

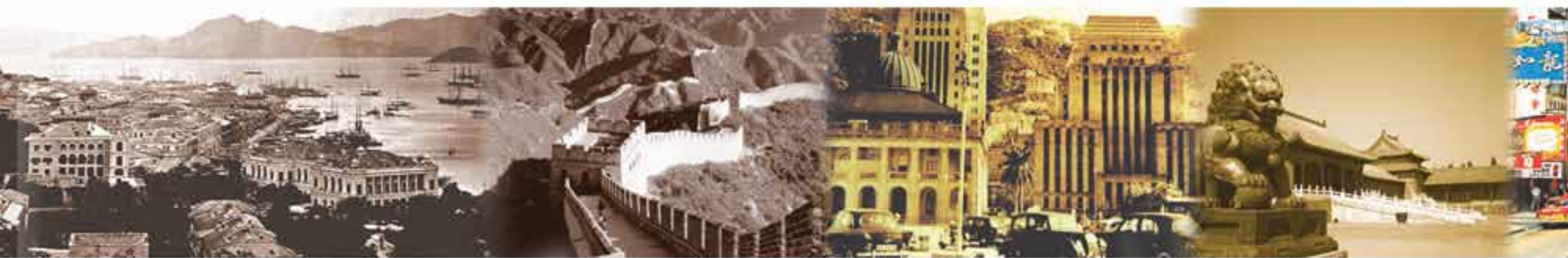
DEACONS

的近律師行



Celebrating
170 Years
of Legal Services

庆祝本行成立170周年







Solitary beginnings

孤身创业

"In popular language, the name of this noisy, bustling, quarrelsome, discontented and insalubrious little island may not inaptly be used as an euphemous synonym for a place not mentionable to ears polite."

The Times of London, 1857

1857 年的英国伦敦《泰晤时报》(The Times) 将香港形容为一个乏善足陈的地方。

VICTOR H. DEACON,
Solicitor & Notary.

Telegraphic Address.
"OTTERY."
HONG KONG.
A. B. C. Code.
4th Edn.

1842
Hong Kong Island is
ceded to Britain under
the Treaty of Nanking
香港岛根据南京条约割
让予英国

1844
Hong Kong's Supreme
Court opens
香港高等法院大楼启用

1846
First horserace
meeting is held at
Happy Valley
首次赛马在快活谷举行

1846
The Hong Kong Club
is established
香港会所成立

1861
American Civil War
begins
美国内战爆发

1861
Foundation of the
Hong Kong General
Chamber of
Commerce
香港总商会成立

1874
Deacons registers
Hong Kong's first
trade mark
的近律师行办理香港
的首个商标注册



After settlement, striking colonial architecture quickly began to adorn the "barren rock".
香港经过开拓后，赋有特色的殖民地建筑物很快便开始为这片不毛之地添上色彩。

百七十年前的香港是个寂寂无名的地方。当时优美自
然的海港沿岸耸立著一幢幢建筑物，香港岛被英国统
治将近十年，而九龙半岛仍然是中国大陆的一片农村地方。
然而，有少数刻苦耐劳的人已经洞悉香港的发展潜
力，不断努力奋斗。其中一位就是 William Bridges。他应港督
私人秘书 William Mercer 的邀请，于一八五一年来港开业当律
师。作为当时殖民地首位和唯一的大律师（现称诉讼律师），
Bridges 凭这个身份确定了律师（现称事务律师不可担任法院代
表律师这一点，虽然看来有点不公平，但结果他的业务迅速
地发展为一行赚钱的生意，在这种生活不舒适及充满竞争的
地方，很容易触发诉讼事件。Bridges 便靠著处理诉讼事务开
创他的事业，在高等法院忙个不了。不久，他凭藉作为在法庭
上一位强而有实力的对手而闻名遐迩。Bridges 在后来成为博
士，期间也曾担任香港政府署理律政司及署理辅政使司。
Bridges 十年后离开香港时，香港的商业潜力已经是无
容置疑。贸易正要茁状发展；法治精神也正逐步加强。
全赖 Bridges 的拓荒精神，一个强健和充满活力的律师行
业已经诞生。



There was little to recommend Hong Kong 170 years ago. A collection of buildings on the edge of a fine natural harbour; the island had been under British rule for almost ten years and the Kowloon peninsula was still a rural corner of Mainland China.

Yet a few hardy souls saw potential and persisted. One of those was William Bridges who, in 1851, arrived here to practice law at the invitation of the Governor's Private Secretary, William Mercer. As one of the colony's first barristers, Bridges quickly developed a lucrative, albeit slightly unfair, practice by securing the exclusion of solicitors as court counsel. Feeding off the litigation which quickly flared in this uncomfortable and competitive outpost, he kept himself busy at the Supreme Court, soon acquiring a reputation as a strong and capable opponent. Dr Bridges, as he later became, also served as acting Attorney-General as well as Colonial Secretary from time to time.

Bridges left Hong Kong after ten years, by which time, Hong Kong's commercial potential was undeniable. A robust trading post was coming into its own. The rule of law was gaining pace. And, thanks to Bridges' pioneering spirit, a robust and dynamic legal practice had been born.

DEACONS
COMMITTED TO
HONG KONG
SINCE
1851
致力
服务
香港
CELEBRATING
170 YEARS

Memories of a distant land

思乡之情

For over 170 years, Hong Kong's "fragrant harbour" had to compete with the sweet smell of money as waterfront trade and commerce flourished. The island's success led to harbour reclamation works that began as early as the 1800s.

由于海旁两岸的工商业发展蓬勃，一百七十多年来，“芳香的海港”与工商繁荣互相竞争。港岛发展成功后便进行海港填海工程，而填海工程早于 1800 年代已经开始。



- 1876
Alexander Graham
Bell invents the
telephone
贝尔发明电话
- 1879
Thomas Edison
invents the light bulb
爱迪生发明电灯泡
- 1883
Kракatoа erupts in
Indonesia, the world's
greatest recorded
volcanic eruption
世界上有纪录以来最大
的火山爆发—印尼克拉
卡多火山爆发
- 1886
The Statue of Liberty
in New York is
completed
纽约自由神像建造完成
- 1888
Peak Tram Railway
is built
山顶缆车建成
- 1889
Gustave Eiffel
completes the Eiffel
Tower in Paris, France
艾菲尔完成法国巴黎
艾菲尔铁塔
- 1896
Henry Ford builds
his first automobile
亨利福特生产他的
第一部汽车



Queen's Road has long been a main thoroughfare of island traffic.
皇后大道一直是港岛交通的主要道路。

Those responsible for Bridges' practice after his departure elected to act as solicitors rather than barristers, following the separation of the professions after their temporary fusion. Operating from offices near the Supreme Court on Queen's Road, the Deacons that we know today was becoming a recognisable entity.

While it is true that Hong Kong was rapidly growing away from its insalubrious roots, it cannot be forgotten that life here through much of the 19th century was still not easy, even for the moneyed classes. The damp and heat of summer were almost insurmountable. Robbery was rife on Hong Kong's ill-lit streets. Social and political unease also pervaded everyday living.

It is no surprise, then, that the Westerners living in Hong Kong at that time rallied to recreate some sense of their former surrounds. Born on 19 January 1847, the firm's namesake Victor Deacon hailed from a small village called Ottery St Mary in Devonshire, England. Memories of that peaceful, rural place would later lead the firm to select the firm's telegraphic address as "Ottery", a somewhat beguiling name for those who did not know the story behind it. For many years, however, the address remained unchanged. While practicalities of communication have now replaced sentimentality, the firm to this day operates a pleasure junk called "Ottery". It is a gentle reminder of the man who helped shape Deacons into the leading firm it is today.

因此，当时居住在香港的欧洲人不其然聚集一起，提倡重新创造类似他们以前周围环境的熟悉感觉。与本律师行同名的 Victor Deacon 生于一八四七年一月十九日，来自英格兰德文郡的一个名为 Ottery St Mary 的小村庄。他对那处宁静乡村地方的思念日后令本律师行将律师行的电报地址定为「Ottery」；对于不熟悉这个名字背后故事的人来说，这倒是个有点令人陶醉的名字。多年来，这个电报地址仍保持不变。虽然现代实际使用的通讯方法已经将往昔的感性情怀抹掉，但本律师行至今仍然将公司游艇定名为「Ottery」号，作为对那位将近律师行塑造造成今天一间具领导地位的律师行的人的一个纪念。

大 律师和律师这两个行业经过短暂合并后便分家，而 Bridges 离开后，负责其律师行业务的同事决定选择当律师而不是大律师。现在我们所熟悉的近律师行，当时的写字楼位于皇后大道高等法院大楼附近，已逐渐成为一间广为人知的律师行。

虽然香港确实从一个恶劣环境迅速发展起来，但不能忘记，在十九世纪的香港生活，即使对于富裕的阶层来说，仍然不好过。夏天的潮湿闷热天气几乎令人透不过气。在香港照明不足的街道上打劫猖獗，每天的生活弥漫著社会和政治上的不安。



Victor Deacon thrived on the
challenges of his new life in the East.
Victor Deacon 克服他在东方社会的
新生活挑战，开创成就。

Burgeoning prosperity

欣欣向荣

Union House, left (more recently Swire House and now 11 Chater Road) was a former location of Deacons' office. While time may have changed the view, Deacons' association with this central business district remains.

于仁行(左)，近称太古大厦，即现为遮打道11号，是的近律师行写字楼的前址。虽然时间可能将面貌改变，但的近律师行仍然与这个中央商业区的紧密联系。



- 1898
The Star Ferry
Company is
established
天星小轮有限公司成立
- 1898
Britain acquires the
New Territories on a
99-year lease
英国租借新界99年
- 1901
Sweden awards the
first Nobel Prizes
瑞典首度颁发诺贝尔
奖项
- 1903
Wright Brothers
make first flight at
Kitty Hawk, USA
莱特兄弟在美国小鹰市
进行首次飞行
- 1904
Hong Kong trams run
for the first time
香港电车首行



The clock tower on Pedder Street was a distinctive landmark, overlooking nearby low rise commercial buildings.
毕打街的钟塔是个独特的标记，俯瞰邻近的低层商业大厦。

当时的香港正步入一个会持续至二十世纪初的成长期。直至Deacon于一九零六年离开香港前的二十多年来，他为法律服务重新确立焦点，他的名字在法律界将永垂不朽。

Deacon于一八八二年成为合伙人后，他的名字便加入本律师行的名称内。他在短短两年内已迅速成为受人尊崇的香港著名物业转让律师之一。他居住在中环亚毕诺道北面的一座两层高洋房，以和蔼可亲、热情好客的个性见称。他喜爱品尝美酒，而且定期在家中举行周末晚上的扑克牌派对，派对通常持续至凌晨时分；而港督威廉·罗便臣爵士是派对的常客。

香港在夹杂合法和走私贸易的特殊环境带动下，发展日益蓬勃。值得庆幸的是，这个新兴的财富力量同时令香港更有决心要建设成一个名望之都及西方道德观念的远方堡垒。在毕打街树立了钟塔，大会堂前面建造了喷水池及西环兴建了水手馆。煤气街灯已成为历史悠久的公共设施。苏彝士运河启用后，缩短了欧洲与香港的旅程时间。银行也开始发展兴旺，更配合了这个先驱城市的商业气息。

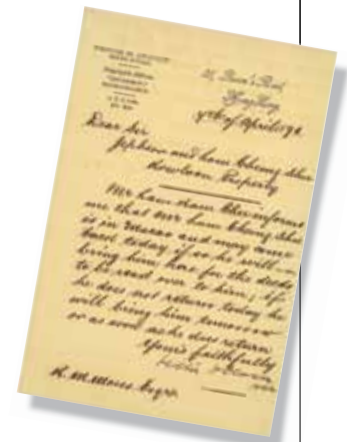
在一八八零年七月七日，Victor Deacon 时年三十三岁，他乘坐铁行轮船的「Ravenna」来到香港，五日后获认许为香港律师，随即加入 Brereton 与 Wotton 合夥组成的律师行，而这间律师行就是起初 Bridges 所创办的律师行的一个直接延伸。虽然 Bridges 离开不过十九年，但该行已发生许多变化，并已经成为当时香港四间业务蒸蒸日上之的律师行之一。

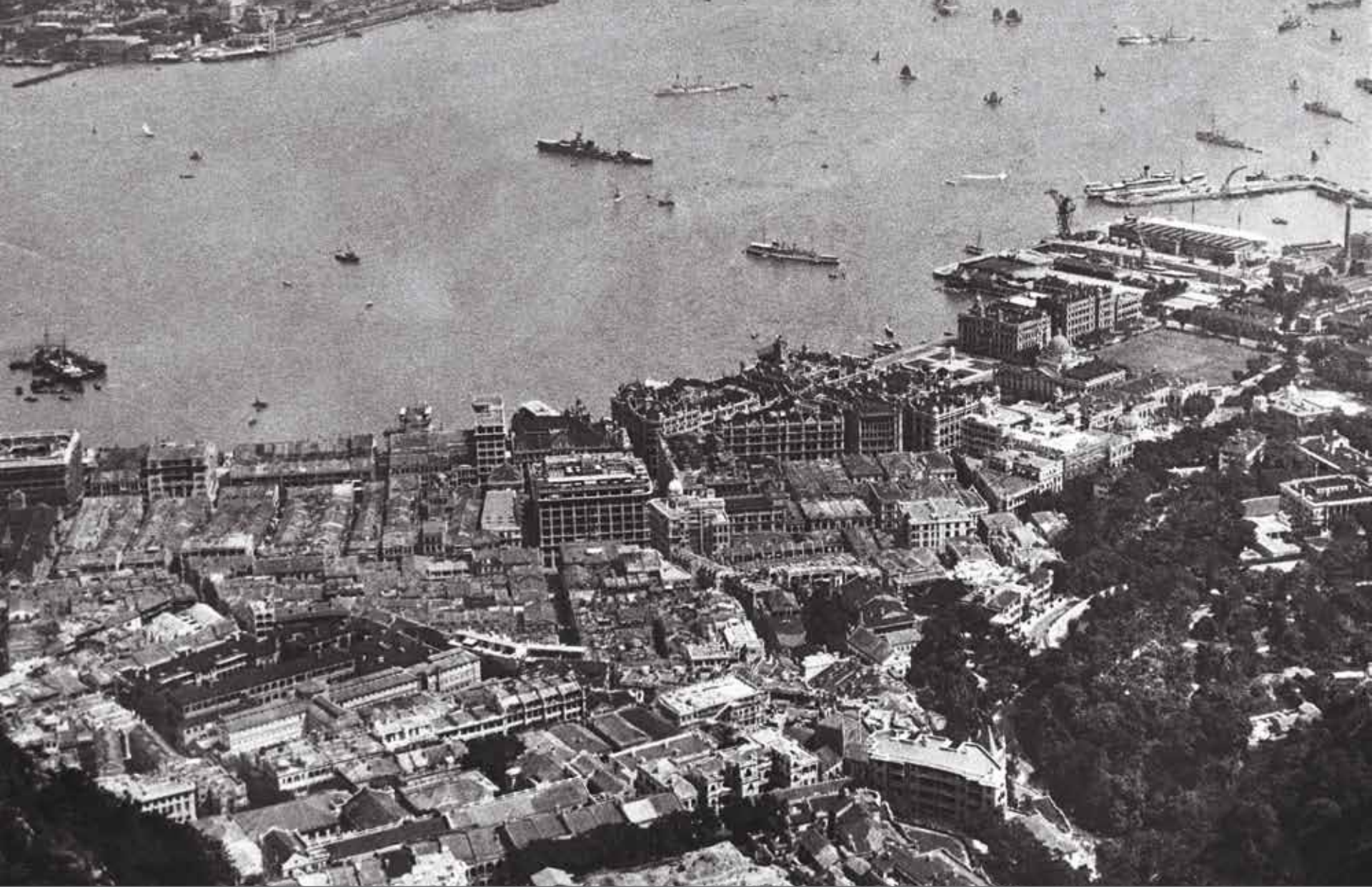
It was on 7 July 1880, at the age of 33, that Victor Deacon arrived in Hong Kong on the Peninsula and Oriental steamship "Ravenna". Admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong five days after his arrival, he promptly joined the partnership of Messrs Brereton and Wotton, a direct continuation of Bridges' original practice. While it had been just 19 years since Bridges' departure, much had changed and the practice was now one of four firms of solicitors that were flourishing in Hong Kong.

Fuelled by the unusual combination of legitimate and contraband trade, the territory was growing and prospering. Fortunately, this new financial vigour also saw an increased commitment to build a city of repute, a distant bastion of western mores. A clock tower was erected on Pedder Street, a fountain in front of the City Hall, and a sailor's home at West Point. Gas street lamps had become a long-established utility. The Suez Canal was now operative, cutting the journey time between Hong Kong and Europe. Banks, too, began to flourish, further feeding the mercantile spirit of this pioneer town.

In 1882, Deacon was admitted as a partner, thus adding his own name to the firm's. In just two years, he had quickly become respected as one of Hong Kong's leading conveyancers. Residing in a two-storey house on the north side of Arbuthnot Road, Central, he was known for his good-natured and convivial manner. A lover of fine wines, his home became the venue for regular Saturday-night poker parties, which generally lasted into the small hours of the morning and at which Governor Sir William Robinson was a frequent guest.

Hong Kong was entering the period of growth which would see it through the early 20th century. For over 20 years, until his departure from Hong Kong in 1906, Deacon brought renewed focus to a legal practice which would continue to bear his name in perpetuity.





Moving with the times

与时并进

Clinging to the edge of the island, Hong Kong's central business district was becoming a distinguished and comfortable environment, including a cricket club on what is today the site of Chater Garden.

紧靠著港岛边沿的香港中央商业区逐渐发展成为一个高尚和舒适的地方，而其中的板球会就是现今遮打花园的位置。



Deacons early offices were just doors away from the original Supreme Court (on the left) putting the firm at the heart of Hong Kong's legal community. 的近律师行以前的写字楼距原高等法院(左)只是几扇门之隔，令的近律师行在香港法律界中占重要位置。

一个新的纪元已经全面展开。

距离当时的高等法院只不过是四扇门的近律师行写字楼，位于皇后大道二十九号，同样面对著一些困难。一八九四年由于鼠患，写字楼被迫暂时空置。于一九零一年的写字楼搬迁似乎对的近律师行带来了一点意想不到的方便。的近律师行的新写字楼邻近雪厂街，与孖士打律师行只是一巷之隔。根据当时的讲法：「有需要时，通常只要从一扇窗向另一扇窗大声叫，便可以互相沟通。」

的 近律师行位于雪厂街的写字楼只使用了几年便再次搬迁。一九零四年，的近律师行迁入刚刚落成的太子大厦。太子大厦是位于新遮打填海区德辅道一号的四层高豪华建筑物，被誉为香港最华丽及最现代化的大厦，是有名的地点。在同一时期，高等法院的环境也有所改善。一九一二年，高等法院迁入现时为香港终审法院的大楼内。

香港原有的高等法院大楼于一八四三年兴建，原本是它座落于皇后大道，即现时皇后戏院的所在地，是一座正面有圆柱的宏伟建筑物。不过，当建筑物竣工后，对外贸易开始滑落，令该建筑物似乎再没有实际需要，而当时的政府只花了港币三万元便将它买下来。

可惜的是，法院宏伟的外表和其内里并不匹配。一八七零年的「The Daily Press」报道：「颇明显地：在一些坦率、好寻根问底的人眼中：高等法院法庭的设计师对大自然的研究是十分成功的，其成功的程度，是几乎在任何天气下，你也可以在法院内享受到仿如置身室外的感觉。」

Built in 1843, Hong Kong's original Supreme Court was designed as an Exchange, a proud testament to international trade. Standing on Queen's Road, where the Queen's Theatre now stands, it was a grandiose structure with an imposing columned façade. Following its completion, however, a depression in foreign trade rendered the building somewhat redundant and the Government was able to acquire it for just HK\$30,000.

Unfortunately, the court's interior had little in common with its exterior. *The Daily Press* of 1870 reported, "It is quite evident... to any candid enquiring mind that the designer of the... Supreme Court room has studied nature very successfully – so much so, in fact, that you may enjoy the privileges of the open air inside the court in almost any kind of weather."

Just four doors away at 29 Queen's Road, Deacons' offices, too, were facing a few problems. In 1894, the office had to be temporarily vacated due to an invasion of rats. A later change of location in 1901 seemed to work well for the firm. In new offices closer to Ice House Street, the firm found itself separated by just a narrow alley from Messrs Johnson Stokes and Master. According to reports from the time, "communication in case of need was frequently obtained by vociferous shouting from one window to another."

Yet that arrangement, too, was to last only a few years. In 1904, the firm took residence in the recently-completed Prince's Building, a luxury four-storey edifice at 1 Des Voeux Road on the new Chater reclamation. Regarded as the most handsome and modern building in Hong Kong, Prince's Building was a prestigious address. Times were improving, too, for the Supreme Court. In 1912, it entered its new premises in what is today the Court of Final Appeal. A new century was in full swing.

- 1905 Einstein formulates his Theory of Relativity 爱因斯坦提出「相对论」
- 1907 The Law Society of Hong Kong is incorporated 香港律师公会成立
- 1912 Titanic sinks 铁达尼号沉没
- 1914 Panama Canal opens 巴拿马运河启用
- 1928 Alexander Fleming invents penicillin 弗莱明发明盘尼西林
- 1928 Hong Kong's Peninsula Hotel opens 香港半岛酒店开幕
- 1929 US stock market crashes 美国股灾





A time of war

战乱时期

The Japanese occupation of Hong Kong united the residents of Hong Kong. Despite the trying times, the people of Hong Kong battled on, remaining resolute and laying firm foundations for future years of tenacious hard work and industry.

日军对香港的占领使香港居民团结起来。虽然面对艰苦岁月，但香港人仍然继续奋斗，不屈不挠，为日后香港人的坚毅及勤奋精神奠下稳固基础。





Faster ocean-going vessels and new shipping routes strengthened international trade and shortened travelling times to Europe and America.
更快的远洋轮船及新航线促进了国际贸易及缩短了通往欧洲及美国的航程时间。

Much like Hong Kong, Deacons grew steadily throughout the early 20th century. The First World War made little impact on the territory, other than a temporary shortage of solicitors as men signed up for the war effort. Yet, with the dawning of the 1940s, it became obvious that new troubles were stirring, on a far larger scale than the world had previously known.

As Europe disintegrated into bloodshed and conflict, Asia, too, fell into chaos. In 1941, when Hong Kong surrendered to the Japanese, the foreign community became prisoners of war, held under harsh conditions. Wai-Chiu Hung, Willie, the last remaining member of the firm, fought valiantly to keep the office running, but ultimately the office was requisitioned, although many of the firm's files, papers and books were saved and today form a unique archive of a period of Hong Kong's professional history.

Many of the former members of the firm returned to face a chaotic situation when the war ended in 1945. Yet there was little time for reflection. The practice would simply have to be rebuilt, just like the lives of millions of other people around the world.

的 近律师行像香港一样，在二十世纪初稳步成长。在第一次世界大战期间，除了由于男子需要参军以致律师一度出现短缺外，大战对香港的影响轻微。不过，随著四零年代开始，新的危机明显地正在酝酿，而且规模比当时世界已知的更大。

正当欧洲各国发生杀戮和冲突，变成四分五裂之际，亚洲亦陷入战乱中。一九四一年，香港向日军投降时，外国人成为战俘，在恶劣的环境下遭监禁。当时最后一位留守在本律师行的职员洪渭钊(Willie)英勇坚守以维持本律师行的运作，然而写字楼最终被日军征用，不过本律师行的许多档案、文件和书籍被保全下来，且形成今日香港一段专业历史的独特档案。

当战争于一九四五年结束后，本律师行的许多前雇员重返旧地时只见一片混乱的局面。然而，他们没有多少时间回顾往事。的近律师行的业务需要重新建立，就像当时世界各地成千上万需要重建新生活的人一样。



While the tram tracks remain, the Supreme Court building (right) today houses Hong Kong's Legislative Council.
虽然电车轨仍然存在，但昔日的高等法院大楼(右)已变成今日的香港立法会。

1936
Kai Tak Airport comes into service
启德机场投入服务

1945
World War II ends
第二次世界大战结束

1949
Mao Zedong founds the People's Republic of China
毛泽东成立中华人民共和国

1953
Hong Kong suffers its worst fire at Shek Kip Mei
香港发生本地历来最严重的火灾—石硤尾大火

1953
Hillary and Tenzing climb Mount Everest
希拉里与登京格攀登珠穆朗玛峰

1957
USSR launches Sputnik I, the first satellite
苏联发射第一颗人造卫星「史泼尼克1号」

1969
Apollo 11 lands on the moon
太空船「太阳神11号」登陆月球

DEACONS 致力
COMMITTED TO 服务
HONG KONG
SINCE

1851 - 2021

香港 CELEBRATING
170 YEARS

The birth of a tiger

强者诞生

The financial and legal communities grew in mutual support, commanding prime positions in the territory's already prosperous central business district.

金融及法律服务业在互相支持下发展，在当时已是繁盛的香港中央商业区占有重要地位。





Deacons partners and staff hold a party to mark the occasion of Sir William Shenton's retirement in 1936.

的近律師行合夥人及員工于1936年舉行派對，慶祝William Shenton爵士榮休。

尽管战乱的日子已成过去，但战争所带来的后遗症却是深远的。亚洲以至全球的社会及政治面貌已经发生不能逆转的变化。在变迁的社会中，这是一个进取、重新确立焦点及定立新价值观的年代。对的近律师行而言，这也意味着一个新社会秩序。在二次大战期间，当本律师行的所有其他职员遭监禁后仍忠心拼命维持律师行运作的洪渭钊被擢升为合伙人，成为本律师行历史上仅第二位华人合伙人。不久，黄维弼加入本律师行成为首位华人见习律师；一九五九年成为合伙人。并于一九七四年成为本律师行首位华人高级合伙人。直到现在，黄律师仍继续为本律师行服务。

由于中国发生政治动乱，上海及其他中国城市的富裕商人开始涌入香港。香港继承了这一笔新的财富，凭著其作为一个成功的贸易基地及港口的背景迅速发展起来。当时的近律师行一向以信托、物业转让及船务业务见称，此机遇正好能够让其把业务伸展，以满足当时香港不断上升的法律服务需求。

经过长期艰苦的奋斗，香港在过去的一百年由一个草根基层社会发展成为有巨大潜力并充满动感的大都会，举世瞩目，备受赞赏。

While the war years may have finished, their consequences would be far-reaching. The social and political landscape, both in Asia and around the world, had changed forever. It was a time of movement and re-focus, of new values in an altered society. For Deacons, too, that meant a new social order: Willie, who had fought so loyally to keep the office running after all other members of the firm had been imprisoned, was made partner, only the second Chinese partner in the firm's history. Soon after, Wong Wai Pat became the firm's first Chinese articulated clerk, later becoming partner in 1959 and the firm's first Chinese senior partner in 1974. He was admitted to the Hong Kong Law Society's Roll of Honour in 2003 and is known to be one of the longest practicing solicitors in Hong Kong.

With the advent of political upheavals in China, the wealthy traders and merchants of Shanghai and other Chinese cities began flocking to the territory. It was a new, inherited wealth for Hong Kong, rapidly building upon its own successes as a trading post and port. Having long been known for its work in trusts, conveyancing and shipping, Deacons was now able to fully extend itself to serve Hong Kong's escalating legal needs.

It had been a long, hard struggle, but 100 years had seen Hong Kong grow from simple roots into a dynamic territory of enormous potential. The world was watching and would not be disappointed.



1971
Hong Kong's population exceeds 4 million
香港人口超越4百万

1972
Hong Kong's first cross-harbour tunnel is opened
香港第一条海底隧道通车

1972
Jardine House is completed and is Hong Kong's tallest building
康乐大厦（现称怡和大厦）落成，并且是香港最高的建筑物

1974
Chinese archaeologists discover terracotta warriors in Xi'an
中国考古学家在西安发现秦始皇兵马俑



The changing face of Hong Kong

香港新貌

Day-to-day life was becoming more colourful and hectic. The population grew with new immigrants keen to share in the success of this intriguing territory and its promising future.

香港人的日常生活变得愈来愈多姿多彩和忙碌。人口增加，新移民热切期望分享这个迷人城市的成功及其美好将来。



The Kowloon-Canton Railway clock tower has seen Hong Kong develop from colonial outpost to bustling metropolis.

九广铁路钟楼见证著香港从一个殖民地发展成为繁荣的大都会。

随着时代的变迁，社会的进步与发展难免将过往的痕迹抹掉，但也也许很少地方像香港能够抹掉得如此般快。到七十年代时，香港正迅速发展成为工商业中心。与此同时，香港的旧貌也逐渐消逝。

一九六二年，当时旧太子大厦已经被划为需要拆卸，的近律师行因此迁出上址。此举标志著另一个成长期的开始。事实上，本律师行设在于仁行（后来易名为太古大厦，即现今遮打道十一号的位置）的新写字楼再次成为本律师行持续增长的象征。当时，中环已经逐渐变为满布混凝土街道及建筑物的地方。随著香港新商业动力的推动，地价及商业需求持续上升，昔日富有殖民地色彩的低层建筑物再无立足之处。的近律师行所处理的地产交易只占本身蓬勃业务的一环，而且开始为在香港激增的金融及公司业务提供服务。

香港正迅速成长的同时，法律行业亦已经发展起来。到七十年代中期，的近律师行已经是一间提供全面商业法律服务的律师行，业务繁忙，是商界中一个备受高度尊崇的名字。我们可以想像，假使的近律师行的创办人知道他们多年前所开展的是甚么事业，他们一定会感到十分惊讶。

Times change. Progress and development necessarily begin to erase the past, perhaps in few places as quickly as Hong Kong. By the 1970s, the territory was rapidly becoming a powerhouse of industry and commerce, and with it the scenes of old Hong Kong were slowly disappearing.

In 1962, Deacons moved from the historic Prince's Building, which by that time had been zoned for demolition. It was the beginning of another cycle of growth. Indeed, the firm's new offices in Union Building (later Swire House and today the location of 11 Chater Road) were once again indicative of the firm's growing stature. Already Central was becoming a place of concrete canyons, the colonial low-rise buildings of yesteryear giving way to the soaring land prices and commercial demands of Hong Kong's new business dynamic. For Deacons, property transactions became just one aspect of a thriving practice, which had also begun to serve the territory's surging finance and corporate deals.

Hong Kong had matured rapidly and, with it, the legal community had developed, too. By the mid-1970s, Deacons was a busy full-service business law firm and a highly-respected name in commercial circles. One can only imagine that Deacons' founders would have been very surprised had they known what they were setting in motion so many years before.

- 1979
Hong Kong's Mass Transit Railway system opens
香港地下铁路启用
- 1980
Deacons celebrates 100th anniversary of Victor Deacon's admission to practise law
的近律师行庆祝 Victor Deacon 获认许为执业律师100周年纪念
- 1984
Joint Declaration is signed, agreeing to "one country, two systems"
中英联合声明签署，同意实行「一国两制」
- 1987
"The Last Emperor" wins ten Oscars
「末代皇帝」荣获十项奥斯卡金像奖奖项
- 1989
Berlin Wall is dismantled
柏林围墙被拆毁



DEACONS
 COMMITTED TO
 HONG KONG
 SINCE
1851 - 2021
 CELEBRATING
 HONG KONG
 170 YEARS

An Asian identity

亚洲身分

The centre point of Asia, Hong Kong has become a dynamic hub for the entire region. Deacons – a Hong Kong institution and market leader today – has likewise created a network stretching across Asia.

香港作为亚洲的焦点，已经发展成为整个区域内一个充满活力的中心城市。

今天，的近律师行作为一间以香港为基地的公司及业内领头者，同样地已经建立横跨亚洲的网络。



香港的冒起标志著亚洲地区已进入一个新时代。亚洲渐渐成为世界上工商业的福地，充满发展潜力和前景，是明日之星的象征。随著国际银行金融及商业的发展，香港在国际事务上崭露头角，历史悠久的伦敦及纽约律师行亦纷纷来港开业。福又重至，香港迅速发展成为亚洲区枢纽及通往中国的大门。香港于一九九七年七月回归中国主权进一步巩固了此独特的身份。

的近律师行于一九八六年在中国开设第一间办事处，成为进军中国的首批国外律师行之一。迄今，的近律师行在中国的北京、上海及广州均设有驻代表处。当的近律师行客户的业务需要及权益跨越国界时，的近律师行的服务便随之而至。

的近律师行的持久存在见证了其客户的成功和兴盛。虽然亚洲区曾经面对各种经济挑战，当的近律师行展望未来时，其存在仍然强大且极其重要。



Formerly the French Mission building, this distinctive redbrick and granite structure dating from 1917 was home to the Court of Final Appeal between 1997 and 2015.

前法国传道会大楼。追溯至1917年，这幢由红砖和花岗石建造而成的独特建筑物是当时香港终审法院于1997年至2015年间的所在地址。

Hong Kong's rise heralded a new era across the Asian region. Asia was becoming a land of opportunity for business and industry the world over, a byword for potential and a promising star of the future. Long-established law firms from London and New York were arriving, following the flow of international banking and commerce that was giving Hong Kong new prominence in world affairs. Fortune was once again smiling on Hong Kong, for the territory was rapidly becoming both a regional hub and the de facto gateway to China. Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese Sovereignty in July 1997 further consolidated this unique identity.

Deacons had opened its first office in China in 1986 making the firm one of the first foreign law firms to gain a presence in the PRC. Hitherto, Deacons had established representative offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou of the PRC. When Deacons' clients' needs and interests cross borders, Deacons' service follows.

The firm's enduring presence bears testament to the success and prosperity of its clients. Despite the economic challenges that the region has faced, Deacons' presence remains strong and vital as it looks to the future.



1990
The Basic Law, Hong Kong's post 1997 constitution, is promulgated
颁布香港1997年之后的宪制性文件「基本法」

1991
The World Wide Web is introduced
推出万维网

1997
Hong Kong becomes a Special Administrative Region of the PRC
香港成为中华人民共和国的特别行政区

1999
Deacons is voted Best Hong Kong Law Firm
的近律师行获选为全港最佳律师行

2001
Beijing secures the 2008 Olympics
北京成功申办2008年奥运会

2001
Deacons celebrates its 150th anniversary
的近律师行庆祝成立150周年

2003
China and Hong Kong are hit by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
非典型肺炎于中国和香港两地肆虐

TODAY AND TOMORROW

扎根现在 展望将来

A dynamic city, a dynamic firm. Deacons is proud to have played a role in making Hong Kong what it is today.

一个动感之都、一间充满活力的公司：的近律师行对过去有份参与缔造今天的香港引以自豪。



Back in 1851, amid the dust and heat of that colonial outpost, who could have imagined how things would turn out today? It has been an extraordinary journey, both for Hong Kong and for us as a firm. As our clients' needs have become increasingly diverse, we have kept pace with those needs, moving forward with our clients to become a dynamic award-winning law firm. As we look to the future, we can say with confidence that the Deacons name has become synonymous with quality and commitment. The integrity and professionalism which have kept Deacons at the forefront of legal practice for over one and a half centuries remain an integral aspect of the firm's culture today.

Since 1985, we have resided in Alexandra House, progressively taking more floor space to accommodate our expanding team of lawyers. Now with more than 600 people in Hong Kong, Deacons has become the longest-established independent, full service business law firm in Hong Kong with a proven track record in many disciplines. And yet the firm continues to grow, nurturing the legal talent of tomorrow to ensure that clients in future years can always rely on Deacons.

At a time when many hold themselves out as being experts on Hong Kong and Mainland China the facts speak for themselves. We have our roots in Hong Kong from where we have grown and prospered. We have a history that has shaped us into the thriving and successful firm we are today. It is a privileged heritage. It is an identity that we are proud to call our own.



我们的写字楼自一九八五年起已经迁往历山大厦，而且逐步扩展，占用更多楼层，以容纳人数不断增加的律师队伍。的近律师行在香港现时有六百多名员工，已经成为香港历史最悠久及规模最大、提供全面法律服务的律师行，在多个业务领域都具有卓越佳绩。然而，随著本律师行的继续发展，本律师行致力培育未来的法律界精英，以确保客户总是可以永久信赖的近律师行。

虽然很多人自视为香港和中国内地的专家，但事实往往胜于雄辩。我们植根于香港，一直与此地一同成长，一起创造繁荣。我们的历史把我们塑造成今天一家兴旺发达且成功的律师行。这是一笔我们独有的遗产。这是我们本身引以自豪的身份。

顾一八五一年，在这个殖民地的尘土和炽热中，有谁会想到香港会有今日的成就呢？对香港和我们作为一间公司而言，这是一个非常特别的历程。我们的客户有愈来愈多的需要，而我们已经掌握这些需要，与他们同步迈进，成为一间充满活力、屡获殊荣的律师行。展望未来，我们满怀信心地说，的近律师行的名字就是代表优质服务及不变承诺。诚恳及专业态度曾经将的近律师行保持在法律服务行业中的领先地位逾一个半世纪，而这些特质今天仍然是本律师行文化的重要一环。

DEACONS
COMMITTED TO
HONG KONG
SINCE
1851
致力服务
- 2021
CELEBRATING
HONG KONG
170 YEARS

2004
Deacons wins the "Investment Funds Law Firm of the Year" and "Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year" awards
的近律师行获选为“全年最佳投资基金律师行”及“全年最佳知识产权律师行”

2005
Deacons is the first international law firm with three licensed offices in Mainland China (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou)
的近律师行是首家在中国北京的、上海和广州设有三个持牌办事处的国际律师行

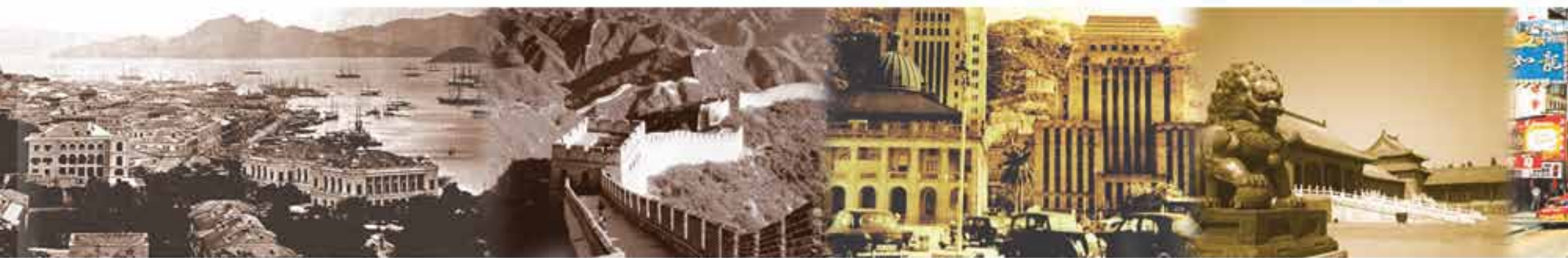
2006
Deacons is awarded Hong Kong Law Firm of the Year at IFLR Asian Awards
的近律师行荣获“国际金融法律评论”的亚洲大奖评选为“本年度香港最佳律师行”

2007
Deacons is the *Legal Business Asia Pacific Firm of the Year*
的近律师行获《法律事务》刊物评选为“年度亚太律师事务所”

2009
Deacons is ranked as a Global 50 for the 6th consecutive year
的近律师行连续第6年名列全球（律师事务所）50强

2009
Deacons wins *Asia Legal Business M&A Deal of the Year*
的近律师行荣获《亚洲法律事务》刊物颁发的年度并购项目大奖

2010
Deacons is *Managing Intellectual Property Hong Kong Law Firm of the Year* for the 4th consecutive year
的近律师行连续第4年获《管理知识产权》刊物评选为年度香港律师事务所





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