MEDIA REVIEW

Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences website: <http://www.hkmms.org.hk>. Accepted 1 December 2007.

Perchance, the reader may visit Hong Kong in the future, may your attention be brought to an attraction not listed with the standard tourist agenda; the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences: a visit of an hour or two is thoroughly recommended, irrespective of one's previous interests. Located on Hong Kong Island, just above the busy hub of the antiques trade, Hollywood Road, this noteworthy museum was opened on 16 March 1996, by the former Governor of Hong Kong, Mr Christopher Patten.

The museum occupies the former Bacteriological Institute, established in 1906, the first purpose-built medical laboratory in Hong Kong and is on three levels and provides a wide and interesting variety of exhibits, contrasting Western and Traditional Chinese medicine, as well as some emphasis on the place of Hong Kong on the world map of medicine with the discovery of the plague bacillus, the control of tuberculosis and, more recently, the discovery of the SARS coronavirus.

Poster displays, an autopsy room, an apothecary's dispensary, life-like figures of medical students dissecting rats for evidence of plague and a self-assessment quiz, with touch screen, not dissimi-

lar to an ATM, more than adequately test one's knowledge of SARS and plague *et alii*, with a complete and objective score at the conclusion! All this and more!

The museum is an oasis in the heart of the bustling city and enables one to wile the time away peacefully, productively and enjoyably: a modest entry fee is charged; however, visit the comprehensive and user-friendly website to learn more. Under the heading 'General Information', directions are provided; of the three routes suggested, route 2 would present the easiest approach to this difficult terrain; Ladder Street, adjoining the museum, is certainly not a misnomer.

Another attraction of this beautifully maintained destination is the availability of relevant publications; an example being 'Plague, SARS and the Story of Medicine in Hong Kong', a magnificent production of the Hong Kong Museum of Medical Sciences Society and Hong Kong University Press. Again, refer to the website for all details. Enjoy!

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