

# THE HERITAGE

*The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels is celebrating its 145th anniversary in 2011. At the threshold of an era when the world is evolving at a previously unimaginable speed and continuity is challenged by unpredictability, we pause and take time to reflect on our heritage and the attributes which connect us to the past.*



**Above :** Sir Elly Kadoorie (middle) and sons.

**Right :** A postcard to a Jewish immigrant in Shanghai in the 1930s (courtesy Peter Nash).



# FACTOR



**Above :** *When the Hong Kong Hotel opened in 1868, it was dubbed by the media as “the greatest enterprise of the kind in China and Japan”.*

**Right :** *The Hong Kong Hotel company debenture in 1909.*





**Top :** *The building that housed the Majestic Hotel in Shanghai was built in 1906.*

**Above :** *The Palace Hotel in Shanghai was opened in 1909.*



**Above :** *The Astor House Hotel today. The building still retains many elements introduced in the 1920s and continues to provide accommodation for visitors to Shanghai.*

The word ‘heritage’ originated from the French language and means ‘to inherit’ – to pass on. To us, it is our Company’s legacy. It can be seen, felt and experienced in every service that we provide, through every member of staff and expressed

in every product that we deliver. The HSH heritage is built on a century-and-a-half of tradition, values, experience and passion, as well as the skills passed from generation to generation of the same owning family and members of staff.

It is this solid foundation that continues to characterise and underscore the Company’s development. Whilst evolving to meet the changing demands of the times, the Group has never lost sight of, or respect for, its past. Our portfolio of Peninsula hotels and commercial properties continue to emulate the standards of service and style that earned it the early 20th century accolade as “The Far East’s leading hotel company”.

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The Group’s history began in the 19th century with the Hong Kong Hotel and the Peak Tramways, followed by the Astor House, Majestic, Palace and Kalee Hotels in Shanghai, the Grand Hotel des Wagon-Lits in Peking (now Beijing) and the Repulse Bay and Peak Hotels in Hong Kong in the early 20th century. Today, some of these names still exist; others are pages in history. But the memories and the heritage live on - in books, photographs and even at the cinema. These properties and their heritage reflect a glorious past, knowledge of which has put us firmly in the present.



**Above :** A driver at The Peninsula Hong Kong poses with the hotel's 1934 Rolls-Royce Phantom II.



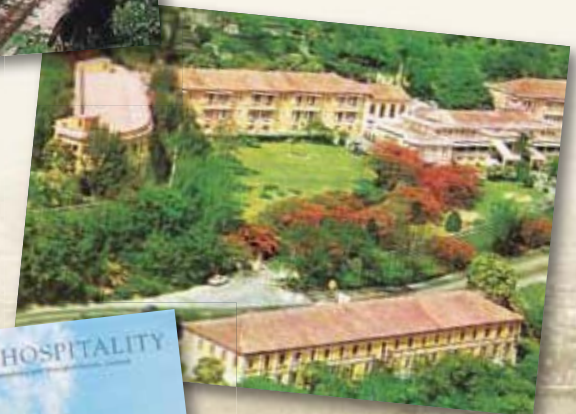
**Right :** Opening day programme at The Peninsula Hong Kong 1928.



**Above :** View of The Peninsula Hong Kong's lobby in 1965.



**Above :** The Peak Tram, circa 1958.



**Above :** Aerial view of the Repulse Bay Hotel (1920 – 1982).



**Left :** "Beyond Hospitality", a book chronicling HSH's development through the centuries.

To a large extent, the details of this history can be found in "Beyond Hospitality", a written historical record of the Group that was published in March 2010. Among the highlights: the 1923 union of the Shanghai Hotels, Limited and the Hongkong Hotels Company, Limited, leading to the Group we have become today. This union immediately gave rise to two icons - the Majestic Hotel in Shanghai in 1924 and The Peninsula Hong Kong in 1928. The latter went on to become the flagship hotel of the Group and the benchmark for international luxury hotel service.



**Above left :** *The Ballroom of the Majestic Hotel boasted a dance floor that was 100 feet across and had a marble and bronze fountain as its centerpiece.*

**Above right :** *A view of the Peak Hotel, circa 1920s.*

As the Group evolved, so too did its geographic and commercial catchment. Residential complexes can now be found in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Vietnam; high-end shopping arcades in Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai provide a steady source of income for the Company; and the Peninsula extended its branding to a variety of merchandise now available around the world. Peninsula hotels were established in Manila, New York, Beijing, Beverly Hills, Bangkok, Chicago, Tokyo and finally, in 2010, the Group returned to Shanghai.

The elements of heritage and tradition are also actively promoted through the Hong Kong Heritage Project, which was launched in 2007. A community initiative, the Heritage Project inventorised the Group's treasures to give our businesses future support. The result is a valuable audio, visual and documentary archive of the activities of the Kadoorie family and their businesses in the 19th and 20th centuries, offering a fascinating view of the development of both Hong Kong and Shanghai as China's two gateway cities through and beyond the two World Wars.



In line with the philanthropic traditions of HSH, the Hong Kong Heritage Project also embraces contemporary education programmes designed to raise an awareness of history amongst young people. In one scheme, a School Oral History programme has been piloted in Sham Shui Po, one of Hong Kong's older districts, where students are encouraged to record and celebrate the area's history through interviews.

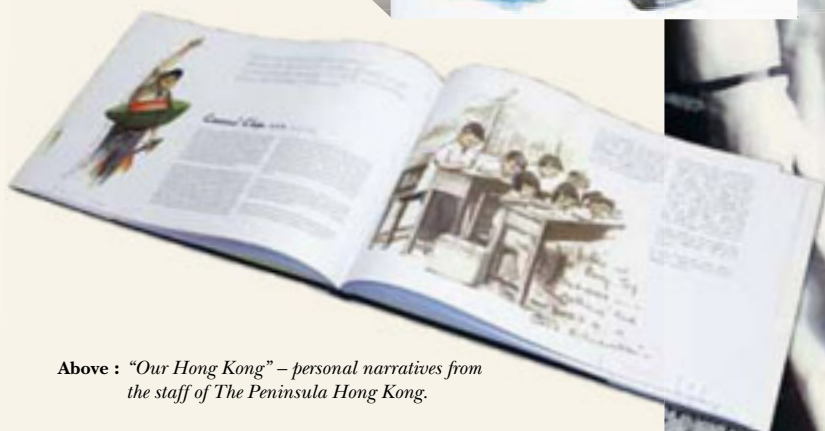
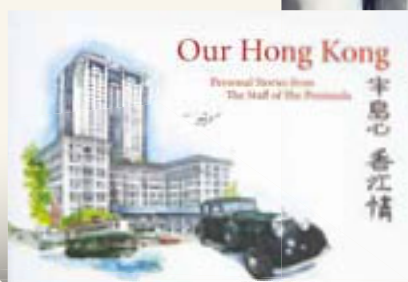


**Right :** *Sir Horace Kadoorie presenting graduation certificates to pupils of Lam Tei Kindergarten. (Courtesy of Mr. Leung Chik)*

**Top right :** *The Peninsula Hong Kong's staff photo, circa 1940.*  
**Bottom right :** *Pageboys at The Peninsula Hong Kong, circa 1950s.*

HSH's heritage and tradition has always been centered on people. From hotel reservation staff to page boys, from Tram operators to restaurant chefs, all HSH staff epitomise the essence of service. They continue to add to the Group's innate sense of heritage and spirit and nowhere is this more evident than in Hong Kong, where staff at The Peninsula Hong Kong published "Our Hong Kong" in December 2010, a selection of beautifully illustrated personal stories that take guests and other visitors on journeys along the city's less travelled roads. In often deeply personal narratives, the hotel's staff members offer their own richly flavoured guide to Hong Kong, unveiling favourite areas, explaining traditions and reminiscing about family lives and upbringing.

Heritage may take many forms and cover a range of experiences – personal, corporate, national and regional. Within the Group, an awareness of our deep and vibrant heritage is firmly embedded. We are deeply rooted in Hong Kong, but culturally and geographically diversified internationally.



**Above :** *"Our Hong Kong" – personal narratives from the staff of The Peninsula Hong Kong.*