

Appendix Seven

**AN ANNOTATED TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION OF ELEVEN
CHINESE GRAVESTONES FROM BATHURST AND HILL END, NEW
SOUTH WALES, AND TWO OF UNCONFIRMED ORIGIN.**

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ELY FINCH, MELBOURNE, JULY 2018.

- WITH RESPECT -

GRAVESTONE I



1917

亞壽何公之墓

香邑張家邊

終於民國六年十月

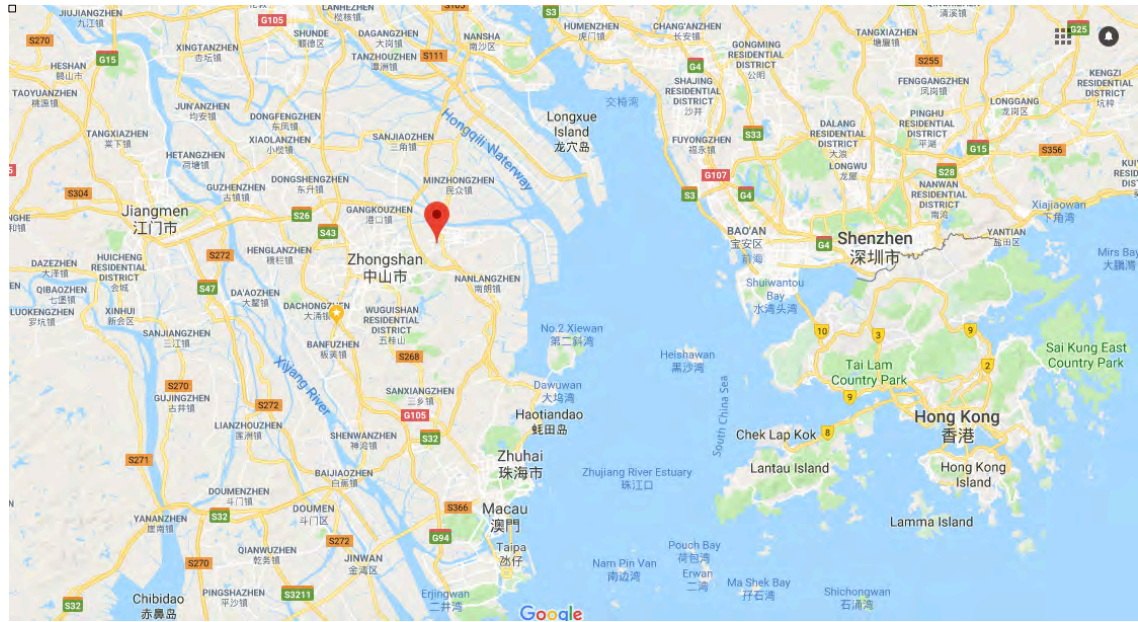
GRAVE OF MISTER HO AH SAU
OF CHEUNG KA PIN, HEUNG YUP,
WHO DIED ON THE *** DAY OF THE 10TH MONTH OF THE
6TH YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC.

NOTES:

- Gravestones I to V are from the Chinese section of the Bathurst Cemetery.
- The Chinese symbol for a missing character, a square box (□), is used in this document's transcriptions to represent a single illegible or unidentifiable character. Characters transcribed in grey were unclear in the images but could nevertheless be deduced with relative certainty.
- All the names in this document's transliterations, with the exception of those used for Gravestone VII, are spelled according to the romanisation system for Cantonese that is in common use in Hong Kong, which reflects an older style of standard pronunciation.
- 何 "Ho" is a common Chinese surname. 亞壽 "Ah Sau" appears to be the short form of a given name, in the same way that "Will" is a short form of "William" in English.
- 香邑 "Heung Yup" or "The City/District of Heung" is an alternative name for 廣州市 Kwang Tung Province's 香山縣 District/County of Heung Shan.
- Heung Shan lies not far to the southwest of Canton (A.K.A. Guangzhou), and neighbours the island of Macau, which once formed part of it. The district took its name from a mountain in its interior called Heung Shan "Fragrant Mountain", which was later renamed 五桂山 *Wūguìshān* (Mandarin pronunciation) "Five Osmanthus Mountain". The district's name of Heung Shan, having remained the same from the 1100s, was changed in April 1925 to 中山 *Chung-shan*, in honour of Sun Yat-sen, who was a native (Sun Yat-sen had become known as "Sun Chung-shan", the "Chung-shan" actually being the Chinese pronunciation of the surname "Nakayama" in his Japanese name 中山樵 *Nakayama Shō*). Chung-shan has since been elevated to city status, and is now best known by the Mandarin Pinyin spelling of its name, Zhōngshān. This gravestone was erected in the early part of the Republican era, when Chung-shan was still Heung Shan.
- 張家邊 "Cheung Ka Pin" is the name of a well-known village in the north-eastern corner of Heung Shan. Its location is shown on the Google Map appended below.
- The names in this document's transliterations reflect Cantonese pronunciation. Cheung Ka Pin, however, is not a Cantonese speaking village. It lies in one of the pockets of Heung Shan where unique varieties of Fujian languages are spoken. These pockets are believed to have been settled from the sea many centuries ago by émigrés from Fujian. Because the settlers came from very

different parts of Fujian, the vernaculars spoken in these pockets—隆都 Lungdu in the west, 南荫 Nam Long in the east and 三乡 Sam Heung in the south being the main ones—are highly divergent, and not always interintelligible. Cheung Ka Pin’s vernacular (which is known as 得都話 “Tak Subdistrict Speech”) is sometimes classed as part of the wider Nam Long vernacular; other linguists consider it to be a separate vernacular altogether. In any case, it is a distinct minority language very different to Cantonese. The transcription of the deceased man’s name given here is therefore unlikely to accord with its pronunciation in his native language.

- The characters that give the day in the date are not visible in the image. In his transcription and translation of the same, Kok Hu Jin gives the day as the 20th on the Chinese calendar, which he correctly observes would correlate to December 4th 1917 on the Gregorian calendar.



GRAVESTONE II



墓 坟 公 黄 基 昌
人 涌 蚝 大 山 中

GRAVE OF MISTER WONG CHEUNG KEI,

A NATIVE OF TAI HOU CHUNG, CHUNG SHAN.

NOTES:

- 黄 “Wong” is the deceased’s surname, 昌基 “Cheung Kei” his given name. His native place is given as the district of 中山 Chung-shan/Zhongshan’s 大濠涌 “Tai Hou Chung”, which translates as “Big Oyster Creek”. This would be the village near the town of 斗門 Dǒumén in the present-day city of 珠海 Zhūhǎi whose name is now written with a slightly different yet homophonous middle character (as “大濠涌”). In 1944, this village formed part of the county of Chung-shan. Wong is still its dominant surname, and its vernacular appears to be a variety of the See Yip language. The village’s location is marked on the Google Map below.



GRAVESTONE III



1955年十一月
十六日終

DIED 16TH NOVEMBER 1955

LEUNG CHUNG

NOTES:

- The transliteration “Leung Jong” shown in the English inscription is a good match for the Cantonese pronunciation the deceased’s name. This suggests that he was a Cantonese speaker, and not, therefore, from the See Yip region.
- The Chinese inscription is odd in a couple of respects: Firstly, the name is given on the left rather than the right, meaning that the date of death is read before it. It would be more usual for the name to come first, as on English gravestones. Secondly, the character for the surname, which like the others appears to be in a 1950s font, is clumsily laid out, which suggests that it might have been affixed by someone who was not literate in Chinese, perhaps a European monument maker.

GRAVESTONE IV



中山良都人氏
亞成李公墳墓
終于
| ㄉㄞ |
年六月二十号

GRAVE OF MISTER LEE AH SHING

A NATIVE OF LEUNG TO, CHUNG SHAN

DIED 20TH JUNE 1951

NOTES:

- 李 “Lee” is the deceased’s surname. 亞成 “Ah Shing” is most likely the short form of his given name.
- 良都 “Leung To” was the name of one of Chung Shan/Zhongshan’s central subdistricts, and home to such well-known diaspora villages as 恆美 Hang Mei and 竹秀園 Chuk Sau Yuen, in which Cantonese was spoken. The Hakka language was also spoken in this subdistrict.

GRAVESTONE V



亞敢黃公墳墓

香邑恭
常都人氏

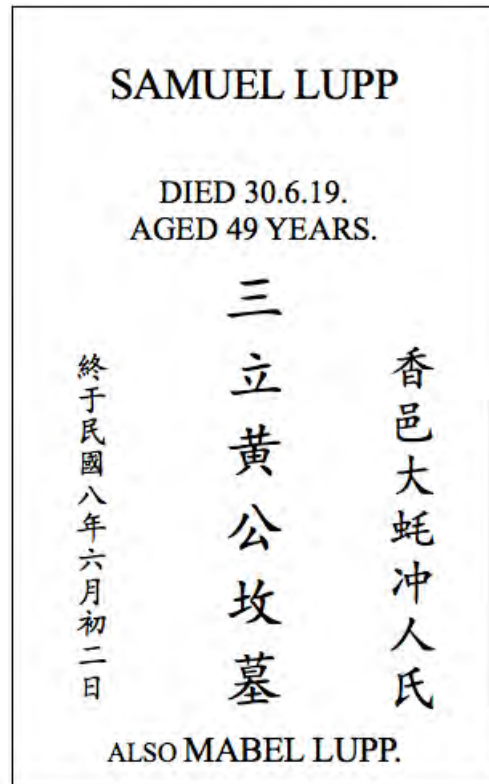
GRAVE OF WONG AH KAM,

16TH YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC.

NOTES:

- The 16th year of the Republic was 1927. The 1st day of the 4th month appears to be a date on the Chinese calendar, and this would correspond with May 1st on the Gregorian.
- 黃 “Wong” is the deceased’s surname, and 亞敢 “Ah Kam” his personal name or the short form of his personal name.
- Heung Yup is an alternative name for Heung Shan, as explained in the notes on Gravestone I.
- What is given here as “Kung Sheung Subdistrict” (恭常都) was an administrative division of the erstwhile district of Heung Shan that had ceased to exist decades before the deceased’s death. Furthermore, Heung Shan no longer existed either, having been renamed Zhongshan two years earlier.
- The subdistrict of Kung Sheung encompassed the southern part of mainland Heung Shan and some islands, including Macao. The deceased might have hailed from any of these places.

GRAVESTONE VI



GRAVE OF WONG SAM LUPP

THE 8TH YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC.

NOTES:

- This and the next gravestone are from other sections of the Bathurst Cemetery.
- The month and day are given by the traditional Chinese calendar, whereas the eighth year of the Chinese Republic corresponds with 1919 on the Gregorian calendar. However, the 2nd day of the 6th month on the Chinese calendar was the 29th not the 30th of June 1919. Which date correctly reflects the date of death is unclear.
- Heung Yup is an alternative name for Heung Shan, as explained in the notes on Gravestone I.
- What is given here as “Wong” (黃) is the deceased’s surname and “Saam Lupp” (三立) his personal name (the double-P in the spelling of his personal name’s second syllable, which would seem to have been adopted as his English surname, appears to have been an attempt at representing the unaspirated final P sound in Chinese – which sounds like the first syllable of the imaginary word *lupping*, as opposed to *lup* on its own, in which the P would be aspirated).
- The “Saam” in “Saam Lupp” means three, and most likely indicates that he was the third boy born in his family. It is coupled with “Lupp” – meaning “to stand/erect/establish/achieve/do or make” – to form an ancient expression that means (roughly translated) to (1) 立德 “Lupp Tak” “achieve virtuousness”, (2) 立功 “Lupp Kung” “make achievements/render meritorious services”, and (3) 立言 “Lupp Yin” “to say things that are worthy of being passed on”. There are many classical expressions in Chinese that contain numbers, and they were commonly used for names, both for their deeper senses and because the number could be used to indicate precedence amongst brothers.
- This individual would appear to hail from the same village as Gravestone II’s 黃昌基 “Wong Cheung Kei”, with whom he shares the same surname.

GRAVESTONE VII



GRAVE OF CHEI MANG

OF TSANG YUP ;

WHO DIED ON THE 24TH DAY OF THE 2ND MONTH OF THE 4TH

YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC,

THE ENGLISH 8TH OF MARCH OF THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND

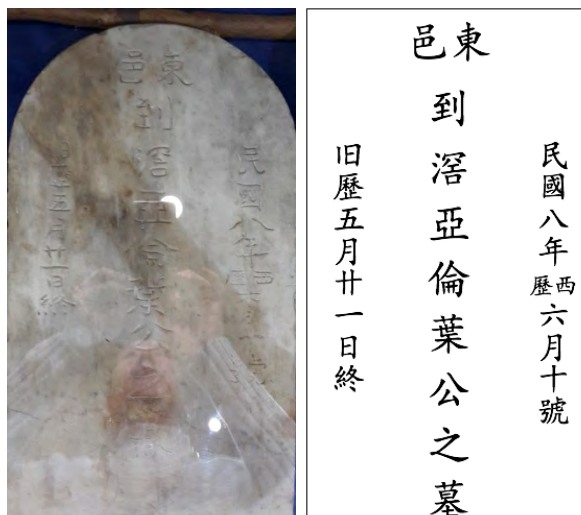
NINE HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN.

NOTES:

- Tsang Yup is an alternative name for the city of Chang Sheng (增城). This city is better known today not by this or any other romanisation of its name according to Cantonese pronunciation, but by the Mandarin romanisation Zēngchéng. It is located roughly 60 kilometers to the east-northeast of Canton (A.K.A. Guangzhou).
- There were two languages spoken in Zēngchéng at the time concerned: one was the local dialect of Cantonese, the other was Hakka, of which there were two dialects (程鄉話 and 長寧話). There is something of a paucity of information online about the sound systems of these local Hakka dialects, but all indications are that the pronunciation of the character that forms the deceased's personal name (萬) is *van* in both, and therefore not a match for the transliteration shown on the gravestone – *mang*. However, the transliteration *mang* matches perfectly the character's pronunciation in Zēngchéng Cantonese, a dialect in which many words that end in N in standard Cantonese (including this one) take on an NG ending. Mang is pronounced in Zēngchéng Cantonese like *mang* would be pronounced in Australian English, i.e. with a silent R (note also that the word should be read naturally, without sounding the G in the NG sound).
- “Chei” reflects the pronunciation of the deceased's surname (謝) in the Zēngchéng dialect of Cantonese, and should be pronounced like the English bird name *jay*.
- The “Kee” in the deceased's English surname is most likely a transliteration of the character 記, which means “mark/sign”. It is often used in Chinese after a person's name to form a shop name, in the same way that an apostrophe-S is used for this purpose in English. Some Chinese people adopted romanisations of shop or business names as English names, which may have been the case here. However, the character 記 was also used in signatures (to mean something along the lines of X's *mark*), and this too could explain the origin of the deceased's English surname.

- The dates given for 1915 of the 24th day of the 2nd month on the Chinese calendar, and the 8th of March on the Gregorian, do not match. The discrepancy may be explained by an error in the engraving of the character 貳 “2nd”, which might originally have been intended to be written 弍 “1st”, thus giving a Chinese date of the 24th day of the 1st month. However, the 24th of 1st month was the 9th not the 8th of March 1915. The Chinese date would therefore be ahead by one day (whereas in the case of Gravestone I the Chinese date was one day behind): why is unclear.
- Vulgar forms of the characters 壹 “one” and 號 “date” are used on the gravestone: the standard forms are given in transcription.

GRAVESTONE VIII



GRAVE OF YIP AH LUN OF TO KAU,
TUNG KWUN ;

WHO DIED IN THE 8TH YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC, ON
JUNE 10TH OF THE WESTERN CALENDAR, OR MAY
21ST OF THE OLD CALENDAR.

NOTES:

- This gravestone is held in the collection of the Bathurst Museum.
- The deceased hailed from Tung Kwun and would therefore most probably have spoken Tung Kwun Cantonese, which differs slightly from but is mutually intelligible with Cantonese.
- What is given here as “Yip” is the deceased’s surname and “Ah Lun” his personal name or the familiar form of his personal name, the surname appearing first, as it does in Chinese names.
- What is given here as “To Kau” (到涪) is the name of the deceased’s district (區), which was its status as an administrative division at the time within the then Republic of China. The first character in the district’s name was changed in 1953, so it is now written “道涪”, a name which is pronounced the same in Mandarin (Dàojiào) but differently in Cantonese.
- What is given here as “Tung Kwun” (pronounced Dōngguǎn in Mandarin) was at that time a county (縣), but has since been elevated to the status of a city.
- The 8th year of the Chinese Republic was 1919.
- The Western date of June 10th and the Chinese date of “May” 21st do not match. One explanation for this would be a missing 八 “eight” in the Western date. This character, placed after the character for “ten” would give a date of June 18th on the Western calendar, which would correspond with “May” 21st on the Chinese calendar.
- The shape of the characters and certain orthographic errors suggest a writer who was not highly literate. (The character “歷” should be “曆”, and the character “涪” is miswritten.)

COMMENTS:

- While Ah Lun may have been the deceased’s original Chinese name (or its familiar form), it is also possible that it was actually a transliteration of his English name Alan, which was given on the label formally displayed in the museum. If this were the case, it would probably be more difficult to trace his roots, because one would not have his original Chinese name.

GRAVESTONE IX



邑□

□

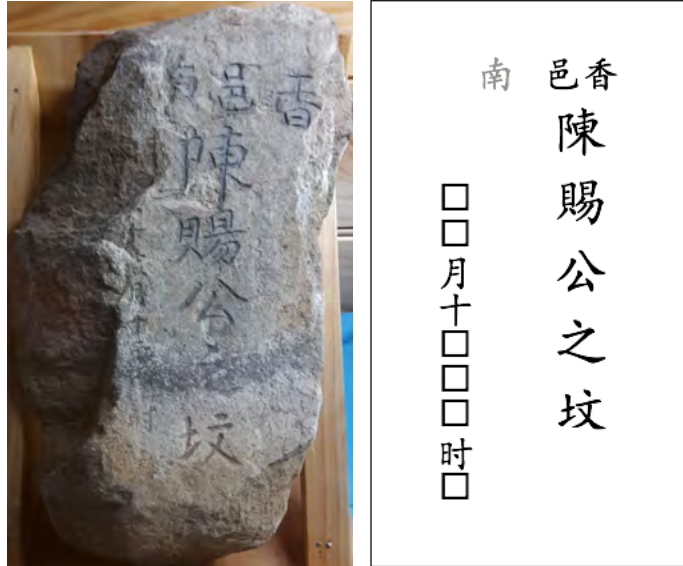
GRAVE OF MISTER WONG *** MAN, OF *** YUP,

WHO ATTAINED IMMORTALITY ON ***

NOTES:

- This gravestone forms part of the collection of Richard Wigglesworth's Museum in Sofala, and is said to have come from Hill End.
- The inscription is unfortunately too worn, and the images of too poor a quality, for much of the text to be read.
- The name of the district from which the deceased hailed appears on the stone. The crucial character, however, is not clear enough in the photographs.
- The deceased's surname is 黃 "Wong". It would appear that both his given and courtesy names were supplied, and that the second character of the latter is 萬 "Man".

GRAVESTONE X



GRAVE OF CHAN CHI OF *** HEUNG SHAN ;

NOTES:

- This gravestone is part of the collection History Hill collection at Hill End, and is also said to have come from Hill End.
- What is given here as “Chan Chi” is the deceased’s surname and personal name, the surname appearing first, as it does in Chinese names.

COMMENTS:

- The year, month, day, and hour (by the Chinese reckoning) of the deceased’s death, and possibly the name of the area within Heung Shan from which he came, appear to have been recorded down the left-hand side of the stone; however, some of the characters have been lost due to damage, and others are not visible from the image. A higher resolution image, or a photograph taken after the application of talcum powder, might aid in the identification of more characters.

GRAVESTONE XI



□
□
陳月□
之
坟

□

GRAVE OF CHAN YUET ***

NOTES:

- This is a photograph of a gravestone held by the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service Hill End Historic Site. It is also said to have come from Hill End.
- 陳月 “Chan Yuet” could accord with the “Chan Git” of the pictured translation; however, the next character of the deceased’s name, while unclear, appears to be 有 “Yau”, which would not accord with the transliteration “Gon”.
- The character at bottom right may be 日 “day”, which would form part of a date. No date, however, is mentioned in the pictured translation.

GRAVESTONE XII



邑大
伯公之墓

光緒二十九年立

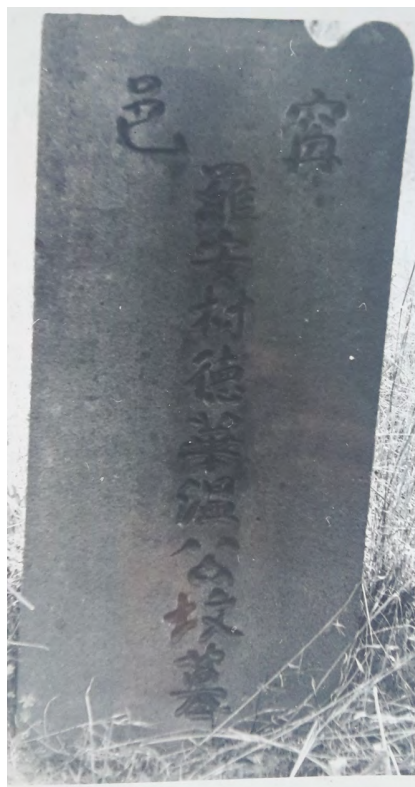
GRAVE OF TUNG AND TSANG DISTRICT ELDERS.

ERECTED IN THE 21ST YEAR OF THE KWANG HSÜ ERA.

NOTES:

- This and the next image are of photographs in the collection of Mr. Ted Whittingham, a former manager of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service Hill End Historic Site. Their provenance has not been ascertained.
- The “Tung and Tsang” districts are the neighbouring Cantonese-speaking districts of 東莞 Tung Kwun/Dōngguǎn and 增城 Tsang Shing/Zēngchéng, which lie to the immediate east of Canton.
- The 21st year of the Kwang Hsü Era began on January 26th 1895 and ended on February 12th 1896.

GRAVESTONE XIII



寧 邑
羅安村德榮溫公坟墓

GRAVE OF MISTER WAN TAK WING OF LUO ON VILLAGE,
NING YUP.

NOTES:

- 溫 “Wan” is the deceased’s surname, and 德榮 “Tak Wing” his given name.
- 寧邑 “Ning Yup” or “The City/District of Ning” is an alternative name for 廣州市 新寧縣 District of Llin Nen/Sun Ning/Sinning, which was renamed 臺山 Hoi San/Toi Shan/*Táishān* in 1914. It is one of the See Yip regions four districts.
- 羅安村 “Luo On Village” is now known as 龍安里 *Lóng’ān* Village. It is located in the southwest of what is now the city of Taishan, in the vicinity of the former market town of 墩寨 *Dūnzài*. Its approximate location is marked on the Google Map below.
- The deceased would have been a speaker of the See Yip language.

