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Society for Anglo- Chinese Understanding

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2015

Registered Office: 15a Napoleon Road, St Margarets, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 3EW
Registered Charity No. 294651

SACU

The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU) was founded in 1965 to promote understanding and friendship between the British and Chinese people. It is open to all who subscribe to these aims. As a registered charity engaged in such work, SACU - which has no political affiliations - plays a vital role in providing regular and reliable information about China and the Chinese people. SACU publishes a quarterly magazine 'China Eye'. The SACU library is presently housed at Sheffield University and access is available to SACU members. We are grateful that the SACU Archive collection of photographs is stored at Oundle School with other materials to be added to complete the Archive in due course. These resources can be reviewed by arrangement.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2015 was a significant watershed for SACU as the Council worked purposefully on its mandate - refreshed at our 50th Anniversary event. I am writing this in May 2016, one year on, and so much has happened during the whole 2015/16 Golden Anniversary Year that it is quite hard to ignore the latter half of it, and just focus on this 2015 Annual Report.

30th May 2015 saw the start of our Golden Anniversary Year - with our 50th Anniversary Event. We were honoured that His Excellency Ambassador Liu Xiaoming gave the opening address. I was delighted to receive on behalf of SACU, a presentation from the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries [CPAFFC] to commemorate SACU's 50 years building friendship and understanding. The morning panel focused on *the SACU Experience* and comprised John Gittings former Guardian correspondent; Tom Buchanan University of Oxford; Prof. Mei Jianjun Director Needham Research Institute and was chaired by Dr. Ralph Parfect, Acting Director, Lau China Institute, Kings College London.

During lunch we enjoyed a slideshow of photographs from the 1971 SACU tour prepared for us by Sally Greenhill, and introduced by Michael Sheringham. After lunch we had an address from Mr. Song Jingwu, Vice President CPAFFC and from Prof. Sun Hua, China Centre for Edgar Snow Studies, Peking University. Minister Counsellor Xiang Xiaowei presented the Essay Prize to the winning Oundle School pupil prior to Zoe Reed SACU Chair talking about SACU's plans for the Golden Year and Jenny Clegg SACU Vice President launched SACU's George Hogg Fund. The afternoon Panel discussion was a practitioners panel on the theme of *Understanding China – the whats, the whys and the hows*. Prof. Kerry Brown, then University of Sydney; Graham Perry, former SACU Vice Chair; Prof. Jude Howell, LSE; Glyn Ford former Labour MEP; Steve Lau, Chinese in Britain Forum all spoke and Sam Beatson Lau China Institute chaired the session.

We finished with closing remarks from Dr Frances Wood SACU Vice President and tea, bookstall supplied by Cypress Books and networking. The whole event was a great success – tribute to the tremendous hard work and exhaustive planning by all involved! The full report of our 50th Anniversary Event can be found on our website at www.sacu.org. This comprehensive account includes the presentations made by our outstanding panels of speakers, on the theme of "Challenging British Perceptions of China: 50 Years of SACU".

The Golden Year Programme continued with a number of interesting and varied events. On 18th July we organised the AGM afternoon programme – we hold this jointly with the Meridian Society each year. As it was our turn to host we very pleased that Steven Lau from the Chinese Labour Corps/ Ensuring We Remember Campaign spoke to us about the forgotten contribution made by Chinese Labourers in World War 1 and the campaigns plans to get them the recognition they deserve. We also had a Chi Gong exhibition and got the opportunity to participate!

Around the time of the Mid-Autumn and Double Nine Festivals, we celebrated in two parts of the country – in Rotherham we had a Boston Castle Walk with moon cakes and wine organised and supplied by Haris Livas-Dawes and in London we climbed Primrose Hill and had jasmine tea and moon cakes made by Frances Wood.

30th October saw an impromptu talk from Jenny Clegg and Keith Bennett on Xi Jinping's visit to UK and its historic context – this was necessitated when our booked speaker was unable to reach us due to transport cancellations. It was a great evening generously hosted by EY at their prestigious offices in London.

Our final event in 2015, and the mid point of our Golden Anniversary Year, was the well-attended and prestigious session organised by Jenny Clegg held in the People's History Museum, Manchester on 25th November 2015. The event was organised in conjunction with the University of Central Lancashire Confucius Institute and the People's History Museum. The Deputy Consul General, Mr. Lai Bo said a few opening words and congratulated SACU on our 50th Anniversary.

In our 50th Anniversary Year the Council is making progress on its stewardship responsibility for ensuring that SACU survives and thrives into the future. As Ambassador Liu Xiaoming put it in his opening address:

"Confucius said 'At fifty, I knew the mandate of Heaven.' Today SACU turns fifty. On this very special day, I give SACU my best wishes from the bottom of my heart. I believe you not only know your mandate but are fully committed to it. It is the mandate to advance China-UK understanding and friendship. It is the mandate to carry forward, in this new age and with new ideas, the lofty cause of bridging gaps and strengthening bonds."

We have initiated a SACU 2065 Programme to ensure that we are able to carry forward SACU's mission *in this new age and with new ideas*.

SACU mission is

To promote understanding and advance the education of the UK public in all aspects of China and the Chinese People by:

- providing facts and analysis about China – not uncritically but always from a firm basis of friendship
- helping the British people to understand the meaning of China – past and present
- promoting friendship and mutual respect between the peoples of China and the UK.

We aim to promote Understanding – for a purpose

- to help the UK flourish in a world increasingly influenced by China
- to help overcome misplaced suspicion and increase understanding of China within UK
- to help members progress their China-related interests and so to help SACU thrive

We recognise that we are a small organisation with extremely limited resources – but with big ambitions to progress our mission. The way we work therefore is in partnership with other organisations and we want to particularly record our thanks to Lau China Institute, Kings College London and EY London for their sponsorship and provision of venues during this year. Going forward we will continue to build on partnerships and establish our SACU 2065 Programme to build a more robust infrastructure and strengthen our governance arrangements.

SACU also continues to build friendships with organisations allied to our mission including the CPAFFC, the Chinese Embassy, friendship associations from other parts of China and the world, the ICCIC, Needham Research Institute and various organisations that are connected with Needham and George Hogg here and in China including the schools each attended. We work similarly with organisations such as the Meridian Society, the Scotland China Association, and have joined a number of networks like Generation UK which all help to build our alliances and enable us to progress our mission.

It is important to recognise that all members of Council are volunteers and without their hard work and contribution we would not have SACU. I'd particularly like to thank our Vice Presidents Frances Wood and Jenny Clegg who are great assets using their connections and speakers' skills to further SACU aims; Our officers Walter Fung – China Eye, Jane Hadley – Vice President and Treasurer, Chris Henson – Membership Secretary and e-newsletter, Corinne Attwood – Secretary, and Rob Stallard Vice President and website management, all of whom work hard to maintain the organisation. SACU is a national organisation and people who work at building local branches make a vital contribution; Haris Livas-Dawe's work is of particular note with the Yorkshire and Humberside branch. SACU looks forward to building on its Golden Anniversary Year 2015/16 Programme to create an equally interesting and varied Programme for 2016/17. Council are also extremely grateful to two members who have stepped forward and played vital roles in pulling together the 2015/16 Programme – Ros Wong for her work in coordinating the 50th Follow Up Working Group, and Diane Davies who is coordinating the Younger People's Programme, of which more in the 2016 Annual Report. We are grateful for our loyal membership and urge other members like Diane and Ros to please get in touch with any offers of help!

Zoë Reed, Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Membership levels were stable through early 2015 but we experienced a several point percentage growth after our successful 50th Anniversary Event hosted by Lau China Institute at King's College London in May, 2015. As was the case in previous years, academics and academic institutions remain a significant component of our membership and the contribution to China Eye by new members who are also authors has been noticeable. Our international membership number increased in 2015 as it did in the previous year. We welcomed the Belgium-China Association to membership during 2015 and we continue to correspond through our newsletter with our fellow friendship societies in the Netherlands, Finland, Iceland and

Canada. We currently have individual members in the PRC, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Denmark, Italy, Spain, Canada, Australia and the USA. I believe that our emphasis on mutual cultural understanding is distinctive and I would like to use our web site to promote this message and further build our international membership.

The PayPal facility at our web site is still growing in use and contributing to a more efficient and less time-consuming renewal process. I do not have to write to members who use PayPal's automatic payment and would recommend PayPal to members who don't need to see a renewal letter to remind them.

As Membership Secretary, I continue to write a monthly newsletter of forthcoming events and news items of particular interest to SACU members. This has evidently been well received by the membership as I have had no requests to 'unsubscribe' any individual member. Some members have also contributed news and events to the newsletter. The London-focus of events remains a problem and I have asked our members who do not live in or near London (which is approximately 70% of the membership) to inform me of events in their areas so we may publicise them.

With most of my available time taken by compiling the newsletter and with routine membership concerns, there has been little time left over for additional initiatives. However, our 2015 initiative to advertise student rate online memberships is underway and has met with some success. Further, I agreed in 2015 to take responsibility for organising SACU's 2016 50th Anniversary tour to China. The initial response to the projected itinerary has been enthusiastic and I look forward to reporting on a successful tour next year.

Chris Henson

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that the Society's successful 50th Anniversary year was also a successful year financially thanks to the many donations received and the steady increase in the number of members. We also received a substantial final payment from the estate of a former member (1980s), details were given in last year's report. We are grateful to everyone that supported the Society during the Golden Anniversary year with donations to the 50th anniversary fund, and to the many people that gave their valuable time to ensure that the various events were a great success. It is hoped that the genuine interest in the Society's contribution to Anglo-Chinese understanding that ensured that the events in London and the north were a great success will continue to attract new members and give a more stable financial position for the future.

Jane Hadley

WEBSITE

There have been only a few changes to the web site (www.sacu.org) during the year. Visitor numbers remain at about 20,000 page visits per month. Continuing advertisements on a handful of pages have brought in about £5 a month which more than covers the costs of running the website. The majority of the visitors continue to be American schoolchildren looking up about Chinese history and culture.

We continue to receive a wide range of queries via the contact form from people all over the world. The website is updated with new material from China Eye after it is published and the contents of each monthly newsletter are put on the home page to publicise forthcoming events.

I have now reached the milestone of 20 years of single-handedly creating and maintaining the web site, and it is now time for someone else to take up the baton, so please get in touch if you can help with this rewarding and vital part of our work.

Rob Stallard

CHINA EYE

During this 50th Anniversary Year, China Eye has swelled to an average of nearly 44 pages compared to the usual 32 pages to accommodate special articles written to mark the 50th year of SACU and also submissions by older members reminiscing about their time and experiences

in SACU. In addition, there have, in fact, been more events than usual in the past year, especially when The Meridian Society (TMS) activities are included and reports have been made on events organised by both organisations. In fact, there are quite a few individuals who are members of both.

Regular contributors have included Flo and Ivor Kenna, Jacqueline Buksh, Haris Livas-Dawes, Jenny Clegg, Andrew Hicks and Michael Sheringham (of TMS). In addition, Rob Stallard and Chris Henson have both written articles and have also introduced and encouraged authors from outside of SACU to write for China Eye. Some have subsequently joined. It is especially pleasing in that we have had contributions from overseas members in China, France and Belgium.

As in previous years, China Eye has focused on positive aspects of China to counterbalance the negative, biased and sometimes inaccurate reports we frequently see in the popular press. I believe this is an important contribution to mutual respect and understanding. Members are encouraged to contribute to China Eye by writing articles, which are in line with SACU's objectives, but we have no budget for payment.

As always we are grateful for regular assistance from Keith Ray (magazine covers), Cilla Hollman-Sykes and Jane Hadley (proofreading), without whose reliable and prompt help the job of producing China Eye would have been much more difficult. This summer will see the 50th edition of China Eye and we are looking forward with confidence to the next 50 editions!

Walter Fung

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

Vacancy	President	Zoë Reed SACU Chair
Jane Hadley	Vice President & Treasurer	Corinne Attwood Secretary Walter Fung China Eye editor & production
Frances Wood	Vice President	Chris Henson Membership; Sussex & Kent
Jenny Clegg	Vice President	Linda Rosen
Rob Stallard	Vice President & Webmaster	Ivor Kenna Florence Kenna Andrew Hicks Haris Livas-Dawes Yorkshire & Humberside branch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

The Annual General Meeting is to be held at 11:30am on Saturday 16th July 2016.
Venue: Camden Chinese Community Centre, 9 Tavistock Place, London WC1 9SN.
(tel: 020 7388 8883 website: www.camdenccc.co.uk)
The nearest tube is Russell Square on the Piccadilly Line.

You are warmly invited to attend.

The purpose of the AGM is to transact the following business:

- To receive the Review of the Year.
- To receive and adopt the Report of the Council of Management and the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015.
- To elect the members of the Council of Management.
- To appoint scrutineers for the coming year.
- To transact any other ordinary business of an AGM.

AGM Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Messages and apologies for absence
3. Formal business:
 - i. Minutes of the 2015 AGM (available at the meeting)
 - ii. Election of tellers if necessary
 - iii. Election to Council vacancies
 - iv. Renewal of Memorandum of Association with the Meridian Society
4. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Accounts
5. Appointment of scrutineers
6. Report of the Council of Management
7. Report on *China Eye*
8. SACU Branches
9. Motion(s) submitted by members or by Council
10. Any other business
11. Close

SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING LTD. 0876179

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2015

2014

2015

INCOME

2523	Membership subscriptions applicable to 2015	2879
212	Donations	267
2500	Bequest	3902
	Gift Aid	
5	China Eye sales	4
2	Interest received	7
	50 th Anniversary	570
27	Misc	158
	Books	77
5269		7864

EXPENDITURE

385	Council expenditure	567
2402	China Eye printing & postage	2643
	Web site	130
195	Administration	244
	AGM	150
100	Room Hire	697
3082		4431

£2,187 NET SURPLUS/LOSS FOR THE YEAR

£3,433

2014		2015
	FIXED ASSETS	
	Office Equipment at cost	
	Less Depreciation	
0	Net Written Down Value	0
	CURRENT ASSETS	
6987	Balances at Bank	10502
44	Debtors	0
7031		10502
	Less CURRENT LIABILITIES	
554	Creditors	358
987	Deferred income to 2016	1221
1541		1579
5490	SURPLUS OF CURRENT ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES	8923
	REPRESENTED BY:	
3303	ACCUMULATED FUND BROUGHT FORWARD	5490
2187	SURPLUS/LOSS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR	3433
5490	ACCUMULATED FUND AT END OF YEAR	8923

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR(S)

For the year ending 31st December 2015 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

Approved and signed on behalf of the board of directors by..... (.....)
Director, on2016.

Report of the Independent Accountant to the members of

THE SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING LTD (A Company Limited by Guarantee 876179)

Without carrying out an audit, I confirm that the above balance sheet at 31st December 2015 and the profit and loss account for the year ended on that date are in agreement with the books and other records maintained by the treasurer of the company.



K. A. Inskip

31st May 2016