

# COLLECTIVE MEMORIES OF YING WA

## Background

Every one of us is an integral part of Ying Wa. Given the school's history of more than a century, there is a treasury of personal experiences and recollections of the school among generations of us. With the passing of time, some of these valuable memories are irrevocably lost. Some, however, are still vivid in our minds and are ready to be tapped. It is important that they be preserved as an affirmation of our heritage.

## 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project

To commemorate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we published a book focussing on Ying Wa's history. For the 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we hope to produce the first of a series of VCDs featuring the collective memories of past and present Ying Wa students and teachers. The significance of such a venture does not lie solely in permitting those with fond memories of their schooldays a nostalgic look into the past. What is more important is that it will result in a historical documentation that will testify to the spirit and tradition of Ying Wa for generations to come. It is our hope that capturing the remembrances of the staff and students of Ying Wa on video will preserve their feelings and emotions with greater immediacy than could still pictures or written words alone.

No such ambitious undertaking could be completed in a year. To build up an archive of recollections, we plan to conduct interviews and chat groups whenever the opportunity arises. These may then be edited into short documentaries centred on personalities, events, or special themes.

For the 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we intend to produce a short piece on Miss Vera Silcocks. Hopefully, this sampler of what is to come will galvanize more individuals into contributing to the overall project. Miss Silcocks has been chosen as our first subject because - as Ying Wa's longest serving principal - she was personally known to very many of us.

## Your contribution

This is an ambitious project. To succeed fully, it will require the support of everyone who remembers Ying Wa with affection. If you wish, you can contribute financially, as we need video equipment and tapes, and as we may - on specific occasions - need to hire professional cameramen and sound recordists. You may also help by sending in photographs, mementos, or humorous or moving anecdotes of persons or events; or by suggesting individuals who might be willing to participate in interviews, as well as providing details of how we may contact and work with them.