

China Eye

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SACU: Promoting understanding and friendship between the peoples of China and the UK since 1965

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SACU was founded in 1965 to promote understanding and friendship between the peoples of China and Britain, to provide facts and analysis about China – not uncritically but always from a firm basis of friendship – and to help the British people understand the meaning of China, past and present.

The society is open to all those interested in Chinese affairs and who are supportive of its aims, regardless of political affiliations.

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Back cover: The new front door of the Chinese Freemasons (Liverpool)

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Welcome

I am approaching a significant birthday and have edited China Eye for 16 years and 61 issues. I feel I need more time to pursue other interests – whilst I have time! I wish to stand down when a replacement comes forward. It is a satisfying job, and I think, an important way of contributing to Anglo-Chinese Understanding by emphasising positive news about China – some of which is not always reported adequately in the Western press. I grew up in the UK and see the need for this possibly more than an average person. Anybody interested should contact me, and I will explain what is involved.

China's space research

The Chinese probe landing on the far side of the moon has been reported widely and in some detail by much of the media. The complexity and scientific difficulty of this successful manoeuvre has been acknowledged but it is a pity that the announcement on the front page of the *Daily Telegraph* began, 'Moon landing, 'reveals' China's military threat' And that the emerging superpower is a growing threat to the UK and the world!! What on earth is the newspaper thinking? In contrast, The *I newspaper* does report that the Chinese *Chang'e-4* craft carries a rover to roam the surface and conduct ten experiments including one each from Germany, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia and Sweden. It also reports a quote by the Chinese newspaper, the *Global Times*, saying, 'Unlike mankind's mania in the past, the Chinese people harbour the dream of shared human destiny'.

China is to build large LHC

China has plans to build a Large Hydron Collider (LHC) at least twice the size of the European facility. The apparatus is used for particle physics research. Work could start as early as 2020 and be in use by 2030. The location is likely to be near Qinghuangdao in northern China. Reports say that it will be available to the entire global scientific community, not just Chinese scientists.

US-China Review reprints China Eye article on CLC

My China Eye article on The Meridian Society's visit to Flanders (China Eye No 54, Summer 2017) has been reprinted in the journal of the US-China People's Friendship Association (SACU's equivalent in the USA). In return they have sent up a copy of their magazine. In this magazine, some important points have been made regarding the US-China trade dispute.

It seems that a significant amount of the imports into the US are in fact products of American-Chinese joint ventures in China being exported to the American side of the joint venture in the US. China does not force any company to import Chinese products. It is the US companies' action and responsibility for importing. They must be getting some benefit. In addition, some American companies have profited immensely by being in China. A good example is Starbucks, which first entered China only 20 years ago and now have 4,400 branches all over China and is still growing.

The Huawei episode is straining relations between countries. The US has banned Huawei's 5G system for security reasons. Australia, Canada and probably New Zealand have done the same. The UK reaction so far is that any potential Huawei security is 'manageable'. Some reports say that the Huawei system is the best and cheapest. For the record, Huawei has supplied about £2 billion to the UK economy so far and created 7,500 jobs and a further £3 billion in investment is on the way (Economist 23/2/19)

Montessori and education

I first heard this word on the Needham Tour (2013), when our guide in Dunhuang, Stephen, took us to visit the private kindergarten, in which he had enrolled his child. The cost was 500 yuan per month for 'traditional' education, but extra for Montessori methods. I looked this up when I arrived home but have not thought or heard about it until last month, when I read an article in *Families Manchester* magazine, Jan/Feb 2018. Montessori is a method of education developed by Dr Maria Montessori about 100 years ago which recognises that children will learn naturally by themselves given the right environment.

China learns from others and is also continually researching better and more effective methods of education. I have seen several 'experimental' primary schools in Beijing and Nanjing. The Chinese methods of teaching mathematics, being used in schools in Shanghai and Singapore, are being seriously investigated by some UK teaching authorities.

The Times (30/1/19) reported the growing number of foreign students studying at Chinese universities; more than half a million, mainly from developing countries, but some are westerners. Several thousand courses are taught in English and the quality of Chinese universities are climbing the league table. Ranked by the quality of its research, Tsinghua has become the world's leader in mathematics and computing.

Chinese Gallery in the Manchester Museum

In China Eye No 59, Autumn 2018, Bryan Stich asked if any China Eye reader has any information on the CLC umbrella or the person it was given to, Lieutenant Thomas Walsh of the 119th Company of the CLC. He also invited suggestions of what should be in the new Chinese gallery which is planned for the Manchester Museum on Oxford Road about a mile south of the city centre.

Praise for Brian Morgan's article in China Eye No. 38

A professor of Buddhism, Christoph Anderl, at Ghent University has praised Brian's article on 'Dunhuang and the development of Chinese art'. It is satisfying to know that our friends in Europe read China Eye and appreciate Brian's expertise.

Walter Fung

China Eye Diary

Chinese festivals

In China, Chinese New Year is celebrated as the Spring Festival and is the most important festival in China. Each year is associated with an animal: the full sequence of 12 years is, in this order, Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit (or Hare), Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep (or Goat), Monkey, Rooster (or Cock), Dog and lastly the Pig (or Boar).

2019 is the Year of the Pig and Chinese New Year is on 5th February 2019. Other main festivals are;

- 5 April-Qing Ming
- 7 June-Dragon Boat Festival
- 7 August-Chinese Valentine Day
- 13 September-Mid-Autumn Festival
- 1 October-National Day
- 7 October-Chong Yang (Double Ninth)

In China, 'Golden Week' holidays follow Chinese New Year and National Day

Programme of Events Feb - Jul 2019

2019 SACU China Café Series is underway

SACU China Cafés are small, informal meetings with the room laid out in café-style, with refreshments, so that conversations with other participants about the theme are relaxed and easy. They are membership-only spaces with newcomers very welcome to join at the first SACU China Café they attend. All non-members pay £8 which entitles them to a year's membership of SACU and free attendance at all future SACU China Café meetings as well as the other benefits of membership.

SACU China Cafés give younger people a chance to be involved in SACU. These café-style discussions also give SACU the opportunity to pursue that part of our mission which is to educate and support Chinese people about Britain when they are in the UK. Of course, longer-standing members of SACU are also most welcome to come along and will have a valuable contribution to make.

The theme of this year's three café-style meetings is 'Health and Wellbeing', co-hosted by the Lau China Institute, King's College London (KCL) at Bush House, Strand Campus. SACU and the Lau are working in partnership to create a *UK-Chinese understanding of Health and Wellbeing* with a particular focus on supporting KCL students and their mental health needs.

SACU China Café 1: 19 February 2019 (Report)

Our first session featured **Jessica Darling** who spent her childhood in China with her father Dr Joshua S. Horn, author of *Away with All Pests: An English Surgeon in People's China 1954-1969*. He made a great contribution to improving the health of impoverished people. Jessica undertook all her education in China, and in Chinese, and returned to UK when she was 21. After completing her

nurse training, she returned to China and completed an acupuncture apprenticeship course in Beijing. She has also worked in complementary medicine, Chinese herbal medicine and nutrition. Jessica was therefore ideally placed to start this series on the theme of 'Health and Wellbeing' and help us think about English-Chinese cultural understanding of health and wellbeing.



China Cafe 1 (photo by D Ayton)

The second and third SACU China Cafés are set to develop the theme with the students. Dates will be confirmed in our eNewsletter and social media channels. Our Chair, Zoe Reed, is also able to draw upon the support of her professional colleagues at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (which specialises in mental health).

SACU China Café 2: develops the theme, with a health promotion team which would invite the students participating to collaborate in the design of a Chinese version of the 'Wheel of Wellbeing' [WoW]. This programme is already available nationally (and to KCL students) and, played as a game, teaches people how to look after their own mental health and wellbeing.

SACU China Café 3: discussions with medical specialists on some of the significant mental health issues facing Chinese and Asian students studying in western cultures.

Friday 15 March: Professor Michael Wood

Registration 5.30pm: 'The Story of China' at EY (Ernst & Young), 25 Churchill Place, Canary Wharf, London E14 5EY. Illustrated with film clips, Michael Wood's talk reflects on some of the themes in his recent highly-praised series on Chinese history and looks forward to his forthcoming film on the 40th anniversary of Deng's Reform and Opening up.



AGM Saturday 20 July

AGM day is held jointly with our partner organisation, The Meridian Society (TMS). This year it is SACU's turn to make the arrangements. Rooms at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, Chelsea, SW1X 0BD are booked, as last year.

11.00am-1.00pm: SACU's AGM is in the Library.

The AGM for TMS is in the Kirk Session Room.

2.00pm-4.00pm: Celebration of Lao She, in the Upper Hall, for our joint event. Lao She was born 120 years ago and is one of China's major literary figures. Lao She lived in London 1924-1929 teaching Chinese at the School of Oriental Studies (now SOAS), drawing on his experiences in his early novel *Mr Ma and Son: Two Chinese in London*.

We are delighted **Dr Anne Witchard** has agreed to talk on 'Lao She in London'. **Dr Jenny Clegg**, SACU VP, will follow with her presentation on 'Fu Manchu and the Yellow Peril.' SACU members are all invited to attend the morning AGM, join other members for a 'bring your own lunch' or just come along to the afternoon presentations. We continue to search for suitable venues for two more possible events this spring: 'Designing a City in China' and 'China and Brexit'. We would welcome any help to secure suitable free (or affordable) venues in London.

Please keep an eye on SACU's monthly eNewsletter, social media channels and [website](#) which carry updates and booking details for SACU events and other events organised by partner organisations.

We are still finalising venues and dates for other proposed speakers for our current programme of events as outlined in the last edition of *China Eye*.

SACU's monthly eNewsletter, website and social media channels will carry updates on all SACU events and other events organised by partner organisations. I would welcome any ideas or contributions from members, particularly useful just now would be any help to secure suitable free venues in London.

Ros Wong, SACU Programme Group
Co-ordinator events@sacu.org.uk

Recent SACU and Meridian Society Events

ICCIC Delegation visit UK 26-30 September 2018 by Ros Wong (reproduced from SACU's website)

SACU welcomed an ICCIC delegation for their short stay, 26th-30th September, which they made as part of the 80th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Chinese Industrial Co-operatives – Gung Ho movement. For this trip the delegation wanted to follow in the footsteps of George

Hogg. ICCIC stands for the International Committee for the Promotion of Chinese Industrial Co-operatives (Gung-Ho-ICCIC) (www.gungho.org.cn) which has been helping people establish member-owned co-operative enterprises since 1937. In an extremely short trip the delegation managed to visit all the main British sites associated with George Hogg (1915-1945), journalist, vocational teacher and key player in the wartime Gung Ho co-operative movement in China's North West. The ICCIC delegation was led by **Michael Crook**, Chair of ICCIC and included **Xu Fenghua**, Standing Committee Member of ICCIC; **Wu Haili**, Vice Secretary General of ICCIC; **Liu Guozhong**, Deputy Secretary General of ICCIC; **Fan Minggang**, Member of ICCIC; **Li Jinguo**, Standing Committee Member and Vice Secretary General of ICCIC; **Mao Lijun**, Standing Committee Member of ICCIC; **Yu Xiaohong**, Supervisor of ICCIC.

27 September (morning) St George's School, Harpenden, accompanied by George Hogg's niece Vanessa Dingley and great nephew Pete Jarvis, who is SACU's webmaster. David Waters, Assistant Head of St George's, and Miss Helen Barton, Headmistress, welcomed the delegation and gave a brief tour including the Old Library where George Hogg and other members of his family are listed on the oak panelled walls. There was a display of papers from the school's George Hogg Archive. Rosemary and Gavin Ross of Harpenden Local History Society then led the delegation to see 'Red Gables', the first family home of the Hogg family in Harpenden and where George was born, and 'Wayfarings' where the family later moved to, nearby.



ICCIC Delegation at St George's School Harpenden

27 September (afternoon) Needham Research Institute, Cambridge. John Moffett, Librarian of the Needham Research Institute, welcomed the delegation and showed them round the purpose-built Institute, opened in 1991 and now permanent home for Professor Joseph Needham's research collection. John introduced the delegation to

Professor Mei Jianjun, the NRI Director, and then displayed various photos and archives of Joseph Needham in wartime China.



**ICCIC at the Needham Research Institute, Cambridge
28 September (morning) Rochdale**

After an overnight stay in Manchester and accompanied by Jenny Clegg, SACU Vice President, the delegation went to Rochdale Pioneers Museum, birthplace of the modern co-operative movement.

Lunch followed at the Yang Sing Restaurant in Manchester City centre, where they were joined by Walter Fung and Linda Rosen, SACU Council members. After lunch the party had a short tour of Manchester's Chinatown before going on to the **Co-operative College in Manchester**. The CEO Simon Parkinson gave an introduction which preceded a discussion between co-operative colleagues and the delegation on experiences of the development of co-operatives in Britain and China. Time was limited unfortunately because the delegation had to catch the train to London for a dinner-meeting with more SACU members.

28 September (evening) Dinner at a London hotel's dining room: joined by Frances Wood, SACU Vice President, SACU members Reg Hunt, Michael Sheringham and his wife Susu, and Nikki Crook.

29 September Visit to Wadham College, Oxford University, George Hogg's former college, before heading back to Heathrow for the flight home.

Michael Crook commented, "The ICCIC will continue to work to promote Sino-British friendly exchanges". Follow this link for ICCIC's own account of their visit: <http://www.gungho.org.cn/en-info-show.php?inford=1224>

This was a great opportunity for SACU members to meet ICCIC members who have exceptional experience in organising self-help activities and training in co-operative business in the poorer areas of China. It was also a chance to learn more about new developments in the latest reforms to 'revitalise the rural areas'.

You can read about the activities of the ICCIC here: <http://www.gungho.org.cn/en-index.php>

SACU's relationship with the ICCIC through the George Hogg Education Fund is explained here: <https://sacu.org/george-hogg-fund.html>

You can see Harpenden Local History Society's report of the delegation's visit here: http://www.harpenden-history.org.uk/page/following_the_george_hogg_trail

Meridian Society Chinese New Year Celebrations

These took the usual format of a Chinese banquet and a Chinese themed film at the BFI. This year it was in the reverse order because of the length of the film, 'China: Confronting the Modern World with Style' directed by Michelangelo Antonioni (1973), totalling over three hours.

The meal was at the 'Taste of China' restaurant on Southampton Row. The film was in three parts and focussed on everyday life in China at the time. The dialogue was in Italian, but there were concise and perceptive sub-titles in English. The film contained a remarkable recording of the birth of a baby delivered by Caesarean operation by Chinese surgeons. It was incredible to see the mother, conscious the entire time cheerfully chatting to nurses, whilst the birth took place, her face lighting up on hearing her baby's first cry. The anaesthetic was by acupuncture; several needles had been inserted in her legs and other parts of her body.



China and North Korea: SACU Manchester

SACU (Manchester) and The University of Manchester Politics Society hosted the event at the lecture theatre in Hulme Hall, a university hall of residence, on Thursday 31st January 2019. Glyn Ford (author of the book *Talking to North Korea*) was in conversation with Dr Jenny Clegg (Vice-President of SACU). The attendance was good, about 35 persons, despite being one of the coldest nights of the winter. It was even very cold in the lecture theatre – everyone in overcoats, including the Chinese Consul and his wife! Glyn, now a member of SACU, has been to North Korea 50 times. A review of his book 'Talking to North Korea' has been written by Chris Henson and appears on page 15 of this copy of China Eye.

Belt and Road Initiative: Strategic and Economic Consequences

Some SACU members attended this conference on 7th January 2019 in the Great Hall, KCL, organised by The Royal Society for Asian Affairs, The Wilson Center and King's College London's Lau China Institute. Varied and wide-ranging news, views and analyses were presented by a team of eight international, well-qualified and well-informed speakers. The morning session was chaired by Kerry Brown, the afternoon, by Michael Kugelman of the Wilson Center. The entire proceedings are available for viewing on YouTube. The overall impressions were generally positive but one person, who was sat near me, was not at all

impressed. He said his research showed China's Special Economic Zones in China were failing, those abroad were failing and the BRI would fail (steam coming out of his ears!).

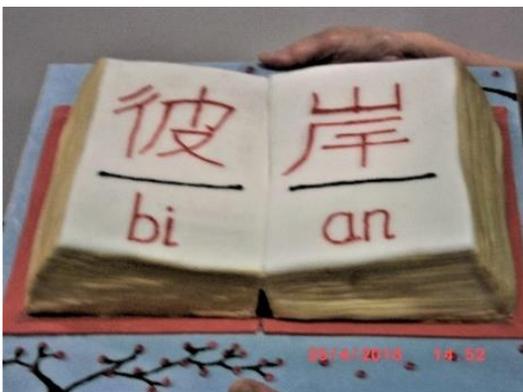
From Shore to Shore

This particular performance tells the story of Chinese communities in the UK by tracing the lives of three individuals: Cheung Wing is escaping from war, Mei Lan has had enough of the potato peeler (in a Chinese take-away) and Yi Di wants the impossible – her parents' approval.

The script was written by award-winning writer Mary Cooper and her multilingual co-author, MW Sun. The director is David KS Tse. It is a powerful drama staged in Chinese restaurants: in Manchester the venue is the Yang Sing, in Liverpool, the Angel in Hanover Street. The price of £20 (concessions, £17.50) includes a two-course meal.

The Manchester shows will have taken place by the time most SACU members receive their China Eye. Members may catch the Liverpool performances if you are quick, but 'From Shore to Shore' will be staged in the future at several other cities and venues, details of which can be ascertained from the From Shore to Shore website. This is a product of the Bi'an, UK Chinese Writers' Network. A short report appeared in China Eye No 60 (page 15).

Bi'an was launched at the Leeds Library on 29th April 2018 with a specially made cake to celebrate. (China Eye No. 58, page 29). Bi'an means, 'The Other Shore' and was set up to connect, develop and promote Chinese Heritage writers across the UK.



Chinese New Year Celebrations 2019 (Year of the Pig)

Celebrations of some degree took place in many cities and towns where there are Chinese communities. Chris Henson's SACU email newsletter for January provided an email address for details of the events in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Cardiff, Bangor, Sheffield, Birmingham, Southampton, Newcastle and York. There must have been many others in other towns and cities. Many years ago, probably in the early 1980s, I was present at celebrations in the Bayswater area of London. Chinese New Year or the Spring Festival, as it is now called on mainland China, is the

most important festival for Chinese people all over the world.



The Pig in St Anne's Square, Manchester (WF)



Mr Pig makes an appearance at the Wah Sing Community Centre, Duke Street Liverpool (WF)



The Pagoda Chinese Youth Orchestra gave a splendid performance for Liverpool's Chinese New Year celebrations

Liverpool celebrations occupied the whole Chinatown area. Civic dignitaries which included the Lord Mayor and representatives of the Chinese Consulate made the rounds of the premises of Chinese organisations in Liverpool; Chinese Freemasons, See Yep Association, Wah Sing Community Centre and the Pagoda. As in previous years, the events were concluded by a magnificent Lumiere presentation centred around the Liverpool Chinese Arch.

Birmingham Chinese Community Events to honour the CLC

Birmingham Chinese Community Centre Exhibition on the Chinese Labour Corps and the British Chinese Armed Forces Heritage Project (2015-2018) launch on 1st February 2019

The Birmingham Chinese Community Centre (CCC) is a thriving and well organised society with extensive premises at 99 Bradford Street in Digbeth, Birmingham. It organises Chinese cultural, social, educational and economic activities and exchanges between the Chinese and non-Chinese communities.

This Spring the Birmingham CCC is organising a number of events to commemorate the Chinese Labour Corps (CLC) of World War One. Following the exhibition launch on 1st February, the exhibition will continue to be displayed for a week at the Birmingham CCC and then it will move to the Library of Birmingham – Spotlight Zone at Broad Street, Birmingham until 1st of March 2019. Several dignitaries, including Dr Yeow Poon, Chair of Birmingham CCC, Steve Lau, Chair Ensuringweremember, and the Deputy Mayor of Birmingham made opening speeches.

Steve Lau had observed that remembering the CLC had brought the various Chinese Communities and organisations together. They were united in the objective of remembering and also in the efforts to erect a permanent monument to their memory. Steve pointed out that CLC men served in Iraq and East Africa and not just in Flanders. The monument to remember the CLC will be in the form of a huabiao, and will be 9.6 metres tall, one millimetre for each of the 96,000 men who served for Britain. It will be a permanent monument and will be there for future generations to pay tribute to and to remember the CLC.

The CLC movement has highlighted the effort of Chinese in general, in the service of Britain. The co-exhibition in Birmingham of the British Chinese Armed Forces who served in the 19th and 20th centuries. provides an important example of this. The Deputy Mayor of Birmingham noted that Chinese had served in the British Royal Navy during the Falklands conflict; he mentioned the Chinese who sailed on the Atlantic Conveyor.

The British Chinese Armed Forces was the subject of a four-year Heritage Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and jointly conducted by Regent's University and Ming-Ai (London) Institute between 2015 and 2018. Further information was given in China Eye No 55, 'British Lions, Chinese Dragons'.



Steve Lau at the opening ceremony. Officers of the Birmingham CCC. Dr Yeow Poon, Chair is second from the right, next to WF

A large pictorial book on the CLC is available. For details of purchase and for more details of the CLC please go to the website www.ensuringweremember.org.uk

CLC Discussion with panellists at Birmingham Central Library on 27th February 2019

The venue was the Engagement Centre, Heritage Learning Space. The panellists were: Steve Lau, Peng Wenlan, Meridian Society and Chungwen Li, Dean Ming-Ai (London) Institute. Each panellist made a short presentation, which preceded an open discussion. Wenlan Peng directed the Heritage Lottery funded project to commemorate the CLC. The meeting was opened by Alex Yip, (the only Chinese councillor in the West Midlands and one of only 15 in the whole of the UK) and Dr Yeow Poon, Chair of Birmingham CCC.

Steve's talk included some mention of the aftermath of the war. Many of the CLC men were traumatised and driven insane by their experience in Europe. In addition to the general horrors of war, some had the gruesome task of digging up bodies, some of which had been in the ground for up to four years, and reburying them. This was especially repugnant work for some Chinese with taboos regarding death.

Steve continues to demand equal treatment for the CLC men from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, e.g. some CLC gravestones only record role numbers, not names of the men. The Imperial War Museum are more cooperative and have produced a poster highlighting the crucial role of the CLC men in the Battle of Cambrai. A thousand CLC men worked in the Tank Central Workshop. This was skilled work, but unskilled CLC men learned fast.

The huabiao monument has been carved in China and is being transported to the UK. If it arrives after 29th March, Brexit may well influence progress and it may be subject to taxes! The huabiao design includes the national flower of Iraq to commemorate the 5,000 CLC men who served in the Middle East. The 1,000 CLC men who served in Kenya will also be commemorated on the huabiao. The target date for its unveiling at the Royal Albert Dock is May 4th this year.

The role of the missionaries, especially Baptists in recruitment in Shandong was mentioned; most recruits came from areas that had missionary activity. The contribution of the YMCA in providing recreation, education and general moral, religious and morale uplift for the CLC men was also recorded and discussed.

Walter Fung

Constitutional Matters and Elections to Council July 2019

Background

SACU Council and Executive Committee have been considering how to encourage more people to come forward and undertake roles on Council. We are still operating within the Memorandum & Articles of Association incorporated in April 1966 and are considering adopting a more modern constitution. An option is to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation [CIO]. This is a new organizational form recently approved which would have some administrative benefits. Such a decision would be taken at an AGM and the earliest that would happen is July 2020. We are taking the opportunity to review the Model Constitution associated with the CIO material with a view to its possible adoption. Again, any change to the constitution would need to be agreed at the AGM.

Meantime we have refreshed our collective memory of the detail contained in the 1966 governing document and want to run the July 2019 Elections to Council in accordance with it.

A summary of the process is that

- Half of the elected members of the Council retire from office at each AGM. A retiring member of the Council is eligible for re-election.
- The election process is described as follows
 - Any two members of SACU can nominate any other member to serve on the Council
 - The name of the member being nominated together with the names of the proposer and seconder, must be received by the Secretary at least 28 days before the AGM
 - At least 21 days before the AGM the Secretary must contact any nominated member where their consent in writing has not been received, and tell them their nomination will be invalid unless they consent in writing at least 14 days before the AGM.
 - The nomination lists will close 14 days before the AGM and balloting lists [if necessary] prepared containing the names of the candidates in alphabetical order.
 - Each member present at the AGM can vote for any number of candidates not exceeding the number of vacancies.

If there are less candidates than the minimum number required, the Council has the power to appoint further members to make up the minimum required. Clause 34 states that the number of elected members of the Council should be not less than ten nor more than twenty-one. Some members are ex Officio and not included in the elected member count e.g. President, Vice Presidents and Honorary Treasurer.

Only members who have paid their membership subscriptions are entitled to vote. All votes must be given personally and proxies are not allowed.

Dates for Elections at AGM 20th July 2019

The dates for this year's elections are as follows

- Nominations together with name of proposer and seconder to be received by Corinne Attwood on secretary@sacu.org.uk by 22nd June 2019. Please ensure the email address of the person being nominated it in the 'cc' line of the email and we will take this as proof that they have consented.
- Corinne will also email nominated people by 29th June 2019 asking them to reply by 6th July confirming that they wish to stand for election.
- The nomination list will close on 6th July and Corinne will produce the balloting lists [if necessary] for use at the AGM
- At the AGM on 20th July we will elect the members to the Council filling as many vacancies as possible.

Please consider standing for election – we only have 12 members on Council at the moment so plenty of vacancies to reach our maximum of 21!

We particularly need the following skills and interests on Council to be strengthened by new members

- Event organizing
- Website and social media
- Liaising with schools as part of our Essay Competition
- Fundraising

Zoe Reed

SACU Chair

The May 4th Movement of 1919

Rob Stallard

Rob is a Vice President of SACU, who has held the positions of secretary, membership secretary, treasurer and webmaster. He is a regular contributor to China Eye.

May 4th 2019 marks a very important centenary in China. It marked the beginning China's transformation into a modern nation.

China in the early 20th century

Although the Republic of China had been founded on January 1st 1912 the promised reforms went nowhere. The elected consultative assemblies that had been created soon fell apart and Yuan Shikai died soon after attempting to found his own Imperial dynasty. China had entered a 'warlord' era where provinces were ruled as fiefdoms of militarist leaders, but this emergence of warlords was mainly in the north, in the south enthusiasm for the Republic remained strong. China was at its lowest ebb, bowing to any demand from foreign powers. Sun Yatsen had returned to southern China in 1917 and was calling for a re-unification of the country from his Guangzhou power base.

Even though the 'Republic' was the official government, the long hand of dynastic history was still in play. Emperor Puyi still lived in pampered luxury locked behind the walls of the Forbidden City with the title of 'Emperor' but with no power. Between 1911 and 1924 China had both a President and an Emperor. To the vast majority of poor rural people the Imperial system lived on, and many expected a new dynasty to be founded as had always happened in the past when a dynasty had fallen into decay.



Heads of government arrive for the formal signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. Georges Clemenceau (France); Woodrow Wilson (U.S.); Vittorio Orlando (Italy) with back to camera and David Lloyd George (U.K.) raising his hat to him.

German activity in China

In 1895 Germany had taken control of Qingdao, Shandong as a treaty port. The port had prospered (including the development of Qingdao [Tsingtao] beer), and so in 1898 Germany expanded its control to

a large part of Shandong province (193 sq miles) on a 99 year lease. Many foreign nations including Europeans, Japan and America were busy building up their interests in China. Indeed Britain and Germany worked together on a joint railway from Tianjin to Pukou which was completed in 1912 not long before they came to blows in conflict.

The outbreak of the First World War (1914-18) caused investment into China to evaporate. It became evident to all Chinese that the apparent peacefulness and friendliness of the foreigners was not a permanent state of affairs - they were just as fallible as other nations. At the outbreak of war Japan chose to actively support the Allies against Germany/Austro-Hungary. Japan seized the opportunity by taking control of German territories and declared war on Germany on 23rd August 1914. China joined the allies three years later on 14th August 1917. When the war was won in 1918 the victorious allies met together to negotiate the terms of the peace at the Palace of Versailles — including both China and Japan. The vexed question was what to do about the German overseas territories. China thought it had an agreement that the German occupied lands would be returned to Chinese control on allied victory. The Chinese delegation had demanded the end of the treaty port system, the restoration of Shandong to China and the abolition of the 21 Demands foisted on China by Japan. The Japanese diktats had been issued in 1915 included such things as Japanese occupation of Fujian province. It was the Versailles Treaty that focused growing resentment on the Chinese government's acceptance of the Japanese demands.

The Chinese delegation was primarily led by Wellington Koo who, although a skilled negotiator, over-estimated his influence on U.S. President Woodrow Wilson. The foreign powers were concerned that restoring Shandong to China would create a dangerous precedent jeopardizing their areas of control within China. Instead the Versailles treaty agreed to transfer Germany's land leases to Japan. Not only did this stir up trouble in China but the vindictive treatment of Germany led pretty directly to World War 2.

Protest in China

When news reached China that Shandong had been lost, the response was of shock and horror, it had been bad enough to lease land to European powers but to an Asian country, considered once a vassal state, was beyond imagining. The pro-Japanese stance of the Chinese government was brought into question.

So on May 4th 1919 over 3,000 students mainly from Beijing (Peking) University gathered in Tiananmen Square at 1:30pm to protest. They marched to the

neighbouring legation quarter with slogans such as 'Return Qingdao to Us' and 'Boycott Japanese Goods'. Police blocked their way to the legations so the crowd turned their fury on the 'Japanese collaborators' in the government. The houses of the Pro-Japanese faction including Cao Rulin 曹汝霖, Zhang Zongxiang 张宗祥 and Lu Zongyu 陆宗輿 were attacked. The Chinese minister Cao Rulin's house was ransacked and some of his family and friends were beaten up. These protests were all over by 5:45pm but discontent rumbled on, a strike was called and the Beijing university students refused to attend lectures. On May 7th the students formed an association and sent out messages all over China for others to join the protest. Their call was answered and large rallies at Tianjin, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Guangzhou (Canton) and Changsha took place. Mao Zedong, then in Changsha initially took little part; probably because his mother was terminally ill. Chinese rallies in Japan were blocked by armed police. It was the first mass urban protest in Chinese history. The protests continued and 700 students were arrested on June 4th. However these arrests only brought in wider support. On June 5th workers began a general strike in Shanghai which grew by June 10th to about 70,000 people.



29th November 1919. Tiananmen Square protest over Japanese invasion of Fujian.

Deng Yingchao 邓颖超 described the events in Tianjin. She became the head of the Tianjin Women's Patriotic Society that held large rallies, printed propaganda and gave speeches. These protests aimed principally 'to save the country' and not to install democracy or communism. Deng went door to door to spread the message. Zhou Enlai (later Premier 1949-76) broke off his studies in Japan to work with a student organization in Tianjin. He became editor of the Tianjin Students Union newspaper which was published every day with 20,000 copies printed. Rallies were obstructed by armed police who often beat up the protestors. A huge rally was held on October 10th 1918. Protests were made to Yang Yide

(the Chief of Tianjin Police) but by November the protesting organizations were declared illegal and had to carry on in secret. A peaceful rally to deliver a letter of protest to Governor Cao Rui in December was met by further violence. Only after continued protests dragging on into 1920 were all the arrested students released from jail. Deng Yingchao records that female equality was achieved; the two protest groups were initially divided by gender but when they merged they worked together harmoniously with equal status - for the first time in China. Deng Yingchao and Zhou Enlai went on to be married in 1925. There was widespread support among Republican leaders; Sun Yatsen called for the students to be exempted from punishment because of their patriotic motives. At the other end of the reformist spectrum Kang Youwei thought the protests were a valid expression of 'people's rights'.

The International Situation

The background to China's treatment at Versailles needs to be understood to help explain these events. At this time Britain remained a key player; she remained the number one world power and had invested heavily in China. The UK still saw Shanghai and the whole Yangzi valley as an area ripe for development. Shanghai was at the time 'international' but dominated by the British who regarded it as Britain's 'Open Door into China'. The 'Great Game' with Russia had come to an end when Russia joined the alliance against Germany and deposed the Tsarist regime. To avoid deploying British or Indian troops in the region, Britain had turned to Japan as its main ally in the north to frustrate Russian expansion. The Anglo-Japanese Alliance was signed in 1902. It is not surprising that Britain encouraged Japan's move into Shandong. Indeed British forces helped the Japanese take control in 1914. Britain had already its own foothold in Shandong at Weihaiwei where the port was leased in 1898 for as long as the Russians occupied the Liaoning peninsula.



Students of Beijing Normal University (arrested at the May Fourth Movement) returned to the university on May 7th, 1918

The Japanese situation is quite hard to understand because of the events that were to follow in World War 2. At the time many Chinese reformers (including Sun Yatsen) had visited Japan to understand its rapid modernization and see how this approach might be applied to China. It was the shining example of how an Asian country could rapidly reform. Japan had a form of constitutional monarchy similar to Britain with the hereditary head of state having little official power. Many saw the Japanese as the natural successors to the Manchus (Qing dynasty) as a race that would conquer China and bring about much needed change. Indeed when the Japanese invaded China in 1937 it took note of the Manchu tactics of 1644. This may seem unrealistic in retrospect but at the time the success of Japanese modernization of Taiwan seemed a reasonable model to apply to China as a whole. Taiwan had become a Japanese possession after the Sino-Japanese War (1894-5) and had remained relatively peaceful and was prospering. As part of the 21 Demands Japan sought to occupy neighbouring Fujian province as well. Japan had seized the German Shandong possessions in 1914 and as a war-time ally must surely have expected to cling on to them as a reward for its active support.

Meanwhile in south-west China (especially Yunnan), France was extended her influence from French Indo-China and had leased the region of Guangzhouwan in 1898 for 99 years. France must have been keen to avoid the precedent of returning leased land back to China that might damage her colonial system in the area.

It is however the revolution in neighbouring Russia that was more significant. Without it the protests would probably have been much more muted and fizzled out. Russia had had its revolution in 1917 and installed a government based on Marxist/Communist ideology. The novelty of a classless society had great appeal to young Chinese.



Deng Yingchao and Zhou Enlai with daughter Sun Weishi. 1949

Protestors' Victory

Central government, such as it existed, eventually caved in to the demands of the May 4th movement. The leaders of the Pro-Japanese faction were dismissed from government and the students were released without charge. Most importantly the Chinese delegation at Versailles refused to sign the treaty. The main contention - giving Shandong to Japan - had to wait until the Washington Conference (1921-22) to be finally resolved; there U.S. President Harding concluded an agreement on February 4th 1922 that ordered Japan to revert Shandong to Chinese control. The success of the May the Fourth movement had wide ranging repercussions. The seeds of a genuine nationalistic mass movement had begun which would soon lead to the formation of the People's Republic in 1949. China had 'stood up' to foreign exploitation for the first time since Lin Zexu had burned the opium at Guangzhou in 1840. The reformist vigour had at last spread from the south to all of China.

However it was only urban centres that became politically active, the great majority of Chinese people in rural areas continued life unaffected and barely aware of the protests. China did not follow the same path as Russia had just 18 months before in its October Revolution. Although Marxism was seen as the most appealing philosophy behind the movement, it was nationalistic than communist. The priority was to save the nation and not to change the system. However women's rights were an important part of the message and many young women took an important part in political activities for the first time in Chinese history on an equal footing to men.

The president of Beijing University, Cai Yuanpei 蔡元培(1868-1940), was seen as an inspiring figure of the movement. Hu Shi 胡适 and Chen Duxiu 陈独秀 were also active in the early days at the faculty. Chen Duxiu was the editor of the influential 'New Youth' periodical which was avidly read by both Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kaishek) and Mao Zedong; another very famous contributor was Lu Xun. Chen Duxiu went on to co-found the Chinese Communist Party in 1921. In this and other publications the vernacular form of written Chinese became generally accepted and this widely expanded its readership beyond the privileged class of scholars and officials. Some believe this was the most significant achievement of the movement.

The students were seen as the trailblazers for a new form of society and by writing short periodicals and organizing rallies the fervour for change was maintained. They had achieved victory over the government by determined action.

All this may seem a fairly standard protest movement as has happened all over the world in many countries. But in China the May 4th Movement was much more than that, it was a pivotal moment when entrenched attitudes were challenged and defeated. The May Fourth event was as significant as the Age of Enlightenment in Europe. Ideas were no longer the property of just the educated elite but of all of the people. Everyone in China became engaged in working out for themselves the new place for China in the modern world.

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The China Eye editor will consider the publication of any article which contributes to Anglo Chinese Understanding and assists SACU in achieving its objectives. Articles expressing positive views of China are especially encouraged. Articles containing controversial aspects are discouraged.

It is requested that offerings are typed and are in Word and submitted by e mail. The optimum length is between 1,000 to 3,000 words, but any length, even a few paragraphs is welcomed. Photographs or other illustrations are also welcomed, however, apart from the outside covers, China Eye is printed, by photocopying in black and white. Times New Roman script is generally used. The deadlines are the 20th of the month before publication. China Eye is sent out in March, June, September and December. However, to help the editor, please send in manuscripts as early as possible.

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pp. 306-307; The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of China, ed. Brian Hook, Cambridge University Press, 1991 p. 236; The Chinese Renaissance, Hu Shi, University of Chicago, 1934 pp. 55-57; The Gate of Heavenly Peace, Jonathan Spence, Penguin, 1982 pp. 154-173; China Now No. 128, 1989, pp. 10-11; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty-One_Demands; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_China

Illustrations

Heads of state arrive at Versailles:

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Versailles_1919.jpg

Students of Beijing Normal University:

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:May_Fourth_Movement_students.jpg

Tiananmen Square Protest:

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:November_29_student_demonstration,_Tiananmen_Square.jpg

Zhou Enlai and family:

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Zhou_Enlai_family.jpg

The Year of The Pig (or Boar)

The Year of The Pig signifies a year of honesty, simplicity and fortitude. The pig is the last in the Chinese cycle which begins again with the Year of The Rat; there are twelve animal signs in the Chinese Horoscope. The Chinese name for the pig or boar is zhu (猪).

The person born under this sign will enjoy certain unique qualities: he pursues pleasure and enjoys parties and clubs, he is a quiet organiser, a trustworthy person and will always find people to help him, but he prefers helping others, he is happy to take on other persons' problems and is calm and understanding. His Western sign is Scorpio. There are five different types of pig (or boar) signified by the five Chinese elements of metal, water, fire, wood and earth. This is dependent on the year of birth.

Some famous people include Ronald Regan (metal), Prince Rainier and Maria Callas (water), Chiang Kaishek (fire) King Hussain and Woody Allen (wood), Alfred Hitchcock and Al Capone (earth). Pigs (or Boars) are loyal and make lasting friendships. They are all in all, very likable, honest and helpful people. Let us welcome the Year of the Pig (or Boar)!

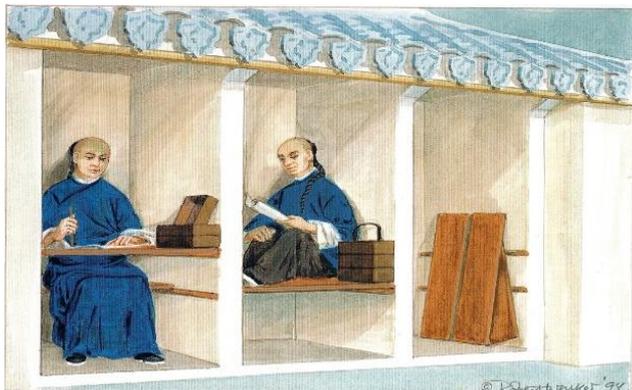
Jacqueline Buksh

Imperial Examinations – Civil Officials; 'Ladder to the Clouds' Part Two

David Rosier

Part One of this article appeared in China Eye, Winter 2018, No 60.

Students entered the compound with the required bedding, food and water plus writing equipment and would remain in their individual 'cells' for the duration of the examination. This could be 1 or 2 complete days but this was nowhere near as onerous as for the examiners, and administrators, who could be confined for 4 or 5 weeks as the marking process took place.



Students were searched for crib sheets as they entered. They then became known by the number of the cell allocated in order that the examiners had no knowledge of the identity of any individual student. From that point there would be no contact with the outside world until the conclusion of the examinations.



The mechanics and administration of the examinations were complex, and I suspect those involved were relieved that they only took place every 3 years.

The process required a large number of examiners and administrators. Each Examination Centre would be allocated a Chief and Deputy Examiner and they would be supported by up to 18 Associate Examiners. The number was dependent on the number of students that could be accommodated.

Staffing would then include around 1000 copyists and 100 proof-readers. In order to understand their function an insight into the marking process is required. Students would complete their papers in black ink. Once handed in they would be past to a Copyist who would attempt to create an exact copy but in red ink. The replica text was then passed to the Proof-Readers who made any corrections in yellow ink. Once this process was completed the original papers were held by a Custodian and the copies were given to the Associate Examiners to mark. Their decision was made in blue ink and finally the Chief and Deputy Examiners would review and add their final decision which would be in black ink.

After this torturous process the copy and original papers would be reunited, the identity of the student established, and the results, known as a Victory Announcement, would be published.

In support of the examination staff there would have been an 'army' of adjudicators, regulators and administrators. For the duration of the examination process all these individuals were not permitted to leave the compound or have any contact with the I

Clearly, this was a highly attritional process as the number of students were whittled down to the 200-300 that would graduate from the Palace Examination. The greater majority would fall by the wayside and either pursue a lesser career as a government administrator or look to qualify as a Military Official.

For the successful graduates their individual grading from the Palace Examinations would determine the nature of the initial posting and the Rank that would be awarded. The 9 Ranks of Civil Officials were, in reality, divided into 18 grades with a list of appropriate jobs. Graduates were not immediately guaranteed a posting so could end up back at college awaiting a position to become available.

A First Rank Graduate would receive special recognition and honours. Many would be sent to China's most prestigious college, Hanlin Academy, to study and this was the recruitment pool for the 50 officials that would become a Censor – the Emperor's Auditors.

Costume was a feature of a student's life and all were required to wear the distinctive blue robe. First rank graduates would wear their robe trimmed with silver together with a silver hat finial of an eagle and a small ruby (the gem stone of first rank)



As the following photograph illustrates the graduate would also wear a red sash plus a large collar (*pilling collar*)



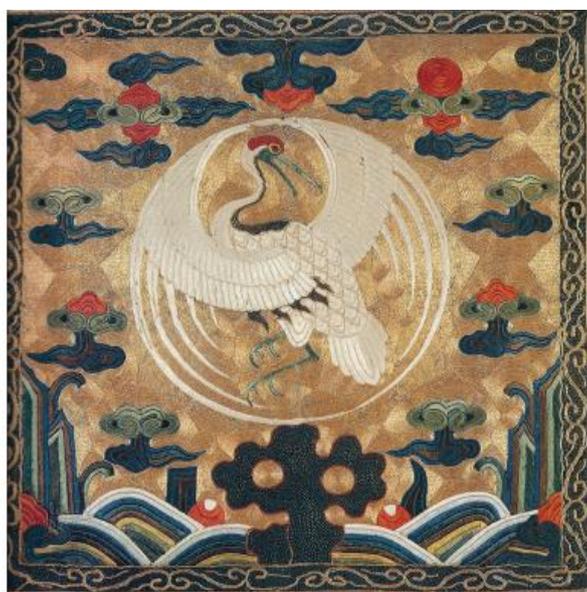
Whilst in this photograph 'Dad' looks justifiably proud of his son's achievements this would not have been the product of rampant nepotism. He could have been influential in the

young boy entering the process but from that point on the student would have to have proven himself academically.

Eventually a role and Rank would be confirmed for each graduate. They could be posted anywhere in the Empire but would never take up a post in their home city or county because of the potential for undue pressure from family and contacts.

Each Rank was represented by a specific bird that would be the dominant feature on the Insignia of Rank Badges that would have been worn on an outer surcoat known as a *Pu Fu*.

The badges were a stylised image of the universe with land, sea and sky. The birds look toward a sun symbol as a mark of respect towards the Emperor. Officials would be responsible for paying for their regulated costume and were allowed to embellish their insignia with religious symbols and/or wishes for longevity, good health, wealth and happiness.



First Rank – Manchurian Crane
Formal Surcoat – Pu Fu
Late 17th Century

Imperial Wardrobe-Dickinson & Wrigglesworth, Oxford Uni. Press. 990 Page 121

CIVIL OFFICIALS INSIGNIA OF RANK	
•FIRST	MANCHURIAN CRANE
•SECOND	GOLDEN PHEASANT
•THIRD	PEACOCK
•FOURTH	CLOUD GOOSE
•FIFTH	SILVER PHEASANT
•SIXTH	EGRET
•SEVENTH	MANDARIN DUCK
•EIGHTH	QUAIL
•NINTH	PARADISE FLYCATCHER

Finally, career progression would be based upon a 3-yearly cycle of further examinations supported by a review from the official's 'manager'. Progression could take the form of transfer, with or without promotion, or demotion.

For some, however, graduation could elude them for all their adult lives and yet something would drive these men on in the hope that finally they would graduate. The Emperors were not unaware of the efforts of these men and should a 'student' reach the age of 80, without succeeding, he would award a 4 Character Insignia Badge as recognition of perseverance if not academic ability.

This system had served China well for nearly 2000 years but eventually in 1905 the examinations, due to China's acceptance, in the late 19th century, that the country had to modernise and industrialise in order to compete

internationally, were finally disbanded. The education of the future bureaucrats would become based on the knowledge of

economics, science, the arts and international relationship



Giving an old qipao a "second life"

Tamara Treichel

Tamara lives and works in Beijing. She is a cosmopolitan and creative writer and has written regularly for China Eye. Her writings have appeared in Beijing Review.

I don't know exactly when my love affair with qipaos, or cheongsams, started. I just know that when I saw Chinese actress Zhao Wei (Vicky Zhao) and her costars wearing qipaos in the *Romance in the Rain* or *Moment in Peking* TV series, which are set in Shanghai and Beijing respectively in the 1930's, I was smitten!

While the exact origin of the qipao is up for debate, with some saying it originated from a one-piece dress of Manchu origin in the Qing Dynasty, others posited it could be traced to other dynasties and had even sustained Western influences. The qipao became popularized in the 1930's during the Republic of China, when it became a symbol of women's liberation. After being out of fashion for several decades after that due to political turbulence, the qipao again became fashionable in the 1980's after China's reform and opening-up.

Whereas Chinese ladies today like to wear qipaos for special events, e.g. red ones for weddings, or even diplomatic functions, I wear them more frequently.



I have accumulated several qipaos in my wardrobe, some of them bought at a store in one of Beijing's historic neighborhoods near the Yonghegong Lama Temple. The woman who works there has also patched up my favorite yellow qipao with a modern paisley design – I had burnt a hole in the buttocks area while ironing it, which would have made it unwearable if she hadn't covered up the hole with a tulip-like patch in similar colors to the fabric. In my eyes, she had worked a miracle!

A dear friend of mine had recently given me one of her old qipaos, which almost reaches to my ankles. It is ice blue and features circles with four plants collectively known as "meilanzhuju" – an abbreviation for hardy plum blossoms that bloom in the bitter cold of winter, lush orchids that open

in spring, juicy bamboo in summer and firework-like chrysanthemums in autumn. A popular motif in China, the four plants are also referred to as the "Four Gentlemen" since they represent different virtues, and you see these four plants depicted on art, wood carvings of furniture and stone walls.

Now the qipao fit well at the shoulders, but not at the hips – they were simply too wide, or conversely, the qipao was simply too tight! Many foreigners' body build differs from that of Chinese, which makes it hard for some foreigners to pull off the qipao look. (Note: Qipaos sit very well on some foreigners, for example American actress Grace Kelly looked very convincing in one.) Because I am not too short, and pretty slim, I can often buy qipaos off the rack, but this one was just too tight in the hip area, and of course, I didn't want my qipao to be bursting at the seams!

After consulting the woman in the qipao shop, who quoted me a price, I shopped around before making an informed purchasing decision. Other tailors told me they were unable to take on the job: I was told it was a sartorial mission impossible widening the qipao (as opposed to taking it in if it was too wide) because it required ripping up the fastening knots on the side. Another said it wouldn't look good even if a tailor was able to alter it. Skeptics couldn't seem to understand the sentimental value I was attaching to an old qipao; why not simply buy a new one? But by having the old qipao altered by the woman I had went to first, I would only be paying a third of what it would cost to buy a new tailor-made one.



Moreover, the value in it was that a dear friend who had been a prolific actress in 1980's China had given it to me; it was a token of our friendship. Third, even before alterations, I thought it suited me well, and the blue matched the color of my eyes, and finally, I was fascinated by "old" things, especially in China (this point was especially hard to understand for many Chinese who are proud of their country's recent modernization, when I was in Shanghai as a tourist photographing an old neighborhood instead of the modern skyline, my local host just shook her head.). I finally decided to have the woman in the qipao store alter it. The woman said my qipao was "Shanghai style" and made of brocade, maybe 20-30 years ago, and that they do not make those qipaos anymore. It had held pretty well throughout the

years, and was also hand-stitched (today, mostly machines do the tailoring work).

The "qipao doctor" said she could add material to widen it, so I chose a light pink fabric with a "noble" floral design, which fits well with the four seasons motif on the qipao and had a similar consistency with the original material. It being a used qipao, there were some stains which were luckily on the side which needed to be augmented with material, and thus could be removed by cutting out the ruined material and dry-cleaning the tailored dress to remove the remaining

stains. So, my old qipao was given a "second life" and altered to my satisfaction.

In my native United States, non-Asians are sometimes criticized on social media for wearing qipaos because of so-called "cultural appropriation," but in China, people have what I consider a more reasonable and open-minded approach: If foreigners wear qipaos, it is seen as a gesture of appreciation for Chinese culture. I for my part love qipaos, and I love seeing both Chinese and foreigners wear this beautiful traditional Chinese outfit.

Ruth Baker: Obituary by Chris Henson

Ruth Baker died unexpectedly on January 1, 2019 of a haemorrhage. She was a member of the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU) for 35 years having taken up the membership of her father, WG (Bill) Sewell when he died in 1984. Bill was himself a founding member of SACU and a personal friend of our co-founders Derek Bryan, Liao Honying and Joseph and Dorothy Needham.

Ruth was also the Clerk (Chair) of the Quaker China Group many of whose members also belong to SACU. She spent her early childhood in China where her father served as a Chemistry Professor and Quaker missionary at the West China Union University (now known as the West China Center of Medical Sciences, Sichuan University) in Chengdu.

She and her family were captured by the Japanese Army in Hong Kong in 1941 as they were returning to Chengdu from London after a leave. Fortunately for Ruth, the wholesale slaughter of Chinese civilians and captured British soldiers by the Japanese that ensued from December 18th did not include her family. They instead spent the rest of the war as internees in the Stanley Internment Camp where her salient memory of the Japanese was, she said, that "they loved small children".

After the war, Bill Sewell proceeded to Chengdu to resume his teaching duties but he and his wife decided that conditions were too dangerous for Ruth and her siblings in China at that time. The rest of the family returned to England and Ruth became a student at the Sidcot School in Somerset where she eventually became Head Girl.

At her funeral, one of Ruth's granddaughters said of her, "such a wise woman" which is how I think all of us in the Quaker China Group also thought of her. Another thing we learned about Ruth that day from other family members was that she was able to bowl a mean leg break, rode a motor scooter, loved knitting and baking, was a champion orienteer and had a PhD in Microbiology from Oxford. Her eldest son said he hadn't known this last item until he'd accidentally discovered the degree certificate. When asked why she didn't call herself Dr Baker she replied that she was worried people would ask her about their bunions.

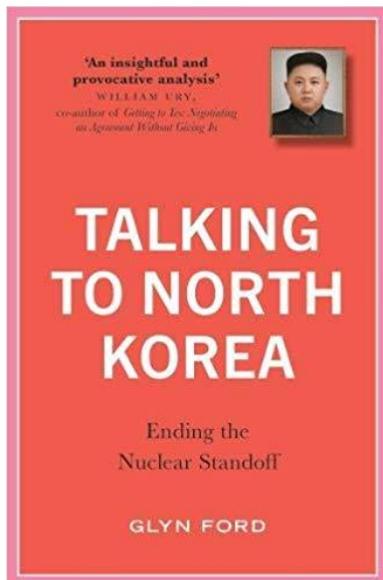
She will be greatly missed.



Book Reviews, by Chris Henson

Chris is a member of SACU Council. He was membership secretary from Autumn 2011 until recently and he continues to produce the monthly email newsletter.

Talking to North Korea by Glyn Ford



North Korea is a country we don't know much about other than what we read in newspapers or see on television news. Not only that, it's rare that we are given a view of the country that is not frightening in one way or another. Even well-meaning expeditions such as Michael Palin's recent (2018) two-week excursion don't deny that this is a society in which everyone is watched carefully most of the time. So what we know about North Korea, we mainly don't like. But in the past few years has appeared a North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, who appears rational and willing to negotiate a peaceful solution to years of tension between his country and the USA, Japan and South Korea.

Just in time comes a book by SACU member and former Labour MEP, **Glyn Ford** who is someone who knows more about North Korea, from the inside and the outside, than nearly anyone else. His knowledge derives from his work with the European Union when as an MEP he proposed that a report be prepared on the state of EU-NK relations and trade. It quickly became apparent that there was neither trade or a relationship between the two and it became his mission to create one. This book has been created both from that experience and from his professional activities since as Director of **Track2Asia** (<http://www.track2asia.eu/>) a non-profit that aims "to build bridges between East and West."

Talking to North Korea: Ending the Nuclear Standoff, is one of those bridges. In it he runs through the 20th century history of North Korea, sketches out how its politics work, provides unique views into what's going on in its society, and suggests how a lasting peace can be obtained on the Korean peninsula. Surprising facts and insights appear from the outset.

The author begins Part 1 (of 3) with **The Pyongyang Paradox** and defines what he believes N. Korea is and is not

in his "five biggest myths about the DPRK" (Democratic Republic of North Korea, the North's preferred name).

First, *it is not a Stalinist state but a theocracy with communist characteristics whose catechism is Kimsilungism-Kimjongilism.*

Or, perhaps, both of those things. I have always wondered if the people photographed crying at the news of Stalin's death, for example, were publicly lamenting because they were genuinely bereaved or because it was dangerous not to be seen to do so. Ford asks the same question as part of his explanation of *juche*, the home-grown, self-reliance philosophy that has become the religion of North Korea. Kim Il Sung was not just the 'Pope' of this new religion but also its Jesus figure, its founder. With total control of the education system, and tight control of the borders, who was to doubt it? So to criticize Kim was not just treason but also blasphemy. The tears shed at the funerals of Kim Il Sung and his son, Kim Jong Il, were genuine

Second, *Beijing and Pyongyang are not like 'lips and teeth'. The regime distrusts and resents China.*

This will not surprise anyone familiar with Chinese history but that unfortunately does not include many Western politicians who claim to be convinced that China manipulates the North Koreans whenever it wishes. Most of the nations on China's periphery had tributary relationships in the past and usually resented the disparity in wealth and power that represented. As was also true with China and Vietnam, the shared history was occasionally bloody.

Third, *Pyongyang does not want early unification.*

The North understands that with a GDP barely 2% of South Korea's, they would be assimilated on radically less than equal terms. The North knows that it cannot 'conquer' the South militarily. All it can do, if it ever came to it, would be to inflict a great deal of pain and death on South Korea and maybe Japan before it goes down to defeat.

Fourth, *it is not a command economy.*

This statement sounds odd because whether or not N Korea would accept that it is a theocracy it certainly claims to be communist and the command economy is the basic economic organizing principle in a communist state. However, as the author points out, there is no longer much of an economy to command in N Korea.

"Since the famine of the late 1990s it has increasingly become a malformed market economy. The future of the Peninsula is 'Two Countries, One System' until Pyongyang's 'tiger economy' and wealth of mineral resources allow it to catch up to Seoul"

Fifth, *Lifting American sanctions is not the key.*

North Korea has never traded with the United States. What they need from the USA is a treaty to end the Korean War and security guarantees that will allow them to redirect internal investment away from the crippling costs of military defense, including nuclear and missile spending, which is

approximately 25% of GNP (South Korea spends 3%) and to trade normally with China and South Korea.

Walking with my wife in Dandong along the elegant riverside park there ten years ago we found ourselves wondering who lived in the modern apartment buildings on the other side of the Yalu, in North Korea. The area opposite seemed deserted and all the motor traffic on the nearby bridge was going in one direction only, from China to North Korea. An elderly Chinese gentleman noticed our interest and pointing at them, said “Fakes. Nobody lives there”. That may soon change. The current Kim is establishing a number of Special Economic Zones, two of which are planned to face Dandong, as part of an economic revival based on Deng Xiaoping’s successful economic reforms of the 1980s. SEZs are likely to be a huge benefit for the population of a country where 90% of the people live outside the show city of Pyongyang.

The author is sympathetic to the North’s need for peace but he is not a dupe and he offers no apologies for its society and the way it controls its people. As he notes in the Preface this is.....”*a poor, beleaguered country run by an unpleasant regime that has served its people ill*”. One of many insights he provides into N Korean society comes in the chapter titled “Kim’s Korea” where he reproduces the sad and sinister ‘**Political Classification System by Social Origin**’ which determines what sort of life each citizen will be allowed to have in the DPRK. The System classifies every individual in one of three categories each one of which has up to 23 sub-categories.

In the **Friendly** category, which comprises 28% of the population subcategories include: 4. staff members of state organisations and 12. war heroes. Benefits for people in this category include: Privileged treatment in food and necessities, promotion, housing, medical care, etc. In the next category, **Neutral**, are 45% of the population. These include 9. returnees from China and Japan, 12. people prone to hooliganism, 13. ‘suspicious women’ - former *mudang* (shamans), *kisaeng*(courtesans) and the like. Benefits here include: Qualified to become low-ranking officials or engineers. The category to avoid if you find yourself reincarnated as a North Korean describes the remaining 27% of the population: **Hostile**. Sub-categories here are 2. former rich peasants, 11. Confucian scholars, 15. families of prisoners, 23. former capitalists. There are no benefits available to this class, just penalties. These include: Forced labour in remote places, Forced to move to remote areas, Constant surveillance.

The 4 million in the ‘Friendly’ category who don’t live in Pyongyang are probably supervising the lives of the 7 million citizens in the ‘Hostile’ class.

Part 2 of the book looks at the economy of North Korea and some of the existing economic reforms Kim Jong Un has introduced into his society. Others that originated under Kim Jong Il which he continues to promote are also described. A small scale ‘kiosk capitalism’ which first emerged during the tenure of his father is still limping along, tolerated but not much encouraged. That main reform effort is in the direction of the Special Economic Zones previously mentioned and existing cooperative enterprises such as the Kaesong Industrial Zone where South Korean SMEs employ

thousands of North Koreans (except when one side or the other shuts the complex down to make a point) with a payroll of approximately \$50 million paid directly to Pyongyang.

Ford also looks at the various segments of Daily Life in North Korea such as Education. His opening line on how History is taught (.....*through the lives of the Leaders*) tells you all you need to know about the education system and the stifling intellectual atmosphere it must produce. The main component of a North Korean education seems to be marching in parades and performing difficult drills in very large numbers. Good preparation for a military career and any other occupation in which uniformity and discipline is required.

Part 3 brings the reader to the point of the book which is, having established that Kim Jong Un is not the deranged tyrant some of our media have made him out to be, how do we go about “Ending the Nuclear Standoff”? Mainly lost in the sequence of threats, schoolboy insults and counter-threats hurled by Trump and Kim in the run-up to their meeting in Singapore last June was the acknowledgement that Trump was the first sitting American president to concede the North’s long-standing demand for a face to face meeting between the two heads of government as a precondition to talks to establish peace on the Peninsula. Perhaps because he views that decision as his alone to take, President Trump met the first condition.

The second condition is that a peace treaty now supersede the truce originally signed at Panjumnon in 1953 and that will be a little more difficult. Before that can occur, the basis on which peace will rest must be established.

The author takes the time to explain the Agreed Framework of 1994 which he believes to be the closest we have yet come to denuclearizing the Peninsula. Had not the 1994 to 98 famine taken hold at just that time, perhaps President Clinton would not have had reason to believe that the USA could avoid the expense of the Light Water Reactors (LWRs) that were promised with the Agreement (and which were never provided) because the North Korean regime was about to collapse anyway.

US cynicism has been at least as much a cause for bad relations as North Korean paranoia. If we have to wonder who is ‘really’ in charge in N Korea - is it Kim, the military, the *nomenklatura*, a combination?- and whether there’s is a real commitment to a peaceful solution why should we also not wonder the same about the USA?

But more than LWRs, more than face to face negotiations and more than a treaty to end the Korean War, the North needs iron clad security guarantees that the USA will respect its borders before giving up its nuclear weapons. Ultimately, no agreement will work without that condition being met.

A Cycle of Cathay: Freewheeling in China 1982-1983 by Anthony Fagin

This is Anthony Fagin's account of his participation in one of SACU's earlier group trips to China. Older members will remember that our founder Joseph Needham's reputation as a person of goodwill was so appreciated in China that for a while, in the 1970s and '80s, the only way to visit the country was as a member of a SACU-sponsored tours.

Bicycling solo around the country as one of the first visitors permitted to do so, the author provides us with a view of China that a guided group simply would not have seen. For that reason alone, this account is a valuable historical record. It is also, fortunately, an interesting and well-written story, profusely illustrated with a selection of stunning colour photographs. The story covers nearly a month in time, from 24 December 1982 to 19 January 1983, and 1200 miles from Hong Kong to Beijing. It was written in anticipation of finding a publisher in 1983 which didn't happen because no publisher was willing to invest an amount sufficient to print the accompanying photographs in colour. So a welcome feature of the narrative is its immediate tone, as if the author had just come back from the China of 40 years ago with this account of his journey.

He begins his tour on December 24, 1982 in **Hong Kong** which then as now was a temple to moneymaking "..... where there are more Rolls Royces per head of populations than anywhere else; but there are lepers on the streets." The caption on a photo titled 'Rickshaws in Hong Kong' mentions that pulling rickshaws was abolished in the People's Republic after 1949 as socially 'inappropriate'. I don't recall seeing even motorised rickshaws in Shanghai when our 2016, 50th-year commemoration tour visited so perhaps they are a thing of the past in China. Certainly, there are no longer lepers begging in the streets.



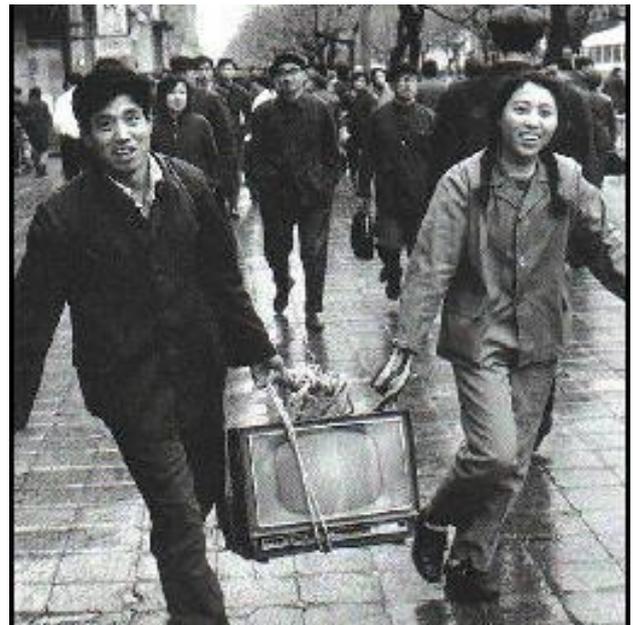
Beijing in the 1980s

As Mr Fagin arrived, the China of 1982 was about to disappear as swiftly and as completely as Imperial China had done 50 years before. This description of a visit to a commune, for example, ".... the Dali People's Commune - halfway between Guangzhou and Foshan - comprises 70,000 people. There are 15,000 family households....." , includes the unwitting narrative of their tour guide on the impending demise of Revolutionary China "...nowadays peasant families are encouraged to cultivate their own private plots once they have fulfilled their official

quotas. This is called the Responsibility System. They sell their cash crops privately on the free market".

A few other things disappeared with that era too, among them: the enthusiastic curiosity with which people regarded the first Westerners they saw in the 1980s is perfectly described in a number of different situations; the everyday artistry present in so many routine manufactures such as willow brooms and brushes that no longer exist as handicrafts; the sense of discovery that a bicyclist in the Pearl River delta felt at cresting a hill and seeing a landscape unchanged for millennia before him. However, all these things are recorded here in a story first written in 1982 and that is only now emerging.

The second leg of the journey after the **Pearl River delta** was **Guilin to Hangzhou/Suzhou** from the 5th of January to the 10th. His photographs of the unique landscape of the mountains of Guilin as seen from the Peach Blossom River are one of the highlights of this journey. As is an unexpected delicious meal at his hotel of which he says what many squeamish western gourmands have probably thought before him, in this area of China whose people are famed for eating everything, including the table and its legs "I would be happy to live on food of this calibre for ever provided that I could be kept in ignorance of the ingredients"



Buying a new television in the 1980s

After 3 snowy days in **Suzhou**, the author arrives in **Shanghai** and it is here and for the first time that one becomes aware of the enormous change in this country since 1982. If one stays away from the coast, the agricultural lands of the Pearl River delta, the landscapes of Guilin and the canals of Suzhou are essentially unchanged. But the Shanghai of this book is the Shanghai of the 1930s. Even with a population of 12 million, it still looks somewhat like the colonial outpost it was. But in the next 35 years it will become one of the world's largest and most vibrant cities with a population now estimated at 24 million. And so, on to **Beijing**.

This chapter opens with an account of a conversation between the author and a Professor of Civil Engineering about, presciently, the

pollution and contamination problem that even then was becoming visible in China's developing rush to industrialize. A visit to the Wall and a guided tour of the Forbidden City follows - everything every first-time tourist does in Beijing - and then an encounter with a 7 year old Australian boy who has talked his parents into buying him a hat like the ones worn by the PLA, with warm ear flaps. He meets up with the family later in the chapter and he sees the boy is ".....still hatless. His father explained why. 'Well we found what the kid wanted - the sort with earflaps - in a department store and went to the cashier to pay. She kept on saying something in Chinese and she wouldn't take our money. We didn't know what was going on so they fetched someone who spoke a bit of English. He explained that it's against the law to sell hats on Saturdays.

One aspect of Beijing that the author doesn't comment on, because it wasn't there. Is traffic. In 1982, except for officials, the main mode of transportation was the bicycle. Traffic jams were unheard of. In 2014 I was in Beijing in a small delegation to represent SACU at the 60th anniversary of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. On my first day, with some free time, I hailed a taxi to take me the five kilometres from my hotel to

SACU Library now at Sheffield University

The SACU library has been integrated into the Chinese Studies Collection at the Western Bank Library and may be accessed during staffed opening hours. The library is staffed from 9.45 am to 14.30 Monday to Friday.

Books can be borrowed using the normal inter-library channels. For more details see the website at www.shef.ac.uk/library or contact the East Asian Studies librarian, Tel 0114 222 7334).

Western Bank Library, University of Sheffield, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2TN. About 20 minutes' walk from Sheffield railway station.

Chinese Brush Painters' Society (Yorkshire)

This society was launched in February 2006 to provide a focus for all who are interested in Chinese Brush Painting. The society arranges workshops with Chinese and other experienced tutors and provides information and assistance to members on all aspects of the subject. Currently the group has over 140 members who travel from Cumbria, Cheshire, Nottingham and Lancashire as well as from all parts of Yorkshire to attend workshops. These workshops usually take place at a weekend, sometimes two days.

They are suitable for beginners or experienced artists. The group produce a regular monthly newsletter packed with information.

Meetings are currently held every month at the Pool-in-Wharfedale Memorial Hall, Arthington Lane, Pool-in-Wharfedale LS21 1LG. (on the A659 at the bottom of Pool Bank, just off the A658 between Bradford and Harrogate). This venue has excellent facilities and car parking.

Tiananmen Square but became trapped in classic traffic gridlock. Any regular visitor to Beijing will recognize the pattern. After sixty minutes, I paid the fare and walked the remaining two kilometers to the Square. I was reminded of this when I noticed in the concluding chapter, **Bicycles**, that in 1983 "....the private ownership of motorcars is prohibited (in Beijing)...."

Our Chair, Zoe Reed, has recommended this book as one that "has captured admirably the life and culture of the ordinary Chinese people at that time." It does indeed do that and it reminds us that even at that point in their history, emerging from the nightmare of the Cultural Revolution and the poverty and chaos that it engendered, the Chinese men and women Anthony Fagin met were, as was he, unfailingly courteous, usually kind and always humane.

To purchase this book, please order at the website: www.cycleofcathay.co.uk

Further information from the secretary, Anne Allan. Tel 01422 368482 or e-mail mail@anneallan

Website; www.cbpsvorks.co.uk

Meridian Society Trip to Hunan

This trip is in the planning stage but is very likely to be during the last two weeks of October 2019.

The intention is to fly to Changsha and visit various places of interest including Shaoshan (Mao's birthplace) and Zhangjiajie, one of China's most spectacular national parks (the 'floating mountains' in the film Avatar).

SACU has a memorandum of understanding with the Meridian Society to share information on events and activities. www.themeridiansociety.org.uk

Reading About China by Dr. Haris

Livas-Dawes

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO XI, by Kerry Brown, published in 2018 by L B Tauris & Co, Ltd, London & New York

This is an amazing book which I find is a necessary read to understand China and its current leader. If you will never meet Xi Jinping, reading Kerry Brown's book will make you feel you know him and what he stands for. Every day new biographies about world leaders are published, but there are none as all-encompassing as this one. Xi's goal is to have the dignity of China restored, but the groundwork was laid by Mao and Deng, his predecessors.

Mao who, through brute use of violence and force gained power for the communists and Deng, who reshaped the country and Party's strategy so that China became sustainable. But all three of these leaders believed in a strong, modernised, powerful China that would never again be a victim of foreign aggression and humiliation. So, all had a commitment to national greatness for China. And this would mean rejuvenating rural China and as Xi has promised making poverty a thing of the past. China now has more billionaires than any other country, but also has 100 million people still living in poverty. But that is not the only problem Xi has to face. The next problem was the environmental one. "The natural environment was at breaking point, with rapid industrialisation triggering extreme weather patterns and causing the ice caps on the Tibetan Plateau to melt. "Even worse is the dense smog now descending across coastal China from Shanghai up to Beijing. This causes health problems augmented by the ageing population (due to the one-child policy in place since the 70's and 80's). But there is one massive asset, a giant economy with plenty of room to grow. The problem here is that China needs better management.

Xi is a party man and "his central mission was to ensure the Party's hold on power was sustainable and that the Party does not want power for power's sake but to advance a greater cause, that of national rejuvenation. The Party's mission is to make the country strong and great. Brown believes that most Chinese do not believe in Marxism-Leninism but are willing to let the Party have its way as long as it continues to deliver material prosperity and a strong, rich country. None the less, there are 88 million members of the Party. They also expect to see correction cast out.

I have for a number of years believed in the phrase, "when China rules the world". It is not "if" China rules the world, but "when" and this book shows us how this is coming about.

THE STORY OF GILGAMESH, BY Yiyun Li, Pushkin Children's books, London, 2014

Gilgamesh is not a Chinese story, but a story originating in Iraq. Today's book is part of a quest called "Save the Story" when the world's greatest stories are re-told by "the best contemporary writers" for today's children. The series has included Don Juan, Cyrano De Bergerac, Gulliver, King Lear, Antigone and Crime and Punishment. Yiyun Li retells Gilgamesh. She was named by The New Yorker as one of the best US writers under 40. Although she is American, China is the country of her birth and the country she says is

central to her. That's the reason why I have chosen this book. It shows us how far the Chinese have come in this world, surpassing even the native-born in the countries where they have settled.

This has to be applauded and is certainly part of the "when China rules the world" mythology, one that the author has not forgotten even though she is part of the sharing of the world's stories with young people today. The purpose of "Save the Story" is to save great stories from oblivion, surely a worthwhile goal. So Yiyun Li re-tells the story of Gilgamesh, how he became king and how he met his best friend, Enkidu. He held Enkidu in his arms as his friend died and so Gilgamesh, who has faced down and defeated all other adversaries, found that he could not defeat death. He leaves his kingship and travels the world to find someone who can tell him how to defeat death. His first visit is to Utnapishtim who built a great ark and saves people and animals from, the Great Flood. His quest carries him to others and he undergoes more trials but, in the end, he cannot defeat death.

CHINESE WALLED CITIES 221 BC TO AD 1644

Anyone who has been to China has probably visited a walled city and so would find this book interesting.

After a section on the development of fortified cities there's a section on the Great Fortified Cities of China. These are Zhengzhou (the ancient walled city), Chang'an (the model capital), Kaifeng (the fortress on the Yellow River). Beijing (the capital of the north), Nanjing (the fortress on the Angina), Suzhou (the city on water, Pingyao (the great survivor, and Zhang Pii (a fortified city in miniature). Keeping mind that walls were the only means of defence that the city possessed and were considered formidable barriers.

The classic Art of War by Sun Zi advises that the worst policy is to attack cities. "Attack cities only when there is no alternative, because to prepare big shields and wagons and make ready the necessary arms and equipment requires at least three months and to pile up earthen ramps against the walls requires an additional three months. The general, unable to control his impatience, will order his troops to swarm up the wall like ants, with the result that one third of them will be killed without taking the city. Such is the calamity of attacking cities."

The principles of good town defence were written during the Warring States Period (550-221 BC): "The city walls are to be high and thick; the ditch and moat are to be wide and deep; the towers are to be in good repair; the defensive weapons are to be mended and sharp; the firewood and food are to be sufficient to hold out for more than three months; the men are to be numerous and well-chosen; the officers and people are to be in harmony; the important subjects who have merit and long service with their superiors are to be many; the ruler is to be trustworthy and in the right; and the myriad people are to take pleasure in him."

There then follows a long description of each of the great walled cities. I was most attracted to Pingyao since I live on the failing flood defences of the East Coast. Pingyao was actually saved from a flood in 1977 when the walls acted as a levee and saved the city. Pingyao is also the finest extant example of a Ming walled city, its shape supposedly resembling a tortoise with the city gates as its legs.

Ping Pong Diplomacy by Walter Fung

At the World Table Tennis Championships in Nagoya, Japan in 1971, Glenn Cowan, an American player, missed his team bus and he was put onto another one which happened to be carrying the Chinese team. Cowan with long hair and wearing a USA training suit was greeted with silence. After 10 minutes, when the journey was nearly over, a Chinese player, Zhuang Zedong, although advised not to speak to Americans and not to shake their hands, began a conversation with the American, through an interpreter. He gave Cowan a gift and Cowan reciprocated the next day.

This simple exchange, at the height of the cold war between China and the US, made news around the world. Eventually Chairman Mao heard about it and instead of being angry is reported to have complimented Zhuang on his good diplomacy and good ping-pong skills. Mao invited the US team to China immediately after the championship matches in Japan were over.

During the subsequent visit to China, Cowan met Zhou Enlai, the Chinese Premier and offered to mediate between him and President Nixon. Things started to move and in July 1971, Nixon announced plans for his historic visit to Beijing. Zhuang, who died in 2013, was considered by some to be the greatest table tennis player of all time. Cowan died in 2004 and never met Zhuang again, but Zhuang, on a lecture tour of the US, met Cowan's mother. (*From a feature article in The Guardian 14/2/13*)

There was an article in *Newsweek* 10 March 2008 by Connie Sweeris, who was a member of that historic US table tennis team of 1971. Members of this team were the first Americans allowed to visit China. The US Embassy in Tokyo crossed out the section in their passports, that forbade travel to China. Sweeris recalls that the Americans were very visible in the streets of China because of their Western dress, jeans, T shirts etc. She and Cowan spoke to Zhou Enlai. Cowan asked the Premier what he thought of American hippies and received the answer: 'Youth wants to seek out the truth, and out of this search various forms of change are bound to come.'

Edgar Snow

There was of course more than just 'Ping Pong Diplomacy' in the thaw in China-US relations. Edgar Snow, who had visited Mao in Yanan in 1936 and 1939 and became a personal friend of the Chairman, surely played a part. Snow spent four months at Yanan in 1936 and wrote *Red Star over China* straight after his historic visit.

This book was earthshattering, being the first account of the Chinese Communists and their contribution in the war against Japan. Snow visited Mao in 1960 and 1965 and stood beside him on the Tiananmen balcony in Beijing, on National Day, 1 October 1970. After this last visit, Snow wrote an article for Time magazine, which created considerable interest. Mao had invited President Nixon to China as a tourist or as President of the USA.

Edgar Snow died in February 1972, during the same week that Nixon went to China. In his wife's book (Lois Wheeler Snow), *Edgar Snow's China*, Orbis 1981, there is a photograph of Mao playing table tennis in Yanan in 1946 (page 232) and also a photograph of Mao and Snow together. Snow was also a founder member of the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (Gung Ho), together with his first wife, Helen Foster Snow and Rewi Alley. Snow wrote about the foundation of China's 'INDUSCO line in his book, *Scorched Earth, Book Two*, published by Victor Gollancz in 1941.

The role of Rewi Alley was crucial to the development of INDUSCO. Snow also relates the work and influence of Joseph Bailie, whom he calls an 'eccentric American Missionary'. Bailie was supported by no less a person than Henry Ford who admitted 100 'ethically conditioned' young Chinese men, selected by Bailie, from American engineering colleges to the Ford school. Here they got sound training in mechanical engineering mixed with Bailie's industrial evangelism. Bailie believed that China could benefit more from technical schools than Bible classes. Rewi Alley and the 'Bailie Boys' started the first industrial cooperatives.



Edgar Snow died in Switzerland; half of his ashes are here in the grounds of Peking University, Beijing the other half on the banks of the Hudson River in New York.

From the British Press

China pledges to do more on climate change

China's climate envoy, Xie Zhenhua, has said that China will work to meet its greenhouse gas targets and strive to do better as the challenges of climate change become more urgent. He said this ahead of a new round of climate talks in Katowice, Poland, on how to implement the 2015 Paris climate agreement. China is the world's biggest source of Climate-warming carbon dioxide and had pledged to halt its rise in emissions by about 2030, by using cleaner forms of energy, improving efficiency and encouraging high-tech industries. US prudent Trump said last year that he would pull out of the 2015 Paris agreement, claiming that it was too lenient on China. China has already met a target to cut carbon intensity i.e. carbon emissions per unit of economic growth, by 40-45% from 2005 levels by 2020. (From *I 27/11/18*)

China lands spacecraft on far side of moon

The unmanned *Chang'e-4* probe touched down in the deepest oldest crater and sent back an orange-tinged photograph of the 'dark side' of the moon. The probe houses the first 'garden' on the moon, as tests will be carried out to see if plants, such as potatoes, will germinate. This is an important step to decide whether a moon colony could feed itself. *Change'e-4* carries a rover to move about on the surface and ten experiments, including one from each of Germany, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia and Sweden, will be carried out. Other duties will involve exploring the possibility of building a giant radio telescope. The far side of the moon is an ideal place because it is free from interference of radio signals from Earth. (From *I 4/1/19*)

Britain will build ties with China after Brexit

Philip Hammond pledged that financial standards will not be relaxed after Brexit and he is committed to building close ties with China and India to ensure the City flourishes outside the EU. He said Britain would continue ties with the big established markets and build new links with the fast-growing markets in China and India. (From *The Times 12/12/18*)

Beijing: Social Credit system

Beijing's municipal government will assign citizens and firms 'personal trustworthiness points' by 2021. This pioneers China's controversial plan for a 'social credit' system to monitor citizens and businesses. In a 'road map' released in 2014, China said it would by 2021 create a social credit system to reward or punish individuals and corporations using technology to record measures of financial credit, personal behaviour and corporate misdeeds. Lists of data, actions and measures will be used to create a trial system of personal trustworthiness points for residents and companies. (From *I 21/11/18*)

China buys more lithium

Tianqi Lithium has bought a 23% stake in Chilean miner SQM for \$4 billion from Canadian fertiliser firm Nutrien. The deal establishes China in the world lithium supply

chain. Lithium is used in batteries for everything from mobile phones to electric vehicles. (From *I 5/12/18*)

Beijing's new stealth drone and armaments

China's CH-7 stealth drone has a top speed of 570 mph and is capable of long-endurance reconnaissance, ground attack and combat. It can evade detection by radar systems, penetrate enemy defence forces and can operate in tandem with fighter jets. Other items on display at the 12th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai were the J-20 advanced fighter aircraft and a hypersonic antiship ballistic missile system that can sink aircraft carriers. A promotional video suggests its imaginary targets to be US carriers. China is competitive in the global arms market because it offers low prices and is willing to share technology. Its goods are available to countries not allowed to buy from the US because of political restrictions. (From *The Times 9/11/18*)

MOD warning over Chinese technology

Gavin Williamson has said that he had grave and very deep concerns about Huawei providing technology to upgrade Britain's services to superfast 5G. The defence secretary's intervention came after the US, New Zealand and Australia banned the company from involvement in their new networks. Washington has stepped up efforts to encourage allies to eschew Huawei when looking to upgrade to 5G, amid concerns over the company's ties to the Chinese government. However, opinion about the risks posed by Huawei is not unanimous. Calls have arisen for a more composed tone of debate about its role in telecommunications infrastructure.

Robert Hannigan, a former director of GCHQ, has warned about the 'sort of hysteria growing at the moment about Chinese technology in general and Huawei in particular'. He said we need a calmer and more dispassionate approach, pointing out that Chinese technology is expected to be not only the cheapest but also the most sophisticated in coming years, which made the idea of a blanket ban in Britain, 'Frankly crazy'. (From *The Times 27/12/18*)

The *I newspaper* on 29/12/18 reported a notice in the Chinese *Global Times*, in which Wu Qian, a Chinese National Defence spokesperson, called the UK allegations against Huawei as 'deep-rooted pride and prejudice'.

Chinese steps to clean Mt Everest

China is reducing the number of climbers of the mountain from the Tibetan side by a third. Chinese state media reported that a team of 30 workers cleared 3.5 tonnes of rubbish from the mountain since April. China is also setting up recycling stations and eco-toilets on the mountain. (From *the Guardian, internet 21/1/19*)

Rising Chinese Science and Technology Universities

Tsinghua University in Beijing may soon surpass American universities in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). In 2013-16, the university produced more of the top 1% most highly cited papers in maths and computing in the world. In addition, Tsinghua produced more than 10% of the most highly cited papers in STEM in the world. The American Massachusetts Institute of Technology led the 1% STEM papers, but Simon Marginson of Oxford University

believes Tsinghua is on track to be 'No. 1 in five years or less'.

When Deng Xiaoping initiated 'opening up' and the sending of tens of thousands of students abroad, Chinese officials were worried that few of them would return, but Deng correctly said that 'enough would'. In recent years, the number of highly trained and qualified personnel returning has increased and the government has provided extra resources to attract them. (*From The Economist 17/11/18*)

Food waste processed as animal feedstock via insects

A nationwide ban on food waste as pig feed due to African swine fever has spurred the growth of the cockroach industry. In Jinan, Shandong province, 50 tonnes of kitchen waste a day are fed to a billion cockroaches. The dead insects are steam blasted, washed and dried and are sold to pig farms and fisheries as feed and to drug companies as a medicinal ingredient. Researchers are examining cockroach extract as a cure for oral and peptic ulcers, skin wounds, stomach cancer and in cosmetics, diet pills and even hair loss remedies. Another company in Sichuan province is carrying out operations on an even larger scale. (*From I 11/12/18*)

China's 20th century icon

A BBC poll to choose the most 'iconic' 20th century figure has shortlisted 28 names. The list excludes Elvis Presley, the Beatles and Princess Diana. Surprisingly, it does include Chinese chemist Tu Youyou. The BBC used a computer programme devised by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which drew upon the prominence of names on the internet. The lists were then sent to academic experts who continued the assessment in categories determined by legacy, achievement, impact, influence, contribution to their field and public profile. Tu Youyou helped to create anti-malaria medication and she was a joint winner of the Nobel prize for medicine in 2015 (*From I 29/12/18*)

China builds Sisi towers in Egypt

President Sisi of Egypt's new capital, to be built 30 miles from Cairo will contain 20 towers; the tallest will be 345 metres tall and will be the tallest in Africa. The 'New Administrative Capital' will cost more than £2 billion and 85% of this will be funded by Chinese banks. It is expected to be completed within three years, built by the China State Construction Engineering Corporation. (*From The Times 19/1/19*)

Nuclear power progress

The type of nuclear reactor under construction at Hinckley Point has been brought into commercial operation for the first time at a site in China, Taishan. It has been built by France's EDF and China's CGN, the two companies involved at Hinckley. Originally the Taishan plant was planned to be operational as early as 2013, but there have been problems and delays. Hinckley Point C will be Britain's first nuclear plant in a generation and will supply about 7% of the UK's needs, when operational in 2015. (*From The Times 15/12/18*)

From the Chinese Press

Stephen Perry, Chair of the 48 Group receives the China Reform Friendship Medal

Stephen Perry was awarded the honour by President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 16th October 2018. Mr Perry was one of 10 foreign friends to receive the Medal for support and help during the reform and opening up of China. However, he was not the first in his family. His father Jack Perry led dozens of British businessmen to China kicking off the 'Icebreaking Mission' to help bridge Sino-British relations. The 48 Group led by Jack Perry, dedicated themselves to promote bilateral cooperation and safe-guarding the Sino-UK friendship from generation to generation. Stephen Perry said that, 'We are at a crossroads, but let's hope all countries, whatever their systems, will work together to deliver sustainable economic development together, and not fight, as in the past for the title of winner and loser. In the end a Community of Shared Future will be the key'. He said he was proud to receive the award, but it was for his father and all the pioneers of the Icebreakers, back in the early 50s. Good comes from good families. (*From People's Daily Online, 14-15/12/18, via Keith Bennett*)

Income tax reform

The threshold of tax was raised to 5,000 yuan (\$714), to be implemented on 1 January 2019 and the scope of low-grade tax rate was expanded, with six additional special reductions. These measures are expected to increase disposable income and hence stimulate consumption. In addition to the cuts in income tax, other items are being implemented to boost spending and growth. These include special deductions and a package of comprehensive benefits. (*From Beijing Review 13/12/18*)

Singapore meeting of ASEAN+1

At the 21st China-ASEAN leaders' meeting on 14th November in Singapore, a blueprint to guide China-ASEAN relations was approved. Under the plan, the countries will synergize the Belt and Road Initiative with the ASEAN Vision 2025 and strengthen the three pillars of political security, economy and trade and people-to-people exchanges to a higher level.

Chinese prime minister, Li Keqiang began his trip with a state visit to Singapore, during which he and the Singapore prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, agreed to deepen economic ties by upgrading the bilateral FTA. Li arrived in Singapore on 12 November, the same day that Deng Xiaoping arrived in Singapore in 1978 on the eve of China's reform and opening-up policy. Deng visited Singapore to lay the foundations for close ties between the two countries and sow the seeds for China to learn from Singapore's advanced industrial development experience and management model. There have been benefits for both sides: Singapore has provided China with valuable experience and China's development has presented Singapore with important opportunities.

The current FTA agreement between Singapore and China went into effect in January 2009 and was China's first with another Asian country. Also, China has been Singapore's top investment destination since 1997 and its largest trading partner since 2013. (*From Beijing Review 22/11/18*)

Prosecutions for pollution offences stepped up

A total of 4,939 suspects were charged for crimes related to environmental pollution from January to October 2018, an

increase of 38.5% year-on-year. In addition, 26,765 people were charged with destroying ecological environmental resources, such as forest and grassland, an increase of 14.79%. Steps will be taken to enhance communication and cooperation between ministries to tackle major pollution cases. *(From China Today January 2019)*

Beijing Summit with Africa

The 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was held on 3-4 September in Beijing. It was attended by more than 50 leaders of African countries; the African Union Commission Chairman and the UN Secretary-General were also present. The theme was, 'China and Africa: towards an even stronger community with a shared future though win-win cooperation.' Xi Jinping highlighted, the 'five noes': no interference in internal affairs, no imposition of China's will, no interference in pursuit of development paths that fit a country's national conditions, no political strings, no seeking of selfish political gains in investment and finance. The summit instilled new vigour into China-Africa cooperation. China is willing to provide \$60 billion worth of support in the forms of government aid, financial institutions and corporate investment. During the summit of the FOCAC, 42 cooperation projects were signed. *(From China Today October 2018)*

China meets climate goals ahead of schedule

The UN General Assembly President, Maria Fernanda Espinosa, recently said in an interview with Xinhua, 'I am impressed with China's commitment to its climate goals, evidenced by the fact that China has met its 2020 targets three years ahead of Schedule'. *From Beijing Review 13/12/18)*

Human rights

The State Council released a white paper on 12th December detailing progress in human rights over the past 40 years of reform and opening up. China's per-capita GDP increased by a factor of 22.8 from 1978 to 2017 and 850 million people were lifted out of poverty during the same period. Free compulsory education has been achieved in both rural and urban areas and a social security system has been formed covering the largest population in the world.

The basic human right concept is seen as the right to live and develop. A legal system has been built and the balanced development of human rights is being promoted. A sound social system has helped the healthy development of human rights; the ultimate goal of socialism is to realise common prosperity, the results of reform and opening up to be shared by all. However, some challenges remain and China will remain in the preliminary stage of socialism for along time to come. Society is unbalanced, development continues and people's needs are growing for a better life. *(From Beijing Review 27/12/18)*

Senior care fund

The Asian Development Bank has approved a \$150 million loan to help develop a comprehensively elderly care system in Yichang, Hebei province. This project will serve as a model for the whole country and the objective will be to improve home-based and community-based care services and facilities. It will include the building of a geriatric hospital and nursing home and assist in the development of a

management scheme to ensure effective services and monitoring. China has the largest elderly population in the world and the growing demand, at present, outpaces existing services. *(From Beijing Review 27/12/18)*

AI hotel

Alibaba opened a hotel in Hangzhou on 18th December equipped with artificial intelligence and robots to provide procedures such as check-in, lighting control and room service. Facial recognition technology allows customers to check-in, open doors and access other facilities. Voice-activated systems control room lighting, television and curtaining, whilst robots serve food and drinks. *(From Beijing Review 27/12/18)*

New Daxing Airport

This airport located just south of Beijing will be the largest in the world in area, and is scheduled to open in October 2019. It will be a key link to two economic developments: the Xiongan new area, designed to reduce Beijing's non-capital functions, and the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. Despite its size, the furthest gate will be just 600 metres from the central airport hub. High-speed rail and Beijing subway links will be on an underground level. In addition, to reduce traffic congestion, there will be two levels of road to the airport; there will even be bicycle facilities. The area is also expected to become a centre for research, industry, logistics and cultural activities as well as a pleasant place to live. China is currently building eight new airports and will have a total of 260 by 2020 – an increase from 175 in 2010. *From China Daily European Weekly 7-13/12/18)*

Campaign to improve public signs

Chen Mingming, Executive Vice President of the Translators Association of China, recently commented on a campaign launched on 3rd December by Beijing's Foreign Affairs Office, to improve public signs, 'Translations of public signs not only help foreigners, but their quality also shapes the image of a city'. *(From Beijing Review 13/12/18)*

Taiwanese no longer need work permits

On 8 August 2018, the Taiwan Affairs Office confirmed that Taiwanese residents no longer need permits to work on the Chinese mainland. This aims to provide Taiwanese people with treatment equal to their mainland compatriots in employment, education, and starting businesses. This decision is part of a State Council decision made public on 3 August, which also eliminated the requirement for Hong Kong and Macao citizens to obtain permits. *(From China Today October 2018)*

Chinese demographer elected member of TWAS

Zheng Yi was elected a member of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) along with 13 other researchers from the Chinese mainland at the 28th TWAS meeting in Trieste, Italy on 28th November. TWAS was founded in 1983 by a distinguished group of scientists from the developing world to promote scientific research in developing countries. He has contributed substantially to fertility policy transition and the natural-social sciences study of healthy aging. He was born in Shanghai and was educated at Shanghai University, Brussels University and Princeton University. He became a professor at Peking University and served as director of the Institute of Population Research at Peking from 1993 to 1998 *(From Beijing Review 13/12/18)*

Sinophile, by Flo and Ivor Kenna

The 'world's first import expo held at the national level and an innovation in the history of global trade' attracted 'more than 400,000 domestic and overseas purchasers, with roughly 5,000 products making their debut at the expo' in Shanghai, from 5 November to 10th November' we learn from Beijing Review (BR) for 15th November 2018. The issue of BR for 22nd November reminds us that China adopted the reform and opening up policy in 1978, bidding the farewell to the political dogmatism that had shackled its economy, and shifted the focus to economic development. Also mentioned in this issue are the 'Top Ten Countries according to the World Internet Development Index System 2018; -

1. United States.
2. China
3. United Kingdom
4. Singapore
5. Sweden
6. Norway
7. Netherlands
8. Switzerland
9. Germany
10. Japan.

under the Belt and Road Initiative, What China learns, China passes on to less developed countries.

BR of 29th November tells us something about ourselves, 'While China is steadily tackling pollution, concerns elsewhere are rising. London Mayor Sadiq Khan has branded his city's air pollution, which regularly exceeds legal levels, a 'health crisis'. Traffic is the main source of the capital's pollution, with diesel cars one of the principal culprits. In contrast, BR's Numbers' page mentions that in China in October 355 million tons of railway freight were carried; this is up 10.1% year on year.

There is a 'quotable quote' in BR for 6th December: you cannot stop a great power from acting in its own interests. The danger is that it can work on false information'. President Trump is cited as believing his own propaganda: In BR for 13th December, President Xi reveals China 'has lowered global production costs with high-quality but cheap industrial products.' There is also the small matter that Chinese workers are paid much less than Western workers. Later on in the same issue, we learn that, in Western countries, a cup of coffee costs only 0.1% of a person's monthly income, whilst it is almost 1% for people living in China.

Amazing news: BR for 20th December 2018 records that Meng Wanzhou, Chief Financial Officer of China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, was provisionally detained by Canadian authorities at the request of the United States as she was transferring flights in Canada on 1st December.

Two extremely interesting items: within 40 years the poverty incidence in rural areas of China has dropped from 97.5% to 2%. (BR 27th Dec) and in 2017, more than 90% of Chinese residents lived in self-owned houses – the highest in the world (BR 3rd January 2019).

BR for 10th January 2019 tells it as it is: 'Under the Western world's blockade of science and technology in the past decade, China adopted a policy of independent innovation and today has taken the lead in many areas. But instead of shutting doors to other countries, China has been seeking to share its sci-tech achievements through international communication and cooperation'. BR of 17th January makes the point that the EU is concerned that China's presence in the mid and high-end of the value (price) chain will affect the competitiveness of EU products.

The next BR was a double issue for 7th and 14th February. It stated the fact that the length of railway in operation in China was 49,940 km in 1980, which has grown to 131,000 km in 2018, of which 29,000 km is high speed. It announced that the World Bank President, Jin Yong Kim, has resigned. The US has a veto over the World Bank. President Trump wants the Bank to help out the US coal industry instead of lending money to China

Finally: a useful definition of Financialisation: 'The moment when financial services surpassed goods and services as the majority of the US economy'.

The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding



中 國 人