



施棺贈殮

東華三院起源自一八七〇年創立的東華醫院，早期除贈醫施藥，還施棺代葬、救災恤難及興辦義學。東華向海外華僑施贈棺木的做法相信很早已經成為慣例，義莊除肩負接運外埠棺柩及骨殖的任務外，同時兼顧遠洋歸客在船上身故的後事安排，因此早年有施贈「金山棺」的做法——在航行美洲的遠洋輪船上預先存放幾副棺木。華人旅客一旦病歿，船上管理人員會保存遺體暫時殮放在預存的棺木，待船隻抵港即交予東華義莊候運回鄉。如果船上沒有預存棺木，身故者一般被拋下海中海葬，對於很重視先人遺體的華人來說，這是難以接受的。因此東華施贈金山棺的善舉贏得不少海外華僑稱頌，更為東華募集不少善款。

提供免費遷葬

遷葬亦與東華義莊息息相關。一九二一年東華董事局鑑於停放於義莊的棺木骨殖堆積太多，於是通過執行遷葬的做法。如有外埠棺木骨殖停厝超過一年期限及本港棺木骨殖欠一年莊租者，東華會代為遷葬。因此，義山的發展也可以說是義莊業務的延伸。由最早期的牛房義山開始，東華醫院陸續因應社會需要興建了多個義山，如大口環義山、馬棚義山、鑽石山義山等。

義莊的貢獻

東華義莊最為人稱道是收容外地先友的棺柩骨殖，以便安排回籍安葬，在長達大半個世紀的歷史發展中，為無數的海外先僑安頓身後事。施贈金山棺的善舉正好見證了中國人離鄉別井飄洋過海的辛酸故事，東華為踏上回歸鄉土最後旅程的遊子伸出援手，善舉得到海外華僑稱道，各埠華僑亦因此踴躍捐助東華醫院。從十九世紀後期到二十世紀前半期，來自世界各地回籍歸葬的華人都集中於東華義莊，再由東華安排運送回鄉入土為安。

直到今天，每年東華三院董事局上任後定必在清明節到東華義莊拜祭先友，以示慎終追遠之意。





義莊名人

義莊設立至今，曾寄厝先人不計其數，當中不乏知名的社會賢達，早期名人包括：

鄧(伯庸)鑑之夫婦

東華醫院創院總理之一(創院總理共十三人)，在任期間致力發展義莊，夫婦入莊期分別為一九〇六年及一九一五年，為寄厝於義莊最長時間的先人。

蔡元培先生

祖籍浙江紹興，被視為中國近代最偉大的教育家；一九一七年任北京大學校長，提倡科學與民主，推廣白話文，強調思想自由；其後曾任國民黨政府的中央研究院院長、代理司法部長、監察院院長等職；抗日戰爭爆發後移居香港，主張國共合作，共赴國難；病逝於一九四〇年三月。

陳炯明先生

原籍廣東海豐，廣東軍閥；一九二〇年任廣東省省長兼粵軍統司令，曾於孫中山先生成立的廣東政府任陸軍部長兼內務部長；一九二二年在廣州發動叛變，稱霸廣東一時；一九二五年為革命軍所敗，旋逃往香港避禍，組織致公黨與孫中山先生的「三民主義」對抗；病逝於一九三三年九月。

義莊修復工程特色

義莊建築物及佈局饒富傳統中國特色，由於建成年代久遠，歷年來經風雨侵蝕，雖然曾有多次重大的修復工程，但部分莊房結構仍有問題。二〇〇三年，東華三院董事局撥款港幣一千多萬元為義莊及靈灰安置場展開大型修葺及歷史修復計劃，主要目的是回復整個建築群的傳統風貌，彰顯義莊特色，並按照現今的安全標準確保樓層的結構安全，改善部分屋頂漏水情況及排水系統。整項工程共分八個區域，歷時兩期共十一個月於二〇〇四年三月完成。

是次工程的特色着重回復義莊的傳統風貌及建築精粹。由於義莊樓群建於不同時期，建築特色各異，一些具有中國傳統古建築特色、香港殖民地色彩及摻雜西方現代特色的建築群並列其中。修復組及建築師於工程開展前進行了大規模的實地考察及歷史研究工作，分別到東華三院文物館、香港歷史博物館及公共圖書館搜尋歷史資料及圖片，務求盡量仿照當年建築面貌。建築材料方面，他們更前赴廣東省多處鄉間尋找適當物料，例如磚塊、木門、窗框、瓦片；又到本港多間古董商舖搜尋具有昔日風格的五金製品。整項修復工程難度極高，對手工藝的要求嚴謹，可說是現代建築方法與古代手工藝交融的楷模。





評審評語 *Comments from the adjudicators*

古物古蹟辦事處 *The Antiquities and Monuments Office*

「東華義莊歷史建築群的保護方法極佳，運用了傳統本地知識和特別的保護技巧進行修復，成功保存了亞太區的一種重要的建築物，也因而保護了華僑歷史的重要一頁。」

“The Coffin Home demonstrates excellence in conservation practice applied to a group of historical buildings. By restoring the historical buildings with traditional local knowledge and exceptional conservation techniques, the Coffin Home is successful in preserving a significant architectural topology in the Asia-Pacific region, and thereby protecting an important chapter of the history of the overseas Chinese.”

聯合國教育、科學及文化組織 *The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)*

“The project was praised for preserving a unique building typology and an important cultural institution which reflects the evolving social history of Hong Kong. The complex includes a range of building traditions spanning from vernacular Chinese architecture to modern buildings.”





Tung Wah Coffin Home

The Tung Wah Coffin Home, owned and managed by the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, has won the Award of Honour in the Heritage Preservation and Conservation Awards offered by the Antiquities & Monuments Office under the Government of the Special Administrative Region as well as the Award of Merit in the 2005 Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards offered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in recognition of the success of its large-scale restoration project.

The whole compound has an area of about 6,050 square metres consisting of groups of building constructed in various periods of time that include gateways, a pagoda, a garden, 91 rooms and 2 halls. Consequently, different sections of the Coffin Home bear different architectural styles, ranging from traditional Chinese and vernacular architecture, modern style of the west to a hybrid of both.

A coffin home was established by the Man Mo Temple for the public near the Slaughter House in Kennedy Town on Hong Kong Island dating back to 1875. It was then transferred to Tung Wah Hospital (Tung Wah Group of Hospitals' first hospital), and was rebuilt near Sandy Bay on Hong Kong Island in 1899. The compound, then formally named "Tung Wah Coffin Home", has borne witness to the evolving changes in the territory's social and cultural history. From late 19th century to early 20th century, tens of thousands of people from Mainland China went to other countries like South, North American or South East Asian countries in search of jobs. Many of them died abroad and their deceased bodies were transported back to their birthplaces on the Mainland for proper burial. This was made possible by the facilities and services offered by the Coffin Home. Temporary depository of coffin was also made available when the bereaved wished to look for a better burial place for the dead.

The major restoration project to the Tung Wah Coffin Home, started in 2003 in 2 phases spanning a total of 11 months, was carried out with the objectives of restoring the whole compound to its traditional architectural appearance, which bears distinctive features across different sections, and to bring the building clusters to meet modern safety standards.

The restoration project has successfully preserved the Coffin Home as an important heritage in Hong Kong that not only demonstrates Tung Wah's philanthropic spirit and its role in the territory's history, but also embraces the changes in culture and burial customs of the Chinese community over the centuries.



