

China Eye

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

Autumn 2019

Issue No. 63



Contents

Welcome.....	3
SACU AGM 2019	4
SACU Essay Competition 2019/20	5
Laszlo's China Mission	6
Morris Abraham Cohen (1897-1970).....	7
'Two-Gun Cohen'	7
The Chinese in Britain: a history of visitors and settlers by Barclay Price.....	10
A heartwarming experience: Visiting a home for Chinese orphans in Beijing	12
China's Path: Four Decades of Opening up and how it challenges our preconceptions	13
China and the West, meeting at the crossroads of world history.....	14
Some suggestions on learning more about China	16
CHINESE LABOUR CORPS – A POSTSCRIPT	17
Insignia of Rank – 100 Day Reform Period 1898. 'Return to the basics.' Realities of Late 19th Century China.....	19
The Making of Chinatown Exhibition at the China Exchange (32A Gerrard Street, London)	21
Sino File Autumn 2019 compiled by Walter Fung.....	23
Sinophile by Flo and Ivor Kenna.....	27
China Eye Diary-Chinese Festivals.....	27

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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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The Winter issue (Number 64) of China Eye will be available in early December 2019. Please send news or articles for inclusion before 20 November 2019 to <mailto:articles@sacu.org.uk>

Welcome

China is forefront in the news at the moment; the trade war with the US and the events in Hong Kong.

According to the Economist (World in Figures, 2018), Hong Kong had a Human Development Index' (HDI) of 91.7. This is very high, almost the same as the US and Canada (92.0) and ranking 12th in the world. The UK was ranked 16th with an index of 90.9. The HDI is based on various factors including education, life expectancy and per capita GDP.

GDP per person in Hong Kong was \$42,384 – ahead of both Germany (\$41,701) and France (\$37,580) and furthermore the region has the second highest life expectancy in the world of 84.5 years. This is significantly higher than that of the UK's 81.3 years (32nd in the world) and the US figure of 79.6 years. (48th).

From these figures it would seem, Hong Kong is one of the best places in the world to live. So, it is a tragedy that it is undergoing the present disruptions, many of them violent.

Li Kai shing, aged 91, Hong Kong's richest man called for an end to the protests and violence. He put notices in several Chinese language newspapers. In his message he quoted the two Chinese proverbs;

'The best cause can end with the worst result.'

'Time is an endless river, but you cannot step into the same river twice' Does it mean don't do things you will regret later?

His own words he has said; *'Love Hong Kong, love China, love yourself, love freedom, love empathy and love the rule of law.'*

I am afraid the Western press, again does not provide a balanced view. There were pro-China demonstrations from the start, some with very large numbers of people, which were hardly mentioned in newspapers or by the BBC. The demonstrations were sparked off by a murder in Taiwan. The murderer fled back to Hong Kong, but he could not be tried for the murder of his pregnant wife because there was no extradition treaty (see Sinofile p23).

The protests have escalated from this incident. A host of other grievances are believed to have contributed such as: the cost of housing and employment prospects for young people. And there are reports of interference by foreign agents. The extradition bill has been withdrawn but there are other demands including full Western-style democracy.

Discussing religion with a Hindu Indian friend many years ago, he said that different religions were different paths to the same goal. Since hearing this, I have often thought that there are different methods to good governance. In the West we have liberal democracy whilst China's present system can be described as consultative authoritarian. Without the vote, legitimacy is questioned, but in his TED talk, Eric Li suggests that competence confers legitimacy. China's rise is

successful development by a generally competent government: over 700 million people have been lifted out of poverty in the last 30 years, expectation of life is now about 77 years (compared to 35 in 1949, literacy is well over 90% (compared to 10% in 1949). Over 150 million Chinese were sufficiently wealthy to travel abroad in 2018 – and they were all happy to go home to China. Some analysts believe this figure could reach 300 million by 2030.

Learning and researching China.

I have listed some thoughts on where to obtain information about China in a short article on page 27. I would especially recommend the Chinamage website for its extensive coverage of all 'Things Chinese' and its splendid illustrations. Dirk Nimmegeers reviews an important book by Peter Nolan, which discusses 'China and the West'-the last three paragraphs are especially illuminating.

Hunan Tour

The Meridian Society are sorry to announce that the Hunan Trip due to take place this October has been postponed until next year. There were insufficient numbers for the trip to be viable.

Walter Fung

Subscriptions Increase from 1 October 2019

SACU membership subscriptions for new members and renewals are being increased from 1 October 2019 by £5 in all membership categories (but by only £2 for Students). I will send a reminder to each member shortly before their personal renewal date. All members who have arranged to pay their subscription by an annual automatic payment method (e.g. PayPal or bank standing order) should please update their arrangement before their next renewal is due.

This has been discussed by SACU Council and agreed by the AGM in July. **It is the first increase in all membership categories for over a decade** and the extra income for SACU will go towards running the society and holding more events to further SACU's aims. From 1 October 2019, subscriptions for new members and renewals will be as follows:

- Individual (printed or PDF copies of *China Eye*) £23
- Retired/Unwaged (printed or PDF copies of *China Eye*) £18
- Student (PDF copies of *China Eye*) £10
- Institution/Library (printed or PDF copies of *China Eye*) £27
- Overseas Airmail (printed copies of *China Eye*) £35
- Overseas (PDF copies of *China Eye*) £13

Ros Wong, SACU Membership Secretary
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SACU AGM 2019

This was held at St Columba's Church on Saturday 20th July. Starting at 11.30 am, the 2018 Annual Report was presented to about 30 SACU members. A pdf copy of the report is available from Chris Henson, our eNewsletter editor.

Amongst the important issues discussed was an increase in SACU subscription rates. These have not changed for about a decade and are considered necessary for Council to continue to carry out our duties to progress our Mission Statement, shown at the beginning of this report.

Following discussion, new rates were decided upon and following further consideration at the SACU Council meeting on 7th September at King's College, the new rates were set to come into force from 1 October 2019. Full details have already been posted in the Welcome section.

New Council members

In response to appeals for assistance, three members have volunteered to serve on Council. The new Council members are Barnaby Powell, Linxi Li and Tom Harper.

Barnaby has been a SACU member for some years and has written articles for China Eye. He was founding Director of the Asia-Invest Programme for the European Union and has experience in finance at a senior level in the Far East. He has written a number of books with Alex Mackinnon.

Linxi is from mainland China and has also been a member of SACU for a number of years. She is a graduate of King's College London and is now doing work on the SACU archives which are stored at Oundle School.

Tom Harper is a new SACU member, who has already written an informative article for China Eye, please see page 12. He is a doctoral researcher at Neijiang Normal University in China. He has written on China's foreign relations for several publications. (Neijiang is a city in Sichuan province).

Some members of SACU Council were due for standing down or re-election. All decided to stand again. The full Council of Management is therefore as follows:

Vice Presidents:

Frances Wood, Jane Hadley, Jenny Clegg, Rob Stallard

Chair – Zoe Reed

Secretary – Corinne Attwood

Treasurer – Yuan Gao

Membership Secretary – Ros Wong

eNewsletter Editor – Chris Henson

Marketing – Cai Chen

Webmaster - Pete Jarvis

China Eye Editor – Walter Fung

Other Council members are:

Linda Rosen, Andrew Hicks, Florence Kenna, Ivor Kenna, Tom Harper

A detailed plan for the development and modernisation of SACU management appeared in the last issue of China Eye, number 62, Summer 2019. Further information was published in the Annual Reports and Accounts 2018. A copy can be obtained from Council members, but is displayed on the SACU website, along with Annual Reports of the last few years.

SACU has a Memorandum of Understanding with The Meridian Society (TMS), by which each society's members can take part in each other's activities. See their website; www.themeridiansociety.org.uk

We have an arrangement that TMS has its AGM on the same day as SACU and we have a joint post AGM meeting activity. The responsibility for organising this activity each year alternates between us. This year it was SACU's turn to arrange the programme.



St Columba's Church on Pont Street

The SACU programme consisted of three separate items.

Dr Amy Matthewson took us on a tour of places in London, associated with the Chinese novelist, Lao She, who was one of the most significant figures of early 20th century Chinese literature. Lao She worked in London teaching Chinese at London University. He encountered much racial prejudice and his experiences can be derived from his book, Mr Ma and Son.



SACU Vice president, Frances Wood gave an account of another Chinese writer, Chiang Yee, who travelled around

England and Scotland between 1933 and 1955 and wrote a series of books entitled *The Silent Traveller*. He illustrated his own books as he was a talented painter as well as writer. Chiang Yee is one of the subjects of Barclay Price's book, *The Chinese in Britain*, reviewed on pages 10 and 11 in this edition of China Eye.

In June of this year, a Blue Plaque was unveiled at Oxford to commemorate The Silent Traveller, Chiang Yee. The plaque is at 28 Southmoor Road (OX2 6RD), where Chiang Yee lodged with the Keene Family.



Frances Wood making her presentation and below, the Blue Plaque at Oxford.



The third item was a showing of a short film produced by Michael Ho entitled, 'From Hong Kong to Milton Keynes'. It records the life experiences of Michael's father, Gabriel who left Hong Kong and became a dentist in Milton Keynes. He muses, 'what does it mean to be British' Michael is seen below introducing his film,



SACU Essay Competition 2019/20

The SACU/Peking University Essay Competition began as part of SACU's 50th Anniversary in 2015. It was deliberately a small-scale event making use of SACU's existing links with Oundle School and St George's, Harpenden respectively the old schools of Joseph Needham and George Hogg.

From the outset the competition has been supported by Peking University and in particular Professor Sun Hua, Director of the China Center for Edgar Snow Studies, a longstanding friend of SACU.

There have been three competitions involving school students submitting written essays responding to themes connected with China and its relationship with the UK – focusing on friendship and understanding. Although modest in scale the competitions have produced some high-quality responses and involved rewarding engagement with students, parents and school staff. The essays have been assessed by a panel of judges and prizes awarded (thanks to the support of Prof Sun Hua).

It is now proposed to further develop the competition whilst retaining its original purpose of encouraging young people in the UK to explore and engage with Anglo-Chinese friendship and understanding. We now wish to expand the number of schools involved and to offer students the option of submitting responses in visual and audio media as well as the written word; so that submissions might comprise music, dance, art, etc.

SACU members are therefore invited to consider approaching schools with which they have some connection. This approach should take place in autumn 2019 so that students can produce entries in the early part of 2020 in order to be considered at a judging event in London in Summer 2020. Each participating school will be asked for 3 submissions perhaps after their own internal competition.

A brief has been prepared with further details that can be discussed by members with schools interested in participating.

If you are interested please contact SACU Chair Zoe Reed at chair@sacu.org.uk.

Richard Poxton

Laszlo's China Mission

Rob Stallard is a Vice President of SACU and is a regular contributor to SACU's China Eye magazine.

For nearly ten years Laszlo Montgomery has been enlightening and entertaining people in 60+ countries with over 220 podcasts all about Chinese history. Back in 2010 he looked around for podcasts and couldn't find any on Chinese history so he started producing one himself.



He first became interested in China back in 1979 with Deng Xiaoping's visit to the States and then began visiting China in 1980, moving to Hong Kong in 1989. Considering the depth of his understanding of all sorts of Chinese topics you would have thought he worked on the podcasts full time. However his daytime job is in Chinese import of goods to the US market – a rather stressful affair in the last year or so. As Laszlo is talking and visiting Chinese clients so much the quality of his spoken Chinese is quite remarkable.

Inevitably the first few dozens of podcasts (they are all audio only) surveyed Chinese dynastic history but since then he has covered a huge range topics for example most recently: Tang poetry, the seven great Singing Stars of Shanghai, Jewish refugees of China and the History of the Hokkien people.

It is not surprising that some SACU members get an occasional mention: Frances Wood's books on the First Qin Emperor (CHP-158) and Marco Polo (CHP-77); Andrew Hicks (CHP-160) on the Friends Ambulance Unit. Our founder Joseph Needham has a two part podcast dedicated to him (CHP-155 and 156: mainly based on the Simon Winchester biography).

With so many episodes it is hard to know what is covered and there is no simple index. This is complicated by the podcasts being available on several different platforms. He has a YouTube channel (<https://tinyurl.com/y35lvvxs>) but also on player.fm and on SoundCloud but it is much better to access the podcasts directly from his web site <https://teacup.media>. This is because his site has a long list of the Chinese names and terms used in the podcast (in pinyin and characters) as well as the references (usually books) as sources or recommended further reading. Back in

2016 Laszlo switched from the clear but rather long name **chinahistorypodcast.com** to **teacup.media** and this is why **CHP** is still used for the episode titles. He has a Facebook page that can alert you when he publishes a new podcast.

The earlier podcasts are 45 minutes long while more recently he has reduced this to 30 minutes. As some topics are made up of ten episodes, listening to the full set requires quite a commitment of time. He produces one on average every two weeks but on occasions, due to work or other commitments, there may be a gap. You can access these from the **Shows** menu.

Chinese Sayings

For three years Laszlo branched out with some shorter pieces on Chinese proverbs (mainly Chengyu) explaining the meaning of each character and the historical event from where the saying originates from. They range in length from 7 to 10 minutes. Each season has ten episodes so there is plenty to choose from. If you haven't the time for the lengthier historical podcasts these are worth a listen instead.

There is not enough space to give a full listing of all his podcasts. You can see one online here:

<http://chinahistorypodcast.libsyn.com/> and you can also browse through the subjects by category by clicking on the **Popular tags** list on the left side of each teacup.media podcast. To find a podcast you can search for it on the web site by the 'CHP-' number. Here is a brief selection in no particular order:

- CHP-101...110 Ten part history of Hong Kong
- CHP-206 Van Gulik and the Doctor Dee mysteries
- CHP-218...225 Eight part history of Tang poetry
- CHP-125 Biography of Zhuge Liang (Three Kingdoms)
- CHP-174 The pirate Queen Zheng Yi Sao 1765-1807
- CHP-203 and 204 History of Chinese Martial arts
- CHP-96 The calligraphy master Wang Xizhi
- CHP-180 Early years of Christianity in China
- CHP-115...118 Four part series on John Service's World War 2 work in China.
- CHP-161...168 Eight part biography of Zhou Enlai
- CHP-153 History of opium in China
- CHP-59 The great Duke of Zhou (early Zhou dynasty)
- CHP-208...213 Six part History of Jewish people in China
- CHP-175 The life of the Song poet Su Shi (Dongpo)
- CHP-154 The secret Nüshu script
- CHP-207 The forgotten labour corps of World War I
- CHP-182 and 183 Nanjing massacre 1937-38
- CHP-150 History of the Hakka people
- CHP-62 Noted foreigners buried at the Babaoshan cemetery (including Agnes Smedley)
- CHP-140...149 Ten part history of tea in China

Background on Laszlo Montgomery:

<https://tinyurl.com/pv7dmtr>

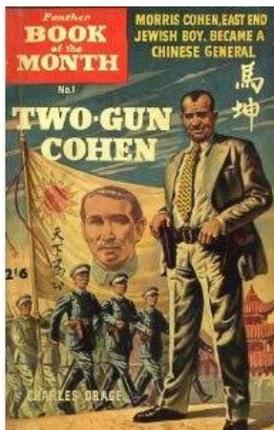
The photo and further background from SCMP:

<https://tinyurl.com/y5n9p7g4>

Morris Abraham Cohen (1897-1970) 'Two-Gun Cohen'

Bryan Sitch

It is now a couple of months since I began my Headley Trust with Art Fund Fellowship and I have been having the most amazing time researching Manchester-China contacts in preparation for the new Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery at Manchester Museum opening in 2021. I previously reported on one of my earlier discoveries in a blog about Manchester missionary Alfred Bosshardt (1897-1993).



Charles Drage's biography of Morris Abraham Cohen (1954)

Just before the Easter break found me in the search room of the Archives at the City Centre Library where I was browsing some materials about China. One of the documents had the heading 'Jew Chin Chow' and at first, I thought this must be the name of a circus act. It was not uncommon for circus performers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to take a Chinese stage name and to adopt the persona of a Chinese magician in order to raise their profile but what I saw as I peered through the magnifying glass held above a thumbnail photograph in the Archives room frankly amazed me.



Morris Abraham Cohen at the inauguration of Di Yang-Chu as Chief of Bureau of Public Safety in Canton Municipality on 4th April 1929. Cohen is sitting slightly left of the centre in the front row. Manchester Libraries Information and Archives. GB124.DPA/1861/1

Below is a close-up of Morris Abraham Cohen at the inauguration of Di Yang-Chu in Canton Municipality on 4th April 1929. Cohen is third from the left in the front row. Manchester Libraries Information and Archives. GB124.DPA/1861/3



It was an account of a visit to Manchester by one 'Two-gun' Cohen or Morris Abraham Cohen. I had never heard of this larger-than-life character and my jaw dropped further when I saw the photographs of Cohen seated somewhat incongruously in the centre of a group of Chinese dignitaries who had gathered for the inauguration of Di Yang-Chu as Chief of Bureau of Public Safety in Canton Municipality on 4th April 1929. Dressed in white, thick-set and bullet-headed and in stark contrast to everyone else, he is the only European in the photograph. It at once aroused my interest. Who was Morris Abraham Cohen and what was he doing in Canton during the 1920s and why was he sitting in what we would take to be the position of honour, surrounded by Chinese dignitaries?



Studio portrait of Morris Abraham Cohen. Manchester Libraries Information and Archives. GB124.DPA/1861/J12

Morris or Moishe Abraham Cohen was born in Poland in 1887. His family was Jewish and fled to England to escape persecution during the pogroms. Cohen grew up in London's East End, where he was involved in petty crime and got into trouble with the law. He was sent to Reformatory School and then to Canada to improve himself. During his time in Canada he formed an unlikely friendship that he formed with members of the Chinese community in Edmonton. One day he happened to walk in upon an attempted hold-up of one of the Chinese businesses. He quickly disarmed the robber and sent him on his way. This intervention earned him the respect of Chinese community

and he seems to have formed a genuine affection for his new friends. When Cohen served in the Canadian army during World War I he worked with Chinese labourers laying track to move munitions and supplies on the Western Front.



Walking behind Sun Yat-sen (left) and John Cornelius Griggs (right) is Dr Sun's bodyguard, Morris Abraham Cohen. Photograph by John and Diane Thompson. Image courtesy of John and Diane Thompson and Historical Photographs of China, University of Bristol.

After the war, Cohen travelled to China to help negotiate a contract to create a railway. This project ultimately came to nothing and Cohen looked for alternative work. Perhaps on the recommendation of his Chinese friends in Canada he became a bodyguard to none other than Dr Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925), the highly respected leader of the Chinese revolution of 1911 who had campaigned to depose the Manchu dynasty. On one occasion Cohen was wounded in his arm and decided henceforth to carry a second side arm so that he could always protect Dr Sun. This led to his nickname 'Two Gun' Cohen. Cohen's name in Chinese circles was 'Ma-Kun'. After Sun Yat-sen's untimely death in 1925, Cohen served Sun Yat-sen's widow, Madam Soong Qing-ling, and other Chinese leaders. At this time, he received a number of honorific titles including aide-de-camp and even general.

Stories about Morris Cohen in China tended to be embroidered in the telling, and although he held this rank there is no evidence, he commanded Chinese soldiers in battle. Some of these stories were taken at face value by his first biographer, Charles Drage (1897-1983) and it is to Drage that we have to be grateful for presenting the photographs of Cohen in the Manchester Central Library Archives. Morris Cohen's adventures often read like something out of a Boy's Own annual. It would not have been possible for Cohen to meet Dr Sun Yat-sen in Canada before the revolution. That said, he was the only European to walk in Sun Yat-sen's funeral cortege, which shows the considerable esteem with which he was held by the Chinese.

The association with influential Chinese continued through the 1930s and Cohen had business dealings with Nationalist and other leaders. In 1941 he helped Madam Soong to

escape Hong Kong on the eve of the Japanese occupation. He himself was arrested by the Japanese, brutally interrogated and interned in a camp in Hong Kong. It was even reported in the press that Cohen had been shot by the Japanese on the direct orders of Hitler. Cohen was released in 1943 and returned to Canada and in the 1950s he married.

The marriage was not a happy one because Cohen spent a lot of time in China trying to resume his former business dealings. But this was a very different China than from before the war. The Communists were now in charge, having defeated the Nationalist forces led by Chiang Kai-Shek. Nevertheless Cohen still enjoyed a degree of favour. Madam Soong Qing-ling (1893-1981), as widow of Dr Sun Yat-sen, China's first leader, was held in great respect by the Communist leadership. On the strength of his friendship with Madam Soong Cohen spent time in China and there is even a group photograph in which Cohen can be seen standing behind Mao Zedong.

At this time there was press speculation that Cohen might be acting as a go-between to help make peace between Communist China and Nationalists on Taiwan (Formosa). It's also been said that Cohen used his contacts with the Chinese delegation at a crucial moment in a debate on a United Nations Resolution on the Partition of Palestine. He is said to have travelled to San Francisco to convince the Chinese to abstain from voting. This helped to bring about the founding of the modern state of Israel. Even if we have to take some of the press coverage of with a pinch of salt, the fact remains that Cohen enjoyed the confidence of the highest level of the Chinese government. It is also true that the Jewish faith and identity were very important to Cohen. He used to say that China was the only country in the world where Jewish people had not been persecuted and there is supposed to be a Synagogue in Shanghai in which there is a plaque naming him as one of the most important Jewish men in history.

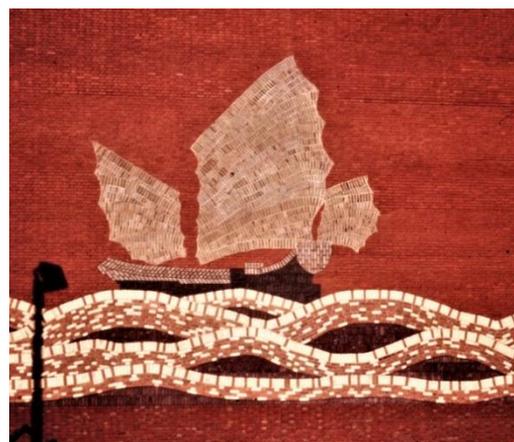
It was impossible for Cohen to pursue his former business interests and the time spent apart from his wife in Canada inevitably put pressure on his marriage. Finally, he and his wife divorced and Cohen, now returned to England, joined his family in Salford. His occasional visits to see his parents during the 1930s had attracted the not always welcome interest of the local press. When he settled in Salford, Cohen set up a small business importing Chinese furniture.

Morris Cohen died in 1970 and representatives of both the Communist government in mainland China and the Nationalists in Taiwan put aside their differences to attend his funeral. Most remarkable of all, his gravestone in Blackley Jewish cemetery in Salford has an inscription in Mandarin from Madam Soong Qing-ling in memory of this friend of China. In translation it reads:

"This is the tomb of Ma-Kun inscribed by Soong Qingling, Vice Chairman of the People's Republic of China Beijing."



The Chinese Arch in Manchester Chinatown



The mural in the 'Chinese Car Park' in Manchester

Many tall stories were told about Morris Cohen's exploits in China and it can be hard to differentiate fact from fiction. The last word I leave to Cohen's most recent biographer, Daniel S. Levy:

'...He was never entirely to escape his shady past... yet his makeup was thankfully tempered by an essentially generous soul. By chance or luck he fell in with a group of Chinese who, while engaging in the sort of nefarious practices that he gravitated to, also yearned for the an overthrow of imperial order in their home land.... As a Polish-born Jew who witnessed oppression in Poland and England, Cohen's past enabled him with the help of Mah Sam, Sun Yat-sen, Soong Qing-ling and others to appreciate something larger than personal gains. From them he learned sacrifice.... His time with Sun and his reverence for the leader's name ultimately made Cohen's career. It guaranteed that he was always to be remembered as a loyal assistant to the father of modern China, and one of the rare white men who sided with the Chinese.' From: *Two-Gun Cohen: A Biography* (Inkwell Publishing, New York: 1997).

It would be wonderful if we could feature Morris Abraham Cohen in our new China Gallery displays opening at Manchester Museum in 2021.

SACU Library at Sheffield University

The SACU library has been integrated into the Chinese Studies Collection at the Western Bank library at Sheffield University and may be accessed during normal staff hours; 9.45 am to 14.30 pm.

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

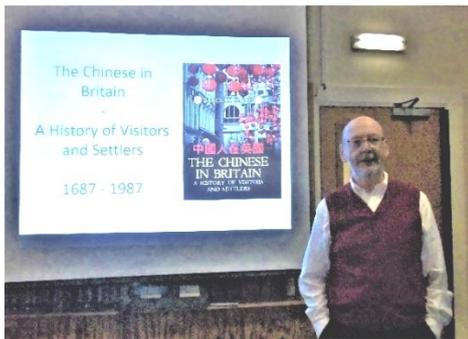
The library is at Sheffield University, Western Bank Sheffield S10 2TN and is about 20 minutes' walk from Sheffield railway station.

The Chinese in Britain: a history of visitors and settlers by Barclay Price

Reviewed by Walter Fung

I attended the Scotland China Association (SCA) meeting in Edinburgh on 9th April 2019 at the Quaker Meeting House (QMH) on Victoria Terrace. Victoria Terrace is an upper layer of Victoria Street in the Old Town district of Edinburgh.

This book launch, part of the Edinburgh Branch programme, attracted considerable interest; the library of the QMH was full to capacity with 35 people present.



Barclay Price about to start his presentation (WF)



The Quaker Meeting House is the building on columns on Victoria Terrace at the upper level of Victoria Street (WF)

Barclay Price, the author began by explaining what sparked his interest in the Chinese in Britain. It was his chance coming across the mention of William Macao in 2017. Macao worked in the Excise Office in Edinburgh around the 1800s and this intrigued Barclay Price. He discovered that Macao was the first 'Chinese Scotsman,' who arrived in Scotland in 1775 and lived in Edinburgh for over 50 years eventually working as an accountant and attaining a senior position. Barclay carried out further research and found that Macao, who had a full and interesting life in Edinburgh, was actually the fifth Chinese to come to Britain. Barclay realised that in general terms, recorded information of the Chinese in Britain, was quite

sparse despite over 400,000 of them living here in the 21st century and he decided to fill this gap in historical literature.

There was already a very comprehensive book on the Chinese in Britain, 1800 to the present by Gregor Benton and Edmund Terence Gomez (Palgrave Macmillan 2008), but this work focusses on the economics, transnationalism and identity of those Chinese who came to Britain. Barclay decided to deal with the social history; the lives and experiences of these Chinese.

Barclay gives very detailed accounts of certain individuals; others are given only a passing mention. Some relatively prominent persons are omitted altogether, but it is virtually impossible in a work of this kind to include each and everybody of note. It is, in fact, a very comprehensive and wide-ranging account and I would not like to actually count the number of persons mentioned. From the descriptions of their lives and experiences in Britain, the reader will pick-up something of Chinese culture, behaviour and attitude to life and how it differs from British ways.

His focus was on Chinese people and what they did and achieved in Britain. In line with this, there is a detailed account of Lu Gwei Djen, but only a passing mention of Joseph Needham. Lu inspired Needham's interest in China and she was his close friend and colleague throughout his life, eventually marrying Needham after the death of his wife. Needham, a founder member of both SACU and the SCA conducted research on the contribution of the Chinese to science and technology, especially during ancient times and reported his findings in the monumental *Science and Civilisation in China*, now numbering 27 volumes.

The Chinese mentioned spanned a very wide variety of personalities, skills and occupations, from jugglers, students, sailors, diplomats, politicians, domestic servants to musicians, actors and actresses, writers and travel writers, magicians, businessmen, grocers, boarding house keepers, laundrymen, restaurateurs and takeaway operators. Some of those who settled in Britain had long varied and fascinating lives and some, regarded as 'curiosities', met royalty. There is a short chapter on Sun Yatsen, the Father of modern China, who was held prisoner in the Chinese embassy in London in the 1890s.

An important feature of Barclay's book and talk was his disgust of how Chinese sailors who served in the British navies during both world wars were treated at the end of the conflicts. In addition, Barclay discusses the prejudice, suspicion and negative portrayal and treatment of Chinese people in Britain: the fantasies of Limehouse, Fu Manchu stories and even Charles Dicken's accounts. However, as he commented, the problems Chinese experienced in Britain was nothing like the hostile and sometimes violent treatment experienced by Chinese in the US and Australia.

There is an interesting account on Chinese laundries which were very common in many British cities such as Cardiff, Manchester, Bristol and especially Liverpool where there were more than 130 in the early and mid-20th century.

However, there were none in Glasgow. There was mention of a movement to specifically exclude them in this Scottish city, but no further details. During anti-Chinese riots in Cardiff 30 Chinese laundries were attacked and wrecked in one night because a relatively small number of Chinese sailors were accused of being strike-breakers.

The book includes some detailed fascinating descriptions of some individual Chinese settled in Britain. One in particular is John Hochee, who came in 1819 and became a domestic servant to John Fullerton Elphinstone of the East India Company. Hochee eventually became the 'Chinese Gentleman Farmer' of Chapter 9 in Barclay's book. Hochee had six children with a British wife and 20 grandchildren. There must be many people living today in Britain who are totally unaware of the Chinese blood in their veins. There were other 'early' Chinese in Barclay's book who had children with British wives. William Macao had three children born between 1795 and 1801. A fourth child was stillborn and his wife died a week later.

The impression of certain Chinese visiting Britain is recorded. In particular, mention is made of Chiang Yee, who wrote the '*Silent Traveller*' series of books, which include his visits to the British Lakeland, Oxford, London and also Edinburgh. Chiang became well known as an authority on Chinese culture and worked with various agencies, including the BBC. He was commissioned by the Wellcome Institute to establish a section on Chinese medicine, but it never materialised due to war damage. This was a great pity because Chiang was determined to provide an accurate picture of China and Chinese medicine. He believed that Chinese culture was often misrepresented and only partly understood in Britain.

In 1955, he went to the US and continued his efforts to educate people in Chinese culture. *Silent Traveller* books were written on American cities. However, towards the end of his life, he wrote a poem which conveyed his experiences of Sinophobia and general sense of dislocation whilst living in the West. Barclay comments that these sentiments are no doubt felt by many other Chinese who have lived in Britain through the ages.

This is a very comprehensive and valuable book on the Chinese in Britain giving perceptive accounts and insights of a very large number of Chinese men and women who came to Britain from 1687 to approximately the end of the 20th century. Barclay himself quotes, 300 years, (1687 to 1987). It is a unique record of an ethnic group in Britain who have made a valuable contribution to this country.

The book focussing on people themselves, provides only a very limited description of the political events. Possibly some historical aspects have been oversimplified, but this does not distract from the wealth of information on Chinese peoples' lives and experiences in a foreign country.

There are many fascinating illustrations in the book, some in colour. In fact, during his lively and well-presented book-launch in Edinburgh, Barclay showed a much larger

selection. He mentioned that one limitation was payment of publication copyright fees. He certainly did a tremendous amount of research, which he said took him three years; it would have taken most people much much longer.

It is a book intended more for the general reader rather than researchers and scholars. Apart from a few paragraphs in the introduction, there are no references on sources or suggestions for further reading. However, Barclay did say this was his intention at the beginning not to create an academic book. However, if references and notes were added, this book would be even more valuable as both a research source as well as a fascinating read. Despite this however, I can strongly recommend the book to anyone, scholars included, who want to know about the Chinese in Britain. It is a valuable contribution to Anglo-Chinese understanding.



St Cuthbert's Church, off Princes Street/Lothian Road in Edinburgh and below, William Macao's gravestone in the churchyard. Macao's wife Helen and their infant son are also buried here. (WF)



Footnote 1; Barclay Price is proposing to place a plaque at the former residence of William Macao, the first Chinese to become a Scotsman, at No 1 Dundas Place, where Macao lived with his Scottish wife and family.

Footnote 2 Very recently in June this year, a Blue Plaque was unveiled in Oxford to commemorate Chiang Yee, 'The Silent Traveller', who lodged with the Keene Family at 28 Southmoor Road (OX2 6RD).

Chiang Yee is only the third Chinese person to have a plaque placed in their honour. The others are Lao She and Sun Yatsen.

A heartwarming experience: Visiting a home for Chinese orphans in Beijing

Tamara Treichel

Tamara is a writer and editor living in Beijing. Her articles have appeared in several publications in the Chinese press. She is a regular contributor to China Eye.

Volunteering can be a worthwhile experience for expats, e.g. those who are accompanying their working spouses to China, students or those who have a little bit of time to spare or feel the need to do something meaningful with their lives in China while interacting with local people. You don't even need to donate money or items, just your time is often appreciated.

I used to do some volunteering in nursing home facilities and animal shelters back in my native United States, and in Beijing back in 2009 I participated in an activity that involved inviting deaf-mute children and children with speech impairments for an afternoon in the movies, and the park, followed by a Happy Meal at McDonald's as part of a "buddy system."

I recently decided to visit a registered charity called 'Dew Drops Little Flower' that partners with state orphanages in the outskirts of Beijing and drop off a cash donation as a gift. The charity focuses on abandoned Chinese orphans with medical conditions.

A well-informed staff member called Rebekah, a Beijing expat from India, gave me a tour around the facility after communicating with me via email first. The charity houses several dozen orphans that are prematurely born or with medical conditions such as Down Syndrome, cleft lips, heart problems, cerebral palsy, anal atresia as well as skin conditions (among them so-called "butterfly children," i.e. children said to have skin as fragile as butterfly wings due to epidermolysis bullosa, a skin disease that leads to the development of blisters following minimal pressure to the skin). The charity provides round-the-clock intensive nursing care, medical treatment and education for these children.

The children's life there is simple – they nap, play, and eat under the watchful eyes of the caring nursemaids ("ayi"). At least one ayi there was on duty 24/7, and she was napping with some children when I passed one of the rooms. The ayis feed, bathe, and play with the children, and different rooms named after flowers such as "Daffodil," "Tulip" or "Lily" are used for different activities, e.g. playing, sleeping or feeding, and are furnished with playpens, beds, or high chairs respectively. On Rebekah's Wechat moments, I would see that the staff also celebrate some major holidays with the children, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas or birthdays, sometimes providing special cakes for children with dietary restrictions.

Some ayis gently carrying orphans with skin conditions passed me through the clean corridors (visitors are asked to put on shoe covers before entering), and another ayi was

bathing a baby in a tub when I peeked into a room, then looked up to wave at me. In another room, one little girl smiled sweetly at us and continued to gaze at us curiously while we were standing at the door. It was truly heartwarming to see people doing something positive and constructive as opposed to the negative headlines we are confronted with in the news every day.

Rebekah told us about one of the developing success stories at the charity: A three-year-old boy with clubfeet was allergic to casts after surgery, but the charity was able to provide him with a cast that did not cause a great allergic reaction. He flourished after he arrived there and is a fast learner, and quick to memorize other children's names and write characters.

Rebekah said that some American and Chinese adoptive families are sometimes found to provide the children with a "forever home." She showed us some photos of orphans that had been placed with new families, and I hope the little boy will find adoptive parents as well. I imagined how much love and dedication it must take to adopt a child with such medical challenges and in some cases from half a world away.



It was not easy for me to see children with these conditions, but very heartwarming to see them being cared for by such devoted staff members and volunteers. After all, these children too deserve a chance at a happy life!

I hope that I can find some time in 2019 to visit these Chinese orphans again and get to know some of them personally, especially as the harsh Beijing winter is over and the weather has become more encouraging for venturing out of one's home. As a brochure from the charity said, using a famous quote by Mother Teresa, "We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something."

China's Path: Four Decades of Opening up and how it challenges our preconceptions

Tom Harper

Tom Harper is a doctoral researcher at Neijiang Normal University. He specialises in China's foreign relations and has written on this subject for several publications. This is his first article for China Eye.

Over the course of the 20th and 21st centuries, few nations have had as great a reversal in status as China has had, going from an isolated quasi-feudal empire seemingly frozen in time to one of the Great Powers of the modern day complete with cities that are as modern if not more so than many First World capitals. This comes with the 40th anniversary of China's opening up to the world under Deng Xiaoping's leadership, who has gone down as one of the significant leaders of the 20th century and Deng's vision for China will continue to have an impact on global life today. One of the testaments to this has been in Xi'an, which I had the fortune to visit in 2017.

The city saw China's past and present paths blend together, with the tombs and palaces of emperors long departed standing almost side by side with structures from the modern day. One wondered what Emperor Qin, one of the founders of the Chinese nation, would have made of his new kingdom. This blend has also made itself apparent in the frequent references to the Silk Roads of old which once began in Xi'an, with the city being one of the focal points of China's ambition to craft a latter day Silk Road in the form of the Belt and the Road Initiative, which renders China as a truly global power rather than the hermit nation it has often been cast as and is a demonstration of how far China has come since 1979.



Silk Road Museum, Xi'an (TH)

As with any major global development, China's ascent has been a challenge to the common assumptions and myths we have regarding China. In addition, China's development has also been perceived as an example for other states to follow for their development, seemingly following China's traditional role of leading by example.

China's current status can be attributed to the defeats suffered by the Qing dynasty at the hands of the European powers, most notably in the First Opium War of 1839. This was often claimed to be a result of China seemingly falling

behind the Western world, most notably in the perception that China was unwilling or unable to industrialise in the way that the European powers had done. As a result, this raised the question of how China should modernise with the once dominant Confucian system seemingly losing its appeal in favour of Western ideals, a development that would be furthered by the downfall of the Qing dynasty in the Xinhai revolution of 1911. It was the question of how to modernise China to regain its former status, a quest pursued by Sun Yat-Sen, the father of modern China, that has been the starting point for the path that we see today in the form of China's ideological and economic development.

The roots of China's development, which has seen it become the world's second largest economy a decade ago, overtaking Japan and often projected to overtake the United States in the near future, has often been traced to the economic reforms and opening up of China in 1979. This saw the abandonment of the pursuit of the communist ideology that had been the guiding force of the Mao era in favour of the pursuit of economic development, which continues to underpin China's relationship with the wider world today.

With the opening up of China, it became the world's workshop, a title once held by the United Kingdom at the height of its power during the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries. This also saw the rise of the moniker 'made in China' which has been synonymous with cheaply produced, low-quality goods that litter everyday life. It is also this image of China as the world's low cost factory that would be challenged in the later phases of China's development as it sought to conceive its own designs rather than building those of others.

What has been most notable about China's development has been in its speed; what had once been little more than dirt roads give way to sleek infrastructure that puts many First World nations to shame. In addition, China's experiences of development has also been an inspiration to the developing world, which has been expressed through the China Model.

The Chinese model of economic development, known as the 'Beijing Consensus', has been one of the tools behind China's rapid development and one of the most successful aspects of China's soft power push. This has seen the elites of the developing world, such as Pakistan's Imran Khan, become staunch advocates of the China model, as demonstrated by his pledge to bring this model to Pakistan during his electoral campaign. It is this aspect that has demonstrated China's appeal to the developing world.

China's model follows the precedent set by Japan's modernisation during the Meiji Restoration of the mid-19th century and its' post-war economic development. It also utilised what Ho Kwon-Ping termed as 'Neo-Confucian State Capitalism' pioneered by Singapore, which has also been praised by British politicians who misinterpreted the country as a nirvana of free-market capitalism. This came at a time where China's identity shifted towards a more Confucian vision rather than the ideological project of the 20th century. While the Chinese model has been part of China's appeal, it has also challenged the common images

of China, most notably the perception that China's development was solely due to outside help and that it was based upon a Western model, which has been raised by the image of China's development as a Frankenstein's monster created by Western investors and economists. Such an image often overlooks the nature of the Chinese model as well as the role that the Chinese themselves have played in the country's development.

The latest phase of China's development has highlighted its technological advances, which can be characterised as going from 'Made in China' to 'Designed in China', a move that has been epitomised by China's telecommunications flagship, Huawei. As with much of China's development, this challenges many of the common myths about China, most notably the assumption that it can only manufacture goods that have been conceived elsewhere and that China is either incapable of innovation or can only do so through imitation. Such an image overlooks China's tradition of innovation, with inventions such as gunpowder and paper money continuing to play important roles in everyday life as well as how China has been able to make its advances in high technology.

China's advances in technology can also be attributed to its long-term strategies and its Confucian embrace of education. At many British universities, this can be seen in the flood of Chinese students eager to study in the UK, with applications from China recently eclipsing those from Northern Ireland to become the largest contingent of foreign students studying in the UK. This will further the educational exchange between China and the UK as well as offering a glimpse of what is to come. This was clear in the China Bridge competition in London this year, where Chinese universities sought to recruit the future of Britain as well as challenging the assumption that the British have no aptitude for foreign languages, with students across the country giving speeches in fluent Mandarin. It is this event that shows how the Sino-British educational exchanges offer a window into the future of their relationship.

As a result, China has moved away from what the influential Slovenian philosopher, Slavoj Žižek, termed as 'Foxconn China' to a state where Chinese firms have become an equal to their Western counterparts in numerous fields and has even surpassed them in others, most notably in 5G technology, with Huawei being identified by British Telecom as the global leader in this technology. While this challenges the image of China being incapable of innovation, it also questions the belief that the Western world will always hold the technological advantage, an assumption that seems increasingly tenuous today. As a result, it is likely that China's innovations today will play a role in shaping life just as its previous innovations had done.

China's experiences of economic development have demonstrated how far the country has come as well as setting an example to inspire other nations in the developing world. In addition, it has challenged many of the common assumptions about China as well as seeing it become one of the major powers of the modern day, which will play a greater role in shaping the future of the world.

China and the West, meeting at the crossroads of world history

A book review by Dirk Nimmegeers

Dirk is a member of SACU living in Belgium. He is also editor of ChinaSquare.be, a Dutch language Belgium website which covers news and comments on developments in China.

Peter Nolan realizes the danger of a lengthy and fierce battle between the West and China, which may cause enormous material and human damage. One way to avoid that disaster is to ensure that China and the West get to know and understand each other better.

According to the authoritative Cambridge professor, many Chinese, and certainly the prominent persons among them, know more about Western history and current events than Westerners know or want to know about China. Nolan hopes to change that.

Two civilizations

China and the West: Crossroads of Civilization consists of three parts. First Nolan compares the routes that the West and China have travelled in the last 3000 years. He then explains that capitalist globalization is a two-edged sword, with both very reasonable and extremely unreasonable elements. The last and by far the largest part of the book deals with the Communist Party of China, its role and how it views parliamentary democracy. According to Nolan, many differences between the West and China go back to what he calls the *Ancien Régime*. During that era prior to the revolution, which ended in Europe with the 18th century, in China with the 19th century, those two great civilizations had a totally divergent, almost opposite character.

Two evolutions

The author perceives long periods in which they become similar and grow together. Those eras are interspersed with centuries in which both were evolving in a completely different way and getting alienated from each other. In every age, various ways of thinking and acting were formed in the two regions and that has continued to the current date. Nolan discusses the fields that matter in the relationship between the two entities. He gives his views on their ideas concerning the following topics: unity or division, politics, expansion, balance between sections of the population and ethnic communities, religion, militarism, innovation, nationalism and communism. The way China looks at the West today is largely determined by what the Chinese know and have experienced from Europe and the United States over the course of history. Much of this is still seen to exist, shaping Chinese perceptions today. For instance the inclination of the West to use violence for serving its interests and to impose its values on other continents.

Division & conflict vs. Unity & harmony

After centuries in which the Roman Empire and the Chinese

Empire had been growing into vast unified universes, the former disintegrated while the latter remained largely united and stable. In Europe and in the large parts of the world that it took over, murderous internal and external confrontations often prevailed. The latter include hundreds of years of territorial expansion and looting - colonialism - which have resulted in bloody wars against independence movements and neo-colonialism. In China, soldiers, such as the ones we are familiar with from the terracotta army, played only a marginal role after the Han Dynasty (ended in 220 of our era). They fell primarily under the authority of the civil service, just like the People's Army today obeys the CPC.

According to the author, the Chinese view the conflictual course of the West with a mixture of wonder, disgust and a certain anxiety. For centuries, China had a strong appetite for hierarchy, stability, but especially for harmony. These differences explain the current geopolitical contradiction between the leading nation of the West and China: zero-sum versus positive-sum, also called win-win.

Market and bureaucracy

For centuries, and many readers may be surprised at this, another constant in China was the role of market which was regulated by the state. The market ensured economic development and prosperity for large sections of the population. The Confucian civil servants were selected for merit and for the will to serve the interests of the population. Harmony here too: the balance between the market with its healthy (energizing) competition and regulation by the state apparatus, intended to curb excesses of the market. Harmony and dynamic competition did not exclude each other, but rather complemented each other.

Maoist interlude

The hostility to the market among the Maoists and their unilateral emphasis on ideology, on the one hand promoting revolutionary violence and on the other hand displaying a strong aversion to all competition, belonged to a variant of communism, according to Nolan. This was partly prescribed by the Soviet Union, but it was also a reaction against the equally ideologically inspired and violent anti-communism of the West and its allies. During the anti-Japanese resistance and the civil war, Maoism co-existed in the CPC with a tendency that was more focused on improving living conditions. At the same time, the struggle between these two lines flared up regularly.

According to Professor Nolan, Maoism has in fact been determining policy for only two decades. After 1976, the CPC slowly but surely returned to the kind of marriage of convenience between the market and the state that had been typical of Confucian China. Deng Xiaoping and his successors have successfully combined that Confucianism (and other age-old philosophical movements such as Daoism) with their own Chinese brand of Marxism. They have returned to the two thousand year old Chinese road after a "deviation".

Nolan's Marxism

That provides food for thought and perhaps for discussion, as does Nolan's definition of Marxism. The author states that Lenin, Mao and their followers have interpreted Marxism in a selective manner. In a similarly reductive way however, he strongly focuses on Marx's admiration for the dynamic forces of capitalism. That would even have led Marx to an approval of colonialism, which, after all, 'would accelerate capitalist development'. Nolan believes he finds the best analysis of Marx's thinking in the work of Shlomo Avineri. This political scientist believes that Marx saw the communist revolution as a long-term evolutionary process. Understandably the importance that modern-day Chinese Communists attach to class struggle and their suppression of movements that undermine socialism receive rather little attention in Nolan's book.

New insights and knowledge that has grown dim

The knowledge that Nolan passes on about Confucian harmony, the military domain, the market and bureaucracy in pre-20th century China may enable us to recognize and understand developments in today's China. These insights will be new to many readers in the West and it is possible that they open eyes to a different view of the country.

However, the author not only provides new insights. He also refreshes old knowledge or points to phenomena that we have grown to take for granted. So that we no longer see how exceptional they are, or must be for the Chinese. The fact that Christianity has dominated the entire European culture from the end of the Roman Empire until well into the 20th century for example. China has not seen a comparable influence and power of religion. The Chinese admire the art treasures this has produced, but fear that other product of religious zeal, the urge to convert. This is something that they detect in the Western pursuit of regime change in other countries.

Parliamentarism

Nolan acknowledges that in European history not all was sorrow and misery. After the Renaissance, the West successfully caught up with China in the technological field until it got abreast of China in 1800, albeit often by adapting original inventions. Nolan also applauds the long undeniable progress from feudalism to parliamentary democracy, noting that the latter is also a very young system in the West, just like the phenomenon of the European nation states is. The author informs us that Chinese leaders and citizens study parliamentarism thoroughly and are affected by its influence, even to a certain extent welcoming it. He then, however, convincingly explains that the doubts of many Chinese people about the suitability of that kind of democracy for their own country are certainly legitimate. A majority of Chinese people still prefer meritocratic bureaucracy over a fully-fledged multi-party system. Because according to them, the current system is more suitable for a country with the size, history and degree of development of China. Moreover, the power of the CPC and the system of government control also offer the best

guarantee that politicians and officials will strive at serving the people.

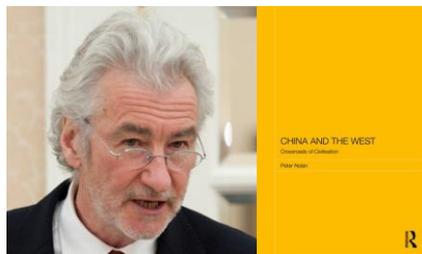
Knowledge or caricature

Peter Nolan recognizes that we live in dangerous times. "If the West and China are unable to cooperate, the outcome will be a disaster for the whole human race. This is a choice of no choice (*mei you xuanze de xuanze*)", he says in the introduction. China has changed but Westerners refuse to see it, either because they fear China's growing economic and military power or out of ideological aversion. We should not be surprised that China is disappointed by the caricatures that cynical and suspicious Westerners make of their political system and policies.

Nolan's motivation

China fears that Western politicians are preparing the minds of the population for war and are thus heading for a self-fulfilling prophecy. That gives Peter Nolan a sense of urgency motivating him to share with his audience and readers his phenomenal knowledge of China and its relationship with the West. He has experienced for years that in China there is a great interest for his ideas and opinions. With the book *China and the West: Crossroads of Civilization*, that will be no different. Hopefully his message will reach a large audience in the West as well.

China and the West: Crossroads of Civilization by Peter Nolan
Routledge, Published October 12, 2018. (268 pages)



Some suggestions on learning more about China

You can Google almost any subject and obtain a variety of information from different sources. Wikipedia is also useful in providing basic information on many aspects of China and please look at [our page](#). The Laszlo podcasts are highly recommended.

TED talks by Martin Jacques and Eric Li are recommended. Jacques explains his views on how China will become the world's leading economic power while Li's talk includes a very clear explanation of the system of government in China with key points on how it differs from the West.

For books, Amazon is clearly the place to locate and purchase books you already know about. For browsing, Foyles (Charing Cross Road) and Daunt Books (Marylebone High Street) have extensive collections of books on China.

Of course, these two bookshops are only shops of which I have personal knowledge. There must be many more.

A number of newspapers (and The Economist) have just published an obituary of Richard Booth, who virtually created the concept of 'Town of Books'. There are believed to be 40 or more in the world; the three British ones are Hay-on-Wye, Sedbergh and Wigtown. In Edinburgh there are a number of second-hand book shops in the West Port area. I mention this because second-hand bookshops can be a good source of rare and out-of-print books on China. I have seen (and have purchased) first editions of Edgar Snow's Red Star over China, and George Hogg's I See a New China amongst many others.

It is interesting to see how views and perceptions of China have changed over the years. I am particularly fascinated by the accounts of China written in Victorian times. I am fortunate in being a member of the Portico Library in Manchester, which has an extensive stock of books of that period. I will be writing more about this in subsequent articles in China Eye.

The [Chinasage](#) website is extensive and is a mine of information on all aspects of China: history (from earliest times to the present), geography (extensive information on individual provinces), current affairs, art, literature, the language and culture in general. The site is lavishly illustrated and is highly recommended both for research and just browsing.

Walter Fung

CHINESE LABOUR CORPS – A POSTSCRIPT

John Ham

John is a retired GP living in the Midlands. He is a British Born Chinese who has written previous articles on the Chinese Labour Corps for China Eye. He has been a member of SACU for about three years.

I first learned of the Chinese Labour corps some 30 years ago in connection with the British Tank Corps as part of my interest in 20th Century military history. That bit of information stayed in my brain, but did not follow it up until more recent years when I had more time to research and museum records had been better catalogued and archived often by museum volunteers. In promoting the story of the CLC to the public and particularly younger audiences, it is helpful to refer to accessible tangible artefacts rather than through dusty diaries and regimental histories. The Great War Centenary has encouraged more enlightened museums to adopt a more inclusive history and special exhibitions have shown CLC artefacts, some of which have been reported in China Eye. However, these often ephemeral and fragile memorabilia will soon be relegated back to safe storage and hidden from view, save for interested scholars who know of their existence. In this article, I propose to highlight UK establishments that contain less fragile exhibits that have CLC connections that are readily available to view and are perhaps more appealing to capture the imagination of a younger generation, though even in these places, despite the known CLC link, it is not always afforded the recognition that it deserves.

CLC and British Tank Corps

The Tank Museum at Bovington, the home of tank training from early days, has several World War tanks with Chinese Labour Corps links. Most well-known is their Mark IV tank now fitted with a fascine bundle that were largely constructed by CLC labour battalions. These fascines were dropped into the wide trenches of the Hindenburg Line so that the tanks could drive over the bridged gap in the attack. Each bundle was made up from 20-30 smaller saplings cut from nearby woods then bound tightly together with chains by two tanks moving in opposite directions pulling the ends together. The heavy fascines needed six labourers to move by rolling them in the muddy fields before being transported to the tank parks to be mounted on the Mark IVs. Surviving Mark IV tanks can also be found in the Lincoln Museum of Country Life, Lincoln being the city where tanks were first manufactured, and in the town centre of Ashford. The Ashford Mark IV is the only one left from the dozens of presentation tanks gifted as recognition to major fund raising towns from surplus army stocks when World War 1 ended. Most were scrapped in the metal reclamation drives in World War 2.

The CLC played a large part in the maintenance and servicing of Great War British tanks, a few learning to crew

them, a complicated procedure requiring team effort and coordination. Despite their large size and demoralizing effect on enemy troops, these early tanks had many limitations, not least in the large quantities in the amount of fuel, lubricants, stores and ammunition that could be carried within their very cramped confines. A Mark IV could only travel about thirty miles in a straight line on good ground before it ran out of fuel, much less on the rough muddy shell cratered landscape of World War 1 battlefields. To resupply and refuel these tanks, older tanks were converted to special supply tanks by removing the guns and ammunition stowage to allow the carriage of stores. Additionally wooden supply sledges were constructed by the CLC to be towed two or three at a time carrying more stores behind each supply tank.

The Mark V tank, also at the Tank Museum is a lengthened version of the Mark IV having a wider trench crossing capability. Both Mark IV and Mark V tanks were originally built as either cannon armed male tanks or machine gun armed female tanks. Later some were converted to hermaphrodite tanks by fitting cannon carrying sponsons to one side and machine gun sponsons to the opposite side. The CLC converted some of the larger Mark V tanks to hermaphrodite versions. A Mark V hermaphrodite tank survives in the Kubinka tank museum near Moscow. It is not known if this was a CLC conversion.

Whippet Medium tank. This was a faster machine gun armed tank and a different design from the typically rhomboid shaped heavy tanks. A number of photos show the CLC cleaning these machines, part of the maintenance routine of these WW1 tanks.

Mark VIII International tank. This was an intended war winning tank planned as an international venture with parts being supplied by Britain and the USA and assembled in Neuvy Pailloux in Northern France. Chinese labour was to be employed as the French factory workforce, and also to be employed in construction of the factory. Although partially completed the project was terminated by the ending of WW1. A small number of Mark VIII tanks were built in Britain and the USA with a single survivor in each country.



1. Mark IV Tank with fascine bundle at Bovington. The CLC constructed fascines for the tanks taking part in the Battle of Cambrai.



2. Mark IV Tank at Ashford, only survivor of the original war surplus presentation tanks after WW1.



3. Tank Supply Sledges towed by Supply Tanks carrying extra stores on battlefields. Captured German prisoners are shown behind the sledges (Tank Museum, Bovington).



4. Mark V Tank. This is a Male canon armed tank.



5. Mark V Hermaphrodite Tank Moscow, a survivor from a contingent sent by Britain to aid White Russian forces in the Russian Civil War. Some Mark Vs were converted by CLC workers to Hermaphrodite tanks being armed with cannon on one side and machine guns on the other.

All photos are by the author except where stated.



6. Whippet, a lighter faster tank armed with machine guns.



7. "Tanks being washed down in Erin 22 June 1918" is the caption to this photo of CLC washing Mark V and Whippet tanks.



8. "Workers of the Chinese Labour Corps working on the de-training ramp for tanks sent by rail for repair to the Central Workshops, Tank Corps. Teneur, spring 1918."



9. "Workers of the Chinese Labour Corps working with tanks which have been sent for repair to the de-training ramp at the Central Workshops, Tank Corps. Teneur, spring 1918."



10. Mark VIII Tank International, planned to be assembled by Chinese labour in France, but curtailed by the cessation of WW1.

Insignia of Rank – 100 Day Reform Period 1898. ‘Return to the basics.’ Realities of Late 19th Century China

David Rosier

This article focuses on the short, but turbulent, period in China’s Imperial History which, as a by-product, resulted in a unique form of Insignia of Rank Badges worn by both Civil and Military Officials.

The ‘100 Day Reform Period’ occurred in 1898 and represented a failed attempt by the Dowager Empress Cixi and her adopted son, Emperor Guangxu, to jointly instigate a far-reaching range of modernisation reforms. Visual evidence of this initiative can be seen in the uniquely different rank badge designs produced and this will be the article’s focus.

From 1861, when the Dowager Empress Cixi, with her political ally Dowager Empress Ci’an (Fig:1), orchestrated a ‘Palace Coup’ that seized control of the regency period for Cixi’s son, Emperor Tongzhi, Cixi tried to modernise China. Her desire to modernise China would continue unabated until her death in 1908 but results would be negatively impacted by both, ultra conservative attitudes of the court, ethnic uprisings and conflicts with foreign powers.

Cixi’s ‘Make China Stronger’ initiative was based upon enhanced educational facilities, accessing international expertise, and a range of initiatives to introduce the benefits of industrialisation into China. The lack of vision of the



Emperors of the late 19th Century would be the death knell for Imperial rule with the Republic of China being established in 1912.

Origins of ‘The 100 Day Reform Period’

The Dowager Empress Cixi, in early 1898, must have been delighted when her adopted son, Emperor Guangxu (Fig:3), suddenly accepted the need to modernise. One suspects that the defeat of China by a fully modernised Japan in 1895 may have exerted significant influence on his previously conservative and traditional attitudes.

Cixi embraced the Emperor’s new-found enthusiasm for modernisation and together they launched the:



Announcement of the Fundamental Policy of the State

This would result in the issue of a mass of Imperial Edicts designed to accelerate the process of modernisation

What the Dowager Empress would not have appreciated was that the Emperor’s thinking was being manipulated by a sinister character, Kang Youwei (Fig:4), who had

infiltrated the court and gained considerable influence over the young, naïve emperor.

Kang Youwei, ‘Wild Fox Kang’, was a radical reformer, sponsored by the Japanese, who was determined to



destabilise the court and bring Imperial rule to an end. He believed he was the reincarnation of Confucius and by all accounts was a very persuasive orator. He certainly convinced the young Emperor that reform had to

be rapid and radical and that the Dowager Empress Cixi was a barrier that had to be removed.

An attempt was made to recruit a leading Qing General, Yuan Shi Kai (who would become the First President of China in 1912) but he wisely decided this was not a venture to be associated with. He instead advised Cixi as to what was being planned. Kang would flee to Japan, with British assistance, 5 reformers would be executed and Emperor Guangxu would be placed under ‘house arrest’ where he could only leave his palace with his adopted mother’s permission and he would remain under strict guard.

Whilst this episode was a major set-back for Cixi’s modernisation plans, and as a result Western Powers labelled her ‘Anti-reformist’, there was visible evidence of the aspirations of the more moderate reformers. The most striking examples were the Insignia of Rank badges created during this period.

Prior to 1898 the Insignia of Rank Badges for Civil (Birds) and Military (Animals) Officials adhered to a rigid design concept that was specified in the Court Costume Regulations of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

The key aspects being the representation of the cosmos (heaven and earth) with the 3-pronged rock (earth) where the relevant creature would perch, surrounded by foaming waves (ocean) with the calm water below (Li shui). Clouds filled the sky with a sun symbol that the specific creature would look towards as a mark of respect to the emperor.



Whilst 18th Century badges were delicate and naturalistic in design (Fig:5) the badges of the 19th century reflected, however, a relaxation in the design regulations as it became permissible to add the 8 Precious Objects related to Daoism, Buddhism or Confucianism. In addition, it was possible to add a range of imagery linked to longevity, happiness, wealth etc.

The net result was a range of badges that were swamped with design elements, often at the expense of identifying the most important aspects of the iconography.

Fig:6 shows an outstanding example of the skill of the embroiderer despite the badge being for a low ranking 8th Rank Civil Official. Whilst the design may be overly



crowded the observer cannot be anything other than impressed by the quality of the workmanship.

It was these perceived excesses in the design that the 1898 reforms attempted to reverse, and this produced a very appealing contrast to other 19th Century insignia.

Fig:7 illustrates the unique design concepts of this period. Gone are the waves and the 3-pronged rock. The 5th Rank,



Silver Pheasant, flies through the clouds toward the sun symbol. Apart from a decorative border the badge has no other design features. This simple, yet attractive, design can be seen across the 9 birds that represented the Civil Officials and the 9 Ranks of Military Officials.

In addition, certain functions at court were required to display Insignia of Rank Badges. The most important of those being the Censors. A group of 50 exceptional Civil Examination graduates who were identified for service in the Censorate.

These officials effectively acted as the Emperor's auditors. They were represented by a creature known as a Xiechai (head of a one horned dragon and body of a bear). Fig:8 shows the typical 1898 design.



Another common design aspect in badges of this era was the move from natural to aniline (artificial) dyes. These vibrant colours were not commercially available in China until the mid-1890's although they had been created in Britain during

the 1860s and then commercially produced in Germany and America.

The shortness of the reform period would exacerbate the financial dilemma faced by many officials. China remained in turmoil following the defeat by Japan in 1895 and the subsequent 'Scramble for Land' by Western Powers. The government had been bankrupted by the Treaty of Shimonoseki and officials had little money to spend on the regulated court costume.

The badges that appeared post 1898 seem to indicate, via their design, that *100 Day Reform Period* concepts were being adapted with the addition of the 8 Precious Objects or aspirational symbols. These were typically applied in a semi-circle around the ranking creature as in Fig:9. Often these would be in the form of applique designs rather than as an integral part of the badge design.



Finally, it is appropriate to mention the design of the Dragon Insignia worn by the 12 Ranks of the Imperial Clan in either a roundel or a square (Ranks 5-12).

In my 25 years of collecting I have not seen an obvious example of a dragon created within a typical 1898 simplified design and it could be quite possible that the Emperor felt that the removal of extraneous decoration was not appropriate.



Fig:10 however, shows a simplified design typical of the post 1898 period. The design not only features the 8

Buddhist Precious Objects but the dragon has hooves, as opposed to claws, an indication that the person wearer was Han, rather than Manchu, in origin.

These 1898 badges are attractive in their simple visual appeal and have the added advantage of being fully attributable to a specific year. The influence of the simplified design, that had the advantage of being relatively inexpensive to create, would extend to the collapse of imperial rule in 1911.

The Making of Chinatown Exhibition at the China Exchange (32A Gerrard Street, London)

Walter Fung

This exhibition ran from 14th June to 30th August 2019. It recorded the development and growth of London's Chinatown in central London. The project was made possible by a grant from The National Heritage Lottery Fund. China Exchange was created by Sir David Tang and officially opened by the Prince of Wales on 19th February 2015. Liu Xiaoming the Chinese Ambassador was present.



The first Chinatown in London was around Limehouse, in the East End from the mid-19th century but was very small and was virtually destroyed during bombing in the Second World War. Those 'bombed out' moved to other areas, including Soho. However, there were a few Chinese restaurants in the West End even in the earlier days.

The earliest settlers in London were Cantonese from south China and a Chinatown began to evolve in Soho in the 1960s. Malaysian Chinese arrived in the 1970s, but the pivotal development was the arrival of large numbers of Hong Kong Chinese in the 1980s. The agricultural industry in the New Territories became unsustainable because of cheaper rice imports from Thailand causing many residents to leave Hong Kong in search of a better life. This coincided with the British acquiring a taste for Chinese food, which resulted in the growth of Chinese restaurants in Soho and indeed all over the UK. More 'authentic' Chinese dishes were gradually offered in addition to basic Chop Suey.

In addition to eating establishments, support facilities such as Chinese grocery shops, Chinese accountants, solicitors and

even a Chinese print business were established. Chinatown had arrived. Westminster council was supportive in painting lampposts and other street furniture in red - an auspicious colour in Chinese culture and Gerrard Street was pedestrianised in the 1980s.

Towards the end of the 20th century mainland Chinese speaking Mandarin began to arrive. They are mainly professional people and especially students. Now you hear Mandarin spoken almost as frequently as you hear Cantonese.

The Making of Chinatown Exhibition was predominantly an oral presentation of 26 Chinese living in London. They were from varied backgrounds, professions and age groups. Most came from Hong Kong, but others came from Malaysia and mainland China. In addition, some born in the UK from one or two Chinese parents. Professions included, business people, restaurateurs, solicitors, a property consultant and a civil rights activist, who also advises Chinese people on legal matters. They spoke of their background, problems they had in establishing themselves both socially and in their business in Chinatown. They try to maintain a Chinese attitude to life and pass this on to their children and are conscious of their heritage and try to preserve it. One elder quoted, 'When we are gone, the history is gone.'

One interviewee visits Chinatown frequently, regarding it as his 'second home'. Chinatown is a focal point for Chinese people in a large catchment area; one said, 'It is just like Hong Kong'. They like to see familiar Chinese faces. The Chinese New Year celebrations are organised with enthusiasm as a showcase for Chinese culture.

The future holds some concerns and challenges for London's Chinatown. Rising rents have meant that individual family businesses are having difficulty surviving and many businesses are now part of larger groups. Some of these may not be able to pay inflated rents and rates and may have to move elsewhere. Chinatown elders are concerned that their children are entering the professions and show little interest in continuing the family businesses. Of even more concern is that some of their offspring are apparently losing interest in Chinese traditions and culture.

This is was an excellent well researched exhibition but could have benefited from a wider attendance. On the two occasions I was there, many of the other attendees were young Mandarin speaking Chinese. The China Exchange website features the exhibition together with videos of some the interviewees.

Related activities were a screening of the film, 'Ping Pong' and guided walking tours of London's Chinatown in Soho.

Ping Pong

This film, was released in 1986 and was filmed largely in Chinatown and starred British-Chinese artists, David Yip and Lucy Sheen. It told the story of a law student, Elaine

Choi played by Lucy, who had the task of probating the will of a friend of her uncle. The dead man's will beneficiaries included his wife, two sons, a daughter and a friend. Family politics made this an extremely frustrating experience for Elaine. She was passed from pillar to post, hence the name of the film. She encounters many complications and dramas, some of which highlight the differences in East-West culture and attitude to life.

Unusual, but believable characters, make their appearance like the elderly Chinese man, who jumped ship and entered the county illegally in the 1930s. Afraid of being found out, he never goes out of Chinatown, but somehow became a staunch Arsenal FC supporter! Some aspects of Chinese traditions make Elaine's task very difficult throughout. Because she is British born understanding her client's attitudes are not always easy. Her duties culminate in carrying out the dead man's wish to be buried in his home county of Toisan in China. Toisan (Taishan), in the Pearl River delta region of Guangdong province, which is where many of the early Chinese arrivals in the first half of the 20th century came from. People from this area speak their own dialect of Cantonese, which was heard in this film.

This film-viewing was well-attended by a wide spectrum of people including Chinese of all ages. The film showing was preceded by an introductory interview of Lucy Sheen, who spoke not only about her role in the film, but about her career as a British Born Chinese in the film industry.

Walking Tour of Chinatown

Our guide was none other than Lai Sheung, a Director of the Meridian Society, who is also known to many in SACU. She took us to various locations in the Gerrard Street area pointing out places of interest including the four archways in Chinatown. One of the first businesses in Gerrard Street, the Loon Fung supermarket and restaurant was opened by a Chinese man from Guiana. His premises were occupied by the poet, John Dryden over 300 years ago, as could be seen from a plaque on the outside of the building. Several other notable persons lived in Chinatown in the last century, including Edmund Burke and Johann Strauss.

I wonder how many visitors to Chinatown are aware of the general history of the area?



Loon Fung building with plaque above the shop sign

In true Chinese tradition, this fascinating and informative tour ended with a delicious banquet in the Golden Phoenix Chinese Restaurant in Gerrard Street.

Chinatown walking tours are held regularly, but you must book via China Exchange or on-line.

From the British Press

China's Climate Striker skips school

Howey Ou, China's 'Greta Thunberg' (Swedish schoolgirl 'Environmental Warrior'), has been protesting outside the Guilin people's government building. She travels 12 miles each morning irrespective of the weather with placards. She has with her a copy of National Geographic magazine and other reading material in case she is arrested and put into prison. She maintains that her protest is not only against China but other governments who are not acting fast enough. In China 66% of the population believe climate change is mostly caused by human activity compared to only 36% in the UK. China is a signatory to the Paris Agreement and is a world leader in renewable energy. (From *The Sunday Times* 2/6/19)

Huawei developments

A parliamentary committee concluded yesterday that there are no technical grounds for excluding Huawei from Britain's rollout of 5G. The benefits of Huawei are clear and the removal of Huawei from current or future networks could cause significant delays. Huawei is expected to cut jobs at Futurewei Technologies, its US-based research subsidiary, according to the Wall Street Journal. The division employs 850 people across America. (From *The Times* 16/7/19)

Two rogue CFC factory closed down in NE China

CFCs (chlorinated fluorocarbons) used in insulating foams for insulation and the building industry were banned by the 1987 Montreal Protocol. They are harmful to the ozone layer 25 miles above the earth. The factories were tracked down and closed as China cracks down on violators. (From *The Daily Telegraph* 24/5/19)

China's trains are fastest

A study by *Railway Gazette International* has published a ranking of fastest trains in the world. Britain was second in the world in the late 1970s; it is now 13th down from 9th in 2009. China is number one, up from 6th in 2009. The league table was based on actual speeds achieved on weekday timetables rather than the maximum they were capable of on a particular line. China's trains were listed at 197.4 mph; Italy in second place, 169.3 mph, France in third place at 168.9, Japan was next at 166.2 mph and Spain fifth at 161.3 mph. The UK was 13th at 111.6 mph. (From *The Times* 8/7/19)

Chinese tourists, 'explosive growth'

The growth of China's middle class is changing the tourist map of the world. The China Outbound Tourism Research Institute predicts that there will be 400 million international trips by 2030. The number entering Europe in the first six months of 2018 reached 71 million – double the number in 2017. They have a checklist of sights to see: when travelling abroad for the first time, people want to see mainstream destinations. The arrival of huge numbers of Chinese

tourists in organised groups to places such as Paris and Venice has caused tensions with locals and other tourists, often with a nasty hint of racism. (From *The Sunday Times Magazine* 4/8/19)

China trade balances

According to a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) China's trade was almost in balance last year, importing almost as much as it exported. At 0.4% of GDP, its current account surplus fell from 1.4% in 2017 and from over 10% in 2007. The IMF, which provides insight and policy advice, said the improvement in Beijing's trade balance was helped by a 35% real appreciation of the renminbi over the period. IMF analysis said that China's external position was assessed to be in line with fundamental and desirable policies. The trade 'villains' running excess surpluses were identified as Germany, South Korea and the Netherlands. (From *The Times* 18/7/19)

Huawei 5G assurances

In a report in the *Daily Telegraph* (8/7/19) the Chinese Ambassador to the UK has given a guarantee that Huawei will not spy for the Chinese government. He says that there are enormous win-win opportunities for the UK by using Huawei in 5G. In the same paper was a report about a Chinese surgeon operating on the brain of a Parkinson's disease patient 3,000 km away, using a 5G connection.

China's BYD may buy bus maker Wrightbus

The Northern Ireland company, Wrightbus, needing a £30 million cash injection has been associated with BYD. Wrightbus has losses of £15 million and 100 workers have been laid off this year.

BYD is exploring ways of rescuing the remaining 1,400 jobs. Warren Buffet has shares in BYD, which makes batteries and electric vehicles. It also has connections with Alexander Dennis to build electric London buses and a joint venture agreement with Daimler to make luxury electric cars. In addition, BYD is cooperating with the UK government to reduce vehicle emissions. (From *The Daily Telegraph* 19/8/19)

Yorkshire chippy to open in Sichuan

Scotts Fish and Chips of Bilbrough, North Yorkshire has agreed a deal with a Hong Kong based consortium to open a chip shop in Chengdu city, capital of the province. Tony Webster, the owner, said the consortium was keen to open a 'genuine' British takeaway in China. The name 'Scotts' as well as its recipes and design will be licensed as a franchise. Mr Webster's restaurant has reached near-pilgrimage status with Chinese tourists who arrive by coach eager to try out Yorkshire fish and chips. The Sichuan restaurant will be tailored to local taste with pepper-chilli sauces. (From *I* 26/6/19)

Chinese tourist 'visit' Nottinghamshire Museum

Feixue Huangdu, a Chinese student at Nottingham Trent University, produced a webcast of Ruddington Village Museum and 434,000 viewers from China tuned in. Since 1968, when the museum opened, it has only received 75,000 visitors. It is only open on Thursday mornings and bank holiday Monday afternoons. The Ruddington Village

Museum features late Victorian and Edwardian exhibits. Volunteers have recreated a cobbler's shop, a pharmacy and an ironmongers in an old school building. There are also a school room, a telephone exchange, toys and games and agricultural artefacts. *(From I 27/6/19)*

Thomas Cook rescued by Chinese

Thomas Cook has 'substantially agreed' to a £900 million rescue deal involving Fosun, a Chinese conglomerate. The travel company has agreed to sell 75% of its holiday business and a 25% stake in its airline. Fosun, already a large shareholder, will contribute £450 million and a similar amount is being raised by lenders and bondholders. The deal is subject to performance, due diligence and approval of credit. Fosun, based in Shanghai, already owns Club Med and Wolverhampton Wanderers football club. *(From Metro 29/8/19)*

Chinese buy up more of England's private schools

Bright Scholar, the largest operator of international and bilingual schools in China has bought the group of prep, boarding and day schools from Cambridge Education Group, which has schools in Cambridge, London and Canterbury. It has 2,000 pupils from 80 countries. In addition, it has campuses in Shanghai and Boston, an arts school in Cambridge and ten international language schools in the UK, US and Canada. Bright Scholar has previously bought Bournemouth Collegiate, St Michael's in Llanelli and Bosworth Independent College in Northampton.

Other acquisitions by Chinese buyers are expected. Barnaby Lenon, chair of the Independent Schools Council, said it was wonderful that the Chinese were so interested in British independent education for their own pupils and also for investment. He said that the Chinese did not want to make huge changes and that they wanted to preserve Englishness. At the end of 2017 there were 22 British school campuses in China and this year another 14 branches will open, including ones from King's School in Canterbury and Shrewsbury School.

Universities are benefitting from Chinese interest: there are 100,000 Chinese students in British Universities. *(From The Times 10/7/19)* The *I* newspaper on 12/7/19, reported that the number of Chinese applying for places at British universities has increased by 30% since last year.

Did a murder case fuel Hong Kong crisis?

Ms Poon Hiu-wing was murdered by her boyfriend Chan Tong-kai, aged 19, in Taiwan last year. On his return to Hong Kong from the 'Valentine Trip' he admitted to strangling expectant mother Poon, aged 20. He bundled her body into a suitcase and hid it amongst bushes.

However, he could not be brought to trial for murder because no extradition treaties exist with Taiwan. To allow movement of suspects to places where no agreements exist, the Hong Kong rulers proposed the legislation to allow this, which includes mainland China. Critics raised fears that it could erode the legal systems in place in Hong Kong. The first protest involved 10,000 people on 31 March. However, this has escalated significantly since, despite Hong Kong

legislators agreeing to pause the bill. *(From The Daily Mail 2/7/19)*

Iran easing visas for Chinese visitors

Tehran seeks to boost tourism from China by waiving visas for Chinese visitors from as early as the end of this month. Last year 52,000 Chinese visited Iran. The hope is that this can increase to as many as two million. Last year 150 million Chinese went abroad spending £233 million overseas, but since only 9% of China's population of 1.4 billion have passports, the prospect for growth is enormous. *(From The Telegraph 17/7/)*

Greene King snapped up by Chinese

Li Ka-shing, the 91-year old Hong Kong billionaire has bought Greene King via his CK Asset Holdings in a deal costing £4.6 billion (£2.7 billion stock, £1.9 billion debt). Greene King owns two breweries, 2,730 pubs and operates the Chef and Brewer, Hungry Horse and Farmhouse Inns brands. The sales of Greene King IPA beer increased by 1,600% in China during 2015, when Xi Jinping enjoyed a pint with David Cameron. Mr Li already owns 3 Mobile and Superdrug and has shares in Northumberland Water. *(From The Daily Telegraph 19/8/19)*

Huawei ban put on hold for 90 days

The ban on American companies supplying Huawei has been put on hold for 90 days to give time for US firms to 'wean themselves off Huawei'. Huawei relies on US chipmakers and in 2018 spent \$11 billion on US components, doing business with firms such as Intel and Qualcomm. The boss of Apple has commented that the tariffs on China could hurt Apple, reducing its ability to compete with Samsung. Huawei may soon not be able to use Android, but is believed to have its own system, which could be used in place of Android. *(From The Daily Telegraph 19/8/19)*

Trade war with US drives Chinese students to UK

Chinese students are coming to the UK in preference to the US as the trade war escalates. EIC Education, a Chinese consulting company, has found that the UK has become the most popular choice for Chinese students, 20% pick the UK compared to 17% for the US as first choice. In 2017-18, 106,000 came to the UK, the first time the figure exceeded 100,000. The Trump administration has tightened visa requirements for Chinese students especially those studying science and technology. More than 360,000 Chinese are studying in the US. Chinese tourism to the US fell by 5.7% last year to 2.9 million visitors. *(From The Times 29/5/19)*

Chinese wines win Global Awards

Ningxia Cabernet Sauvignon and Xinjiang Rkatsiteli won multiple awards at the 2019 Decanter World Wine Awards. There were 17,000 entries from 57 different countries. Experts tipped Chinese wine as the ones 'to watch'. China won 7 gold medals, 40 silver medals and 73 bronze medals. In fact 45% of China's 265 entries won an award. *(From I 27/8/19)*

Chinese scientists banned from Canadian laboratory

Canadian police investigating possible breaches escorted Chinese scientists from the Canadian National Microbiological Laboratory. Xiangguo Qiu, who is an

eminent virologist who helped develop a treatment for Ebola, and her husband, also an eminent scientist, who has worked on HIV plus their students were banned from their place of work. *(From The Telegraph 17/7/19)*

From the Chinese Press

First test run for airport subway train

The first phase of a new subway line connecting Beijing city centre to the new airport has been successful. The distance is 41.4 km and the driverless trains will run at speeds up to 160 km per hour. The new airport, Daxing International is due to open in September. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 21-27/6/19)*

Supercomputers in China

China continues to dominate a list of the world's fastest supercomputers. According to a list of the Top 500 published on 17th June, China tops the list with 219 systems, the US is second with 116 and Japan is third with 29. France, Britain and Germany have lower rankings. The top two are American, the third and fourth are Chinese. The speed of these supercomputers is measured in petaflops, i.e. one thousand trillion operations per second. On average the US computers are more powerful; their overall capacity has 38.4% of the aggregate list performance. The Chinese computers are second with 29.9%. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 28/6-4/7 2019)*

China a 'key source' for world's tourists

Why China is driving global tourism is because rapid growth has resulted in Chinese per capita GDP rising from around \$2,650 in 2007 to about \$10,000 by 2019. Coastal cities tend to be more prosperous; Beijing's per capita GDP was estimated at \$20,365 in 2017. This has created a middle class requiring a wide range of consumer goods and services. Total Chinese international tourism has been estimated to have been 150 million in 2018 compared to 10 million in the year 2000. Expenditure was estimated to be \$277 billion in 2018, making China by far the biggest outbound international tourist market in the world. Furthermore Chinese per capita GDP is forecast to double to \$22,000 by 2028, so the tourist boom is expected to continue. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 21-27/6/19)*

Huge deposit of lithium discovered

An estimated 5 million metric tons of lithium deposits have been found in the central basin of Yunnan province. This could help China's reliance on imports. The world-class discovery was announced on 3 June. About 340,000 tons of lithium deposits were discovered in a test area of 7.2 square kilometres and more than 5 million tons are expected to lie in the entire basin area. Lithium is used in aviation and in batteries. Another important use is in treating bipolar disorder. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 7-13/6/19)*

Eradiating poverty

Governments at all levels have been asked to give priority to impoverished counties when purchasing farm produce. The governments should make sure that their canteens purchase a certain proportion of agricultural products from these poor counties. China aims to eradicate poverty and build a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020. Last

year 13.86 million people were lifted out of poverty. There were only 16.6 million impoverished rural residents at the end of the year. *(From Beijing Review 20/6/19)*

Aid for education

Financial aid to students has improved across the entire education sector. In 2018, a total of 98.01 million students from pre-school to university received government grants up 2.1 million from the previous year. In addition, 37 million students had access to subsidized nutritious meals. These factors together brought the total number of students who received government aid to 135 million last year. The government grants totalled nearly 130 billion yuan (\$19.37 billion), an increase of 6.56% over the previous year. During the nine-year compulsory education period, all the students were exempt from tuition fees, textbook fees and other charges. *(From China Today April 2019)*

Chinese scientist wins top award in stratigraphy

Shen Shuzhong, a professor at Nanjing University, has won the International Commission on Stratigraphy Medal. He is the first Asian to be awarded the medal. Stratigraphy is a branch of geology concerned with the relationships between the time and space of rocks and the factors that formed and influenced them. *(From Beijing Review 18/7/19)*

Higher standards for baby formula

Seven central government departments have been demanding increasing standards for baby formula. Authorities will adopt strict standards to supervise the sector and will urge producers to adopt higher standards than the minimum. Development of new and improved products will be encouraged. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 7-13/6/19)*

Development of electric helicopter

Deng Jinghui at the China helicopter R & D Institute at Jingdezhen, Jiangxi, has announced preliminary research to build a demonstration prototype electric helicopter. Work has centred on demonstrations of an electric tail rotor, believed to be the first step in exploring the technical feasibility. Preparations are being made to use it on a 2-metric-ton helicopter in preliminary test flights. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 2-8/8/19)*

AIIB meeting in Beijing

The fifth annual meeting will be held in Beijing during July 2020. The bank has 100 approved members and \$8.5 billion in investments for 45 projects. The 2020 meeting will mark the transition from the start-up phase to future growth and expansion. The bank began in January 2016 with 57 founding members and an agenda focused on supporting sustainable development through infrastructure and other productive sectors in Asia and beyond. *(From Beijing Review 25/7/19)*

Apple Center

Apple opened its first Design and Development Accelerator in China in Pudong New District on 9th July. The centre will help implement the latest Apple technologies and distribute their apps to their global customer base. Apple's Vice President and Managing Director for the Greater China Region Isabel GeMahe said the Shanghai centre will

improve products, with the goal of benefiting 5,000 person-times per year. Since the Apple App Store was launched in China in 2010, developers have earned over 200 billion yuan (\$29 billion) through sales to customers around the world. (From *Beijing Review* 18/7/19)

Patent protection

Over 6,500 patent infringement cases were investigated in the first half of 2019. A total of 238,000 invention patents were authorised in China during the same period – up 9.9% year on year. Huawei had 2,314, Sinopec 1,595 and Oppo (smartphone manufacturer) was third with 1,312. By the end of June, China had 12.5 invention patents per 10,000 people, which met the target of the 13th Five-year plan ahead of schedule. In the first half of the year, foreign patent applications in China totalled 78,000, up 8.6% year on year. The top three countries filing them were Japan, the US and Germany in that order.

The filing of foreign patents is indicative of the confidence in China's business environment. A Chinese patent official quoted an old proverb, 'Once you build a comfortable nest, the phoenix will come', meaning China fosters a business environment that respects the value of knowledge. (From *Beijing Review* 18/7/19)

Daxing Airport construction completed

The airport, south of Beijing, will begin operations on 30th September. It will be the world's largest single terminal airport and will ultimately handle more than 100 million passengers per year, matching Atlanta International in the US. Daxing will be the world's largest integrated transportation hub. It has seven runways, one for military use.

In 1949, China had only 36 airports, most of which could only handle small aircraft. This had risen to 236 by the end of June this year. Seven new airports have been opened every year during the last 10 years. There are likely to be 200 more airports built in the next 20 years and by 2035, China expects to have about 450. (From *China Daily Global Weekly* 2-8/8/19)

China's all-out effort to promote garbage sorting

The country is to spend 21.3 billion yuan (\$3.1 billion) to promote household garbage classification nationwide. Pilot garbage processing facilities have been built in 46 cities which include 5,000 kitchen waste and 1,000 hazardous waste plants. By 2025 all cities at or above prefecture level, more than 300, will have these facilities. In 2018, 38.38% of Chinese households were practising garbage sorting; this was an increase of 11.4% a year earlier. (From *People's Daily, Xinhua* 29/6/19)

China improved peoples' purchasing power

Academic research suggests that China's affordable exports have enabled consumers in the West to improve their real purchasing power by hundreds, and in some cases thousands, of US dollars every year. Quote by Keshmeer Makun, of the South Pacific's School of Economics in Suva, Fiji. (From *Beijing Review* 1/8/19)

China's war on garbage

By the end of this year, 95% of delivery packages are expected to use electronic waybills to reduce the amount of paper. The State Post Bureau has vowed to reduce over-packaging in e-commerce and to increase the use of environmentally friendly packaging materials. Express delivery firms are being encouraged to recycle used boxes, reduce unnecessary packaging and to use biodegradable materials. Green packaging initiatives are expected to save the country 207 million disposable plastic bags each year. (From *Beijing Review* 25/7/19)

Use of 5G in Eco-City

The China-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, a cooperation programme involving the two countries will achieve full 5G network coverage by the end of the year. The 5G-based platform involves data, the Internet of Things and infrastructure. The 5G technology will enhance the application of 5G technology in areas such as autonomous driving, drones, public transport, GPS, energy and medical services. The Eco-City is located in Tianjin Binhai New Area and is designed to be a demonstration zone of green development (From *Beijing Review* 25/7/19)

China's 'green driving'

China is leading the world with sales of electric vehicles . About 1.2 million were sold last year, accounting for 56% of global sales. In addition, China has about 500,000 electric buses compared to only several hundred in the US. These facts were reported by Neil Atkinson, the head of the oil and industry division of the International Energy Agency. (From *Beijing Review* 27/6/19)

China-Russia opportunities

China-Russia relations have had twists and turns over the last 70 years, but now relations are better than ever. Political, economic and people-to-people exchanges have strengthened relations on all fronts. The two countries complement each other in certain ways: economic, industrial and resource structures. Russia is a large supplier of energy, whilst China is one of the largest importers of energy. However, compared to the constantly improving political relationship, the economic relationship has lagged behind despite some progress.

Last year, bilateral trade exceeded \$100 billion and this is expected to reach \$200 billion by 2024. There is still great potential to be tapped. The two countries cooperate in the G20, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and BRICS. (From *China Daily Global Weekly* 7-13 June 2019)

Changsha China-Africa Trade Fair

Last month 3,500 exhibitors, buyers and visitors, together with 6,600 guests from China and 53 African nations attended a three-day event in the Hunan capital. A total of 84 deals worth \$20.8 billion were set up between the African countries and China. China has been the largest trading partner of Africa for 10 consecutive years, totalling \$204.2 billion. Also, by the end of 2018, more than 3,700 Chinese companies were operating in Africa, with a combined direct investment value of over \$46 billion. (From *China Daily Global Weekly* 12-18/7/19)

Sinophile by Flo and Ivor Kenna

Beijing Review (BR) of 2nd May had an interesting article about the tariff war between the US and the European Union. The country imposing the tariffs is benefitting from the sale of goods which it played no part in producing or transporting. Tariffs amount to exploitation of the producer country.

From BR for 5th May, we learn that 'The German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier said during the Second Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Forum that EU countries have signalled their willingness to participate in the initiative and are planning to sign a memorandum of understanding as a group'. Later in the same issue, we learn that 'The US is finding that it is losing its ability to influence nations regarding the BRI, as evidenced by Italy and Switzerland's positive engagement with it.' In short, the BRI aims at developing the whole world on a basis of equality. If the US and the UK do not participate, it is difficult to know what they will do for a living. A contributed article in BR of 23rd May calls for compromise between China and the US. No mention is made of the substantial pay differential between the two countries.

In BR of June 6th, Kerry Brown of King's College and a SACU member gave a good account of Brexit

BR of 13th June is packed full of quotable quotes. There is a fine photograph of 'MV Bavaria', a Liberian flagged container ship, at the Lubic Bay Freeport on 30th May. It has been commissioned to take truckloads of garbage that Canada transported to the Philippines from 2013 back to Canada.

A Chinese White Paper lays it on the line, 'The US strategic adjustment towards China was not Trump's personal choice, but a cross-party, cross-term and long term strategic decision to suppress China's development so as to maintain absolute US superiority.

China's State Councillor and Minister of Defence refers to; - The enslavement of Africans, the expulsion of Native American Indians, the colonisation of Asia, Africa and Latin America. All this is in contrast to China's Belt and Road Initiative and its successful win-win approach.

China is the first country in the world to achieve a decline in desertification and according to BR of 27th June, China is leading the way in green driving. There are about 500,000 electric buses in China compared to only several hundred in the US.

However, the US does lead in one respect. The US, the largest economy in the world, implemented 1,693 protectionist measures from 2009 to 2018, reaching first in the world!

BR of 4th July shows on the front page a smiling Xi Jinping and the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, standing together and leading a motorcade through a cheering crowd.

China's R & D spending was 1.97 trillion yuan (\$286 billion) in 2018 – 138 times the amount in 1991. The figures are impressive, but how do we compare it to R & D spending in the West, where pay is much higher?

China believes that poverty reduction success lies in basic education, vocational education and higher education.

'Truths about the China-US Trade Relationship' are headlines in the Chinese press. This takes many forms. China's foreign direct investment in the US seems to be 'declining nearly 90% in 2019 from the highest level in 2016.

Academic research suggests that China's affordable exports have enabled consumers in the West to improve their real purchasing power by hundreds and in some cases thousands of US dollars every year.

China Eye Diary-Chinese Festivals

13 September-Mid Autumn Festival

1 October-National Day

7 October-Chong Yang

There is usually a second seven-day Golden Week National holiday starting on 1st October, China's National Day.

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

Website; www.cbpsyorks.co.uk

The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding



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