

第九屆校際香港歷史文化專題研習比賽
The 9th Inter-school Competition of Project Learning
on Hong Kong's History and Culture

(甲項) 文字報告 – 高級組 - 冠軍
Written Report - First Prize, Senior Division

聖保羅男女中學
St. Paul's Co-educational College

「 'Horses will keep racing' - The Development of
the Horse Racing Culture and its Importance
as a Collective Memory in Hong Kong
in the second half of the 20th Century 」

版權屬康樂及文化事務署所有©2021 年
版權所有，未經許可，不得翻印、節錄或轉載
如希望閱讀完整的得獎作品
請到香港歷史博物館 - 參考資料室預約查閱

The 9th Inter-School Competition of Project
Learning on Hong Kong's History and Culture
Collective Memories - Hong Kong's Popular Culture after World
War II

St Paul's Co-educational College

Category A: Written Report (Senior category) (HC-19-SA-22)

**Research Question: 'Horses will keep racing' - The
Development of the Horse Racing Culture and its Importance
as a Collective Memory in Hong Kong in the second half of
the 20th Century**

Group Leader - Wong Nok Yi

Group Members

- Choi Wai Kiu

- Lai Hoi Yan

- Tong Ching Nga

Table of Contents

A. Introduction	P. 2
B. 1950s-1960s: The Rise of Horse Racing	P. 3
C. 1970s: The Turning Point of Horse Racing	P. 7
D. 1980s-1990s: The Continuing Rapid Development of Horse Racing as a Pop Culture	P. 15
E. Significance of Horse Racing: Changes to the Society and Characteristics and Values of the People Reflected	P. 21
F. Conclusion	P. 27
G. Bibliography	P. 28
H. Appendix	P. 33

A. Introduction

A culture often evolves and transforms in relation to a place's development, while maintaining its central characteristics over the years. A pop culture not only gives rise to new phenomena or ideas, but also leaves its mark as a collective memory to all who have experienced and gone through the same situations or circumstances. From such pop cultures we can observe and infer the changes and continuity of a place, hence look into the implications on its history and culture.

Hong Kong's horse racing culture developed and later prospered throughout the 20th century. The significance of this culture had been reflected in the daily lives of citizens, such as language, mass media, publications, etc. At the same time, the development of horse racing culture had reflected changes in Hong Kong society and the characteristics of Hong Kong people. As a matter of fact, this activity was first introduced to the colony by the social elites, who brought their forms of entertainment to Hong Kong when Hong Kong Island was ceded to Britain in 1842. Further promoted by the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC), which was founded in 1884 first as an ametur body, horse-racing started to get more institutionalized and organized.¹ Initially, such races were only opened to upper-class citizens while grassroots seldom had the opportunity to enjoy such events. Nevertheless, after WWII in the 1950s and 1960s, the horse racing culture became more popular among the general public. It became a culture harnessed by the colonial government to pacify locals' discontent and preserve British rule. As time progressed, the horse racing culture experienced a turning point in the 1970s in which it skyrocketed in popularity. Hong Kong's own horse racing culture was shaped in a way that included both Western and local elements. By the 1980s and 1990s, horse racing culture was developing at its full strength with many local works or habits reflecting its importance. People from all walks of life either participated in horse racing activities or were influenced by the culture in their ways of living. Deng Xiaping's famous quote 'Horse will keep racing' implied the respect and status horse racing had in the community, which formed part of Hong Kong's identity and fostered people's sense of belonging.

The aim of our research is to look into the development of horse racing culture in the period of 1950-2000 and the reasons behind the changes. We would also investigate how horse racing impacted Hong Kong community and culture, and how it was constructed into a collective memory of locals. Hence, our research covers a few focuses, including the development and characteristics of the horse racing industry, its impact on locals' collective memory, and the significance of the culture on reflecting changes and continuity in Hong Kong society.

In terms of methodology, a wide range of primary sources related to horse racing, including quantitative - statistics about the stake amount and the population joining the horse racing - and qualitative sources - footages and photos , were used. Besides, we conducted interviews with people closely related to the horse racing industry, for instance the jockeys, a renowned horse racing commentator Miss Pailin Reayon Sanchez (珊翠絲), named Miss Sanchez below, horse racing expert Mr. Cheung (張光明), a museum and archive professional who wants to remain anonymous, and the common gamblers. A variety of secondary resources, including Hong Kong

¹ "Our Milestones." *The Hong Kong Jockey Club*. Available at: <https://corporate.hkjc.com/corporate/english/history-and-reports/our-milestones.aspx>. Accessed 24 August 2020.

Annual Reports, newspapers, commentaries, chapters in books, movies and other online materials were also used to substantiate our report.
