我一切安好。

我很感激有這次機會可以和親友重逢,認識他們。否則,我不會知道原來我長得很像我的外婆,而且和她一樣熱愛運動!雖然有悲傷的時刻,但總括而言我在香港有一個愉快的旅程。人們都十分親切和熱情。我愛香港,並計劃再次來訪。

自開始搜索以來,我的養母就和我一起製作我的生命書, 當中有那贊助女士給我的相片和領養檔案內的圖片,並利 用互聯網所提供的位置圖製作。這趟旅程結束後,我們得 到更多資訊,這本書也逐漸變得越來越厚,記載著我出生 至今的種種。後來我們還製作了家庭樹,顯示我澳洲及中 國的家人。我很慶幸有兩個這麼愛我的家庭,我真的十分 敬愛他們。

英文原文由蘇菲撰寫編輯會中譯



Sophie's first birthday with her carer –

#菲與她的照顧者菲菲慶祝一歲生日。



Many years later, Sophie met her carer – Fifi again at Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children.

多年後,蘇菲與照顧者菲菲於香港保護兒童會重聚

### Sophie – The Child Born Out of My Heart By Marion

waited a life time for Sophie to ask me about her birth mother. Life with Sophie seems to be full of waiting. The process of adoption itself was long and drawn out, it appeared that those who should be supporting us wanted to deter us. After numerous programmes and paperwork, reviews and assessments we were finally approved to adopt, then we had to have our files sent to Hong Kong, then we had to wait for their approval, then we had to wait for an allocation of a child to complete our family. When the proposal came it was long and detailed, providing background information about Sophie's birth mother and her tragic circumstances. It also told of Sophie's delayed development. Sobering thoughts, but nothing could dampen our joy in the longed-for arrival of our darling daughter. We appreciate the preparation undertaken by Po Leung Kuk. Sophie came to us with smiles and hugs and soon integrated into our family. We were told we were selected as a suitable family for Sophie because of my experience teaching traumatised refugee children from Vietnam and our ready-made family with two big brothers.

Sophie faced challenges growing up, but I think her intellectual disabilities caused her more grief than being Chinese in an Aussie family. John and I are from large families and Sophie grew up in a multi-cultural family where she was spoiled, loved and pampered. She always knew she was special rather than different. When Sophie realised

that I had not carried her "in my tummy" like her brothers, I explained that she was a child born of my heart. Sophie's Aunt Mary is from Hong Kong and we often celebrated Chinese New Year, Yum Cha etc. with Aunt Mary, Uncle Phil and cousin Felicity. We hosted exchange students from different countries.

Later in her teenage years we faced the difficulties most mothers and daughters do, tougher when she reminded me I wasn't her "real mother" and hearing the fantasy stories she had woven. I had to bite my tongue knowing certain pages of Sophie's case notes were carefully tucked away.

Sophie has always understood adoption and demonstrates generosity of spirit by sponsoring orphans overseas. Sophie grew into a determined young lady full of hope and tenacity. She constantly challenged herself. She even took a trip to Hong Kong all alone. It was about the time when she finally approached me and asked about her birth mother. There were many tears when she read her mother's story, learning about her conception and birth.

Sophie took considerable time to digest what she had learned about her Chinese mother's circumstances before she finally decided she was ready to try to find her. The internet has made the world smaller and communication easier, but it was still a long journey of discovery. There were many good clues in the case study notes sent by ISS in 1987. Archived files provided further information and eventually the jigsaw of clues came together. Copies of release papers signed by Sophie's grandparents provided

more hints. We also learned that Sophie had been in three different institutions prior to adoption. I found Facebook pages where other adoptees from those institutions were sharing their stories and searches. Through one of those we found our very own guardian angel who helped us trace death certificates which led to us finding Sophie's aunt and uncle.

I was very concerned for Sophie when we learned that her birth mother was dead. I arranged for Kay, Sophie's case worker from ISS, to help me tell her. Thanks to our Angel in Hong Kong we had photos of Sophie's birth mother and her siblings and parents from Uncle. Telling her that her Chinese mother had died was one of the hardest things I have ever faced. Kay had tried to prepare her for such an eventuality and we tried to install a safety net with counselling and various coping strategies.

Sophie took the news as stoically as she has faced other setbacks in life. We started to get to know Auntie and Uncle via the internet before visiting Hong Kong. The trip exceeded all expectations. Everybody was so kind and we were incredibly lucky to find people who remembered Sophie. I watched carefully, but Sophie seemed to approach the bitter-sweet discoveries with curiosity rather than deep emotion. This made it easy to co-journey with her. She enjoyed meeting her Chinese family and carers who remembered her. She asked to visit the hospital where she was born and took that in her stride too.

Most of her questions are answered. Sophie has a half-sister she would like to find. We wonder whether she lived in Po Leung Kuk or the Hong Kong Society for Protection of Children too.

The trip to Hong Kong brought Sophie and I closer together. She said dad can come next time! From my point of view, I am so proud of baby Tai Sau-chi, conceived in a "girlie establishment" in Hong Kong, who grew to become Sophia Sau Chi McGill, the proud young woman who returned to her roots to learn about her life prior to adoption.

Sophie is grateful to her "guardian angel", aunt and uncle and to all who provided information and explanations to help her on the journey of self-discovery. She is sympathetic of her Chinese mother's difficult life, understanding that she was young with limited choices, and grateful to her for giving birth. She is also grateful to her grandparents who released her for adoption. She loves her Uncle and family in Hong Kong and she loves her big Aussie family. I am so proud of Sophie and pleased for her that she now has a complete early life story, is able to nurture and understand her "inner child" and is comfortable to grow and move forward writing many new chapters of her own unique life here in Australia.

#### 瑪麗安:從我心中孕育出來的孩子 ——蘇菲

我彷彿等候了一生的時間,等候蘇菲問我關於她生母的事情。正如我與她的日子一樣,像是一直在等待。

我記得領養蘇菲的過程冗長又耗神。那些支持我們領養的人,又好像不斷地阻撓我們。經過種種繁複文件和評估,我們終於獲得批准成為準領養家庭。我們的檔案被送到香港,開始等候一個孩子被配對到我們的家。

配對建議書來了,內裡記載著蘇菲生母的背景資料和悲慘過去,並提到蘇菲的智力發展緩慢。我們被甄選為合適領養蘇菲的家庭是因為我曾教導受創傷的越南難民兒童,而且家中已有兩位大哥哥,準備給予蘇菲厚厚的愛。這份資料雖然令人傷感,但是沒有任何一樣東西能夠影響我們期待已久的興奮心情。

我們很感謝保良局為我們準備的一切。當蘇菲來到我們家時,她充滿笑容,很快便融入了我們的家庭。

我丈夫約翰和我都是來自一個大家庭,蘇菲是在一個充滿愛和保護的多元文化家庭中長大。她知道自己是一個特別的女孩,而非異類。當蘇菲知道自己不像哥哥們在我的肚子裡誕下時,我告訴她是從我心中孕育出來的。蘇菲的姑母瑪利亞來自香港,我們經常與她、姑丈和堂親菲兒吃點心,一起慶祝農曆新年等。我們還讓來自不同國家的交換生寄宿。

蘇菲的成長過程充滿障礙,這不盡是因為她是唯一一個中國人在我們這澳洲的家庭中生活,而是主要來自她遲緩的智力發展。在蘇菲的青少年時期,我們遇上更多一般母女之間會遇到的問題。她提及我不是她的生母,編織著一些虛構的故事。我咬緊牙關,把蘇菲的檔案之中的一些部分小心翼翼收蔵起來,等待蘇菲準備好去了解她當時未必能好好了解的完整故事。

蘇菲很懂事,明白領養是什麼後,便毫不吝嗇地贊助海外的孤兒。長大後,她成為了一個充满希望、不屈不撓的人,還不斷磨練自己,更獨自到香港遊歷。我就知道她應該快會來向我提問有關生母的事了,蘇菲帶著淚並且閱讀生母的事蹟、生母孕育她的過程和出生的事,用了相當長的時間來消化她生母的故事,後來更決定嘗試尋找她。

即使有了互聯網,使通訊更快捷方便,尋根工作卻不容易。我們於1987年從國際社獲取的資料為我們提供了不少線索。其後,得到蘇菲祖父母所簽署的放棄撫養文件及其他關於蘇菲的檔案,我們便把一絲絲的線索連繫起來。當中,我們得知蘇菲在被領養前,曾在三個不同的院舍居住。

我在面書上找到曾在那些院舍生活的被領養者,他們分享了自己的過去和尋根故事。當中,我們結識了一位守護天使,幫我們搜尋蘇菲親人的死亡登記紀錄,發現蘇菲的舅父和舅母的資料!但當我們得悉蘇菲的生母已過身時,我真的很擔心這會對蘇菲做成打擊,要告訴她生母已逝的事

實是我一生中最難面對的事情之一,我請國際社個案工作員——其提供協助。幸好, 琪在事前已提醒蘇菲, 要為不愉快的尋根結局做好心理準備;我們也為她提供輔導, 教導她一些處理情緒方法。蘇菲冷靜堅強地面對生母離世的消息,猶如面對其他困難挫折一樣。

其後,香港的守護天使更協助我們從蘇菲舅父那裏拿到她 的生母、生母的兄弟姊妹和父母的相片。我們在訪港前透 過互聯網逐漸與舅父和舅母熟絡起來。

說起來,這趟旅程真的是出乎意料的幸運——我們遇到很多熱心人士和記得蘇菲的人。旅程中,我細心觀察蘇菲,怕她在探索過去的歷程中太過激動,幸而她對一切發現都從容面對,而且充滿好奇,使我鬆一口氣。

蘇菲很享受與她的中國家人和曾照顧她的人見面和相處。她甚至要求到訪她出生的醫院,勇敢地面對她的過去。蘇菲很感恩她的守護天使、舅父舅母和幫助她尋根的人所提供的一切資料。蘇菲現在只想尋找她同母異父的妹妹,我們想知道她也曾否在保良局和香港保護兒童會居住。

蘇菲很同情生母的遭遇,明白她當時太年輕,也只有很有限的選擇。她亦很感恩生母誕下了她,和感激祖父母簽紙讓她被人領養。她很愛她香港的舅父和其他家人,也很愛我們這個澳洲的大家庭。這趟香港旅程拉近了我和蘇菲的距離,她更說下次要和養父一起到香港遊覽。

由來自香港的小女孩戴秀智搖身一變,成為今天回港尋根、 勇氣可嘉的女士——蘇菲亞·秀智·麥基爾。我為蘇菲感 到萬分驕傲,為她完成過去的拼圖感到非常高興。我很開 心蘇菲現在更能了解自己內心的世界,能繼續在澳洲成長 ,邁向人生新一頁。

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