



Student Work Sample 2

The Buddhist Patronage of Ho Tung Family: A Case Study of Tung Lin Kok Yuen 東蓮覺苑

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Buddhist patronage is the resource supporting the operation of temple and the development of Buddhism, and private patronage was essential for Hong Kong Buddhism in the 1930s. One of the representatives is Tung Lin Kok Yuen, which was initiated and sponsored by the Ho Tung family and provided Buddhism education, increased the recognition of Buddhism in Hong Kong. Tung Lin Kok Yuen was built in 1935, accompanied with Po Kok Primary School aside on Shan Kwong Road, Happy Valley. This monastery located on a slope with a Chinese architecture exterior, while the interior main hall was designed as the a western church which has an elongated nave and high ceiling. Apart from temple patronage of a prestigious family, patronages of individuals were important for developing the early Buddhism in Hong Kong. This study discusses the pattern and intentions of temple patronage using the case of Tung Lin Kok Yuen and several temples in other districts regard to the social environment and development of Buddhism in Hong Kong.

