

THE KADOORIES • INDIA



THE HONG KONG
HERITAGE PROJECT
香港社會發展回顧項目

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Dr. Shalva Weil

Dr. Sarah Israel

Sir Elly Kadoorie School, Mumbai

Sir Ellis Kadoorie School, Hong Kong

Mr. Sharma Ved Prakash

for providing some of the photos and texts

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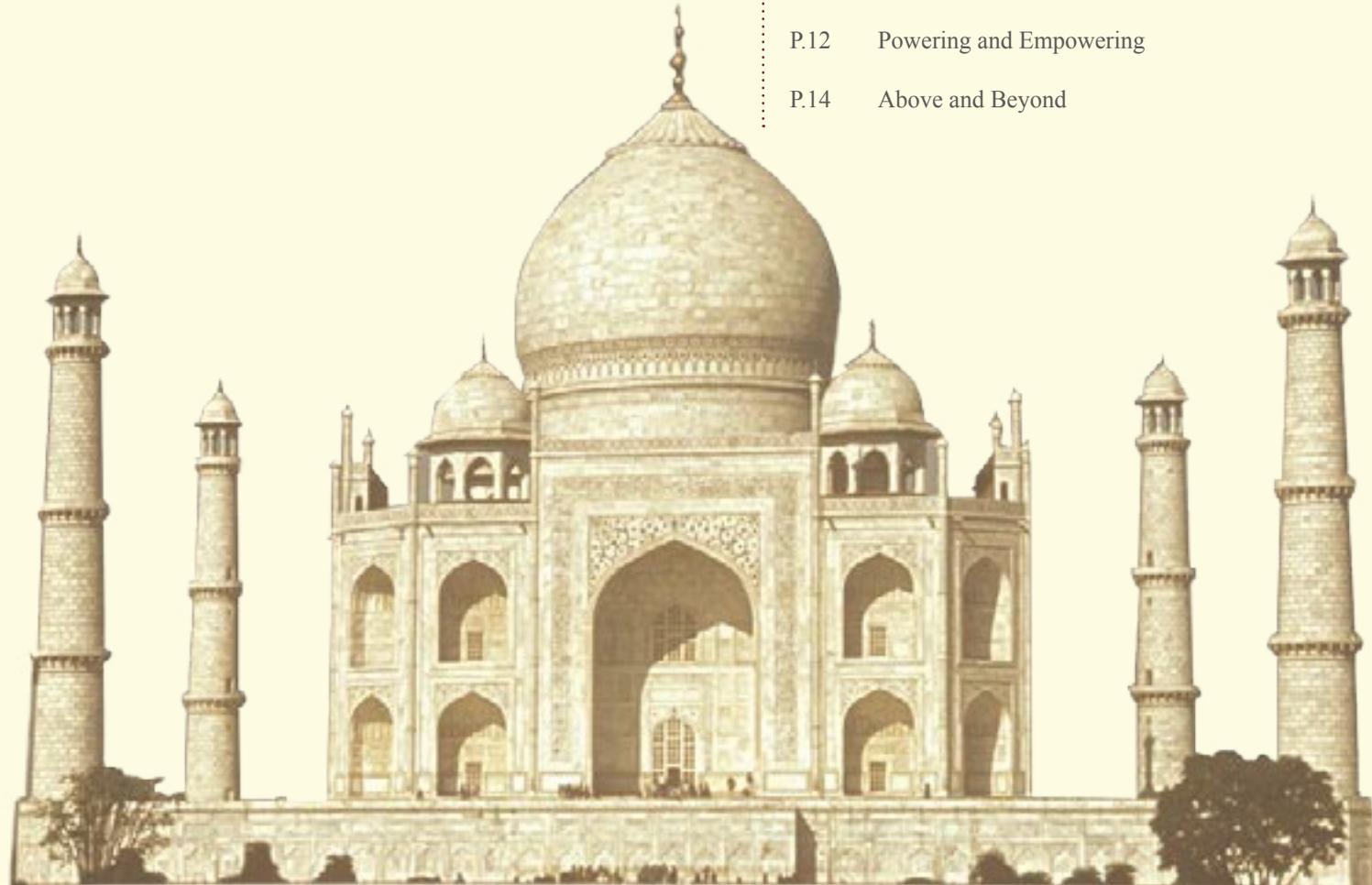
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Journey to the East



David Sassoon

Some 2,000 years ago when the Romans destroyed the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the Jews were dispersed, some proceeded northwards, others turned west to Salonika, Morocco and Spain, whilst still others moved eastwards to form a large community with its headquarters in Baghdad, Mesopotamia.

Amongst the leading families of the Baghdadi Jews were the Sassoons, Kadoories, Somechs, Sophers and Gubbays. The Kadoorie and Sassoon



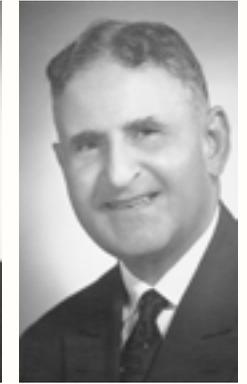
Elly Kadoorie



Ellis Kadoorie



Lawrence Kadoorie



Horace Kadoorie

families, who were related by marriage, were merchant farmers, currency for trade in those days being flocks of sheep.

This ancient community prospered and sent its sons overseas to India, China, Europe and America. David Sassoon arrived in Bombay in 1832. Following in the footsteps of his cousin, Elly Kadoorie (later Sir Elly) left for Bombay in the late 1870s to work for E.D. Sassoon and Co. as a clerk for the princely salary of 37 rupees per month.

He arrived in Hong Kong in May 1880 and was joined by his brother Ellis (later Sir Ellis) in 1883.

In around 1911, Elly left for Shanghai to trade in rubber, and later also became involved in utilities, hotels, property, and wharves and docks in Shanghai as well as in Hong Kong.

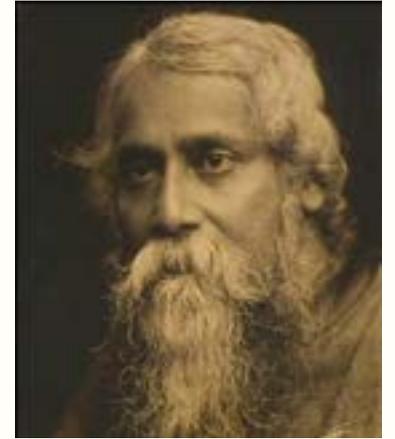
A Poetic Connection

The Kadoories' Shanghai home, Marble Hall, was a hub of social and charitable activities in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1924, Elly Kadoorie organised a reception at Marble Hall in honour of Sir Rabindranath Tagore, Bengali novelist, educator, poet and the first non-European Nobel Prize winner.

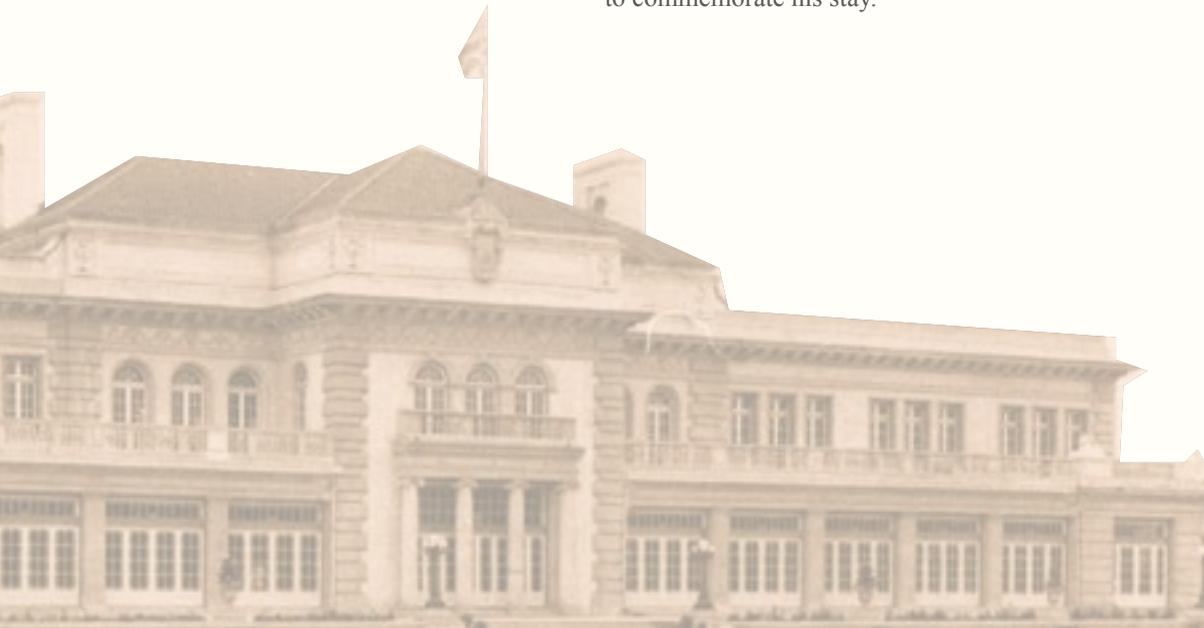
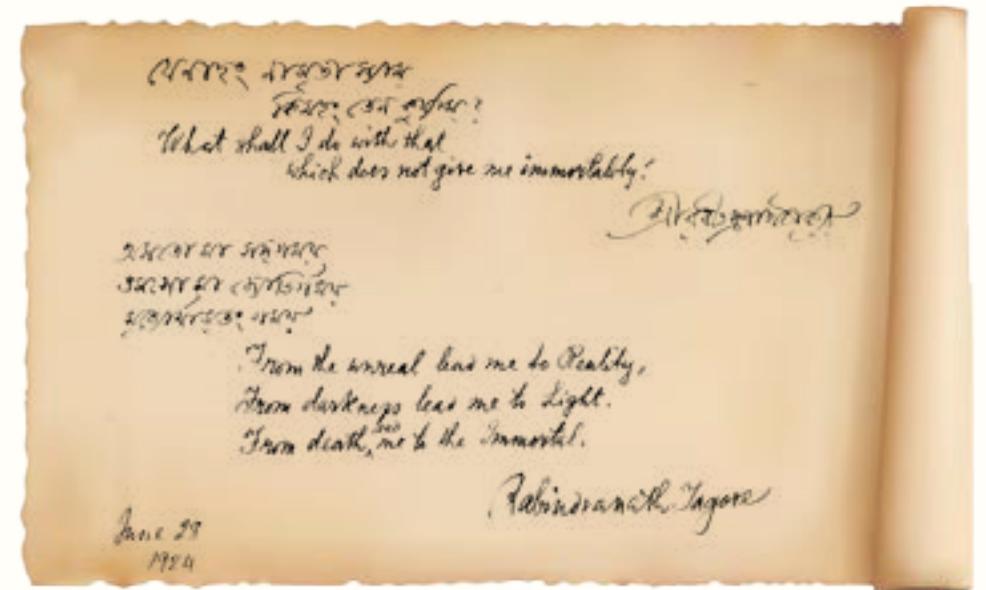
This meeting came about after Elly instructed his young son Lawrence (later Lord Kadoorie) to meet Sir Rabindranath's ship which was

anchored at Woo Sung port near Shanghai. When Lawrence arrived at the ship, he was taken to Sir Rabindranath's cabin where he conveyed Elly's invitation. The great poet nodded, saying not a word, but to Lawrence's surprise took the invitation to include his twelve disciples, all of whom accompanied him back to Marble Hall in complete silence. Suddenly Sir Rabindranath exclaimed "pens, ink, paper!" which were duly produced. Sir Rabindranath later wrote a poem in the Marble Hall guestbook to commemorate his stay.

Before Sir Rabindranath's departure, Elly promised to donate an artesian well to Santineckitan, India, the city of Sir Rabindranath's birth. In due course this promise was fulfilled and Santineckitan depended on this artesian well for its main water supply for many years. Elly also gave considerable sums to the famous Tagore school in support of Sir Rabindranath's work for the rejuvenation of Indian culture, which was closely linked with the Jewish national movement.



Sir Rabindranath Tagore



Laying the Foundations

Elly Kadoorie's charitable philosophy was that "wealth is a sacred trust to be administered for the good of society". He and his brother Ellis were benefactors of schools, hospitals and other charitable institutions in the Middle East and Far East, including India and Hong Kong.

In 1875, Haeem Samuel Kehimkar founded the first Israelite primary school in Mazagaon in Bombay, under the auspices of the Bene Israelite Benevolent Society for Promoting Education. The school was expanded into an Anglo-vernacular secondary school in 1881, and further developed into a high school in 1892, training



its students for the matriculation examination of the University of Bombay.

In 1932, Elly donated 150,000 rupees towards the renovation of the school building. The school was renamed Sir Elly Kadoorie High School in Sir Elly's honour and reopened in 1934. Today, the school continues to run as Sir Elly Kadoorie School, providing pre-primary, primary, secondary and junior college education for pupils from the many communities of Byculla-Mazagaon in Mumbai.

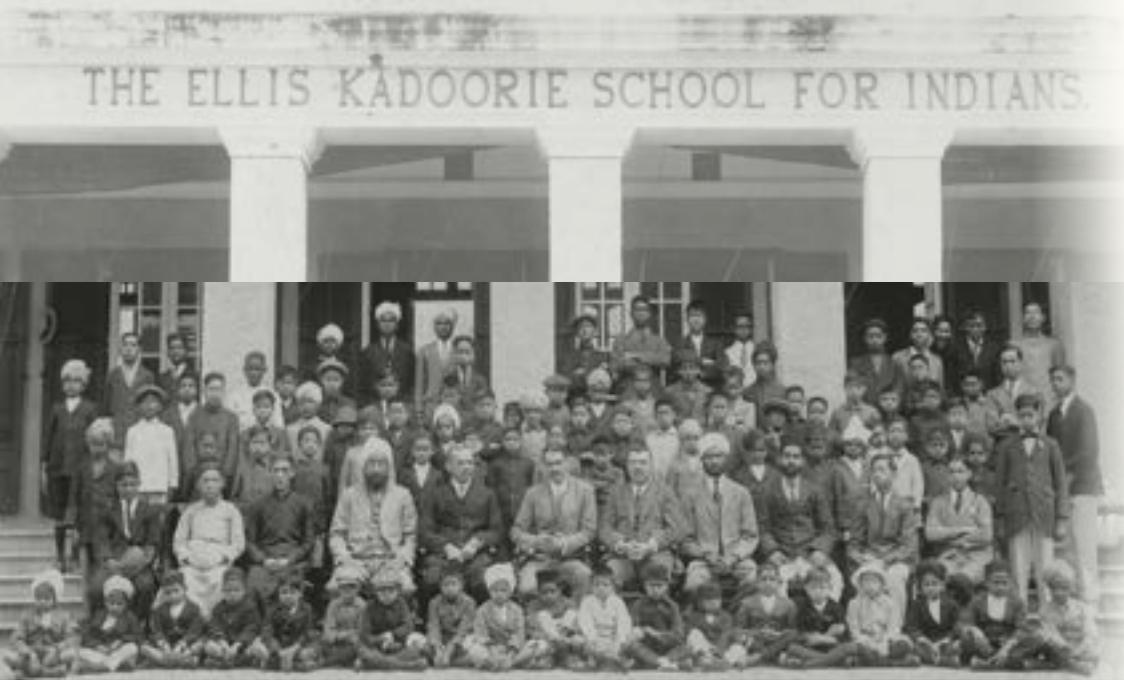
Sir Elly Kadoorie (left) and Sir Vithal Chandvarkar, then Vice Chancellor of Bombay University.



Ms Rebecca Reuben (middle) and her students.

Elly Kadoorie's involvement in the Israelite school came about thanks to his links with the Anglo-Jewish Association and through a chance meeting with the school headmistress, Rebecca Reuben. A well-known Bene Israel educator, in 1905 Ms Reuben became the first woman to rank number one in the matriculation examination for Bombay University, where she specialised in history and Hebrew. She went on to earn a Teaching Diploma from London University, and gave up a promising career at Baroda University to become the headmistress of the Sir Elly Kadoorie High School between 1922 and 1950.





The Indian community is an integral part of Hong Kong, with settlement dating back to the nineteenth century. In Hong Kong's early days, school facilities for Indian children were inadequate. In response to the Indian community's petition to the authorities for improvements in 1912, Ellis Kadoorie, brother of Elly, financed the construction of a new government school – the Ellis Kadoorie School

for Indians which was opened in 1916. The school was also the first to introduce the Hindi and Urdu languages to the curriculum.

Today, the school operates as Sir Ellis Kadoorie School and continues to serve the Indian community, but also teaches Chinese, Pakistani and Nepalese children as well as students of other ethnicities.

Good Karma



Horace Kadoorie (1st on left) and Lawrence Kadoorie (1st on right), pictured with Mother Teresa (2nd on right) and other awardees.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award was introduced in 1957 and pursues the mission of "honouring greatness of spirit in selfless service to the people of Asia". Lawrence and Horace Kadoorie (later Sir Horace) were conferred the 1962 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service in recognition of their practical philanthropy in partnership

with government and farmers to promote rural welfare in Hong Kong. In the same year, Mother Teresa received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding for her work in founding hospitals, clinics and educational facilities for the needy in Calcutta, Delhi and other Indian cities.

Powering and Empowering



The Kadoorie Family is the largest shareholder of CLP, a leading electricity supplier in Asia Pacific. Founded in Hong Kong, CLP has helped fuel the city's development for more than a century.

In the 1980s, CLP ventured into the Asia-Pacific region. India, being one of the largest markets with welcoming

policies for foreign investment, came as the company's natural choice for expansion. CLP acquired a stake in the gas-fired Paguthan project in Gujarat in 2002, with full ownership a year later. Since that time, the company has developed a diversified generation portfolio, amounting to approximately 3,000MW in renewable energy, efficient coal and gas.



Today, CLP is one of the largest foreign players in India's electricity industry and the biggest wind project developer. CLP is committed to increasing its renewable energy portfolio and operational efficiency, with a view to bring light to millions in the country in an affordable and sustainable manner.

CLP has implemented a wide range of community initiatives, particularly in the areas of health and education, to help contribute to the well-being of the Indian people as the country continues to prosper.

Above and Beyond

In 2012, the Kadoorie-owned company, Metrojet, signed a joint venture agreement with Taj Air, part of the Tata Group, to establish Taj Air Metrojet Aviation. The company offers a range of maintenance and aviation management services to the India market.

India, together with China, ranks amongst the world's fastest growing markets in business aviation. The

partnership will see operations commence in Mumbai, with the current Taj Air facility undergoing a substantial upgrade, whilst a larger, more comprehensive, facility is planned to be built at a later date.

Taj Air Metrojet Aviation upholds the highest level of service and operational excellence, and serves to further cement the strong relationship between the Kadoorie Family and India.



Contact Us

The Hong Kong Heritage Project (HKHP) is a non-profit organisation established in 2007 to preserve history and promote heritage awareness in Hong Kong. It operates a public-access Archive and organises outreach programmes aimed to engage the public and educate youths.

HKHP is sponsored by the Kadoorie Family, CLP and Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels.

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