



To Editor

For Immediate Release

6 May 1997

新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

First Canadian Poem Book on Feelings for Hong Kong

"Hong Kong is a poem! Unlikely? True! Keep it this way," Professor Andrew Parkin, Professor of English of The Chinese University of Hong Kong said in the first-ever collection of poems about Hong Kong in parallel English and Chinese texts - *Hong Kong Poems* - by him and Professor Laurence Wong, Head of the Department of Translation, Lingnan College.

Both the authors are Canadians and residents of Hong Kong but of different ethnic origins. The idea of pairing their poems emerged when they participated in the bilingual annual "Tolo Lights" poetry readings held at Shaw College of the Chinese University. Appearing in the year when Hong Kong returns to Chinese sovereignty, the poems express many of the sensations, fleeting ideas, moods and meditations of the authors over the past twenty years and offer insights into what Hong Kong was and is on the edge of becoming.

Describing himself as an "international person", Professor Parkin hopes that the book will help English and Chinese readers to appreciate some of the intricacies of feeling provoked in locals and expatriates by the Chinese but very Western culture of Hong Kong.

An active poet and literary critic, Professor Parkin has devoted himself for more than twenty years to teaching English in Europe, North America, Australia and Asia, including Hong Kong. Professor Parkin has a special interest in modern Irish Literature and poetry of the Pacific Rim Region and has published extensively in his areas of specialization. Among his twelve books and editions are *Dancers in a Web* (poem), *Dion Boucicault: Selected Plays* and his edition of Yeats' *The Herne's Egg*. He has also edited an anthology of English poetry by Hong Kong writers, *From the Bluest Part of the Harbour*.

Professor Parkin graduated from Pembroke College, Cambridge, U.K. with B.A and M.A. degree in 1961 and 1965 respectively. In 1967 he pursued his studies in drama at Bristol University and received his Ph.D degree in 1969. He joined the Chinese University as Professor of English in January 1991. He is also the founder president of the Association of Canadian Studies in Hong Kong.

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Photo of Professor Andrew Parkin will be distributed via GIS. Media are welcome to interview Professor Parkin. For enquiries, please call Ms Cheung Man-yi of the University's Information & Public Relations Office at 26098896.