

Hong Kong Baptist University Library  
Special Collections & Archives

## Lady Ride Collection

### Record Group No. 4

[5 October, 2020]

Dr. Legge, James 1815-1897

Parchment; 1859; 22" x 24"

Rev. Morrison, Robert 1782-1834

Gravestone rubbing; 1843; 10" x 23" on 13.5" x 31.5" mounting

2 items;

### Restrictions

Photocopying is prohibited.

### Preferred Citation

Lady Ride Collection, RG.4, Special Collections & Archives, Hong Kong Baptist University Library.

### Provenance

The materials for this collection were received by the Special Collections & Archives in 1997 from Dr. Betty Wei.

### Item 1

#### Biography

**Full name:** Legge, James

**Birth date:** 1815

## Life and major works:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1815      | Born at Huntly, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.   |
| 1839      | Went to Malacca as a missionary of the London Missionary Society.  |
| 1841      | Began to study Chinese classics.   |
| 1843      | Went to Hong Kong.<br>Was the first Headmaster of the Anglo-Chinese College (Ying Wa College) in Hong Kong.        |
| 1844      | Founded the Union Chapel (later called Union Church) with two other missionaries and served with Ho Tsun-shin 何進善. |
| 1861-1872 | Published the first edition of “ <i>The Chinese Classics</i> ” 《中國經典》.   |
| 1862      | Helped founded the first government school called the Central School, now called Queen’s College.                  |
| 1875      | Was the first recipient of the international prize for Chinese literature, the Prix Stanislas Julien.              |
| 1876-1897 | Invited to be the first Professor of Chinese Language and Literature at Corpus Christi College, Oxford.            |
| 1879-1891 | Published “ <i>The Sacred Books of China</i> ” 《中國聖書》.   |
| 1897      | Died at Oxford, UK.  |

## Other significant information:

Dr. James Legge was the third and final editor of the “*Chinese Serial*” 《遐邇貫珍》, the first Chinese newspaper in Hong Kong. The paper closed in May 1856. In addition, Rev. Legge wrote “The Life and Teaching of Confucius” (1867); The Life and Teaching of “Mencius” (1875); “The Religions of China” (1880); “A Record of Buddhistic Kingdoms” (1886); and other books on Chinese literature and religion.

He was a tireless opponent of the opium trade and was a founding member of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade. He was also the first non-royal person to be depicted on a Hong Kong stamp in 1994.

## Scope and Content

In this letter, the Chapel was thankful to have Dr. James Legge, missionary to Hong Kong,

while he was in England on furlough. The deacons, on behalf of the congregation connected with the Gallowtree Gate Chapel, gave Dr. Legge their blessings before his departure. They also presented him an offering to support his mission work in Hong Kong. Rev. Legge's brother, Rev. George Legge was a pastor of the Chapel.

**Series:** Parchment

**Date:** May 2, 1859

**Volume:** 1 item; 22" x 24"

**Types of documents:** Correspondence

**Language:** English

### **Sources Used**

Legge, G., Legge, J. (1863). *Lectures on theology, science, and revelation*. London: Jackson, Walford, and Hodder.

## **Item 2**

### **Biography**

**Full name:** Morrison, Robert

**Birth date:** January 5, 1782

### **Life and major works:**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1782      | Born in Morpeth, England.  |
| 1803      | Went to London to study at Hoxton Academy.   |
| 1804      | London Missionary Society appointed him as missionary.                                     |
| 1807      | Sailed for China, going via the United States, arriving in Canton.                         |
| 1809      | East India Company employed him as a translator.<br>Married Mary Morton.                   |
| 1815-1821 | Published the Chinese periodical, <i>Chinese Monthly Magazine</i> with Rev. William Milne. |

- 1815-1822     Published *A Dictionary of the Chinese Language, in Three Parts*. 6 volumes. Macao: East India Company's Press.
- 1817-1822     Published the English periodical, *Indo-Chinese Gleaner* with Rev. William Milne.
- 1818            Established the Anglo-Chinese College in Malacca, later called Ying Wa College and moved to Hong Kong.
- 1820            His wife, Mary Morton, died in Macau.
- 1825            Married Elizabeth Armstrong.
- 1834            Died in Canton and was buried alongside his first wife, Mary, and infant son, James, at the Protestant cemetery in Macau.

**Other significant information:**

Rev. Robert Morrison was a forerunner of the missionary work in China. Employed by the East India Company gave him the legitimacy of remaining in Macau and Canton. He focused mainly on translation and published a translated collection of Chinese literature and a grammar book of the Chinese language to assist other westerners, especially missionaries who wanted to learn Chinese. With the assistance of Rev. William Milne, he completed the translation of the whole Bible into Chinese.

**Scope and Content**

This is a rubbing in Chinese writing on the west end of Robert Morrison's grave. According to the inscription, the stele was created in commemoration of Rev. Morrison's work on the compilation of the first Chinese-English, English-Chinese dictionary, *A Dictionary of the Chinese Language, in Three Parts*, as well as other publications to help the westerners in learning Chinese. Some basic information about Rev. Morrison's life, such as his date of birth and death, is also included.

**Series:** Gravestone rubbing

**Date:** October 8, 1843

**Volume:** 1 item; 10" x 23" on 13.5" x 31.5" mounting

**Types of documents:** Monumental inscription

**Language:** Chinese

## **Sources Used**

1. Starr, J. B. (1998). The Legacy of Robert Morrison. *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, 22(2), 73–76. <https://doi.org/10.1177/239693939802200208>
2. Ride, M., Mellor, B., & Project Muse, distributor. (1996). *An East India Company cemetery Protestant burials in Macao* (Book collections on Project MUSE). Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

## **Container list**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Year</b>
1	Letter from Gallowtree Gate Chapel	1859
2	Gravestone rubbing of Rev. Robert Morrison	1843