

Asia Society Hong Kong Center
December 2009 Program

China in Those Days: A Postcard from the Middle Kingdom

**An Evening Presentation by THOMAS BRANDT,
Collector & Author**

Friday, December 4, 2009

Hang Lung Office, 28/F Standard Chartered Building,

4 Des Voeux Road, Central

Cocktail reception at 6.30 p.m., Presentation at 7.00 p.m., Close at 8.00 p.m.

\$150 Asia Society members/ Full-time students; \$200 Non-members



More than a century before the arrival of the Internet and at a time when the use of telephones was limited to the privileged few, each and every postcard was worth a thousand words. Postcards revolutionized the world's communication, the first widely circulated form of pictorial documentation. When photography was an expensive novelty, these snapshots of faraway countries were rare, if not unattainable. An avid collector of old postcards, Thomas Brandt has probably the largest of its kind on China and Chinese overseas, amassing 9,000 images, the earliest produced in 1895. Some have been published in his book *"China In Those Days"*. Through his postcard collection, Mr. Brandt will speak on early Chinese life spanning the late 1890s into the first decades of the 20th century, an era when it was a privilege to send and receive postcards from an exotic country. Not only are they important memorabilia, these vintage postcards preserve China's social history. Many of the images of people, architecture and landscapes were not recorded anywhere else but on postcards. These snapshots are not to be found in museums or national archives. Few remain for our education; for some scenes just one lone vintage postcard exist for our enjoyment. Mr. Brandt is General Manager of the Malaysian-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Kuala Lumpur. He has published four books, including *"China In Those Days"*. A limited number of copies will be on sale after the presentation.

RESERVATIONS: All reservations must be made in writing, either by fax or email. ASHK cannot guarantee a seat without advance payment. Checks should be made payable to **The Asia Society Hong Kong Center Limited** and mailed to **Programs Department, 13/F, Baskerville House, 13 Duddell Street, Central**. Credit card payments may be faxed to **2524 1099**.

CONFIRMATIONS: Please consider your registration confirmed unless notified otherwise. No tickets will be issued. Your name will be held on a list at the door, and your name badge may be collected on the day of the program.

CANCELLATIONS: Please note that no-shows will be charged. Any cancellation must be made in writing, either by fax or email. Individual cancellations will not be accepted less than two working days before the program.

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