

New Collections

As we revamp our permanent exhibition, we are not only adopting innovative ways to present content to visitors, but also showcasing a large number of invaluable artefacts that have never been displayed in public before. Some of these are items from the museum's collection that may have been overlooked, others are rare treasures gathered from different parts of the world by our colleagues in recent years. By presenting these exhibits in a fresh light, we hope to give the audience a brand new museum-going experience.

One of our recent acquisitions is a silver goblet so valuable that it deserves to be introduced here. The goblet belonged to Scottish doctor Patrick Manson (1844-1922), who had already worked in Taiwan and Xiamen before he arrived in Hong Kong in 1883 to practise medicine. In 1887, he served as chairman of the committee for the founding of the College of Medicine for Chinese, Hongkong, and he was then appointed as the dean of the college on 1 October that year, a post he occupied until February 1889. During his time in Hong Kong, he also imported a herd of cows to provide Hong Kong with fresh milk, a venture that led to the establishment of the Dairy Farm company in Pok Fu Lam. An expert in the field of tropical disease, Manson founded the London School of Tropical Medicine, a constituent college of the University of London, and was knighted after he returned to Britain.

Dr Sun Yat-sen studied medicine at the College of Medicine for Chinese, Hongkong, which was housed in the Alice Memorial Hospital, between October 1887 and July 1892. The college's medical programme emphasised foundation training in the natural sciences, such as physics, chemistry and botany. As Dr Sun lived in the dormitory on the second floor of the college and there were only a dozen or so students in the college's first intake, he developed a close relationship with the dean, Dr Manson. The silver goblet was cast in Hong Kong with money donated by Dr Sun and other students of the college, including Kwan King-leung, Lau Sze-fuk, U I-kai, Wong Sai-yan and Sit Nam, and was presented to Manson on 31 March 1889 before he left Hong Kong for Britain. The list of people who sponsored the gift also included Gan Mah, a pharmacist and commission agent who operated a business at 152 Queen's Road East, and Chung King-yu, who would later become the first resident practitioner of Western medicine at Tung Wah Hospital. Chung had received his medical training at Viceroy's Hospital Medical School in Tianjin and worked at the Alice Memorial Hospital after returning to Hong Kong. All the students whose names were on the silver goblet, with the exception of Sit Nam, later completed their training and graduated from the College of Medicine for Chinese, Hong Kong.



Dr Patrick Manson.



Alice Memorial Hospital, which housed the College of Medicine for Chinese, Hongkong, located at the intersection of Aberdeen Street and Hollywood Road.