



While pirates openly plundered hapless ships in days gone by, the modern underwater bounty hunters need a license to remove any treasure. HKUAA

Pirate inspires treasure quest

The swashbuckling lives of pirates have captured the imagination of adults and children alike for generations.

And the life of Qing dynasty pirate Cheung Po Tsai is no exception.

Jackie Wu Ming-chuen, chairman the of 150-member Hong Kong Underwater Archaeological Association, was so inspired by stories of the famous pirate that he went on his own modern-day quest for treasure.

Cheung, who harassed ships in Guangdong, had — at the height of his power — command of an army of 20,000 men and hundreds of ships.

Wu and friends explored shipwrecks around Hong Kong and Southeast Asia in 2006 and produced five programs about their adventures.

The group explored 20 sunken ships and found ancient bowls among the wrecks.

They hold level-one licenses, which allow them to only “observe” the objects they find.

Wu says they will have to obtain level-two licenses before they can start archeological work.

Three of the group’s five programs will be aired on TVB Jade over the next three Saturdays at 7.30-8pm.

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