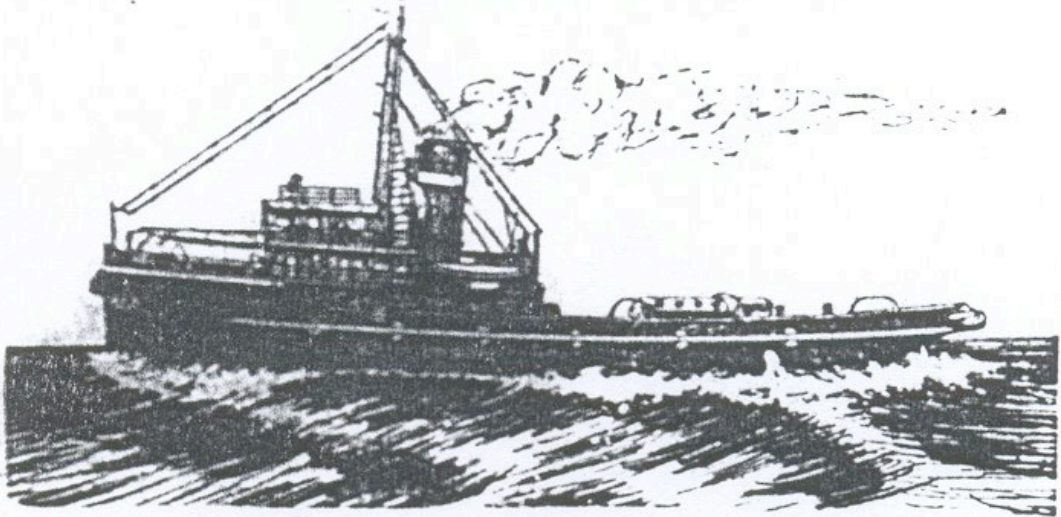


Monday, March 23, 2009

## A Boat Called Henry

**THE HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LTD.**  
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS "MANIFESTO" HONGKONG  
Codes Used: A1, A B C Fifth Edition, Engineering, First and Second Edition,  
Western Union and Watkins  
Dock Owners, Ship Builders, Marine and Land Engineers, Boiler Makers, Iron and  
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**Steel Twin Screw Ocean-going Tug and Salvage Steamer**  
**"Henry Keswick"**  
Built, engined and equipped complete by The Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., Hongkong  
for their own service, 1921. Length 165' B.P., Breadth 34' (m) Depth 17' (m) I.H.P. 2000  
Fitted with electrically driven submersible and centrifugal pumps, air compressor, wireless  
searchlight and all modern appliances for Salvage Work.  
Please address enquires to the Chief Manager:  
**R.M. DYER, B.Sc., M.I.N.A., KOWLOON DOCK, HONGKONG!**

You are one of the wealthy, mighty and seemingly all powerful Keswick family (so posh you pronounce your name with a silent 'w', "Kezzick") who control the Jardines empire. Known by all as the latest *taipan* of the Jardine Matheson empire built out of running dope into China in quantities the Medallin Cartel would envy, you pitch up in Hong Kong after a few years in Jardines' New York office. You get to represent Hong Kong at the coronation of King George V in 1911 and then return in triumph in 1922 aboard your own yacht, the *Cutty Sark*, and then you remain a Director of Jardines until your death. That was Henry Keswick.

So how to honour such a great *taipan* who balances great wealth with great power and is a lynchpin in the British Empire east of Suez? Why

surely there could be nothing better than having a “twin screw tug and salvage steamer” named after you!! What an honour - having perhaps one of the ugliest little craft to ever sail upon the seas named in your honour - not a cruise liner or a battleship but a dirty old tug!!

Still, someone at the Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Co. Ltd., must have thought it a good idea - they even ran this ad in the *North-China Daily News* in 1904 showing the horrid little thing chugging away like an emphysema ridden pensioner. Sadly old Henry Kezzick’s reaction to this honour remains unrecorded. We expect he emitted a mighty harrumph.

1. Posted by Paul French at [1:05 AM](#) [1 comments](#)