

大埔天主教會

夏思義著 鄒月清譯

Tai Po Catholic Church

by Dr. Patrick H. Hase

Background

Missionary activity outside the city of Hong Kong began almost immediately after 1841. Chapels were opened in Stanley in 1844 and in Aberdeen in 1849. The priests in charge of these "Hong Kong Villages" took responsibility also for bringing the faith to the Mainland. As early as 1843, the Word of God was brought to the Kowloon and Tsuen Wan villages by Fr. Francis Leung (active in the area between 1843 and 1850, and again in 1860), and Fr. Joseph Chung (1850-1851), Fr. Matthew Lien (1850-1854), and Fr. Joachim Lo (1854-1860), assisted from time to time by some Italian fathers. The work of these priests resulted in the opening of a chapel and school at Tsuen Wan in 1849.

These dedicated priests, despite continuous ill-health, did not limit their work to the immediate Tsuen Wan area,

背景

傳教士自一八四一年即開始在香港展開工作。一八四三年，梁方濟神父經已遠赴九龍及新界荃灣各地的村落，傳播天主聖言。積極在新界進行傳教工作的中國籍神父尚有多人，而意大利籍的傳教士亦不時予以協助。

這些神父不顧體弱，仍長途跋涉探望荃灣至大埔沿途的村落，包括城門及鉛礦坳等地。到一八五四年，城門、碗窰及林村等地，已有教友聚居。新的教友都很熱心。一位教友於一八五零年代末期從大埔移居到東莞縣的鳳崗墟，發覺當地並沒有天主教徒，廣州主教遂應其請求，於一八六一年派遣一位神父到當地服務。可見在未有神職人員長期駐留之前，教友經已將信仰傳播開去。

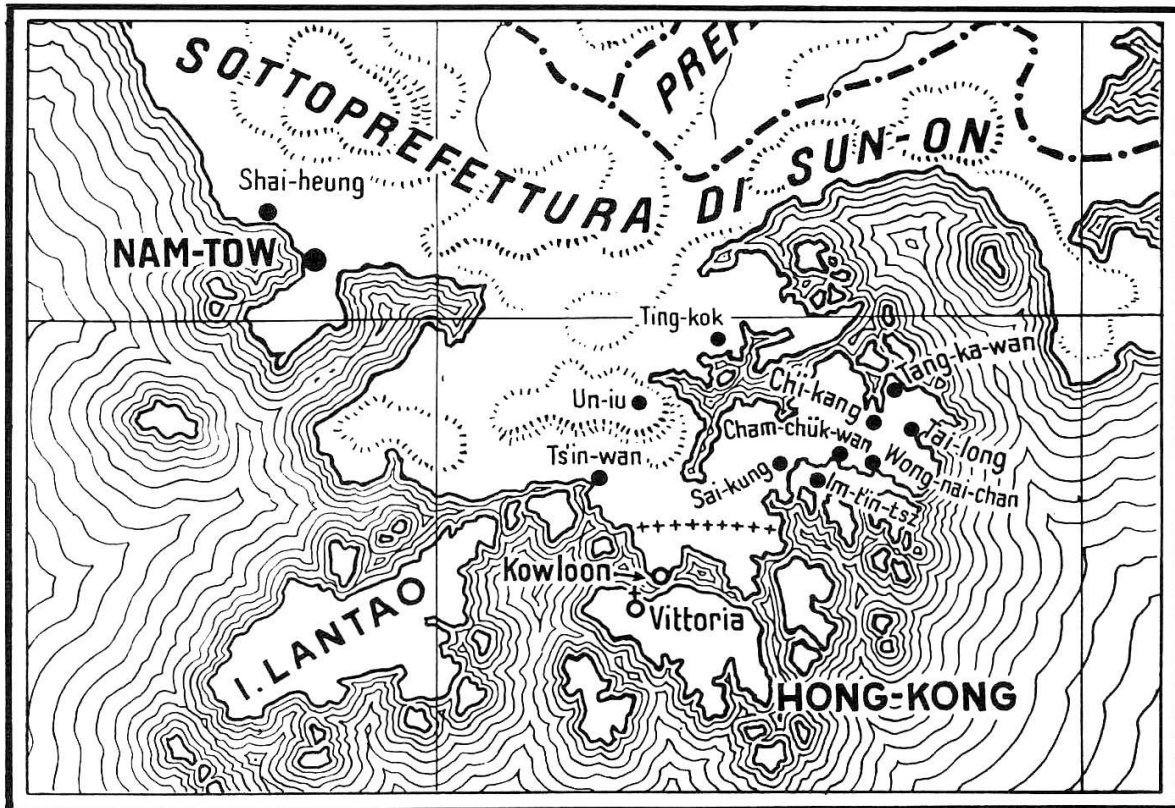
however, but visited the villages along the old road between Tsuen Wan and Tai Po, through Shing Mun, Leadmine Pass and Wun Yiu. By 1854 there were already a few Catholics in Shing Mun and Wun Yiu and some in Lam Tsuen as well. These communities were served intermittently by priests from Aberdeen.

This missionary work from Aberdeen is the origin of Catholic life in Tai Po.

The new Catholics were enthusiastic about their faith. One Catholic moved from Tai Po to Fung Kong market in Tung Kuan Country towards the end of the 1850s. When he found no Catholic presence in the area, he petitioned the Bishop in Canton, who sent a priest to serve the area in 1861. So the laity were spreading the faith even before any priest was permanently assigned there.

顯示一八六零年代新界各傳教點分佈情況的地圖。

Map showing mission stations in the New Territories in the 1860s.



Dates and Events Relevant to History of Tai Po Church

- 1841 Missionary activity begins outside city of Hong Kong.
- 1842 Treaty of Nanjing cedes Hong Kong island to the British.
- 1843-1850 Fr. Francis Leung preaches the Gospel in Kowloon and Tsuen Wan Village.
- 1844-49 Chapels open at Stanley, Aberdeen, Tsuen Wan.
- 1856-1858 Anglo-Chinese War interrupts work of the Church
- 1858 Rome entrusts Hong Kong Prefecture to the Milan Mission Seminary (now PIME, the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions).
- 1860 Convention of Peking cedes Stonecutters Island and the tip of Kowloon Peninsula as far as Boundary Street to the British.
- 1860 Hong Kong Prefecture is extended to cover all of Hsin An County (the whole of the present New Territories), plus all the land to the northwest as far as Tai Ping, and east as far as Dapeng on Daya.
- 1860 Fr. Timoleon Raimondi, acting Vice-Prefect, makes exploratory mission trip to Kowloon.
- 1861 April: Fr. Burghignoli accompanies Fr. Raimondi on a second exploratory trip into the mainland. With them is Andrew Leung, a 24 year old deacon.
- 1861 A decision is made to extend mission work into three Hong Kong villages, Outer Islands, Kowloon and a mainland district with mission work centered in Wun Yiu near Tai Po.
- 1861 Following his ordination Andrew Leung is given responsibility for the mainland district.
- 1862 Fr. Leung rents a four-room storehouse and office of a former pottery kiln in Wun Yiu and sets up a chapel, a residence and two small schools, one for boys, another for girls. He serves there until 1898.
- 1863 May 14, 1863, Ascension Day, the Chapel is

大埔天主教會大事紀

夏思義

- 1841 傳教士開始在香港服務。
- 1842 根據《南京條約》，清廷割讓香港島予英國政府。
- 1843-1850 梁神父在九龍及荃灣的鄉村傳教。
- 1858 教廷將香港的教務委託給米蘭外方傳教會（後改名為宗座外方傳教會）。
- 1860 根據《北京條約》，界限街以南的九龍半島劃歸英國統治。香港監牧區擴展至整個新安縣，以及西至太平鎮，東至大亞灣。
- 1861 教區決定以大埔附近的碗窰村為中心開拓傳教工作。梁子馨晉鐸，承擔起有關工作。
- 1862 梁神父在碗窰村一所舊碗窰旁邊，租了一所四房的小屋作為儲物及辦工之用。他又設立一所小聖堂、一處神父住所、一所男校及一所女校。
- 1863 五月十四日耶穌升天瞻禮，碗窰聖堂啓用，一些新奉教者領洗。
- 1864 華神父遷往汀角並開辦一所學校。
- 1865 五月，華神父在汀角設立一所聖堂作為傳教中心。
- 1866 「華神父地圖」出版。同年，教會在西貢購了一幅地興建聖堂，是天主教為會在新界第一處擁有業權的聖堂。
- 1867 教會獲撥地在大浪及赤徑各村興建聖堂。

- opened in Wun Yiu "with firecrackers and much thanksgiving." A number of converts are baptized.
- 1864 Fr. Simon Volonteri moves to Ting Kok and opens a school in a building rented to him by the village elders.
- 1865 In May, Fr. Volonteri opens a chapel in Ting Kok which becomes the centre for the mission work.
- 1866 Fr. Volonteri publishes the "Volonteri Map", the only map made of the district until 1898.
- 1866 Land is sold in Sai Kung to the Church and the chapel built there becomes the first on the Mainland actually owned by the Church.
- 1867 More chapels built on land given to the Church at Tai Long and Chek Keng.
- 1868 Fr. Volonteri becomes Pro-vicar and first Bishop of Henan province.
- 1874 More chapels are opened in Sai Kung area at Wong Nai Chau, Tang Ka Wan, Sham Chung and Wu Kai Sha.
- 1874 Prefecture Apostolic of Hong Kong is made a Vicariate Apostolic.
- 1875 Diocesan Synod decides that Mainland district should remain one and be centered in Sai Kung.
- 1875 Fr. Louis Piazzoli, later bishop, is put in charge of Sai Kung. Fr. Leung remains in charge of central area, centred in Tai Po with chapels at Ting Kok and Wun Yiu.
- 1875 Fr. Anthony Tam is sent to assist Fr. Leung but drowns, tragically in typhoon, off Ting Kok shortly after his arrival.
- 1898 Because of the increase in the number of converts the Mainland mission district is divided into 3 districts: Nam Tau, Wai Chow and Sai Kung which includes Tai Long, North Sai Kung, Old Tai Po/North Hsin An area.
- 1898 New Territories are leased to Britain and district boundaries are redefined.
- 1898-1920 Many conversions among Tai Po boat people and shop owners in Tai Po Market.

- 1868 華神父出任河南代牧。
- 1874 西貢半島的黃泥洲、蛋家灣、深涌及烏溪沙紛紛建起聖堂。同年香港監牧區昇格為代牧區。
- 1875 教區會議決定將在大陸上的傳教工作保持一體化，並以西貢為中心，由和神父主管。和神父其後昇為主教。同年，譚安當神父奉派前來大埔協助梁神父，可惜不幸在一次風災中意外溺斃。
- 1898 由於教友人數迅速增長，大陸上的教務劃分為三區，即南頭、惠州及西貢。西貢包括大浪、北西貢、舊大埔及新安縣北部。
- 1898-1920 大埔的漁民及大埔墟的商戶歸信天主教。
- 1922 教會向政府購買在大埔錦山山頂的二萬平方公尺土地。
- 1927 托付於聖安德肋為主保的聖堂祝聖啓用。
- 1937 颱風肆虐，聖安德肋堂不復使用。教區後來將該片土地撥予耶穌小姊妹會使用。
- 1941-1945 日本佔領香港，天主教活動受到全面破壞。
- 1947 教區在大埔墟廣福道接近漁船停泊處購置兩間舊屋，開闢為聖母聖心堂，以及一所學校和神父住所。
- 1961 聖母無玷之心聖堂祝聖啓用，大埔從傳教區域正式昇格為堂區。
- 1991 大埔天主堂慶祝一百三十年延綿不斷的見證及服務。

- 1922 Chapel opens in Yuen Long
The Church buys 20,000 sq. metres of land from Government on top of hill in Kam Shan.
- 1927 A new church dedicated to St. Andrew is consecrated.
- 1937 Severe typhoon damages church; Mass no longer said in St. Andrew's. Premise later becomes the Motherhouse and novitiate of the Little Sisters of the Poor.
- 1941-45 Japanese occupation interrupts Catholic life throughout the entire area.
- 1947 Diocese buys 2 old houses on Kwong Fuk Road within Tai Po Market, close to boat people's anchorage. These are used for a church dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Mary, a school and a residence.
- 1961 Immaculate Heart of Mary Church is dedicated and Tai Po, until then a mission district, becomes a regular parish.

In 1991, the Tai Po Catholic Church celebrated 130 years of unbroken service.



大埔的聖安德肋堂於一九二七年祝聖啓用，後來由教區撥予耶穌小姊妹會。

Tai Po's St. Andrew Catholic Church was built in 1927 and severely damaged by a typhoon in 1937. Now it is the Motherhouse and novitiate of the Little Sisters of Jesus.



大埔聖安德肋堂另一景。

Another view of St. Andrew's Church in Tai Po.



圖為早期的小姊妹團體照。

An early group of Little Sisters of Jesus living in the former St. Andrew's Church.



Tai Po Priests

Three priests who hold a special place in Tai Po church history are Father Andrew Leung, the first resident of Hong Kong to be ordained a priest; Father Anthony Ma Chun Yin, Tai Po's first vocation and Father Simon Volonteri who eventually became the first bishop of Honan. A brief account of their stories follow.

Anthony Ma Chun Yin, Tai Po's First Vocation

Anthony Ma Chun Yin was born of Catholic parents on November 10, 1887, at Wun Yiu on the outskirts of Tai Po, the son of Ma Sen Ki and Liao Shi. He was baptized on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, that same year. The ruins of the house-chapel where he was baptized can still be seen at Wun Yiu village. This site also represents the earliest roots of the Catholic Church in the northern New Territories and Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Tai Po.

As a young man Anthony entered the Hong Kong Diocesan Seminary to study for the priesthood. Shortly after, in 1905, his father died and Anthony inherited the family estate of 1.68 acres of land, half of it poor mountainside land.

在大埔服務的神父

在大埔的教會發展史上，有三位神父的事蹟特別值得一記。他們是香港原居民當中第一位晉鐸者梁子馨神父，大埔堂區聖召的初果馬俊賢神父，及後來成為了中國河南省首位主教的華神父。

馬俊賢神父，大埔聖召的初果

馬俊賢神父，聖名安當，一八八七年十一月十日在大埔邊緣之碗窰村出生。父親馬善基、母劉氏皆是教友。俊賢在十二月八日聖母無原罪慶日領洗，他當年領洗的小堂遺址至今依然可見。這小堂的遺址代表著「天主教」在新界北最早的根，事實上也是大埔聖母無玷之心堂的根源。

小俊賢少年時期進入香港教區修院修道。不久，他的父親在一九零五年逝世，他承繼了家族的一點六八畝地，但一半是貧瘠的山地。未幾，他將這些產業轉交給一位近親馬利元。經多年修院的培育，馬俊賢在一九一一年十二月廿八日被聖為司鐸，旋即被派往位於惠州南部潭塘區的惠陽服務。一九二二年，他被委任為惠州範禾岡區的主任。馬神父在該

This suggests he came from a family neither conspicuously wealthy nor conspicuously poor. In any event he handed over all his land to a close relative of the younger generation, Mr. Ma Li Yuen. After completing his seminary studies, Anthony was ordained on 28 December, 1911, and immediately assigned to work in the Wai Yeung Prefecture, in the Tam Tong District south of Wai Chow. In 1922 he was made director of Wai Chow's Fan Wo Kong District. Fr. Ma was to spend all 46 years of his active priesthood in this area.

During the war the Japanese occupied the entire region. Since the Bishop was unable to communicate with his priests working in the interior, he appointed Fr. Ma Vicar Delegate for the Districts of Wai Chow and Tu Yong. Later, on May 15, 1946, Fr. Ma was appointed Vicar for all the rural areas of the Wai Chow Prefecture. In 1949 the area was taken over by the Communists. This made living a Catholic life virtually impossible. Throughout so many hardships, Fr. Ma's holiness, humility and dedication kept the flame of Catholic faith alive. He saw it as his duty to defend the practice of the faith and freedom to worship even though, as the senior resident Catholic priest

區積極地履行鐸職共四十六年。

二次大戰期間，日軍佔領該區。由於主教無法與在內地服務的神父聯絡，於是委任馬神父為惠州及同陽區的主教代表。不久，一九四六年五月十五日，馬神父因在此困難境況中所表現的智慧和明智，便被委任為惠州區內所有鄉村區的主教代表；一九四九年，中國被共產黨接管，一切教會活動幾陷於沉寂。際此，馬神父的聖德、謙遜、無私的奉獻使教友的信仰心火常燃不息。他努力維護信友的信仰實踐及崇拜的自由。雖然他作為在內地最有資歷的天主教神父，他得承受重大壓力，但他仍視此等努力為他的職責。

最後馬神父在廣州被拘禁。一九五四年七月十五日，因過量的勞動而健康日差，馬神父以醫療理由申請離開中國。一九五七年五月十九日申請獲得批准，他帶著病弱的身體踏入澳門。他是最後一位從內地獲釋的本地神父。同年乘船抵港。數月後，十月十四日卒於深水埗寶血醫院，葬於跑馬地墳場。



in the area, he was put under great pressure to compromise his position.

Eventually Fr. Ma was taken to Guangzhou. On July 15, 1954, after years of heavy labours and in broken health, he applied to the civil authorities in Guangzhou to leave China for medical reasons. His petition was granted only in May, 1957. He was released at the Macau border--the last local priest to be released from the mainland--and taken by ship to Hong Kong. He died a few months later on October 14, 1957, at Precious Blood Hospital in Sham Shui Po. He is buried in Happy Valley Cemetery.

Father Andrew Leung, First Hong Kong Priest

Father Andrew Leung was born in 1837 near Canton of a longstanding Catholic family. When Andrew was only about five years old, his family, who were merchants, decided to make Hong Kong their home where Andrew received his entire education. Ever desirous of becoming a priest, Andrew, in 1851, became the first Hong Kong boy to enter the diocesan seminary and on April 25, 1862, the first Hong Kong resident to be ordained. In 1912, Fr. Leung celebrated his Golden Jubilee and experienced

香港第一位本籍司鐸梁子馨神父

梁子馨神父生於一八三七年。他的家族信仰天主已有一百年的歷史。他的家原在廣東附近，當他約五歲，舉家遷往香港。他的父母是從商的，但子馨自小已決志當神父。梁神



晚年的梁神父。為表揚他的傑出服務，羅馬特別授予他「宗座傳教士」的名號。他於一八六二年至一八九二年是碗窩的駐任神父。

Fr. Andrew Leung in his later years. For his extraordinary zeal, Rome conferred on him the title of "apostolic missionary". He was resident priest in Wunyiiu from 1862-1892.

the joy of having his mother, aged 95, present for the celebration.

Father Leung was the first priest resident in Tai Po where he served selflessly and energetically until 1898 when he was transferred to a physically less strenuous post at the Cathedral. By his zeal Fr Leung during his 36 years of service in Tai Po not only helped put the church there on a solid faith footing but also provided the Catholics with an exemplary role model.

Fr. Leung died in 1920 at the age of 83 after having preached a three-hour mission sermon in his native village near Canton. His obituary aptly characterized him as "studious, energetic, thoughtful, active, and cheerful, an unceasing worker, a wise counselor, and a priest much loved for his exemplary, and zealous life." Father Andrew Leung is buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Happy Valley.

Father Simon Volonteri, First Bishop of Henan

Fr. Simon Volonteri began his mission work in the village of Tai Wo in the Mainland district, after Fr. Leung. This mission started well, but fell foul of the villagers because of fengshui problems. Fr. Volon-

ter in 1851 was the first to enter the diocese as a Hong Kong native. He was ordained on April 25, 1862. As the first Hong Kong native priest, he marked a new milestone in the development of the local Church. In 1912, Fr. Leung was celebrating his golden jubilee in the Cathedral, and his mother also attended the ceremony at the age of 95.

Fr. Leung was the first priest stationed in Tai Po, serving from 1862 to 1912, a total of 50 years, without a day's interruption. He served the Catholics in Tai Po. In 1898, he was transferred to the Cathedral, and he remained there until his death. Fr. Leung laid a good foundation for the diocese, and his life of devotion was a model for the Catholics.

Fr. Leung died in 1920 in Guangzhou, near his hometown. He spent three hours preaching the Gospel, and then died at the age of 83. His life was full of wisdom and courage. He was a wise counselor, a diligent worker, and a priest who was loved by the people. He was a model for the Catholics. Fr. Leung died and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Happy Valley.

河南第一位主教華神父

華神父緊隨梁神父之後在中國大陸範圍內傳教。他的工作起初很順利，但後來因為「風水」問題與村民發生衝突，他的生命受到威脅，被迫離開自己的傳教點。他於一八六四年遷到汀角，向當地父

teri's life was threatened, and eventually he was forced to leave the mission. He moved to Ting Kok in 1864, and opened a school in a building rented to him outside the village by the elders. In May 1865 he also opened a chapel.

Between 1864 and 1868 the priests resident in the area, especially Frs. Volonteri and Leung, who liked working as a team, were continuously on the move, walking from village to village to preach and bring the sacraments to the tiny scattered groups of the faithful living here and there in the vast district which was their responsibility. The priests kept notes of all their journeys, and these formed the basis of the splendid map of the area drawn by Fr. Volonteri and published in

老租了一幢樓來開辦學校。一八六五年，他又開了一所小聖堂。

及後幾年間，華神父及梁神父以團隊方式合作，不時翻山越嶺到不同村落服務，為散居各處的教友施行聖事。他的負責的幅員十分廣闊。他們兩人把這些行程一一記下，成為了一八六六年華神父所出版的新界地圖的基本資料。這幅著名「華神父地圖」，到一八九八年為止仍是新安縣及香港唯一的地圖。這幅地圖不但在繪圖學上十分有名，也標緻著梁、華兩神父從無間斷的傳教工作。

在這些早期年代，傳教工作不單止包括宣講及施行聖事。當時是法紀蕩然的年代，政府的管治能力因太平天國的起義而大受削弱。當時的村莊亦常受缺糧及強盜橫行的困擾。

華神父在新安縣服務至一八六八年，獲擢昇為河南代牧，其後並為河南首任主教。



Fr. Simon Volonteri, P.I.M.E., provicar and bishop of Henan, was resident priest in Tingkok and worked with Fr. Leung as a team.

圖解

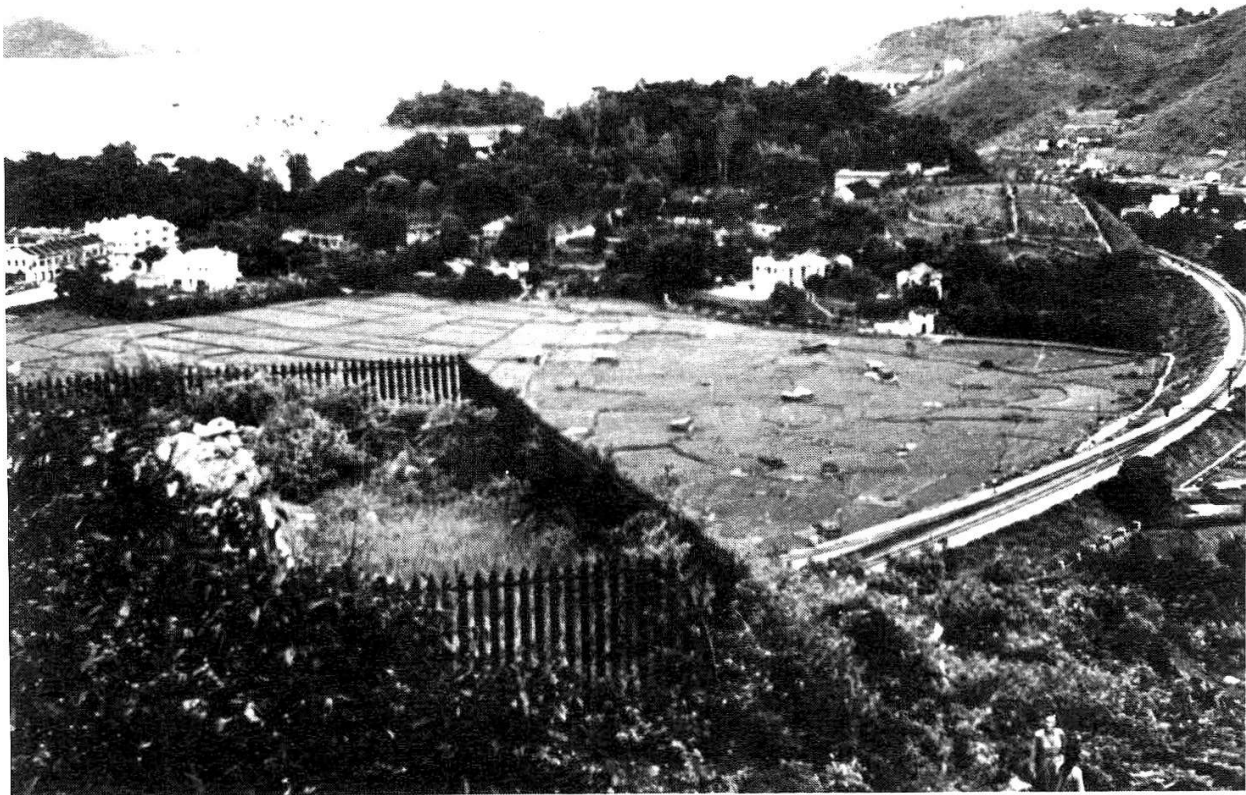
河南首任宗座代牧及首任主教，曾是汀九的駐任神父，與梁神父聯袂服務。

1866. This map, known as the "Volonteri Map", remained the only map of the area until 1898, and is justly famous as a work of cartography. It is, however, even more a memorial of arduous, non-stop and devoted missionary work by the two priests whose journeys underlie it.

Missionary work in these early days was not just preaching and administering the

sacraments. These were lawless times, when the law-enforcement powers of the Government were at a low ebb because of the Taiping Rebellion. It was also a period of food shortage and when armed gangs of bandits terrorized the villages.

Fr. Volonteri worked in the area until 1868, when he was named Pro-Vicar and then first Bishop of Henan.



大埔火車站的早期面貌。

An early view of Tai Po's railroad station.