

A Tasmanian Life

**Event Date:**

Tuesday, 12 May 2026, 7:30 - 9PM

Location:

Rear 159 Macquarie Street
Hobart TAS 7000
Australia

[VIEW MAP](#)

All images from Chung Martin Collection
Unless indicated otherwise

www.helenechung.com

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens 1941

China-born Charles (Pak Koon) Chung 1920 – 2018

Hobart-born Dorothy Henry 1925 – 2020





Happy contented baby Helene
6lb at birth



Helene assumes size of sumo wrestler
6 months



Lehene at the piano
12 months

Exhibition of photographs
by nurse Sister Taylor
who delivered her

Lehene
Pronounced Lay-HEEN

Helene
Pronounced He-LANE

W Chung Sing & Co. 99 Liverpool Street (opposite Myer today)
Gift from Willi Chung Sing to son Charles and wife Dorothy on their marriage in 1943



W Chung Sing & Co. 99 Liverpool Street

Henry & Co. Retail 139 Liverpool Street
Almost corner Murray Street

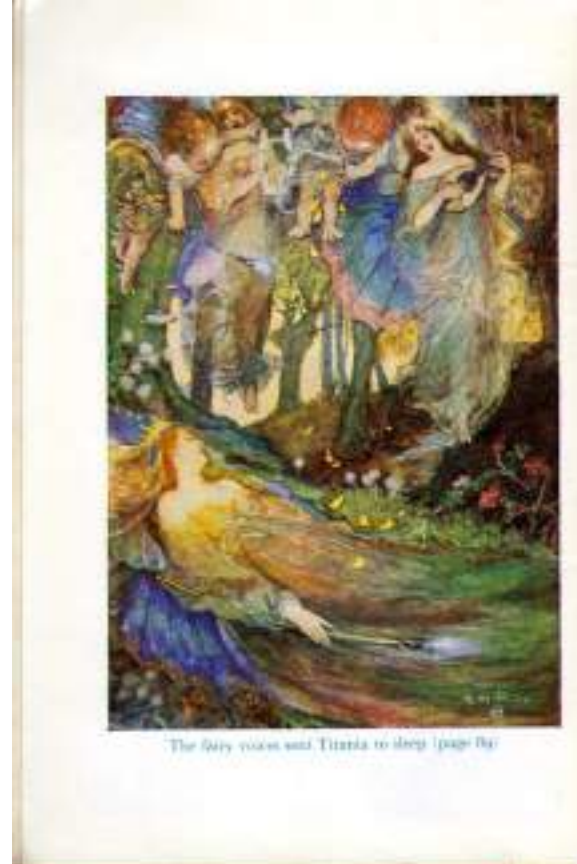
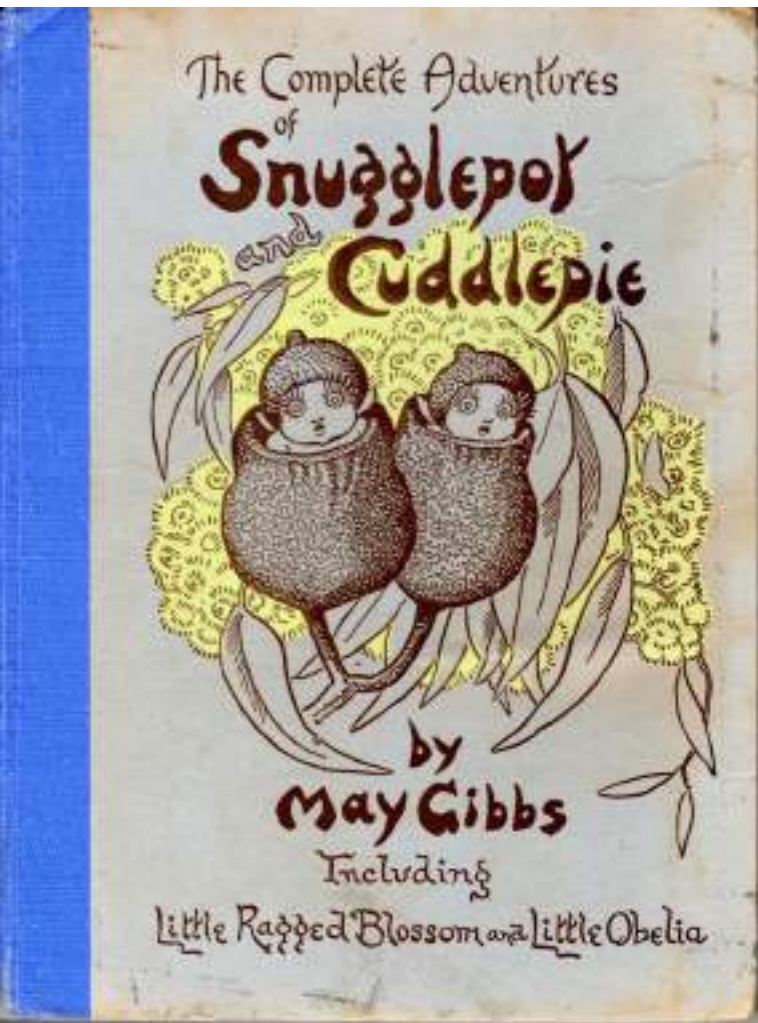
Wholesale crn Collins and Campbell Streets
Deliveries to clubs, hotels, private homes
Government House, Archbishops Palace



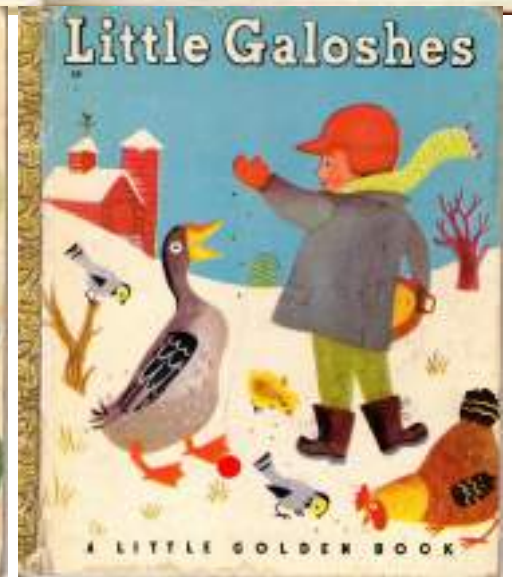
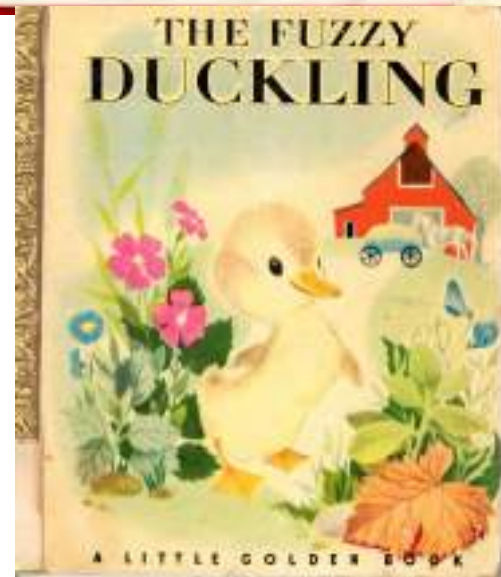
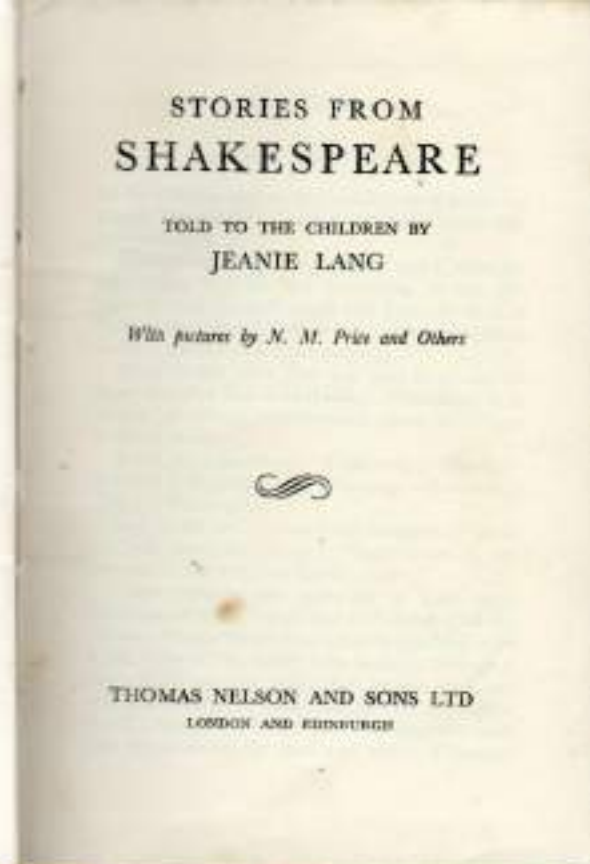
New Zealand artist Gordon Walters
Drawing of Helene sleeping
Pencil on paper c 1952



Gordon Walters' drawing of Helene Chung, c. 1952, pencil on paper. From the Helene Chung Collection



The fairy coaxes and Titania to sleep (page 94)







Ralph Crane & Danielle Wood (Editors)
Island Story
Tasmania in Object and Text, 2018



Helene Chung's Bicycle

Sally Lacy's birthday party, Saturday 25 October 1952
Tomboy Helene in jodhpurs amidst other girls' frills



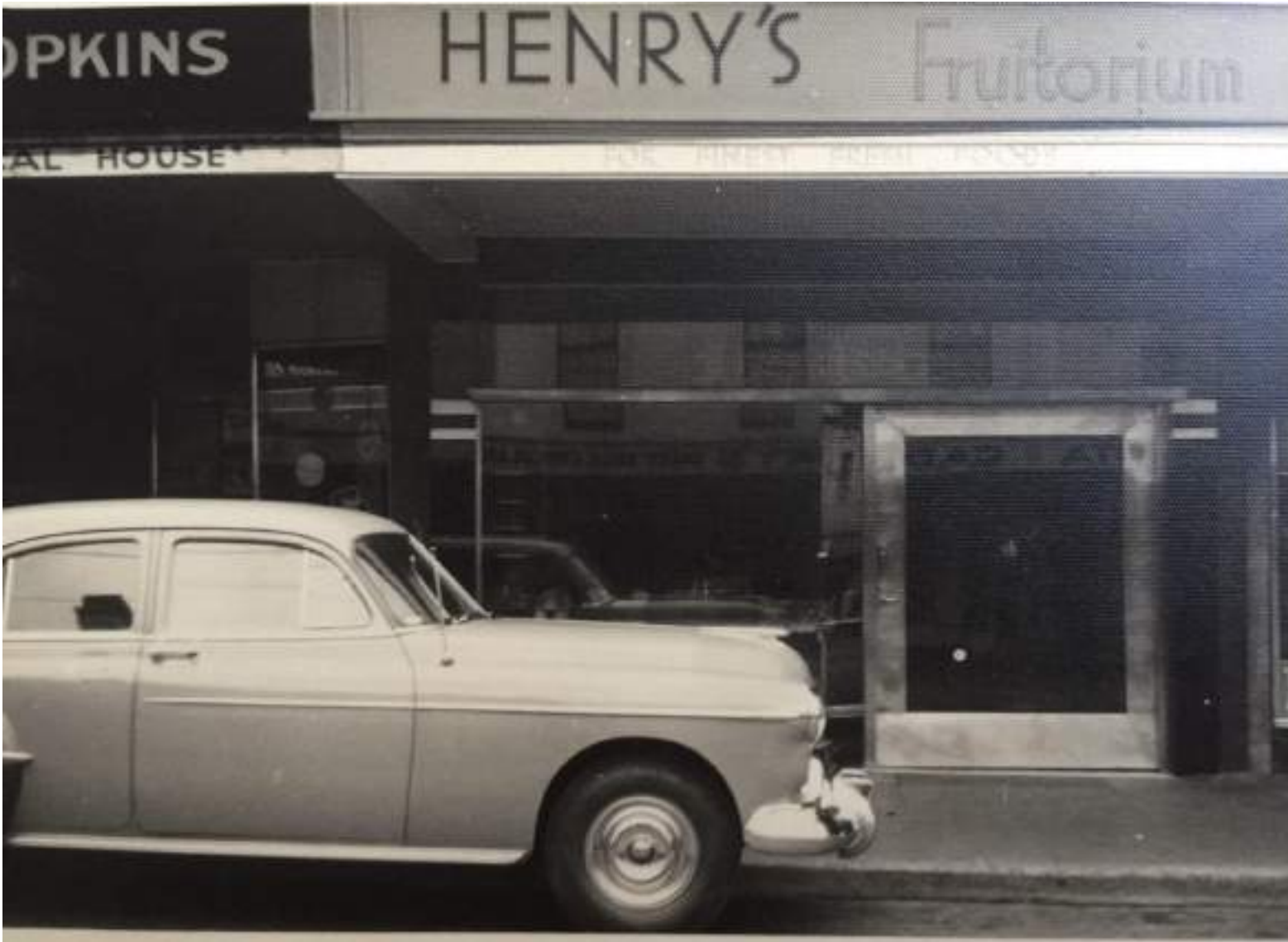
Lehene as bride, Mary Imlach as bridesmaid and Helene as altar boy/priest c 1952



Helene and Lehene in St Mary's College uniforms with house colours Oil by Eileen Brooker c 1952



(Top) Lehene with Uncle Lester
(Below) Helene with Uncle Gordon



Lester Henry launches Ming Court
Saturday Evening Mercury
 5 May 1979

The only Henry – Chung business
 Of 1st – 3rd generation to survive
 (Under non-family ownership)

The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania, May 5, 1979 - Page 11

PUBLICITY FEATURE

Ming Court brings the best in Chinese food to Hobart

There are two great schools of cooking — French and Chinese. Chinese, as most people think, is a simple matter. But there is a great deal more to it than meets the eye. It is a complex art, and it is one that is being brought to Hobart by Lester Henry and his partners in the new Ming Court restaurant.

As Ming Court, the restaurant, Mr. Henry says, has just to provide the best of Chinese food to Hobart. Ming Court's staff has a reputation of being the best in the city, and it is only the best to provide them for you. A new concept of Chinese food is being brought to Hobart.

It is a new concept of Chinese food, and it is one that is being brought to Hobart by Lester Henry and his partners in the new Ming Court restaurant.

The staff of Ming Court is the best in the city, and it is only the best to provide them for you. A new concept of Chinese food is being brought to Hobart.



The staff of Ming Court is the best in the city, and it is only the best to provide them for you. A new concept of Chinese food is being brought to Hobart.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S COOKING IN COMMERCIAL KITCHENS, IT BEHITS YOU TO TALK TO

TOM SCHLESINGER

AT TASTE DISTRIBUTORS

TOM HAS HAD OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE INDUSTRY, AND WAS CHOSEN BY LESTER HENRY TO SUPPLY THE KITCHEN EQUIPMENT FOR THE MING RESTAURANT.

Ph Hobart 34 4781

Contrasts

There should be no contrast when the word is used in office, by one that is usually, a hard hat, is used with a pencil and a ruler. The office is a place where the staff of Ming Court is the best in the city, and it is only the best to provide them for you. A new concept of Chinese food is being brought to Hobart.

Host

It is a new concept of Chinese food, and it is one that is being brought to Hobart by Lester Henry and his partners in the new Ming Court restaurant.

A-ONE FRUIT MARKET

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS,
SUPPLY GARDEN FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

We specialise in Country orders and Restaurants.

Suppliers to the

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SUPPLY GARDEN FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

We specialise in Country orders and Restaurants.

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MING RESTAURANT

Call 349 Elizabeth St or Phone 24 1500.

Ming Court

RESTAURANT

535A SANDY BAY ROAD

* Catering in party every lunch

OUR HOME KONG TEAMS GET WELL

GIVE YOU EXCELLENCE IN CUISINE

* A touch of tradition.

OUR SPECIALITY

TAKE AWAY FOODS

We thank you for your patronage

HOURS OF TRADING

Monday through to Saturday

11.30 am - 2.30 am

9.00 am - 7.00 pm

CHINESE AND ENGLISH

CUISINE AT ITS BEST

See you at Ming Court

NICKMAN HOLLOWAY CONSTRUCTIONS & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD

MASTER BUILDERS

ESTABLISHED 1938

PHONE 23 7689

THE PRINCIPAL CONTRACTORS

EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MANAGEMENT OF

MING COURT RESTAURANT

and wish them success

For * Alterations * Renovations

* Building Fitouts etc and all general building

* Industrial * Commercial * Residential

Showroom at 14 Gove Street, South Hobart

or Phone 23 7689

Dorothy with Lehene c 1946 and with Helene c 1947



Lehene's self-portrait published in 1952
international book of children's self-portraits



Eileen Brooker, drawing of Helene
Pen and ink on paper c 1951-52



Lehene (2nd top L) in school ballet 1952



Helene 1953-54



Theatre Royal
Oil by Richard Boden c 1986
(Chung Martin Collection)



Claire Mitchell
Mercury, 2 October 1940
State Library and Archives

POPULAR PLAYER



Claire Mitchell, popular with radio listeners and theatre-goers, is to play Lily Peppers in "Red Peppers," from Noel Coward's "Tonight at 8.30," to be presented by the Hobart Repertory Theatre Society shortly.

Sister, Lehene and mother, Dorothy in the audience as Helene recites poetry
The Friends' School, Hobart (*Mercury* 1960)



Santa Maria 1963: Robyn Trethewey in the winning play, *The Birthday of the Infanta*
Her costume adjusted by producer Helene Chung, SMC Talent Quest 1962



**"THE PLAY'S THE
THING"**

A. ST. LEGER—Capt of Pres. House which won the Talent Quest.

R. TRETHEWEY—ready for the play, as the Spanish Infanta.

H. CHUNG—who produced the winning play, "The Birthday of The Infanta" puts a final touch to Robyn's costume.

CAREER IN RADIO?



Three St. Mary's College students were taken on a conducted tour of Radio Station 7HO by its administrative executive (Mr. Keith Graham) yesterday. The visit was part of the Commonwealth Employment Service Careers Information week. Pictured as they watched a programme being taped, are, from left: Mr. Graham, Helene Chung, Lyn Dean and Amelia Solowij.

Three St Mary's College students
Tour Radio Station 7HO
Careers Information Week
(Mercury c 1961)

WEAT

CONTEST WINNERS



HOBART GIRL WINNER OF SPEAKING CONTEST

HELENE CHUNG, a 17-year-old student from the St. Mary's College in Hobart, on Saturday won the State final of a Junior Chamber of Commerce public-speaking competition in Launceston.

Helene was one of 10 high school students from all parts of Tasmania who took part in the competition, known as "Youth Speaks for Australia."

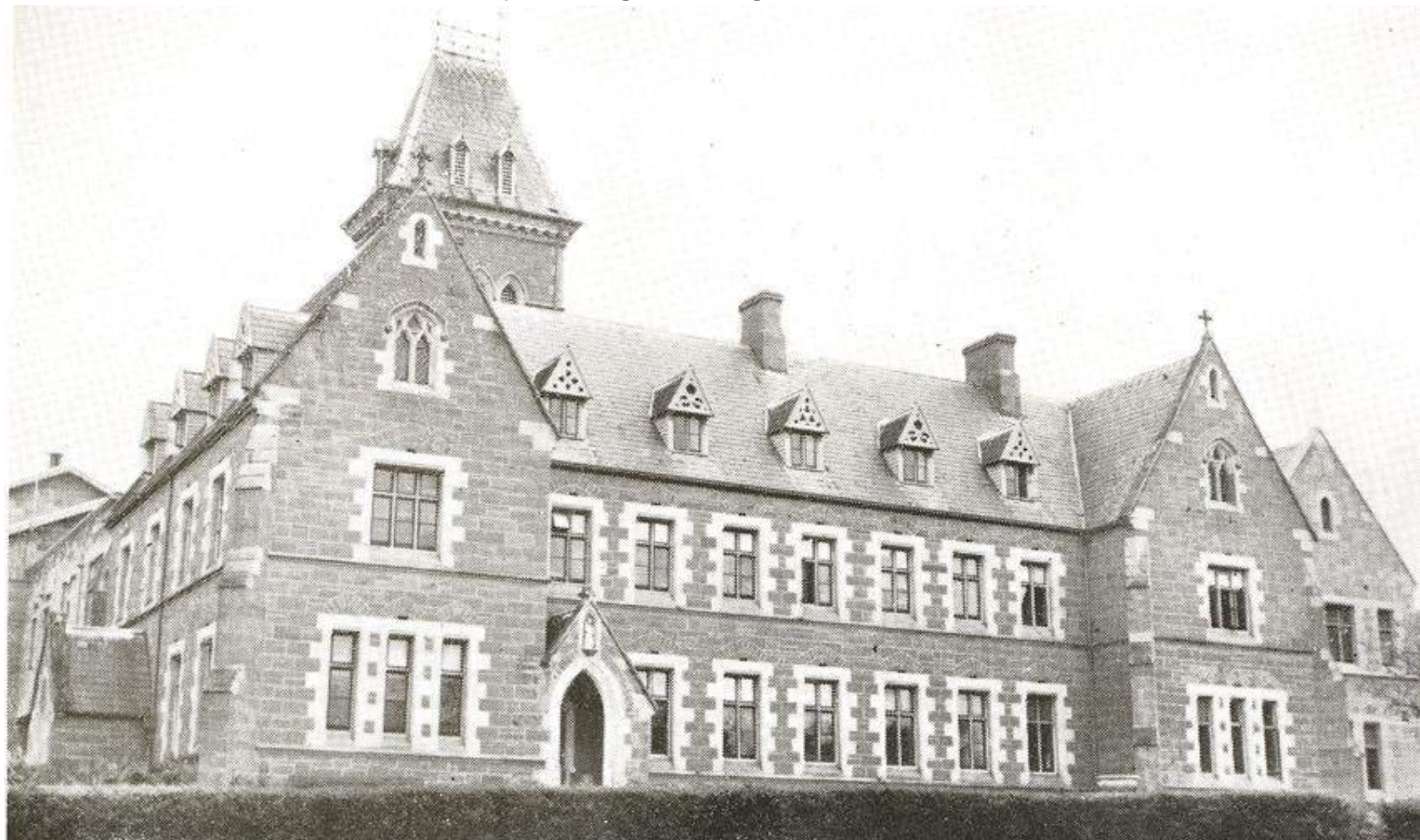
The immediate past president of the Launceston Junior Chamber of Commerce (Mr. H. Cooke) presents prizes to the winner and runner-up in a Tasmania-wide public speaking competition, the final of which was held in Launceston on Saturday night. Helene Chung, of St. Mary's College, Hobart, was the winner. She received a transistor radio. Christopher Mann, of the Hobart College, Burnie, was runner-up. His prize was a hunting torch.

Helene Chung wins
Kriesler Transistor Radio

Youth Speaks for Tasmania competition
Hobart v Launceston
(*Examiner*, Monday 8 October 1962)



St Mary's College, Harrington Street, Hobart



Playing a Datsun Bluebird in a Used and Abused Mark Crook Car Yard in 'Sin-Til-Eight', Old Nick Co. Uni Revue 1963
From L: Bill Dowd, Diane Bretherton, Greg Ferris, Regina Krutulyte, Geoff Millar, Clare Pentecost, Helen Willes



(From L) Phillip Cowie, Marcus Cooney, Bill Dowd, Helene Chung as literary housewife Nancy Horzbush and Geoff Millar in Pokus Point, Old Nick Co. Uni Revue 1963

Poet Gwen Harwood's
letters on this skit

Later published in
Gregory Kratzmann
(Editor)
*Love Always, Gwen:
A steady Storm of
Correspondence*
2001



Judy St Leger and Helene Chung
At Intersivity Drama Festival
Melbourne University
For adaption of George Orwell's *1984*

Sun Monday 24 August 1964



Helene and Lehene host *Lysistrata* party at 5/2 Lauramont Ave Sandy Bay, Friday 4 February 1966
(From L) Anne Spencer, Helene, Geoff Millar, Eve Fay, Lehene



It makes Old Nick smile ...

Edward Albee's *The American Dream*
Winner of 1966 Hobart Drama Festival

Front from L:

Anne Spencer (Mrs Barker)
Elizabeth Burnett (Mommy)
Helene Chung (Producer)
Sylvia Hodgkinson (Grandma)

Back from L:

John Hensby (Stage Manager)
Rowland Harrison (Young Man)
John Craig (Daddy)
David Ryder-Turner (Lighting)

Mercury Monday 1 August 1966



Old Nick Company won the Hobart Drama Festival's main award, the Olive Wilton Trophy, with their outstanding presentation of Edward Albee's "The American Dream". In the front, from left, are: Anne Spencer (Mrs. Barker), Elizabeth Burnett (Mommy), Helene Chung, who produced the play, and Sylvia Hodgkinson (Grandma). Back row, from left: John Hensby (stage manager), Rowland Harrison (young man), John Craig (Daddy), and David Ryder-Turner (lighting).

3 Lambert Avenue Sandy Bay 1966 - 1999

REAL ESTATE GUIDE

THE MERCURY June 25 - July 1, 1999 — 29

Silence of the **LAMBERT**

SANDY BAY

3 Lambert Ave

Three-bedroom
brick veneer house
with decking roof

House area: 144m².
Land area: 536m²

For auction on site at
noon on Saturday,
July 3

Agents: Heritage
Real Estate, Battery
Point. Listed by
Marlene Vincent

Phone: 6223 2577

TREE-LINED Lambert Avenue is a quiet street, close to the casino and lined with stylish houses on both sides.

There is very little traffic and it is always quiet.

The house has a double carport at the street entrance but the house is designed to face north, away from the street and as a result it gets sun all year round in the living areas.

A hall leads from the front door to the sun-trap living room which looks out to the garden and camellias. The dining room is by the sitting room and there's a carpeted kitchen behind the dining room.

One step down is the sun-room with two sides of windows to capture more of the sun.

On the right off the hall is the bathroom with separate toilet and then a double bed-

room with built-ins. The main bedroom has windows to the garden and sunshine. Upstairs is the carpeted study and the third double bedroom at the end of the space.

A fine home for a family with children at university.



Cloven, Man of Sorrow



The Man of Sorrow 7

Aesthetic Moralist 30

"I live in terror of not being misunderstood" 49

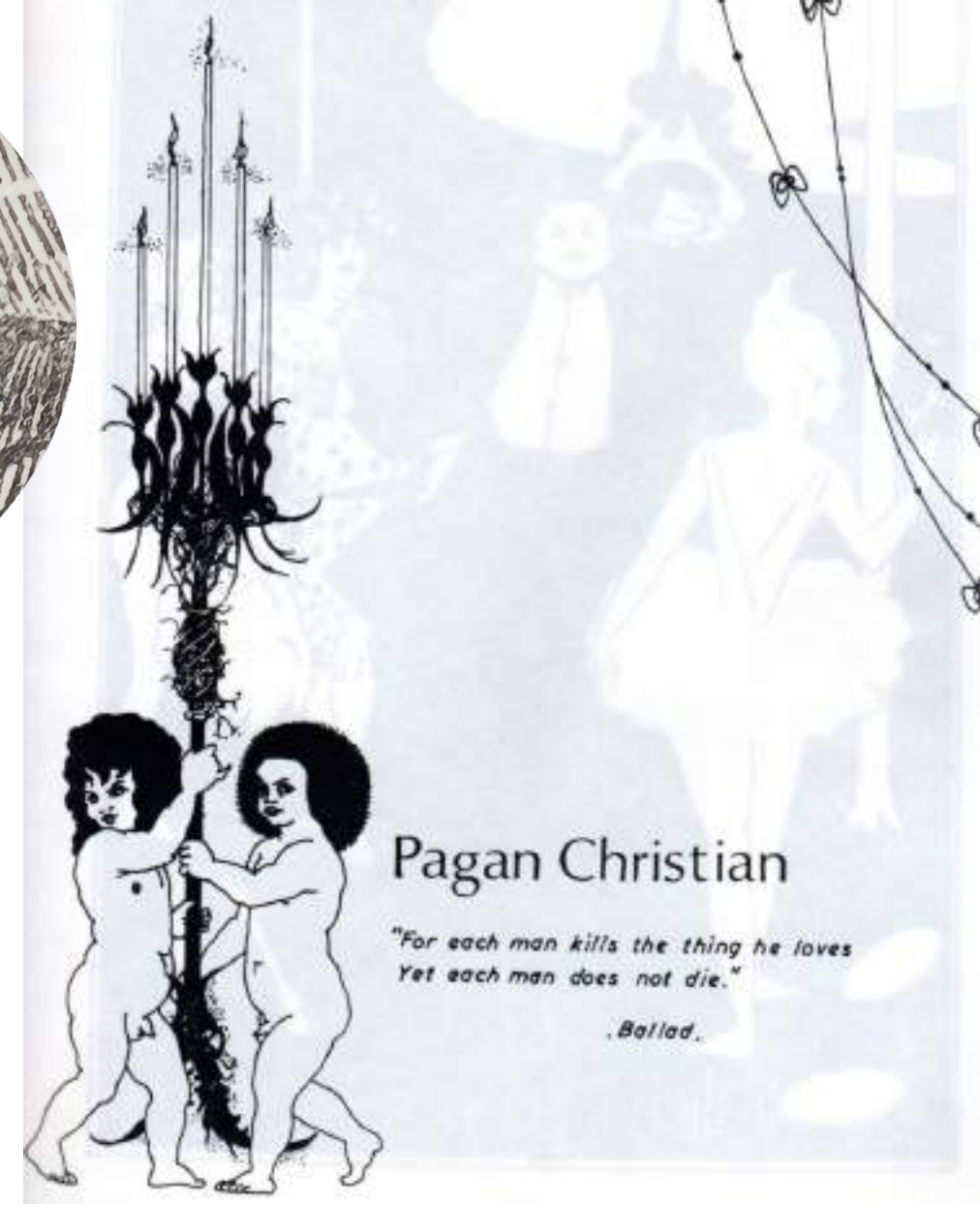
.Intentions.

Cynical Idealist 63



OSCAR WILDE • CLOVEN MAN OF SORROW

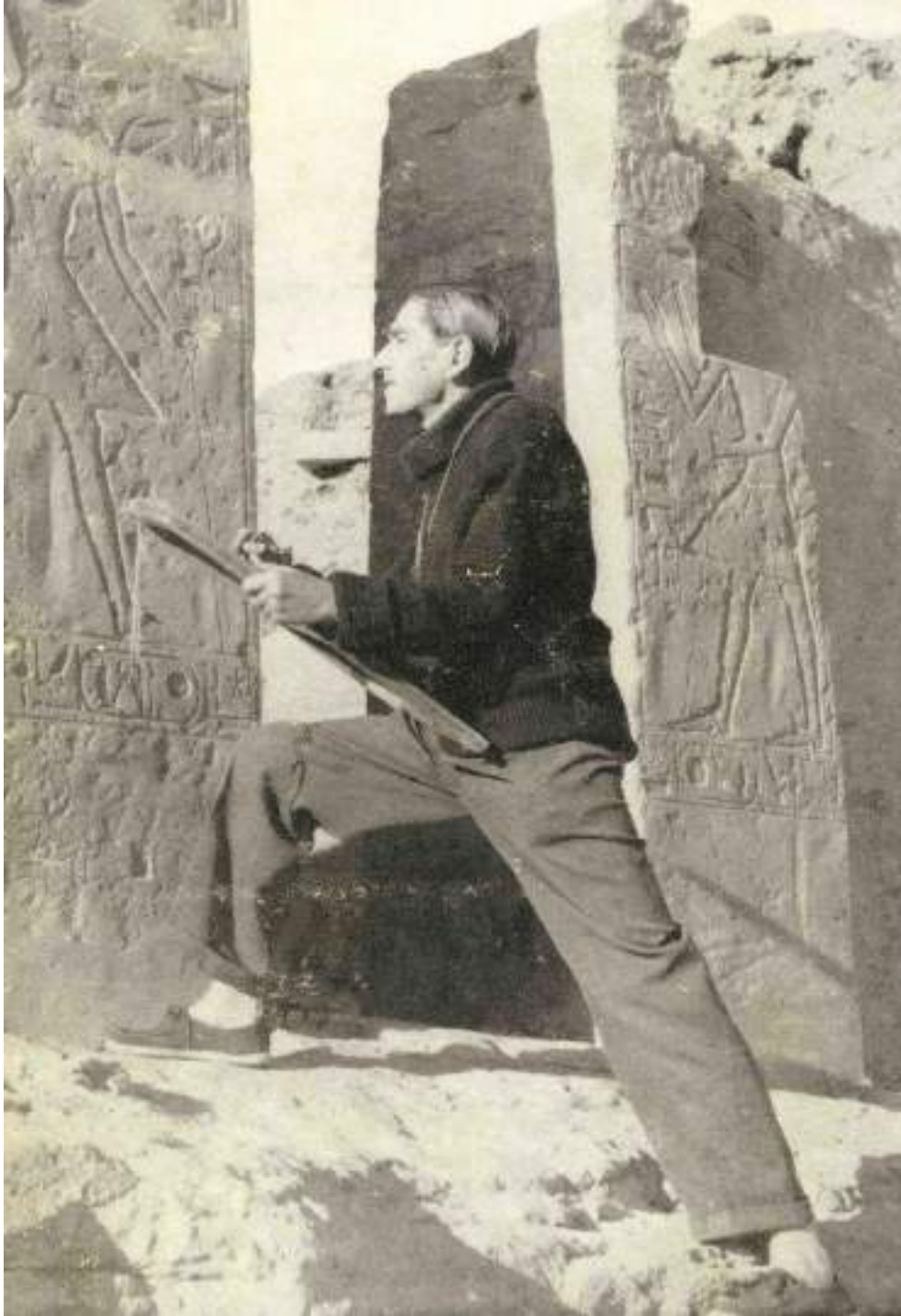
H. CHUNG



Pagan Christian

"For each man kills the thing he loves
Yet each man does not die."

.Ballad.



Leslie Greener, Egyptologist and author
Freelance ABC commentator, scriptwriter and actor
Former Founding Director Adult Education Tasmania
(High Dam over Nubia)

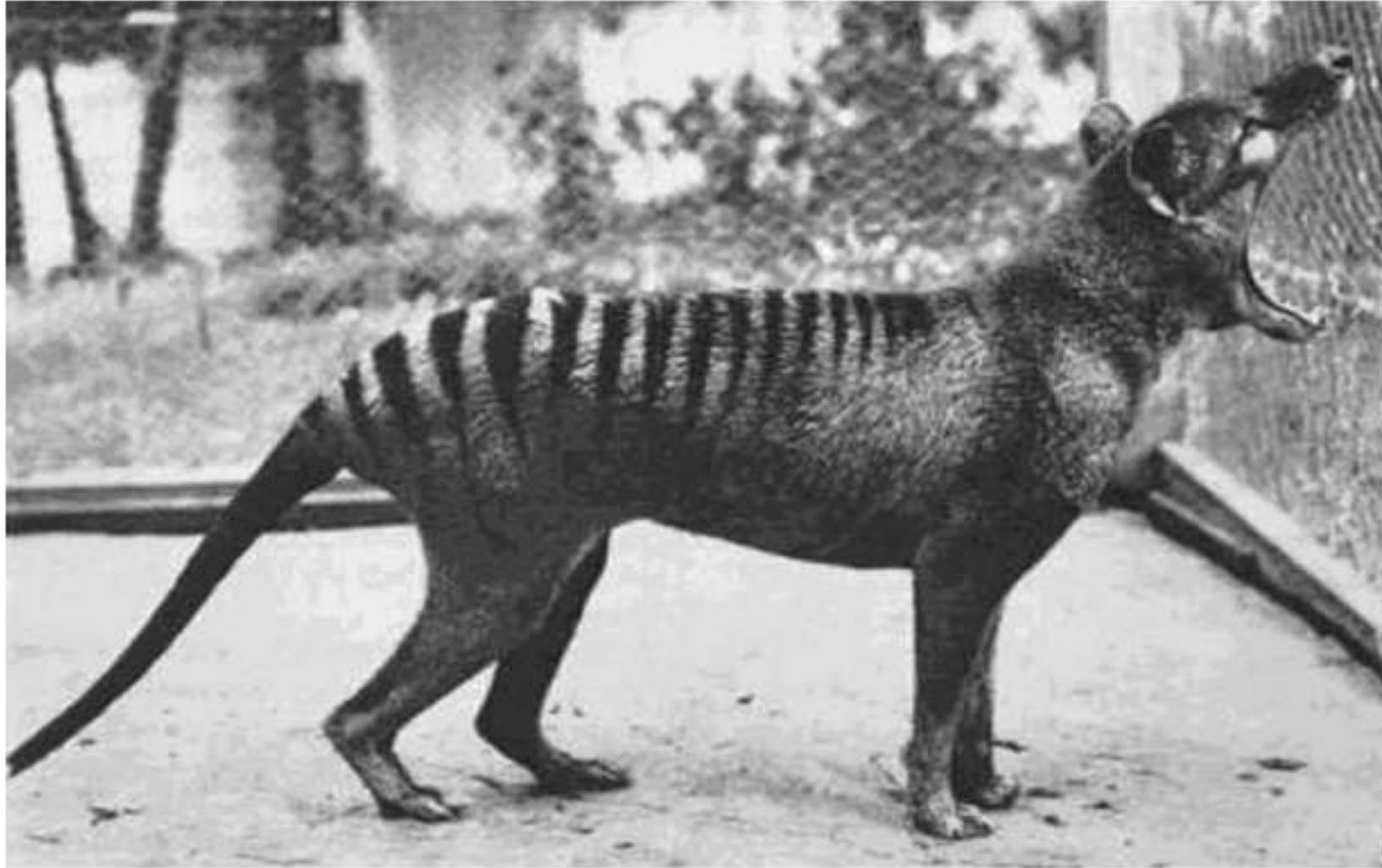
Heavy Nagra tape recorder
Used in making Hollywood feature films
With the world's best audio quality



AUSTRALIAN
BROADCASTING
COMMISSION



**Thylacine: Rare Photos of the Last Tasmanian Tiger,
1910-1933**



Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office



The last known live animal was captured in 1933 in Tasmania.

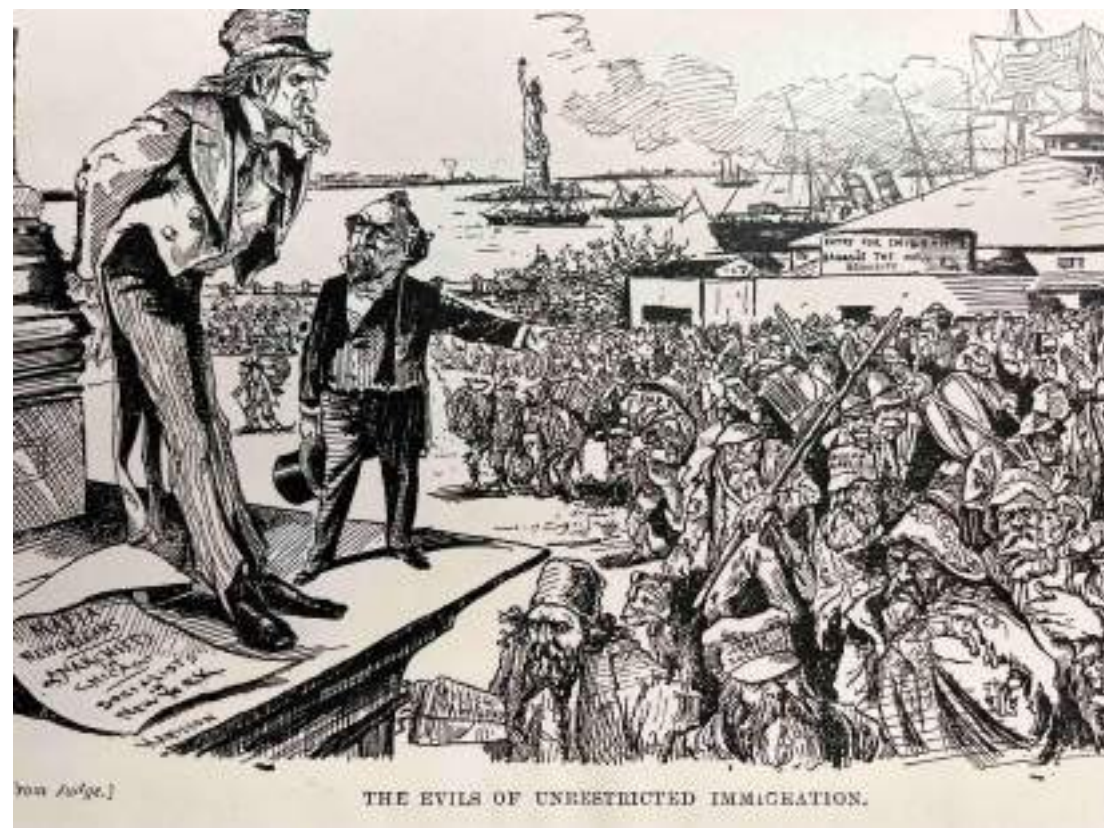
AUSTRALIAN
BROADCASTING
COMMISSION





PARLIAMENT, PRESS
AND PREJUDICE

- the 'jewish question' in britain 1890-1905 .





Radio
Australia

Hobart-born
cameraman Neil
Davis (ABC)



'Hawthorne Dene' Longley



Hobart-born cameraman Neil Davis (ABC)



ONE CROWDED HOUR



Neil Davis
Combat Cameraman
1934-1985
TIM BOWDEN

IMPRINT

Derek Davies Editor *Far Eastern Economic Review*
(National Archives Singapore)



Singapore
China Town

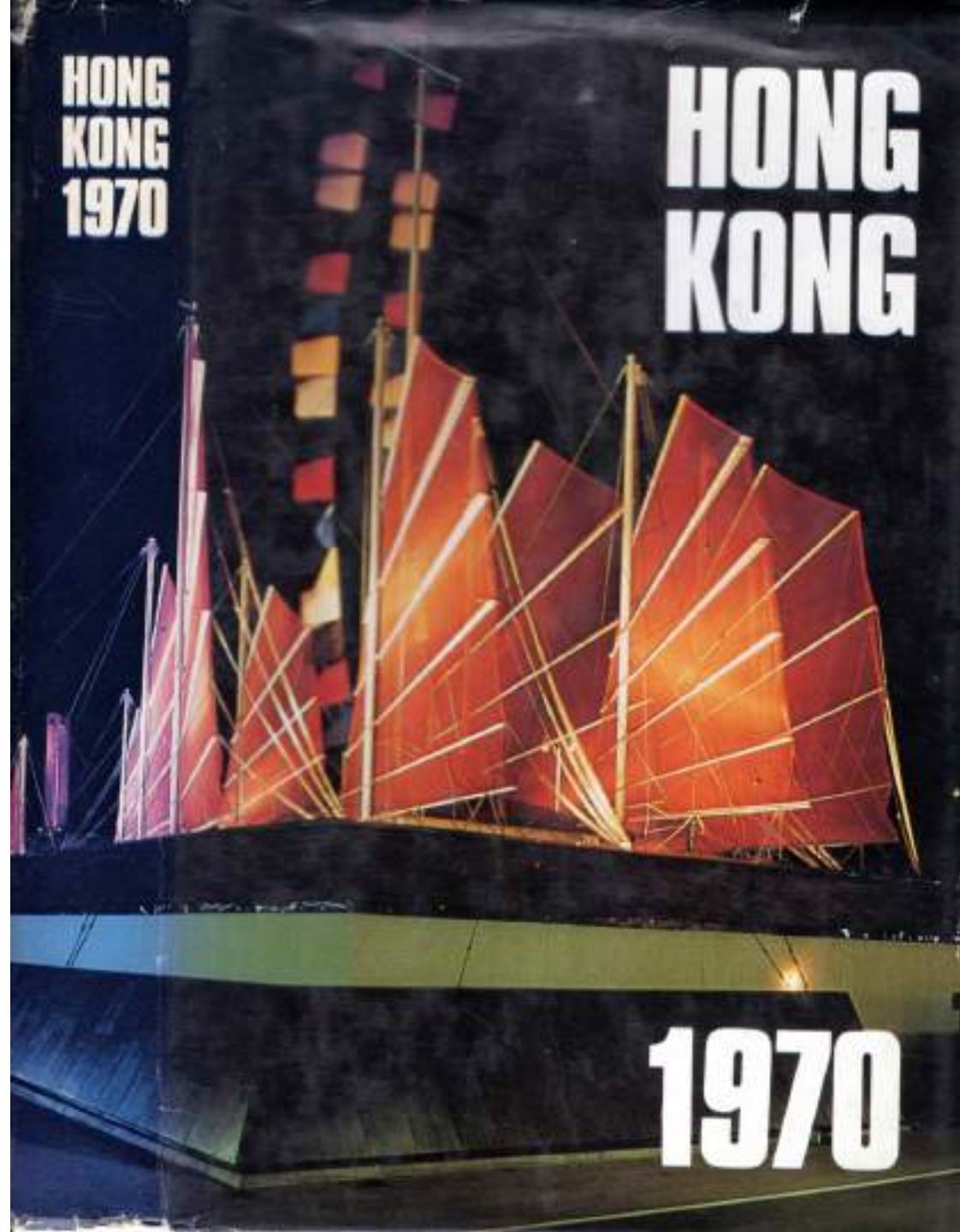


Singapore
Chinatown
Late 1970



**HONG
KONG
1970**

**HONG
KONG**



1970

Hong Kong Harbour (Pinterest.com)



HONGKONG JUL 71



Hong Kong
Jan - July
1971



Martin & French-Hatnote





GUANGZHOU / CANTON

Guangzhou
广州市

Foshan
佛山市

Dongguan
东莞市

Jiangmen
江门市

Zhongshan
中山市

Shenzhen
深圳市

LO WU

New Territories HK

Kowloon HK

HK Island (Central)

Hong Kong

Macau

Chung Martin Maps

Kaiping

Taishan

Duanfen

Australian Opposition Leader Gough Whitlam with Prime Minister Zhou Enlai 1971
(chincommunication.com.au)



Canadian
Opposition leader
Robert Stanfield
(canadaehx.com)



Hong Kong Central 1970s (timeout.com)



ONE CROWDED HOUR



Neil Davis
Combat Cameraman
1934-1985
TIM BOWDEN

IMPRINT

BBC Overseas Service Bush House (Alamy)

Bertrand Wilmore
An editor



Uher tape recorder with splicing/editing attachment at Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery 2018



**Shouting
from China**
Helene Chung,
radio and television
journalist

1
Peking bicycle licences

Presented by Helene Chung, 2016

In the 1980s, bicycle riders in Beijing had to be licensed. Helene and her husband, John Martin, obtained these to allow them to use their folding bikes.

#2016.33.3.1-2

2
**Uher Report 4000L reel
tape recorder**

Presented by Helene Chung, 2016

For journalists in the 1960s and 1970s, the Uher 4000 tape recorder set the standard for many years, including the first radio interview granted to Princess Anne, in 1971. The Perspex plate for

2016.29.1a

Helene partnered by Paul White
St Mary's College and St Virgil's College
Dance at St Peter's Hall, 1962



Lehene at school dances, 1957
With future politician John White
And future Premier Douglas Lowe



Ron Boxall Information Officer 1970s
Hong Kong Government Office, London (cdn.dimsumdaily)



BBC Broadcasting House, Portland Place (Wikipedia)



The BBC's Broadcasting House in
Langham Place and Portland Place

Buckingham Palace (Alamy)



SONY Research makes the difference





Hongkong Standard

Vol. XXII - No. 292 Saturday, October 23, 1971 40 Cents



Anne wants to shop, but there won't be time

PRINCESS ANNE would like to spend at least one morning shopping in Hongkong but her official programme won't allow it.

In her first-ever radio interview - recorded recently in London with broadcaster Helene Chung - Anne said she would have liked a morning's shopping. But the itinerary released a week ago by the Hongkong Government does not include this.

While it may be possible for the Princess to slip away unannounced into London to shop, it would be impossible for her to do so here - where a truck-photographed fair-haired woman stands out in a crowd - unless the trip was planned in advance with appropriate security measures.

In her radio interview,

Princess Anne also said: "I hope to be able to see some of the things behind Hongkong a bit... if you see what I mean."

"The bit which possibly a lot of tourists would - and all the other things that people go down to see."

Hongkong people here also noticed the fact that Princess Anne (pictured left at the National Stud in Teheran) will spend time horse-riding in the New Territories - a thing she can do regularly at home.

But she will have no time to call on a junk or visit a fortune teller, attractions unique to Hongkong.

Anne said she expected to see as much as she could of "a very crowded place" during her visit which begins on Tuesday.

But she added: "In next

glow, I think you are shown what they think they ought to show you, which isn't the same thing. But if it's your first visit it's good enough."

"It would be very nice then to return, because you know exactly what you would like to see."

She will also see the of the "Save The Child Fund."

She listed some of things she wants to do on during her visit, in interview broadcast Radio Hongkong's En channel last night.

The programme was heard again tomorrow 9.15 am.

Princess Anne, who

president of the Fund, said the fund's apartment in the Colony need no special message "because they all know the value of their work."

She said they need encouragement more than anything else for the fund's work.

She said she had been to Hongkong in 1969, when she brought with her a bottle of White Label whisky.

The Princess was a special guest at the New Territories and was the first to visit the island.

She listed some of things she wants to do on during her visit, in interview broadcast Radio Hongkong's En channel last night.

The programme was heard again tomorrow 9.15 am.

Princess Anne, who

moment. This is reflected by the "leaving" nature of money collected, and the figure is likely to go up.

She agreed there is an increasing awareness here among young people about charity work and away from the "old-fashioned" she considered a more practical attitude.

Princess Anne will also visit the 14th/20th King's Hussars, in her capacity as Colonel-in-Chief.

She said she was allowed to drive a tank and spend a day with the Hussars. "It's a marvellous experience and I'm looking forward to doing it again," she said.

Princess Anne said she was "very excited" to be in Hongkong. "I've never been here before and I'm looking forward to seeing it all."

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Interviewer Helene Chung

Listed

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Princess Anne, who

She put Anne on tape

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Quote: I think I'm fairly staid-by fashion standards

Princess Anne said she was "fairly staid" by fashion standards. She said she was "very excited" to be in Hongkong. "I've never been here before and I'm looking forward to seeing it all."

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Picasso at 90: A pictorial tribute, page 5

Royal view of defect in visits by royalty

During most foreign visits members of the Royal Family are shown what their hosts think they ought to see. Princess Anne said yesterday in her first radio interview. That was not the same thing as seeing what they want to see. The interview was conducted by Helene Chung of Radio Hongkong.

Of her forthcoming visit to Hongkong, the Princess said, she was expecting "rather an enjoyable visit", and hoping that she would be able to see something of "bits which possibly a lot of tourists avoid".

Speaking on *The World This Weekend* she explained that on a first visit it was good enough to see whatever the hosts chose to show, adding: "It would be very nice then, of course, to return because then you would know exactly what you would like to see."

One of Princess Anne's purposes in going to Hongkong will be to visit the 14th/20th King's Hussars, of which she is Colonel-in-Chief. When asked how it felt to be a woman in such a masculine world, she said: "One does not exactly think of it from that point of view."

"One has always known other relatives of mine, my mother especially, and aunts, who have been colonel-in-chief so it does not seem very odd. It is very flattering, actually."

She had nice memories of visits to the regiment in Germany, where they "very bravely" allowed her to drive a Chieftain tank. Princess Anne said: "It is a marvellous experience to drive around with 62 tons behind you."

Asked whether the idea of representing Britain as a horse-woman at the next Olympics appealed to her, the Princess said: "I think it would appeal to any sports-minded person. After all it is meant to be the ultimate and I think that is what one tries to achieve if one is going to take part in competitions at all. It would be marvellous but there is a lot of work to do."

She said that she enjoyed all sorts of other sports but had little time to take an interest in them. "I think that one should

THE 'STAIID' PRINCESS EXPLAINS

Daily Telegraph Reporter

PRINCESS ANNE said in her first radio interview yesterday, that her fashion image was "fairly staid."

She said on "The World This Weekend" - which used a recording made for Radio Hongkong - that her clothes had "to do the job that I do, which means they have to be presentable and not too way out."

"I like to choose clothes that are going to serve as many purposes as possible, which means they are not very exciting."

Olympic aim

Asked if, as a successful horse-woman, she would like to represent Britain in the Olympic Games, she said: "The idea would appeal to any sports-minded person. It would be marvellous, but there would be a lot of work to do."

Princess Anne is in Turkey. The interview was recorded at Buckingham Palace, where she was interviewed by Helene Chung, of Radio Hongkong.

Today the Princess leaves on her first unaccompanied trip abroad, to Hongkong. She will return to London next Monday.

Lehene, Mr Ibrahim host, Helene with boyfriend Christian, Dorothy, Mrs Ibrahim, Leslie Greener, Ibrahim son
Luxor, Egypt, December 1972



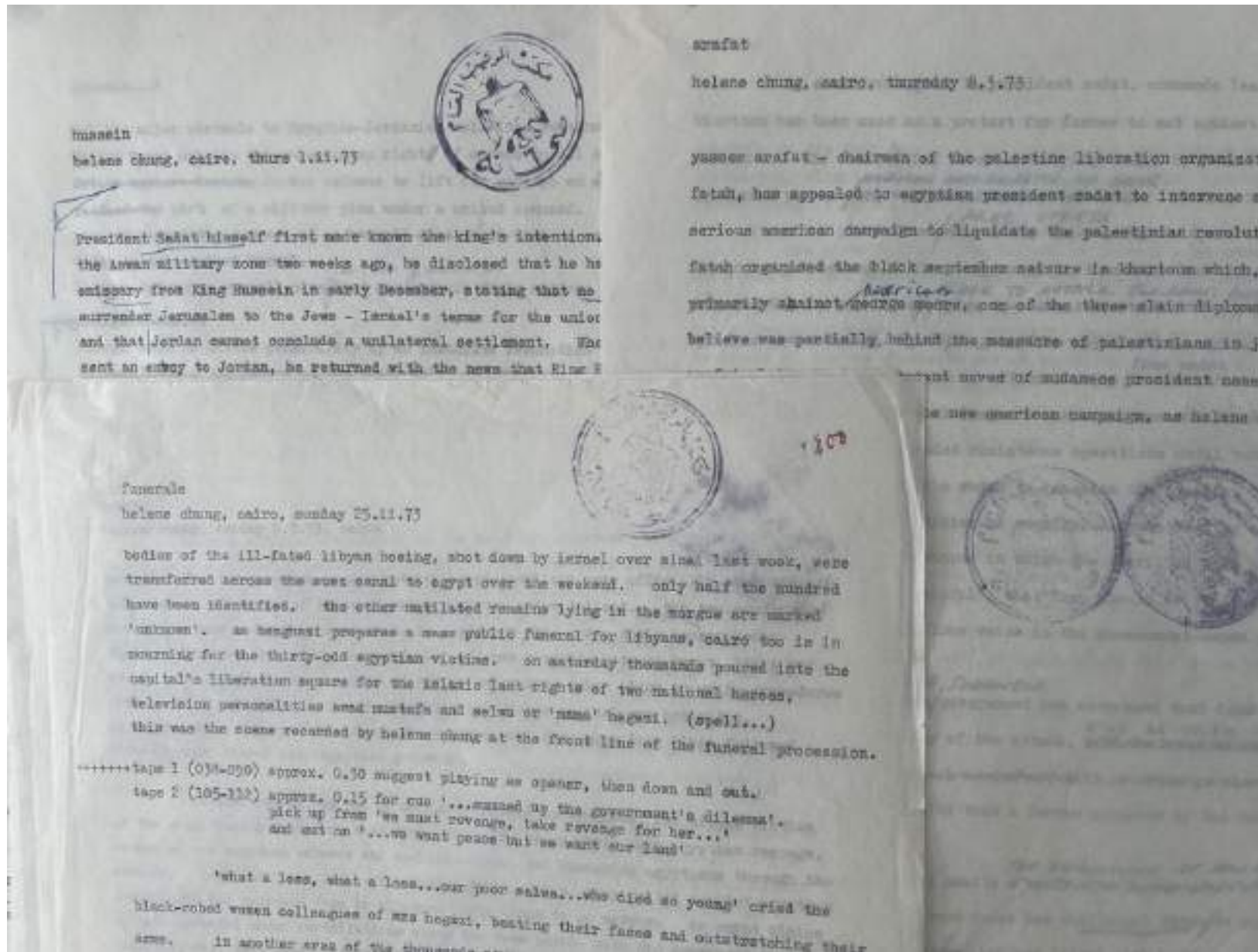
Helene with Christian Christeller
at Tutankhamen tomb, Luxor
December 1972



Helene, Lehene and Dorothy
at Pyramids of Giza
February 1973



Tissue-thin paper with censor's purple stamps of approval to broadcast
from Cairo to ABC London 1973



Devastation in Egypt's Suez Canal zone, January 1973



The press on Egypt's blocked Suez Canal looking over barred wire to Israeli-captured Sinai Peninsula
January 1973



Libyan Boeing 707 shot down by Israel over occupied Sinai, killing 90 passengers and crew, Wednesday 21 February 1973
(internet)





FILE - This Feb. 23, 1973, file photo shows the remains of the fuselage section, foreground, of ...

alamy.com

1300 × 1002

[View File](#)

Monuments on Philae Island to be relocated and saved from rising waters of the Nile
UNESCO Project March 1973



A JOURNALIST RECORDING 30 FILMS FOR HISTORY: an Australian journalist of Japanese origin was among the press crew which covered the meetings of the executive committee of the unesco in aswan. the journalist was very active. she recorded more than 30 films of the philar monuments. she was also keen to record the antiquities to keep the recordings for history.

...i thought it was chinese, and maybe i took six snapshots!

نلسون

- العدد ٧٠٢٢ - السنة ٢٠ - MARCH 28, 1973 - AL GOMHURIA -

صحفية تسجل

٢٠ فيلماً للتاريخ

صحفية استرالية من أصل ياباني .. كتبت ضمن اللجنة الإعلامية التي نظمت الاجتماعات اللغوية التنفيذية لهيئة اليونسكو في اسوان ..

كانت هذه الصحفية تسجل من النشاط والحركة .. سجلت أكثر من ٢٠ فيلماً لتاريخ معابد فيلته عندما زارتها مدير اليونسكو وأعضاء اللجنة التنفيذية .. حرصت هذه الصحفية ايضاً على ان تسجل الآثار وقد نظمت لها مصفها .. تحتفظ بها في أرشيفها الخاص ..

تصوير - شريف فارس



Philae Treasures on new safe island of Agilka
Wednesday 20 November 2019



ABC Radio Active February 1974 Current Affairs team
(L) Executive Producer Russell Warner with (near centre L) Helene Chung
(2nd row near centre R) Tim Bowden

ABC Radio Active Feb 74
Public Affairs - (L)





*Spooling
Through*

AN IRREVERENT MEMOIR

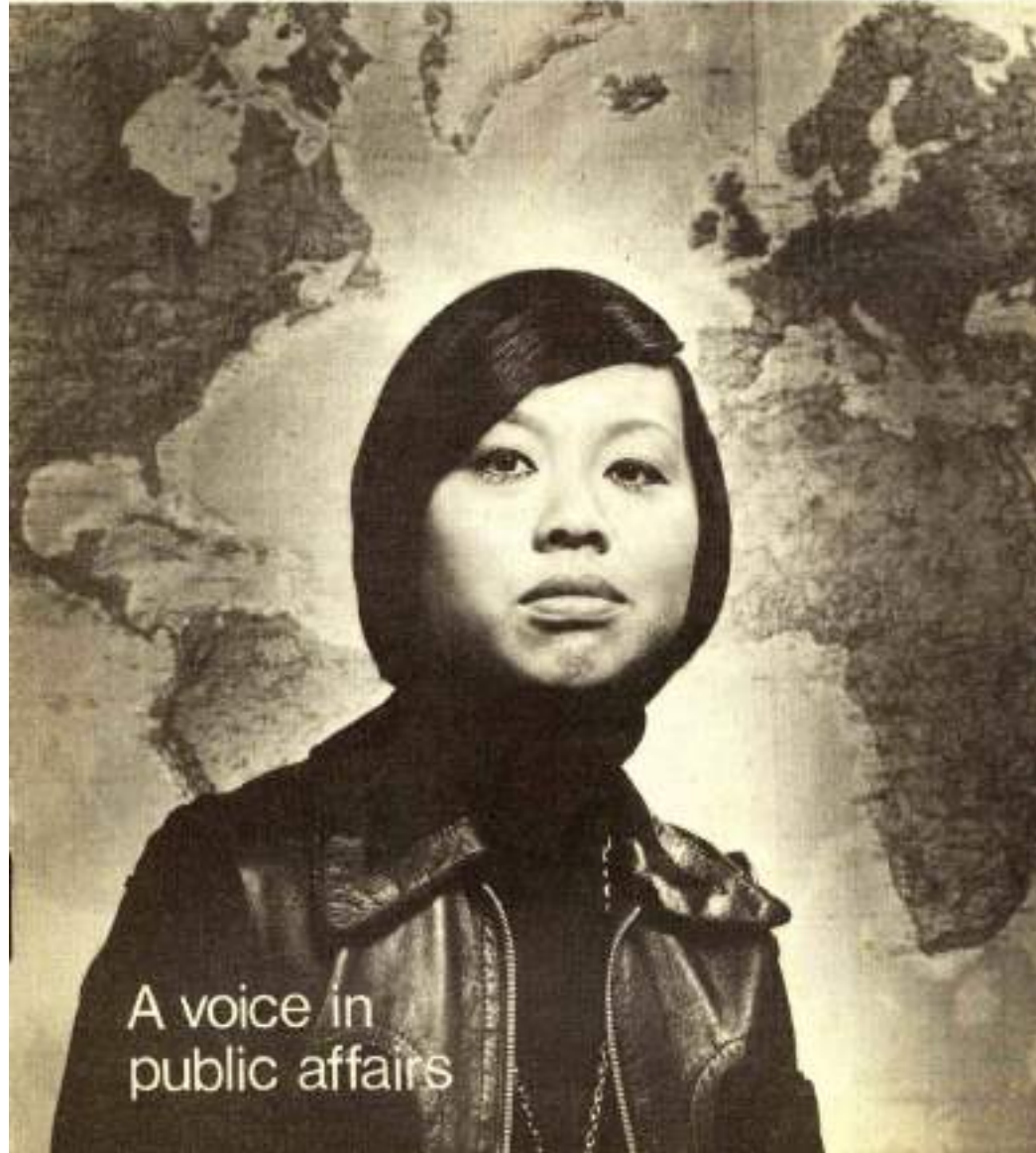
TIM BOWDEN

Price 10 cents

ABC Radio Guide XXXI

Vol. 12, No. 9, ABC Radio Guide

August 31 to September 6



A voice in
public affairs

31 August 1974

ABC Television Building with George Davis mural 1970s
Sandy Bay Road



C · L · I · V · E
SANSOM



by
FORTY FRIENDS



PATRICK WHITE
A Life - by David Marr

ACTING RHYMES

*Clive
Sansom*



BOOK TWO

ACTING RHYMES

*Clive
Sansom*



BOOK ONE

Helene Chung and John Martin
Dutch Inn – Varder's Cellar, Battery Point
Saturday 21 August 1976 First photograph



'Marriage of true minds'
159 Davey Street, Hobart
Thursday 14 April 1977



'EVERY WOMAN
SHOULD READ
THIS BOOK'

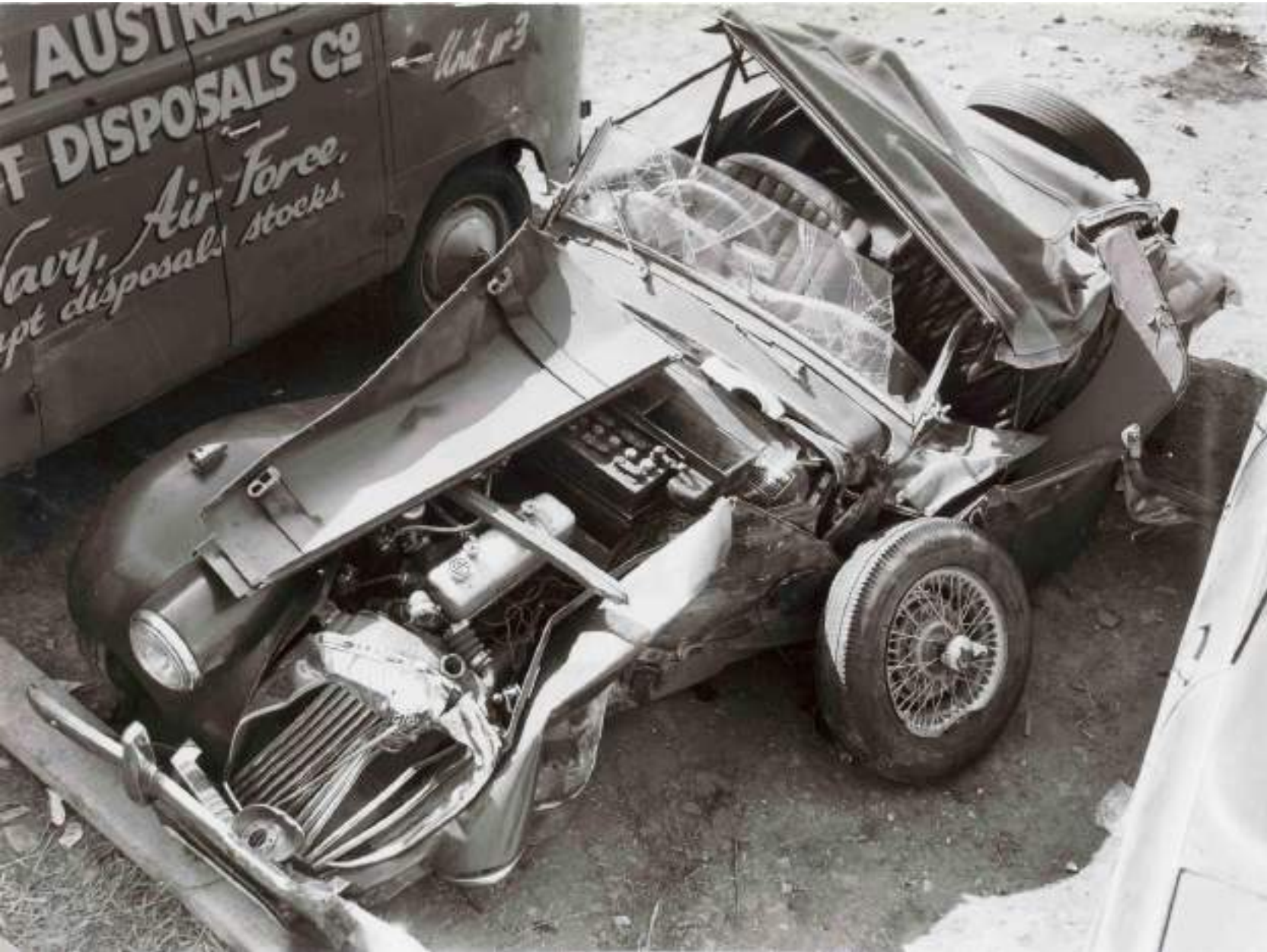
GLORIA STEINEM



THE
HITE
REPORT
SHERE HITE

BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE HITE REPORT
ON MALE SEXUALITY, WOMEN AND LOVE AND
THE HITE REPORT ON THE FAMILY*

MG car collision with 10-ton apple truck, Easter Saturday eve 1961, Sandy Bay Road (Brian Curtis)
Restored MG driven by new owner, Devonport ferry terminal, February 1990 (John Martin)



'RACIST' VIEWERS ATTACK TDT REPORTER

THIS DAY TONIGHT is receiving a regular stream of racist complaints about reporter Helene Chung.

The callers regularly bring up TDT after Helene has presented a report on the program.

They have been making racial remarks and asking why 'the Asian lady' works on TDT.

TDT producer John Vandenbeld said the calls started soon after Helene began working for the Melbourne edition of TDT in June.

Some people had also complained about Robert Elson, an English reporter on TDT.

John Vandenbeld said all the complainants were firmly told that Helene was a third generation Australian, who was a very competent journalist, a likable person who was held in high regard by her colleagues.

The telephone calls and remarks have not affected Helene who has shaken some of the calls herself. She is taking the calls in her studio and is not worried.

Helene, who has worked for the ABC in Melbourne, Sydney and Hobart and freelanced in Hong Kong and London, has never been subjected to such a regular stream of racist remarks and abuse before.

"We get a lot of calls during the program, but only a handful are racist," said John Vandenbeld.

"We don't spend a hell of a lot of time with these people. We can usually pick their voices."

"The interesting thing is that some of the regular voices have a distinct accent of foreign origin."

"People who make these sort of complaints shouldn't be taken seriously."

"I was very surprised at this type of reaction to Helene. I hope these people will learn, perhaps by watching TDT, that not all Australians are white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants."

Helene was born in Hobart. Although she has studied Asian history, she cannot speak Chinese.

• RIGHT: Helene Chung.



Sunday Observer 11/9/77

Girl reporter scares tough guys

UNION MEN SHY OFF TV

A PRETTY little Asian girl hurled Melbourne hard core trade unionists into a frenzy this week and sent most of them scurrying for cover.

Vivacious Helene Chung, 23, a journalist with This Day Tonight, even managed to turn the union heavies away from their traditional Friday night booze up.

The drama took place when Miss Chung and a camera crew arrived with a back pack called in at the John Curtin Hotel, opposite the Trades Hall.

They started making inquiries when they thought Victoria had the hottest news story around and they were proud of it.

"They were most reluctant to talk to me," Miss Chung told the Observer.

"And by the time we had the camera set up, the crowd had almost completely melted."

Language

"Those who did talk to us used language that is relevant to the news item."

"There were four other women being interviewed."

"I think you can quite blame that all those comments started coming away from a 23rd year girl."

Upset

TDT's associate producer, Ian Blair, himself a former Trades Hall member, said he could not understand why the incidents had become so quiet.

"I think they would have thought we were getting them 'up,'" he told the Observer.

"But we had thought we would get some great interviews there."

"We didn't end up getting any Day to Night copy — but I was paid separately for frames."

"I don't think it's a sophisticated record of young girl reporter," he said.

Helene Chung... the reporter struck fear in the hearts of heavy unions.

ABC TV Ripponlea, Melbourne



Newburn, 30 Queens Road Melbourne 1977



VICTORIA'S TOP-SELLING WEEKLY PAPER

Truth

No. 4573, SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1978, 402 LA TROBE ST., MELB.

Phone: 328 0241

BY AIR: NTH. QLD., N.T. 40c Registered for posting as a publication — Category "B"

30c

GIRL REPORTER COMPLAINS



**RACE ROW
AT ABC**

— PAGE 3

FULL
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A
B
MVRC
R'HILL

MORE NEWS IN YOUR TRUTH ... THERE'S ALWAYS



TDT GIRL CLAIMS ABC RACE SLUR

EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY ADRIAN TAME

A REPORTER on the ABC's This Day Tonight show claims an ABC official told her she has no future in television because of her Asian appearance.

Helen Chang, 31, also claims that a high-ranking official told her to stop wearing make-up because it accentuated her narrow eyes.

Ms Chang has complained to the Australian Journalists' Association about the racial nature of the statements.

Truth undertakes the statements were made to Ms Chang last week during a conversation with a senior ABC staff member.

An ABC spokesman told Truth: "I don't want to say much about this until I have a chance to talk to Helen again."

ADVICE

"As I see it, she has complained to the AJA a decision she had with someone at the ABC."

"We have given her certain advice, and she is about to act on that."

The spokesman said the alleged statements were racist and highly offensive.

He said one statement allegedly made to Ms Chang was that she had no

★ ODD SPOT ★

Love tryst

A 3000 person's first love session in a park had to be interrupted when a thief stripped her and his mistress of watches.

Now the shamed pair may face obesity charges in England and church punishment for breaking his chastity vow. — (NORTH BRANCH)

Television reporter complains to union

future in the television industry because of her Chinese appearance.

The spokesman also said Ms Chang was alleging she had been told to stop wearing make-up which accentuated her eyes.

Ms Chang was born in Taiwan.

Early in her career with TDT, the ABC's current affairs program, Ms Chang reportedly received racial mail from a handful of viewers.

Ms Chang was immediately informed.

An ABC spokesman said: "As news is a hotly contested issue in the industry, we have to be fair to all."



*** HELENE CHANG ... allegedly told she has no future in TV.**

3 in 1 STEREO RENT/BUY From \$2 WEEK

AM/FM Stereo receiver with built in Cassette Recorder and Automatic Reversible complex with dynamic 2 way speaker system.

Metropolitan TV
234 Glenferrie Rd, Malvern, TEL: 509 7999

RENT FOR INSTANT BUY COLOUR TV

MORE NEWS IN YOUR TRUTH ... THERE'S ALWAYS



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Apr. Fr. 10.11.78

THE AGE FEAT



Helene Chung — as starlet.

Helen Chung looks to her image

ON OCTOBER 18 the seven members of the Australian Broadcasting Commission considered a staff appeal, the details of which are almost certainly unique in ABC history.

The case bears close attention because it involves a senior employee of one ABC staff member against another. It also has important implications for the way in which the commission runs its business and deals with staff.

In August, a Melbourne reporter for *This Day Tonight*, Helene Chung, reported to the Commissioner for Community Relations, Mr. Grasseby, a conversation with her boss during which she claimed she was told her career prospects on television were limited because of her Chinese appearance.

According to Miss Chung, who is a third-generation Australian of Chinese origin, the incident occurred during a routine interview with the head of ABC television public affairs, Derek White. The TDT reporter's letter "Advantage" was put forward as an impediment to her career — a charge later denied by Mr. White.

The discussion about her future prospects followed Miss Chung's earlier claim for a higher efficiency payment — a claim which has since been rejected.

ABC management regarded the case, with its suggestion of race-

From TONY WALKER in Canberra

ism, differs markedly from Mr. White's.

She stated that Mr. White had started off by criticising her ability to communicate with the public.

"Mr. White said (in) was because of what he called my 'rural, over-speaking voice and educated accent'."

According to Miss Chung, she was told she lacked a "human quality".

She had then asked Mr. White how she could improve "to make myself more suitable for television, but he could make no suggestion."

—THE AUSTRALIAN Tuesday August 15 1978

NEWSMAKERS

Helene takes race complaint to the top



Mr GRASSBY

TELEVISION reporter HELENE CHUNG has lodged an official complaint with the Community Relations Office in Canberra about references to her Asian appearance made by a senior ABC executive.

The Commissioner of Community Relations, AL GRASSBY, is examining the complaint.

Miss Chung, who was born in Hobart and is a third-generation Australian, works for *This Day Tonight* in Melbourne. When asked about the matter yesterday she said: "I cannot make any comment."

But she confirmed she recently had a conversation with a senior ABC official, who is understood to have told her she had limited advancement prospects at the ABC because of her Asian appearance.

Miss Chung has also reported the incident to the Australian Journalists Association.

A spokesman for the Victorian branch of the AJA said yesterday he would prefer not to comment on the incident.

The branch is believed to have referred the matter to solicitors but has taken no more action.

Miss Chung has worked with TDT since June last year and has worked for the ABC for several years.

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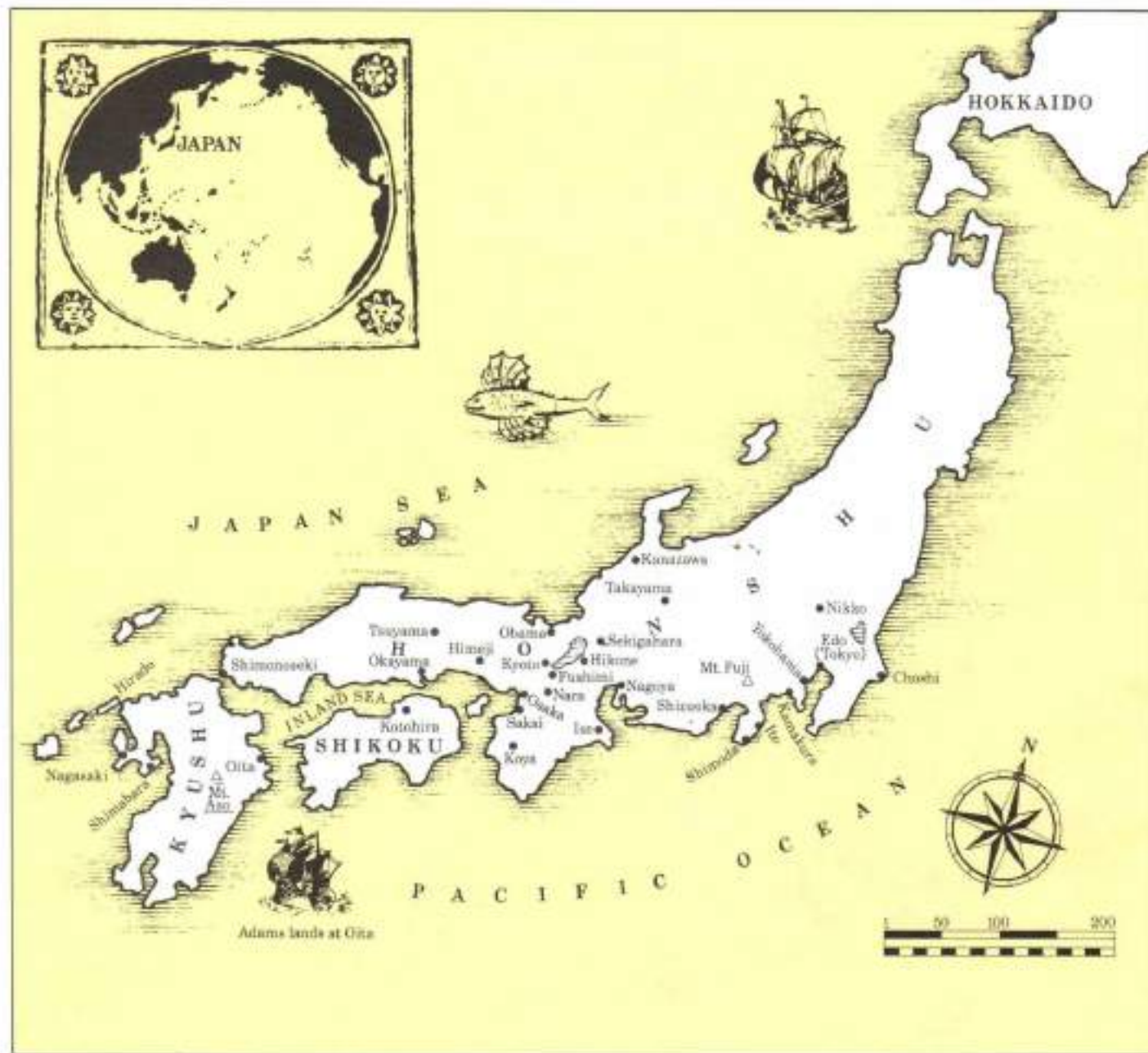
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Great Japan Exhibition
Royal Academy of Arts
Piccadilly, London
1981 - 1982







Attempted knife assault by a Japanese upon an American and two Australians while crossing a road
Kyoto Shimbun Saturday 1 May 1983

昭和58年(1983年)5月1日 日曜日

魔通り連続した車使った



驚いたようすで渡られた様子
を語る(左から)リン・メル
ツァーさんとジョセフィン・
ウールフリーさん、ヘレン・
チャンさん

同
一

TV Week

Saturday 11 June 1983

HELENE IS CHINA BOUND

NATIONWIDE'S AUSTRALIAN-BORN CHINESE REPORTER GETS A UNIQUE POSTING

HELENE CHUNG, a reporter on the ABC-TV current affairs show *Nationwide*, is returning to the land of her forebears.

And that's official: Helene, 37, has become the first woman within the ABC to be appointed to an overseas post and within weeks will leave Australia, bound for the capital of China — Beijing (Peking).

Helene was officially accepted of her appointment only days after returning from a trip to Japan. She travelled there on an Australia-Japan Foundation journalist exchange scholarship.

She had applied for the job in February and was told, unofficially, that she would get the Peking posting.

"I'd been practising my Japanese for the scholarship trip, but then dropped that and started on Chinese. By the time I got to Japan I was very confused!" laughs her TV WEEK.

'NOW I AM GOING ... IT'S OVERWHELMING'

Helene said she applied for the overseas posting for both career and personal reasons.

"For obvious reasons I'm very interested in China. I used to teach Chinese history and my grandparents came from there, and also it's a most challenging job.

"My predecessors have done such good jobs and I realise it's a difficult place to work in. China has a vast bureaucracy with different attitudes to news releases. You might ask a question of them and not get a reply for two weeks!"

"So I expect there will be certain frustrations."

Despite the hurdles she must overcome — among them learning to speak Chinese — Helene is almost breathless with excitement.

"It's a feeling of tremendous excitement, elation and trepidation. I want to do a good job," she said.

Helene has been with the ABC for six years, after working with Radio Australia from 1979, then spending three years in Hong Kong, working for Radio Hong Kong.

"When I lived in Hong Kong in 1971 it was the era of Hong Kong diplomacy and



relations with the Chinese weren't the best.

"I applied to go to China but, because of the prevailing political conditions, they wouldn't give me 'the good word'.

"So I used to go by train sometimes to Lu Wu, where you change trains to go in to China, and just stand there and look across the border. Or I'd go to Macau and look down into China, but I wouldn't go there which was always a frustration.

"Now I am going ... it's overwhelming."

Helene will enter China from Hong Kong and, because the ABC bureau is due for renovation for the first time in 10 years, must take with her everything from typewriter to carpets, air conditioners and building materials.

In Peking she will live in a three bedroom apartment, one room of which serves as the office. The bureau staff includes an interpreter, a housekeeper and a driver.

It's considered a "hardship" posting in the terms of Helene's appointment: it's for only two years, unlike most other which are for three.

But Helene doesn't see it as much of a hardship.

"It's the sort of opportunity no journalist could refuse, despite the hardships," she said cheerfully.

"I'm under no illusion ... it's a great challenge."

Before taking up the post she hopes to receive a briefing from her predecessor, Richard Thwaites — who is returning to Australia and the ABC — and is planning an intensive language course in Hong Kong.

But before all that she must visit her widowed mother in Hobart, Helene's home town, and see friends in Sydney and Canberra.

Helene's position on the *Nationwide* team is to be filled by ABC newscaster Mark Jennings.

ABC Apartment and Bureau on 12th Floor, 8-122 Qi Jia Yuan, 1983



ABC

Old Fan Interpreter with Little Li Driver



A guard outside the ABC and other foreign offices and homes at
Qi Jia Yuan Foreign Diplomatic Compound



Tianjin, Melbourne's sister city – the only city Peking foreigners allowed to drive to in 1984
These two Tasmanian foreigners couldn't get a Tianjin duck meal



Tianjin crowd around Toyota, June 1984



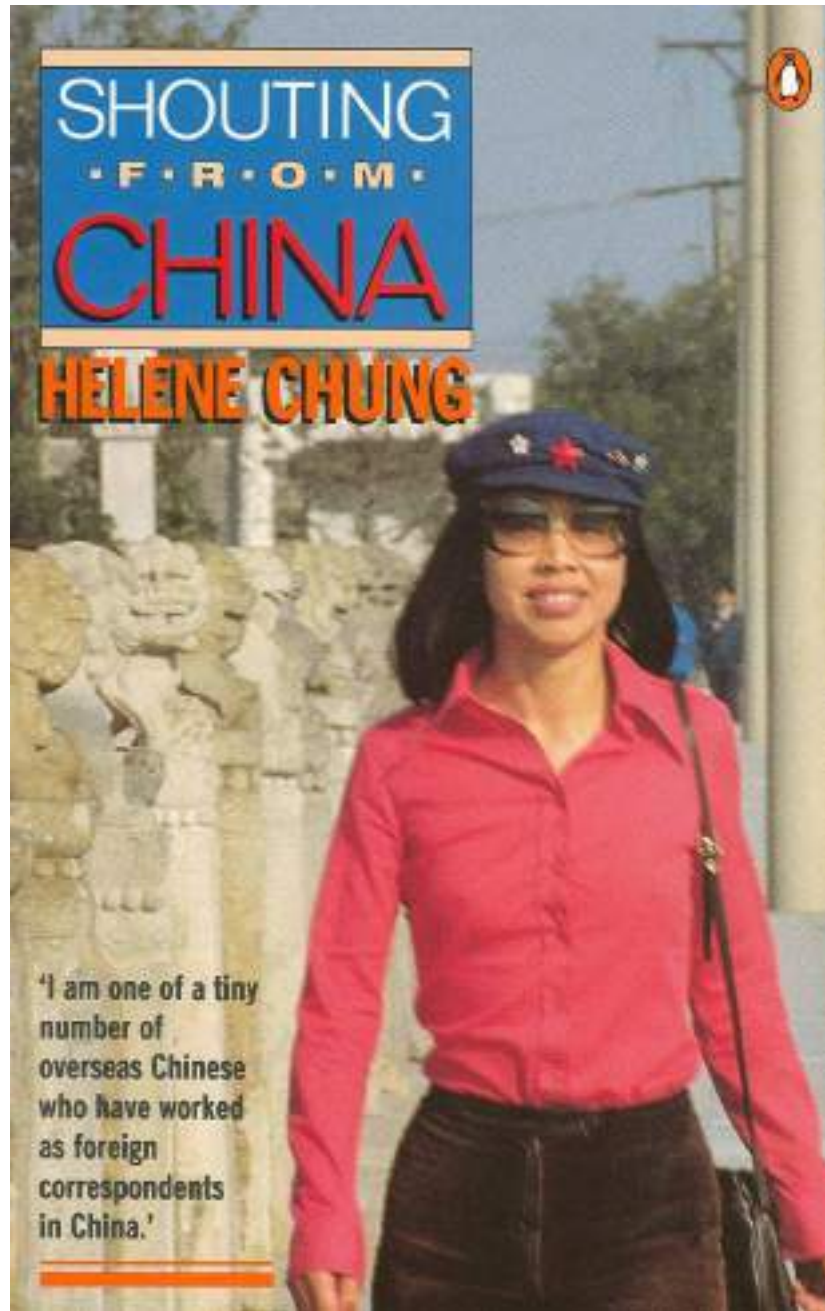
Cabbages – Peking's
main winter vegetable c 1984



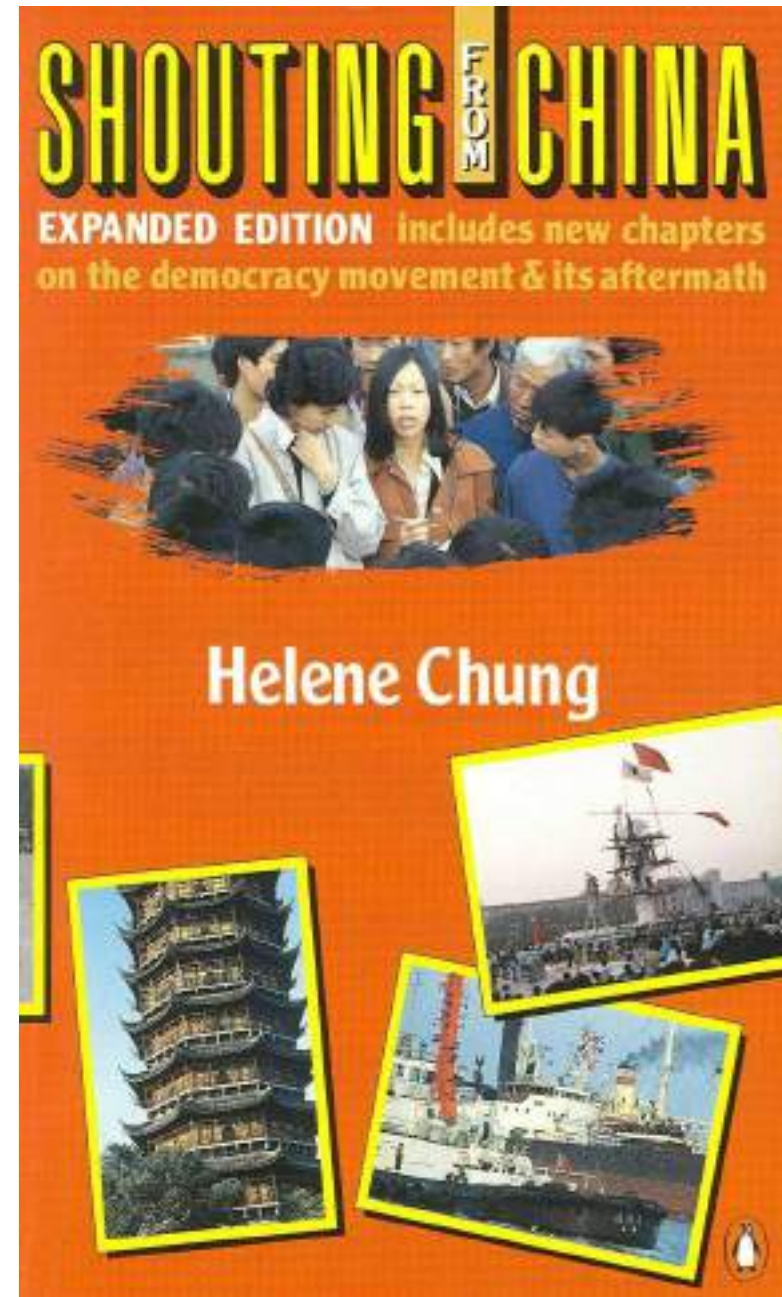
New Washing Old Cycling, Huzhou, April 1986



Penguin 1988



Penguin 1989



Goddess of Democracy erected in Tiananmen Square, May 1989





Tiananmen Massacre
and the Morgue
3 - 5 June 1989

(Chinese photographer)



Radio National

International Report

Presented by Helene Chung

(Monday to Friday at 5pm)

International affairs, especially in the Asia - Pacific region,
from
Radio Australia



Helene Chung
International Report

ABC
RADIO

Radio
National

1991 Program Guide

Canberra Times Monday 20 April 1992

4 — THE CANBERRA TIMES — TV GUIDE

Radio Aust: On the outside listening in

THERE'S something almost deceptive about the location of the Radio Australia Headquarters. The modern low-rise and innocuous building is surrounded by neat lawns with manicured gardens in the middle of the middle class Melbourne suburb of Glen Waverley.

From the outside, the only sign that something of global significance happens within the building is the large satellite dish and communications tower in the grounds. Once inside the foyer, huge world maps provide a further sign. They reveal in graphic detail just how much of the world is reached by the signals that radiate from the dishes.

Radio Australia has much of the world covered. As the overseas service of the ABC it was established just after World War II. Today the network employs 210 people. It broadcasts on the short wave frequency in eight languages to an estimated 50 million listeners throughout Asia and the Pacific. It also reaches significant audiences in North America and Europe.

"We do all that on only \$55 million a year," a Radio Australia spokesman said. With only 3 per cent of the total ABC budget to play with, he said the network was running a tight ship.

A Radio Australia initiative put the network in the headline news during the recent war in the Gulf when it began a recorded message service for Australian hostages in Kuwait. After the hostages were released the initiative go-ahead to establish GulfLink, a program of entertainment and personal messages for the Australian armed forces in the Middle East, was obtained.

If you're outside Australia you require a short-wave radio to receive the Radio Australia signal (an essential item for travellers who wish to keep in touch with changing events). But within Australia some of the best programs

from Radio Australia can be heard on Radio National.

For insomniacs, or those who work night shift, there's *Radio Australia Overnight* broadcast on RN from midnight to 5am every day. And every day, following the 5pm news, RN listeners can also hear *International Report* presented by Helene Chung.

In many ways Ms Chung epitomises the mind set of Radio Australia. She's acutely aware of Australia's position in the global community. And she's continually in touch with political developments around the world.

Ms Chung's career has spanned many years of television as well as radio. She joined the ABC in Hobart in 1968. (She was born and raised on the Apple Isle). Two years later she joined Radio Australia in Melbourne before resigning to spend some time as a freelancer in Hong Kong, Cairo and London. After several jobs, including that of television reporter with *Nationwide* and *TMF Day Tonight* she became the first woman correspondent in the ABC to be appointed to an overseas posting. For three years she filed stories from China until taking up a Fellowship in Journalism at Deakin University in Victoria. In 1988 she rejoined Radio Australia.

As presenter for *International Report*, Chung is also responsible for the North Asia region. Despite severe budget restrictions she does get to visit the field occasionally. Last year she filed a series of reports from Taiwan. She will soon go to the United States,

Millions of people around the world tune into the current affairs and language programs of Radio Australia. Some of the network's best material can be heard regularly within Australia on Radio National.

PETER DAVIS reports.



Helene Chung

Europe and Russia to meet people and "widen her networks" before returning to Australia.

In Melbourne Helene Chung is rarely far from a news broadcast of some sort.

"My day begins at 6.30 in the morning when I listen to the news. I then do my laps at the Melbourne University pool before returning home to listen to the *6.30 World Round Up*. After that I switch to AM. Over breakfast I'm usually flitting through the morning

papers. After presenting *International Report* at 5pm I drive home listening to PM on the car radio. Once home I try to catch the television news. That's my day," she says in that distinctively captivating voice.

Ms Chung delights in recalling her first story for radio. As a cadet in the Tasmanian ABC offices she was assigned to interview a butcher who claimed to have sighted the Tasmanian Tiger.

"I let the interview run for a full 15 minutes. Someone showed me how to edit the tape. We got it down to 90 seconds and sent it across to AM. It was broadcast across the nation the next morning."

If there is a disadvantage to her job it is the fact that in social situations people eagerly seek her opinion on the politics of the day.

"I might be really interested in another person's views on something. But because I'm working in the ABC they always want to hear mine," she said.

The fact that some people still live in fear of telling the truth causes her much sadness.

"That was the worst part of my Chinese experience," she said.

"People were afraid to speak to foreigners because the truth would get them into trouble. I understand that this has changed as far as ordinary people are concerned. But there is still surveillance of the intellectuals."

Somebody else who understands the importance of truth is Kanaha Sa-

bapathy, who produces *Report From Asia*, a 20-minute round-up of Asian events which can be heard on RN every Sunday at 12.40pm. Ms Sabapathy came to Australia from Singapore in 1987 where she worked for the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation. Her first story for the corporation was on Bob Hawke's 1983 election victory.

"It was very hard to be a credible journalist over there," she says. "I rose very quickly through the ranks. But the higher you went the heavier were the restrictions. I had to enforce rules that I simply did not believe in."

Before joining Radio Australia Ms Sabapathy worked in the publicity office for the massive Australian Bicentennial Exhibition. For her it was a fast track introduction into the complexities of Australian culture.

As well as *Report From Asia* Ms Sabapathy produces a longer current affairs program which is broadcast throughout Asia on the English language service. Her program often includes extracts from such Radio National flagship as *Background Briefing* and *Indo Pacific*.

Although she is quick to praise the journalistic freedoms in Australia Ms Sabapathy is critical of Australian media for being, at times, too sensational and for failing to properly understand the workings of the Asian media.

"There's a subtlety there that is lacking here," she said.

The term "Getting the right balance" is used a lot by people in news and current affairs and it's no different for those at Radio Australia. For Helene Chung it means accurate reporting with intelligent projections on events behind the stories that break. For Kanaha Sabapathy it means reporting not only hard news but also "softer stories of human interest".

"We're all guilty of not carrying enough good news," she said, emphasising that there are plenty of good news stories waiting to be reported.



Mother, daughter and pet pooch in their own apartment

Mother receiving private health treatment

Beijing 2002



In and around Peking/Beijing, 1983-85



Pudong by night, September 2017



Oriental Pearl TV Tower, Jin Mao, Shanghai World Financial Centre, Shanghai Tower

Paramount leader Deng Xiaoping meets Prime Minister Hawke, May 1986

DENG: 'I don't know why I didn't see you in 1983.'

HAWKE: 'There's no country more important to Australia than China.'



Queensland Premier Joh Bjelke Petersen
Welcomed by Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang
Zhongnanhai (Communist Party headquarters) March 1984

BJELKE PETERSEN: 'These Commies aren't like the Reds back home.'



Marching to Commies tune in Guangxi



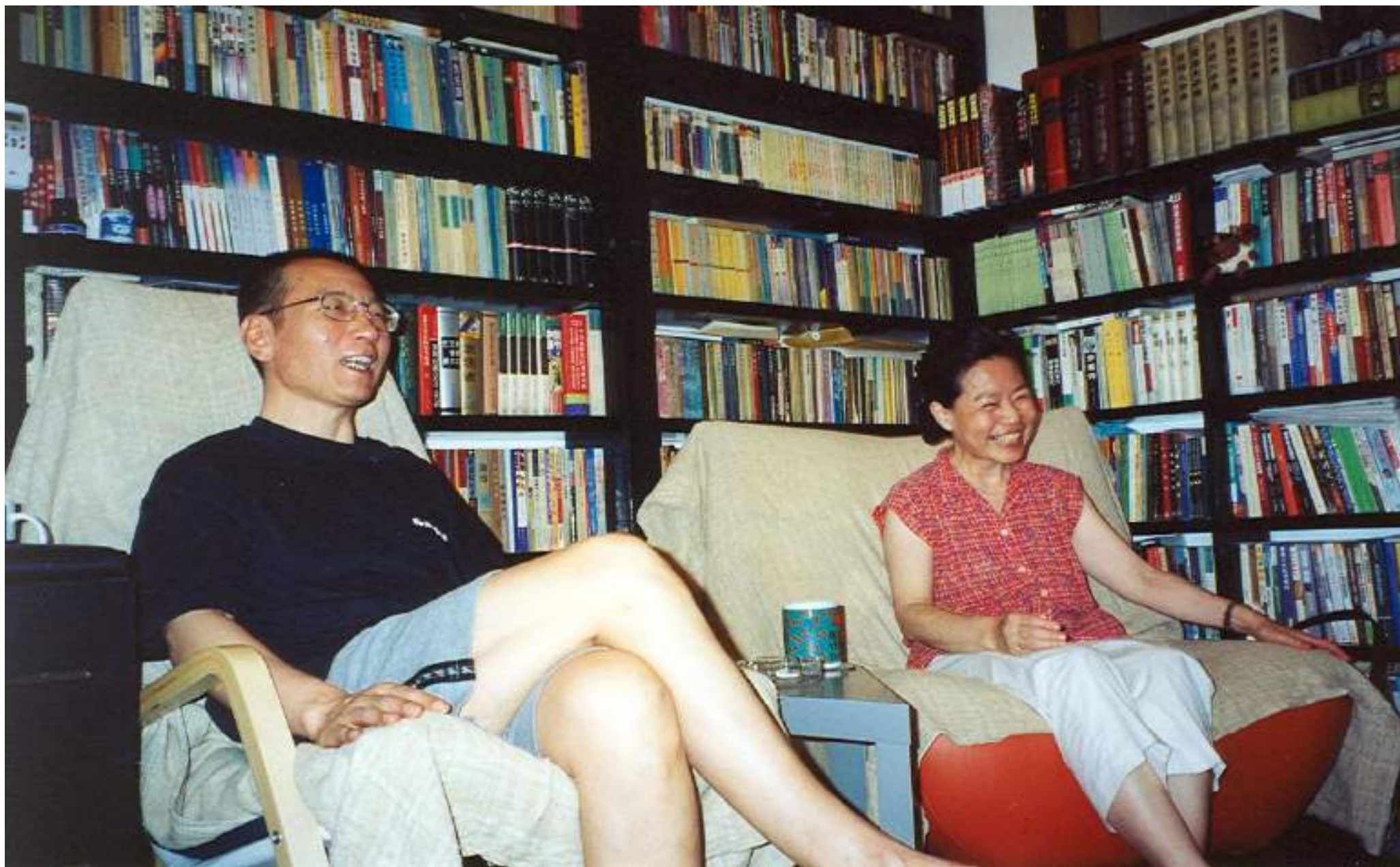
Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang interviewed by Australasian reporters
With his fly unzipped and aides too afraid to tell him
Wednesday 10 April 1985 (Xinhua)



Kashgar, Xinjiang's Id Kah Square transformed into Xi Dada Square
Id Kah mosque empty with no call to prayer even on Fridays, 2019



Dissident and future Nobel Peace Laureate Liu Xiaobo with He Xintong, watching the World Cup during a spell out of prison Beijing, Saturday 8 June 2002



Death of Nobel Peace Laureate Liu Xiaobo in prison (New York Times, 2017)

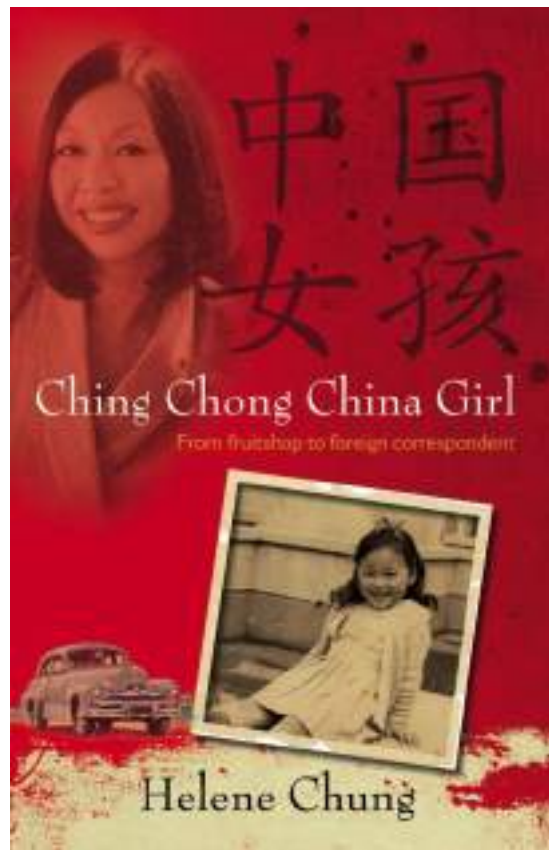
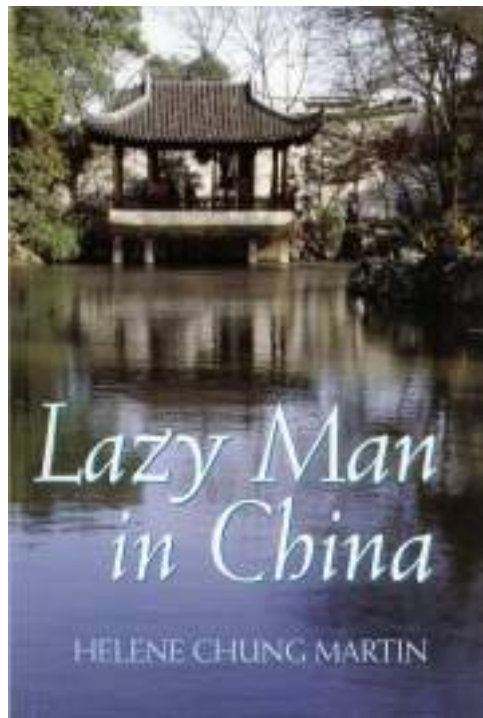
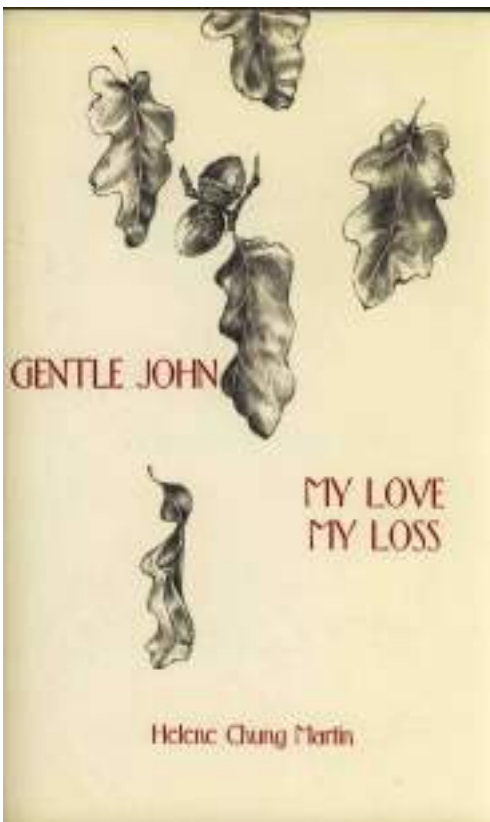


Liu Xiaobo, Chinese Dissident Who Won Nobel While Jailed, Dies at 61 ...

nytimes.com

2048 x 1368

[View File](#)

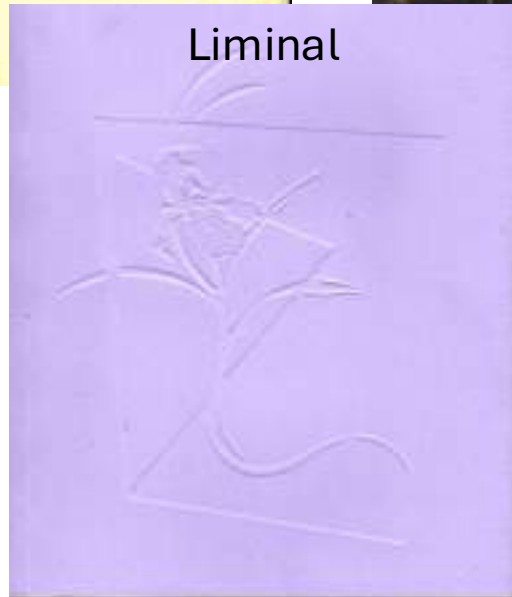
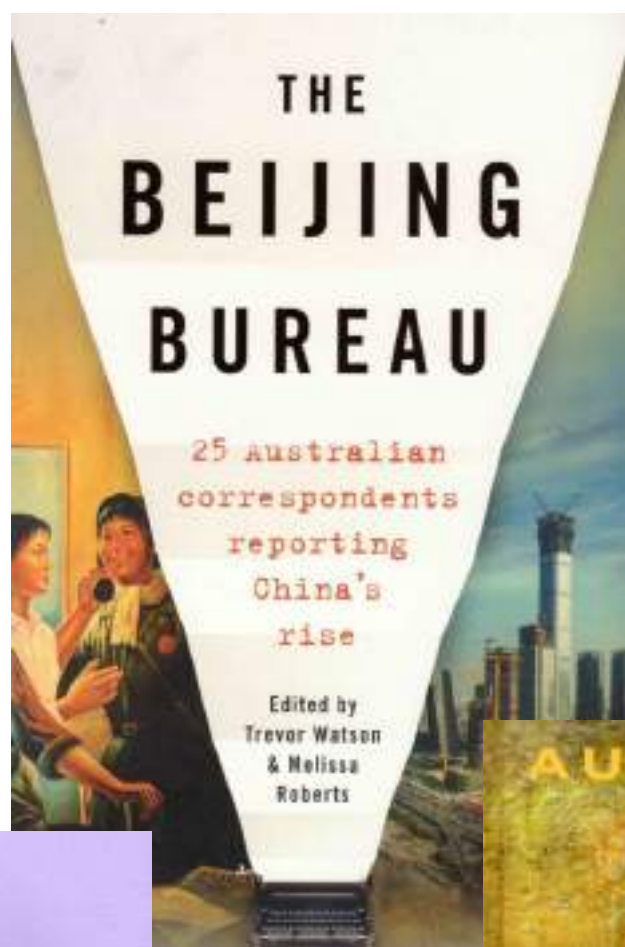
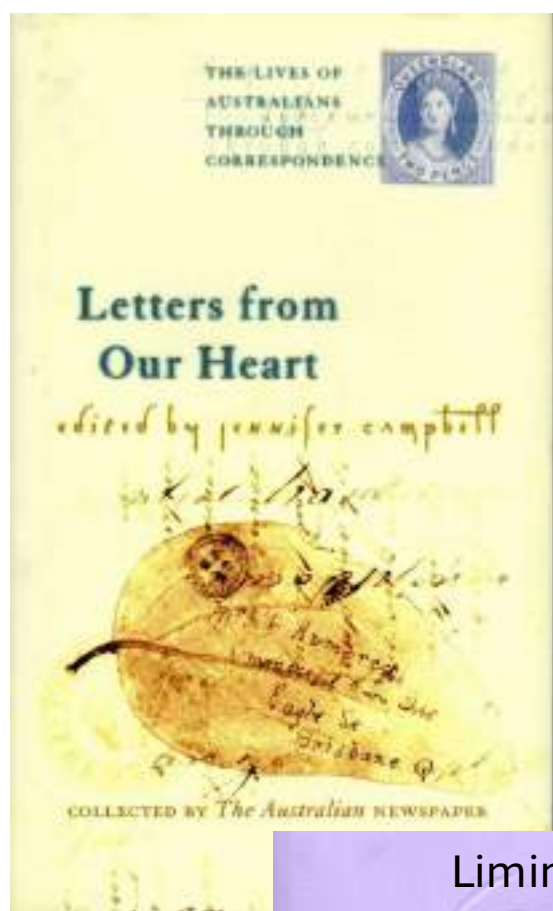


甄亨利 Gin Chung HENRY
鍾承朗 Will Chung Sing (Zhong Sing Long)

Chinese Tasmanian
Founders and Descendants 1885-2024

Edited by Helene Chung





Architect Rosa Douramanis and Burman Pools



*Tasmanian Historical
Research Association*

*A Tasmanian Life
Helene Chung*

BA (Hons) MA Utas

*Tuesday 12 May 2026
7:30 - 9pm*

Rear 159 Macquarie St Hobart

www.helenechung.com



A Tasmanian Life

**Event Date:**

Tuesday, 12 May 2026, 7:30 - 9PM

Location:

Rear 159 Macquarie Street
Hobart TAS 7000
Australia

[VIEW MAP](#)

All images from Chung Martin Collection
Unless indicated otherwise

www.helenechung.com