

China Eye



SACU: The Society which has promoted understanding between the peoples of China and the UK since 1965

Winter 2019

Number 64



Contents include:

Chris Henson - A Tribute

Joseph Needham and 'Brand China'

My Uncle, Zhou Enlai

Chinese Labour Corps, Narrow Gauge Railways of WW1

Chinese Embassy Events marking 70 Years of the PRC

Learning Chinese the Old Way

Qing Dynasty Imperial Dress Accessories

Sino File/Sinophile/China Eye Diary

CHINA EYE

Winter 2019 Issue No 64

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SACU E mail Newsletter

SACU issues a monthly e mail newsletter providing details of events and news about China. Members are invited to send details of happenings to SACU.

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The Spring issue (Number 65) of China Eye will be available in early March 2020. Please send news or articles for inclusion before 20 February 2020 to Walter Fung, 11 Collyhurst Avenue, Walkden, Worsley, Manchester M28 3DJ. Tel 0161 799 6944, e mail; walter.fung888@btinternet.com

Front cover: Tibetan monastery in north Sichuan province (WF)

Back cover: Snow scene at the Kumbum Monastery in Qinghai province (WF)

All photographs are by the authors except where stated.

Welcome

China Eye reports the sad news of the death of SACU council member Chris Henson. Zoe Reed has written an appreciation of Chris's life on pages 5/6.

I attended a book-signing and launch by Jung Chang, author of *Wild Swans* and *Mao, the Unknown Story*. Her new book is a biography of the three Soong Sisters. She calls the book, '*Big Sister, Little Sister and Red Sister*'.

I have not yet read the book but I was a little concerned about some remarks she made about Sun Yatsen. She seemed to have some disrespect for the man all Chinese worldwide regard as the Father of modern China. She said, by choice, Sun turned to the Russians for help and was motivated by personal glory. Some historians believe Sun had no choice as he got no help from the Western powers who preferred to support the military factions, over which they had influence.

As for personal glory, Sun commanded tremendous respect. He was in America during the successful uprising against the Emperor. His men invited him to be the first president of China and he took the oath of office in January 1912 in Nanjing, but stepped down several weeks later to make way for Yuan Shikai. He later accepted the less prestigious post of minister of railways.

A more worrying statement, by Jung Chang was that between 1913 and 1928 (before the 'Chiang Kaishek dictatorship') that China was a democracy with a free press, free elections etc. The reality is that this was the 'Warlord Era' and one of the darkest periods in modern Chinese history. China was highly fragmented, many areas lawless, and at one stage had three capitals.

There were countless warlords, some controlled whole provinces, others were just bandits. Some warlords taxed farmers years in advance. Jung Chang, in my opinion, gave a very misleading picture. She frequently takes views which are at odds with other historians. A group of 14 China specialists described her book on Mao as 'unbalanced'. (Gregor Benton and Lin Chun's book, *Was Mao Really a Monster?* Also, read Andrew Nathan's review entitled, 'Jade and Plastic', available on the internet)

From Nacressa Swan at Meridian Line Films; 'Earlier this year many of you spoke to a television company called Meridian Line Films in York about your experiences and friendships in China over the last 70 years. Some of you were even filmed for the resulting online film series! It's called 'Encounters in China' - and has videos of people all over the world who have formed long lasting friendships in China, from teachers to dancers to photographers and even football pundits! 'It can be watched here on the China Icons Youtube Channel, with up to 3 new stories added each week until Christmas.'

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ChinaIcons>

NB. Nacressa contributed an article to China Eye No 49, Spring 2016, 'China's Green Revolution', which detailed China's move away from fossil fuels.

I thank Keith Bennett for the following news items;

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Nov. 25 (Xinhua) -- A ceremony was held in New Zealand's largest city of Auckland Monday to mark the 122nd birth anniversary of Rewi Alley, an old friend of Chinese people, who spent 60 years living and working in China. Dave Bromwich, president of the New Zealand China Friendship Society, highlighted Alley's contribution to the New Zealand-China friendship at the ceremony. Though Rewi Alley passed away 32 years ago, his influence on China-New Zealand friendship has not disappeared, instead, it has increased year by year.

LONDON, Nov. 25 (Xinhua) -- China's Chang'e-4 mission team on Monday received the only Team Gold Medal of the year awarded by Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) of the United Kingdom at its annual award ceremony held in London. The Team Gold Medal, presented to the Chinese delegation led by Academician Wu Weiren, the chief designer of the lunar exploration project of China, is the first award ever that was presented to a team from China by the RAeS since its inception more than 150 years ago. After the award ceremony, Wu expressed thanks to the RAeS and the award committee, and welcomed more countries and organizations to cooperate with China to jointly contribute to the efforts by mankind to further explore the space and pursue scientific discovery.

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 Meridian Society Tour to Hunan Province is now rescheduled for 12th to 26th October 2020. Watch this space for further details. Also please see the Meridian Society website; www.themeridiansociety.org.uk

We apologise for the late arrival of China Eye, but certain important items needed to be included. Meanwhile SACU wishes everyone a (belated) Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year.

Walter Fung

Can you contribute to SACU'S Mission?

To promote friendship and mutual understanding between the peoples of Britain and China.

To provide facts and analysis about China – not uncritically but always from a firm basis of friendship.

To help the British people understand the meaning of China – past and present.

SACU Council strives to achieve these aims but needs support of individual members. All SACU Council members are volunteers, nobody is paid. If you can help, please contact **Corinne Attwood, SACU company secretary** on 01273 205899 or email: secretary@sacu.org.uk

New Membership rates from 1 October 2019:

Individual	£23
Retired/Unwaged	£18
Students (PDF only)	£10
Institutions and Libraries	£27
Overseas Airmail	£35
Overseas (PDF only)	£13

Please make cheques payable to 'SACU', but to reduce the administration burden, please consider paying by standing order, or preferably use Paypal via our website; www.sacu.org.uk. Send applications and renewals to SACU Membership Secretary, Ros Wong, 108 Salisbury Street, Bedford MK41 7RQ. Mobile: 07906 956426, e mail: membership@sacu.org.uk. Please be sure to include, full name, address, post code, telephone number and e mail address. Your e mail address will be used only for SACU purposes.

Chinese Embassy events marking 70 years since founding of the Peoples Republic of China

Zoë Reed, our Chair, was invited to attend two events – a brief description is below

In celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the PRC, on 16th September a 'China Night Concert' was jointly presented by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the China Philharmonic Orchestra at the Barbican Centre in London. Zoë Reed, SACU Chair, and Corinne Attwood, SACU Hon. Secretary, attended this invitation-only event, representing SACU among the distinguished international company, including MPs, dignitaries and people from all walks of life. Jeremy Hunt MP and his wife were sat just in front of Zoë and Corinne in the Concert Hall. Shao Zheng, Counsellor from the Embassy, had invited Zoë to the event and she also had a brief conversation with the Ambassador Liu Xiaoming who remembered attending SACU's 50th Anniversary in 2015.

The event commenced with a reception, and speeches by H.E. Ambassador Liu Xiaoming and Mr James Williams, Managing Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The concert showcased a fusion of Chinese and Western as the Orchestras were using Western Instruments to perform Chinese music. The first half of the concert commenced at

7.30pm with China Overture, composed by Ye Guohui, followed by Yellow River Concerto, by Xian Xinghai. After the interval, during which drinks were served and there was an opportunity to network, the concertgoers enjoyed Symphonic Suites: Sketches of Mount Qian, by Zhu Jianer. The finale was Wu Xing (The Five Elements), by Chenqigang. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.

On 18th September the Consul-General held an event in Manchester at The Lowry Chapel Wharf to which representatives of all the major northern towns were invited. Before the Consul-General Zheng Xiyuan made the opening remarks and keynote speech there was a very uplifting video entitled "China 2019" showing some of the extraordinary developments and scenery in China today. Speeches were also made by Warren Smith, Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Cllr Abid Latif Chohan, Lord Mayor of Manchester and Lisa Yam, Chairman of the Federation of Chinese Associations of Manchester. There were songs performed by the University of Manchester Chinese Choir and closing remarks by Consul Amalia Lyu who had also introduced all the other speakers. The formalities were then followed by a splendid buffet dinner.



Zoë with the Consul General Zheng Xiyuan

When Zoë was on the train to Manchester, she received a phone call from the Consul-General's wife who wished to check that she was definitely attending because the Consul-General planned to mention her by name in his opening keynote speech. This was something he had decided to say as a revision to the formal speech which was published in the brochure for the evening to amplify the connection between Manchester and China through the work of the Rochdale Pioneers. The text of what he said was

"Mrs Zoë Reed, the chairperson of the Society for Anglo Chinese Understanding has come all the way from London to join us today. Her presence reminds us that the year 2019 marks the 80th anniversary of the introduction of cooperative movement with Rochdale principles from Manchester to China and her father was a student in a Bailie Cooperative School in China's Gansu province, which was an introduction to China through the cooperative movement spearheaded by Rochdale equitable pioneers."

Zoë spoke with Consul-General Zheng Xiyuan who is pleased to continue to be involved in SACU activities. He had attended the event organised by Jenny Clegg and held in Manchester University earlier in the year. Zoë mentioned that a delegation might be visiting next year involving the Bailie School in Shandan, Gansu Province and he said he was happy to participate.

Chris Henson – A tribute

We are very sad to announce that Chris Henson our hard-working and much respected Membership Secretary for many years, has passed away. Several SACU Council members attended Chris's Funeral on 10th December in Cambridge. It was held in the Quaker Meeting House and we were amongst many family, friends and colleagues who gathered together to celebrate a life well lived.

Sally, Chris's wife, has provided us with a brief synopsis of his life. Chris was born on the 10th January 1948 in London, England. At the age of 15 he went to the USA and lived in California with his aunt and her family, finishing his high school education there. He then joined the army to volunteer to fight in Vietnam. He served in the 11th Armoured Cavalry ("Blackhorse Regiment") and was present for the TET Offensive in 1968.

When he returned to California, Chris attended Berkeley University. It was there that his interest in China and the people of China formed. After getting his degree, he worked his way up the corporate ladder to become CEO of Temple Re in Bermuda and then Vice President of General Reinsurance in America.

In 2004, Chris took early retirement to follow his true vocation of teaching and got his master's degree in education. He subsequently taught at a Special Education School in the Bronx, New York for three years.

In 2007 he took full retirement and spent a year travelling around France, before his wife, Sally, settled in the UK and Chris took a six-month contract teaching English in Liaoning University in Shenyang. Chris was very impressed by the dedication and hard work exhibited by all the students he taught and indeed kept in touch with a fair number of them up until his death.

He returned to the UK and as a retiree he became involved with the Dover Detainee Visitor Group, the refugee council. There he offered comfort and advice to deportees. He also became heavily involved with SACU and loved his time as membership secretary, especially producing the monthly newsletter.

In 2015, Chris and Sally moved to Cambridgeshire where through the Ely Quaker community, Chris was invited to join the board as a governor of Glebe House, a school for troubled young men.

In June 2018, Chris was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of cancer with a prognosis of just a few months. He defied expectations, was able to

enjoy both daughters getting married in 2018, before succumbing to the disease on 20th November 2019.

At our SACU Council meeting on 7th December we held a minute's silence to remember Chris and then shared our thoughts and memories. It is from these that I've drawn together this tribute to Chris and his contribution.

Chris was invited to join the Council after indicating his interest in helping SACU through completion of a members' survey – the only person to tick all the volunteer offer boxes! He became the membership secretary and made the job his own – delivering it with panache and style and sometimes little regard to policy! His aim was to draw into membership anyone with a passion for friendship and understanding between the peoples of China and the UK as well as those who could help SACU deliver its mission.

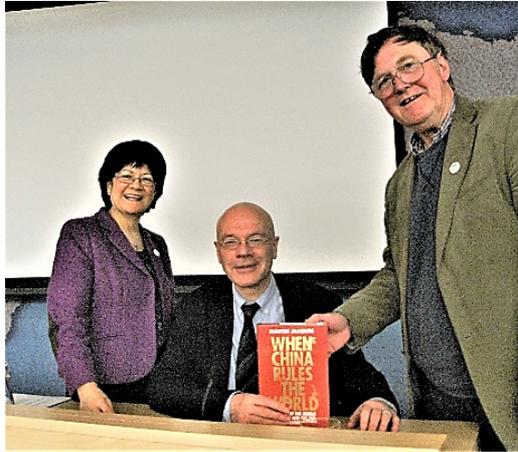
Council members remember him with respect as well as affection. Nearly always arriving late for meetings having battled with public transport and often getting lost on the way! He was well read and well-informed on all things Chinese which meant his thoughtful contributions in Council discussions often helped to steer the direction. He was friendly, courteous and helpful in his dealings with colleagues between meetings and was a regular contributor of quality articles to China Eye. He worked tirelessly on the Members' Newsletter giving us a well-curated selection of future events which would help members develop and deliver SACU's mission as well as news of members' activities; a newsletter well received by all.



Chris organised the SACU 50th Anniversary Tour to China during October 2016. Here we see him (on the right) with Michael and Isabel Crook at Peking University. (WF)

Chris worked hard to connect with individual as well as organisational members. Ros Wong, who recently took over his membership secretary duties, says it was his actions which caused her to become active again when he sent her a SACU mug [an initiative Chris paid for himself] to mark her 40 years of membership. Ros remembers how he worked hard

to hand over his membership secretary duties and even as his health deteriorated continued to be helpful and supportive. Everyone remarks on his generosity of spirit, and how he was a totally reliable SACU colleague with deep feelings for a peaceful world of people-to-people understanding.



Chris (on right) with Zoe Reed, SACU Chair and SACU's guest speaker, Martin Jacques at Chatham House (WF)

We always found that he had a real appreciation of the sensitivities of SACU work and its value as a membership organisation. His deep commitment to the aims of SACU and his personal activities towards building friendship and understanding between the peoples of China and UK were profound. As his wife Sally said, his interest in China stemmed from university days and he wrote in an email to Jenny Clegg,

“I was halfway through my first Chinese history seminar at Berkeley with Fred Wakeman when it suddenly struck me that nobody in history had endured what the Chinese had endured in the previous 100 years. It still amazes me that any people who went through what they went through - floods, famines, plagues, warlords, civil war, invasion, earthquakes, political persecution and oppression from left, right and sideways - could come out the other end and be the open, friendly, and decent people that most of them are. Wakeman had reached the same conclusion some years before but he too was wary about being seen as too ‘pro-Chinese’.
“And then, in 1949, a third world nation with low to no life expectancy, high child mortality, and zero out of ten on any other scale that mattered. And now, in 2019, just seventy years later, about to become the world’s leading economic power. Never in the history of the world, etc etc, except that it's true.”

The last time I saw Chris was at the Hospice. I had such profound respect for the way he managed his illness with humour and reality and also in the best

interests of SACU – giving me warning of when he felt he would need to handover aspects, enabling me to organise replacement. I will miss his inciteful, fun conversations and wise counsel.

At our Council meeting we discussed how much as Walter said, ‘we have lost a good friend and colleague and SACU one of its stalwarts’. Linxi, a new member of Council, explained that the generosity of Chris and Sally in her Homestay with them was helpful in developing her understanding of UK – an important part of SACU’s mission. We decided to establish a Chris Henson Homestay Project in his memory- using a recent donation from the Quaker China Group to fund any development costs. We are delighted that Chris’s wife Sally and daughters have offered to help us develop this Project to commemorate Chris’s contribution.

Chris gave me his last piece of advice on taking SACU forward. He emphasised the importance of understanding Chinese culture/society/history so that decent, respectful, mutually beneficial relationships can be developed in a variety of ways between the people of China and UK. This involves being open-minded and having a positive outlook that is based on knowledge rather than prejudice. He felt that on a small scale the notion of Homestay reflects this – inviting Chinese guests into our homes. We will take this forward in respect and gratitude for Chris’s contribution to SACU.

Zoë Reed on behalf of SACU Council

More sad news from north of the border

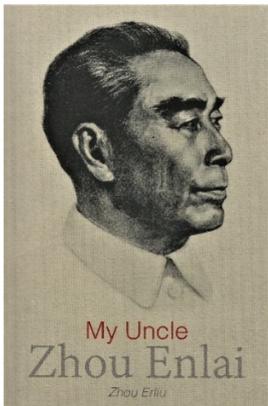
Janice Dickson, the Chair of SACU’s sister organisation, the Scotland China Association (SCA), recently passed away suddenly at her home in Edinburgh. She was central to the SCA’s organisation and activities. As managing director of Dickson Travel Service, she was an expert on travel to China and indeed arranged three recent SACU tours to China. She will be sadly missed in both Scotland and England. A fuller appreciation of her life will appear in the next issue of China Eye.



Janice (on the left) has just presented our Tibetan guide in Lhasa with a piece of traditional Scottish headgear. (2009 SCA Tour)

My Uncle, Zhou Enlai by Zhou Erliu (translated by Hui Cooper)

A review by Walter Fung



The book cover, from a portrait by Wu Biduan, a famous wood-block painter

Zhou Enlai was one of the most prominent revolutionaries who founded New China. He was a capable and inspiring leader and in government a competent and stabilising influence and a shrewd and skilled foreign minister from 1949 to his death in 1976. He was both premier and foreign minister of the Peoples Republic of China.

This book is not a conventional biography of Zhou Enlai, but more of a ‘memory’ of the man written by a nephew, Zhou Erliu. The book begins with an ancestral chart of the Zhou Family which claims descent from Huangdi, the Yellow Emperor. This is not unusual as many Chinese family genealogies claim descent from one of the ‘founding fathers’ of the Chinese People. An ancestor from each generation of the Zhou Clan is named and some have details about his status and occupation.

Enlai is one of the 127th Generation from the founding father. The author, Zhou Erliu was a close relation of Zhou Enlai, whom he called Qi Ba (literal meaning Seventh Father’). Zhou Enlai’s wife, Deng Yingchao was called Qi Ma (Seventh Mother). A fascinating account of Chinese genealogy and the importance of clan hierarchy and keeping records is presented here. Interestingly, the author, Lu Xun was a close relation of Zhou Enlai. Lu Xun was a pseudonym for Zhou Shuren, and was of the generation just before Zhou Enlai.

Throughout history, the Zhou clan members subscribed to high ideals: of honesty and righteousness, patriotism and ready to offer their services to China. They also encouraged studying, ‘seeking truth from facts and being pragmatic’. They supported education and writing poetry to hand down to successive generations. Both Enlai and his nephew and biographer Erliu attempted to live their lives by these precepts. Enlai encouraged simple frugal living, avoiding extravagance. Erliu had a very close relationship with his uncle who paid for his education and provided guidance and advice. Erliu was influenced throughout his life by Enlai’s

teaching. Although Enlai was careful to avoid nepotism and Erliu did not make known his relationship with his eminent uncle, Erliu, himself, held many senior positions in the Chinese government. They included academic as well as organisational posts and he was, for five years, the Cultural Councillor for the Chinese Embassy in the UK. During this time Erliu met many prominent people. He visited Cheltenham, the twin city of Weihai and possibly met Jim Pennington of SACU.

According to Erliu, Zhou Enlai penned the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence which were later issued jointly with Nehru of India and U Nu of Burma in 1954. They are one of the pillars of the relationship between India and China and are still widely adhered to by modern-day China and other developing countries. Throughout his life and career, Enlai would, ‘Seek common ground, whilst reserving differences,’ with opponents and other leaders.

During the Cultural Revolution Zhou Enlai tried to help and protect some of those persecuted by the Gang of Four. He had some success, but even he was unable to prevent the persecution to death of some of the most prominent leaders of the revolution such as Peng Dehuai and Liu Shaoqi. The Cultural Revolution, which lasted for ten years 1966 to 1976, were dangerous times for many people. Erliu was told by his Qi Ma that ‘if necessary, you should follow other people in denouncing your Qi Ba’. Erliu was in fact persecuted for two years, 1969 to 1971, during which time he had to do manual labour.

Zhou Enlai played an important part in the normalisation of relations with the US. Although he was seriously ill, he met Nixon in 1971 and made the point that a frank meeting should provide a clearer notion of the differences between the US and China. They should make efforts to seek common ground. Nixon for his part said that they should start a long march together, but on different roads to the same goal.

During the Cultural Revolution, many cadres and vice premiers were undergoing criticism and persecution, which increased the workload for the premier, who became substantially overworked. Despite his illness, Enlai continued to work hard attending to the affairs of state. In addition, he had to contend with the ‘Gang of Four’ who were constantly undermining him and trying to improve their influence to gain more power. They saw Enlai as an obstacle to their aspirations.

Enlai’s illness was diagnosed as bladder cancer but this information was not revealed to him. A medical team, led by Wang Hongwen, one of the Gang of Four, did not recommend surgery. Apparently Enlai, himself, did not know how seriously ill he was, but when he did find out, he himself requested surgery but by then it was too late. The cancer had spread to other parts of his body. There is a chance that if surgery was carried out sooner, the cancer in the bladder could have been removed, and he could have lived longer. Zhou Enlai said just before he died that ‘The

Cultural Revolution has cut ten years off my life'. After his death, huge crowds had gathered at the front door of the hospital but Enlai's body was taken out of the back door. This was probably a ruse by the Gang of Four to prevent people paying their last respects. The route to the Babaoshan cemetery was lined with grief-stricken people. He was a much-loved leader.

Erliu, followed Enlai's teaching to insist on accuracy and to set records straight. Enlai had in fact commented that some 'bent' facts about China had become 'treasure' by foreigners. Some myths had become prevalent. For example, Erliu states that Enlai and his wife, Deng Yingchao had no adopted children. Li Peng, one of the former prime ministers of China, has sometimes been described as an 'adopted son' of the couple. Dick Wilson, who wrote a biography of Zhou Enlai was contacted by Erliu to point out certain errors in the book. Wilson accepted the information and eventually wrote and apologised. Erliu stated that Enlai actually commented that some authors, even friends such as Edgar Snow, sometimes make up interesting stories to 'please their readers'.

In his youth, Zhou Enlai did not go directly to France to study and work as is commonly reported. In fact, in 1921, he went to Scotland to study at Edinburgh University. When his father died, he lost his source of income and he went to Germany and France on a work-study programme where he became a professional revolutionary. A plaque at 17 Rue Godefroy marks the house where he stayed whilst in Paris. There is rumour amongst the Liverpool Chinese Community that he visited Liverpool, which could well be true.

Zhou Enlai met many foreigners and became personal friends of many of them. They include foreigners, some of whom had travelled to Yan'an, the headquarters of the Chinese Communists after the Long March. They included Israel Epstein, Edgar Snow, Rewi Alley, Ma Haide (George Hatem) and Anne Louise Strong. He also met Felix Greene and Ted Heath several times.

A chapter is devoted to 'Acting on the teachings' of the deceased Qi Ba (Zhou Enlai). Details of contact with several prominent Western figure are presented They included the British prime ministers Ted Heath and James Callaghan. Callaghan and Yehudi Menuhin. It seems that Callaghan was concerned with helping the Chinese people and contributed to Anglo-Chinese understanding.

Erliu was instrumental in arranging the publication of the English version of *Speeches and Writings by Deng Xiaoping*. Apparently, Robert Maxwell was a difficult man to deal with and even the Chinese ambassador to the UK had problems. Before publishing books about world leaders, Maxwell usually met them first but this was not feasible in the case of Deng Xiaoping. However, Maxwell was interested in meeting 'scholar diplomat' Zhou Erliu, the nephew of Zhou Enlai, and so publication became possible.

Of especial interest to SACU members is Erliu's account of Zhou Enlai's contact with Joseph Needham. He praised

Needham for his book *Science and Civilisation in China*, which he believed filled gaps in China's history. Erliu explains that Needham chose Li as his Chinese surname because Needham admired Laozi and Li Er the author of *Tao Te Ching*. Needham chose Yuese for his given name. Erliu comments that 'He (Needham) was 'very Chinese''. Erliu had a collection of Needham singing Chinese folk songs in the Sichuan dialect. When Erliu was in working in London, he often went to visit Needham and his wife and also Lu.

Zhou Enlai was aware of the married Needham's relationship with Ms Lu Guizhen (in the West, it is called a 'ménage de trois'). Apparently, Lu considered returning to China and wrote to Zhou Enlai who eventually persuaded her to stay in England. Erliu attended the 80th birthday of Needham and gave a speech. Later Needham was made an emeritus professor of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The section entitled *Military Technology: The Gunpowder Epic* is dedicated to Zhou Enlai. It reads. 'To the memory of Zhou Enlai (1898-1976), the leader of the Nanchang uprising in 1927, premier of the Peoples Republic of China 1949-1976, the unswerving inspiration of the project, this volume is dedicated.

My Uncle Zhou Enlai, focusses on the personal qualities of the man and his relations with a wide variety of people such as writers, artists, musicians and not just politicians. It provides a unique insight into the remarkable qualities of the man. There have been several other biographies of Enlai which concentrate on details of the political aspects and historical events.

This book is written by a close relative and some information and material, which would not be available to other authors, such as the ancestry details, documents, personal family photographs and letters, which are presented here. They add to the interest and fascination and help to reveal the true character of the man. The book is also an insight into the clan traditions and culture of one of the major families in China and to a certain extent, the heritage of Chinese people. It is thus a valuable book which contributes to our understanding of China.

Note on the translator Hui Cooper: Hui holds a BA in English language and literature from Chengdu University, China. She taught at university level for 10 years before moving to the UK. Derek Bryan and Lao Hongying were amongst her teachers at Chengdu during 1982/3.



The translator, Hui Cooper (on left) with Zheng Yaying, a longstanding member of SACU). *My Uncle Zhou Enlai*, ACA Publishing Ltd, London, by arrangement with Yilin Press.

THE CHINESE LABOUR CORPS AND NARROW-GAUGE RAILWAYS IN WORLD WAR 1

John Ham

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Contemporary photographs, of the Chinese Labour Corps in World War 1 show them engaged in many activities. These often varied depending on the Allied nation that employed them. For the British employed Chinese Labour Corps, the allotted tasks were often more hazardous being located closer to the Front Lines. One of these situations was working with the rail transport of munitions, supplies and other war materiel. Narrow gauge railways were an important part of the WW1 military logistics system in which the CLC were employed in France.

Early 20th Century road systems in Europe were poor by today's standards. Large scale, rapid movement of men, materiel and supplies on unreliable roads, sometimes made impassable by bad weather was difficult. Standard and narrow gauge railways were essential to efficient transportation. They were used by all the main combatants: Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and the USA. Britain was a late-comer to realise the benefits of these rail networks, after its reliance on lorry and horse-drawn transport became mired in the mud of static trench warfare. The French were the first to devise a light-weight and portable 600mm railway system for both industrial and military applications. This was followed by the Germans who realised that in designing their own railway network, with its secondary purpose of providing military transport, the potential of a light-weight system to follow their armies. Most of the main combatant nations used the same gauge, but common to all was these ease at which these lines could be put down and taken up, by relatively unskilled labour. Derailments were common, but the lighter weight rolling stock could be righted quickly without heavy recovery equipment and operation resumed.

The railway supply chain worked on standard gauge locos and rolling stock carrying supplies to marshalling areas, where the loads would be transferred to the narrow gauge system. There, narrow gauge steam hauled trains took over, taking the loads closer to the front lines. At these forward narrow gauge depots, petrol engine powered locos were hooked up to the wagons in place of the steam locos for the final part of the journey to the front.

- Petrol-engine powered locos were termed "tractors" and were preferred in front line areas of operation, being quieter and less obvious to enemy

observation than their smoke-and-flame associated steam powered counterparts. These Simplex tractors, produced by the Motor Rail and Tramcar Co. Ltd of Bedford, had 20 or 40 hp motors. The 40hp types came in three versions: an Open type; a Protected type; and an Armoured type. Following WW1 many of these Simplex tractors were sold to the commercial sector, and employed in pulling loads in quarries and factories.

- Supply chains and logistics are common terms in use today but without the manpower provided by the CLC and other foreign volunteers to the supply lines of WW1 armies, it is possible that this global conflict may not have lasted very long, an intriguing "what if" question.

There are few surviving artefacts of the CLC and heritage narrow gauge railways give a glimpse of this past. Apedale Valley Light Railway, Stoke-on-Trent and some others hold open days where some of these locos and rolling stock can be viewed in working condition.

The contemporary photos used here are by a small number of official war photographers employed on the Western Front who had been noted for their work with newspapers or press agencies. They were given an honorary military rank and driven to their assignment locations and were subjected to censorship in this propaganda role. Two or three of them are particularly associated images of the Chinese Labour Corps. Grateful thanks to the Imperial War Museum for the use of the CLC photos from their archive © IWM, and from the Tank Museum, Bovington for use archival material in support of this article.

References.

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Apedale Valley Light Railway www.avlr.org.uk

CAPTIONS. Photos author except where stated.



1. Apedale Valley Light Railway in Staffordshire held a WW1 weekend in 2014 where restored narrow gauge steam and petrol powered runners were exhibited, with period rolling stock and re-enactor events. Here, a typical narrow gauge train with assorted wagons designed to carry different loads. The steam loco is a Ganges Class Hudswell Clarke of 1916.



2. Open Motor Rail Simplex petrol powered tractor clearly showing its internal combustion engine. Drivers sat sideways to facilitate forward and reverse operation. Behind are a couple of hopper wagons of the type seen in the IWM photo of the CLC constructing a rail line with the Canadians.



3. 40 hp Simplex WDLR3101 of 1918 fitted with front and rear curved metal shields and roof. Originally built as a protected type, it is missing the armoured doors and visors of this version.



4. Fully enclosed Armoured 40 hp Simplex LR 2182 of 1918, one of 27 built. These fully enclosed types were very hot and noisy to work in.



5. Class E narrow gauge well wagon. Wagons were identified by a code letter to denote their basic purpose of use. Well wagons increased volumetric capacity without increasing their height allowing larger amounts of lightweight materials to be carried. Fodder for horses formed a large part of the supplies needed for the largely horse drawn WW1 armies.



6. “Men of the Chinese Labour Corps unloading duck boards at a railway siding at Ypres, 2 February 1918.” The CLC members wear assorted winter uniforms and close inspection shows that the one on the right carrying a stick to be a ganger displaying rank chevrons on his sleeve. Photo 2nd Lt. David McCellan © IWM Q8447



7. “The hangars at the grain discharging works at Calais, 3rd December 1918. Filled sacks, which arrived by on flatbed trucks on narrow-gauge railway were carried to the stacks by rollers grain at a Grain Discharging Works, Calais, 3rd December 1918. Members of the Chinese Labour Corps are seen along with British Army personnel.” Narrow gauge railways were employed at dockyards and storage depots where their compactness made them ideal for moving loads around these sites. Photo Lt Ernest Brooks. © IWM Q3476



8. "Under supervision of Canadian railway troops, Chinese Labourers fill light railway tip-wagons with earth during the construction of a broad gauge railway at Lapugnoy (near Bethune), 11 March 1918." Photo 2nd Lt Thomas Aiken. © IWM Q10735.



9. "Members of the Chinese Labour Corps employed on construction work at the Wagon Depot at Oissel, 28 June 1918." Photo 2nd Lt. David McCellan. © IWM Q10351.



10. "Construction work on the Wagon Depot at Oissel, 28 June 1918." There are several photos in this series portraying the work of the Royal Engineers 1914-18. Examination of this image reveals that the CLC were directly employed in the construction of these buildings. Far from being all just simple labourers, some were carpenters or had acquired joinery skills. Photo 2nd Lt. David McCellan. © IWM Q10356.

Zheng Shih (1775-1844): 'The Pirate Queen of the South China Sea'

Kevin Harrison

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One consequence of a great power's declining maritime capability is an increase in piracy in regions officially

subject to its remit. It was thus for the Qing empire. For over two hundred years the Imperial government had struggled to establish order in the South China Sea. By the early 1800s it had demonstrably lost control of the coast and seas between Macau and Guangdong to pirate fleets; fleets that had grown to great power during a rebellion in Vietnam and sought new bases in South China. Towns and villages were raided, Chinese, British and Portuguese merchantmen were boarded and looted, embarrassing defeats were inflicted on the Imperial navy and the Qing government, undermining their prestige in the eyes of their own people and foreign powers.

The most prominent pirate fleet was that commanded by a woman: Zheng Shih ... dubbed by some historians as the most successful pirate in history and, to this day, celebrated in Chinese novels, histories and films. At one point, around 1809, Zheng Shih controlled a huge pirate armada, known as the Red Flag Fleet, comprising 300-800 (perhaps as many as 1,800) junks and upwards of 50,000 to 80,000 buccaneers. Her tale is a remarkable one that deserves to be better known.

Born Shi Xiang Gu (she would be known by many names during her eventful life) in Guangdong Province, Zheng Shih originally worked on a 'flower boat', a floating brothel that would sail up and down the coast to collect clients. It is not clear if Zheng Shi was a prostitute or owner of the pleasure vessel; her life, especially her early life, is very poorly documented. Whatever the actuality, in 1801 she met, or was captured in a raid, by the man she married the following year and went into the pirate business with: Zheng Yi (1765-1807). Zheng Yi descended from a long line of pirates and was himself an established buccaneer of some repute, who was commander of the Red Flag Fleet. Entranced by his new wife (two sons swiftly followed), a sound business partnership was negotiated, with half shares of any profits from their various criminal or barely legal activities.

In 1804 they adopted one Zhang Bao (1783-1822) as their legal son and heir. He had been kidnapped by Zheng Yi at the age of fifteen (kidnapping people one has taken a shine to seems to be something of a habit of Zheng Yi), and became a leading figure in their enterprises. By the same year a formidable alliance of several pirate fleets had been hammered together under their own Red Flag Fleet lead: the other fleets, each in themselves headed by tough, ruthless captains, were also colour-coded: Yellow, Green, White, Blue and Black.

It says much about Zheng Shih's powerful personality, toughness and sheer cunning that when Zheng Yi died in Vietnam (under mysterious circumstances: did he die in an accident or was he murdered?), she swiftly secured her dominance over the Cantonese Pirate Coalition. Now named Zheng Shih ('Widow of Zheng'), she ensured the support of potential rivals in the Red Flag Fleet. Zhang Bao Tsai (now Zhang Bao 'the Kid'), now highly regarded as a pirate leader and the official Fleet leader, became his step-mother's secret lover; while key members of her late husband's pirate family strongly came out in her support. Of course, being pirates, this loyalty was conditional on her continuing ability to ensure both order within the Red Flag

Fleet coalition and also a steady flow of booty to its members. A large social organisation such as the Red Flag Fleet required a code of rules – a body of law – to function effectively and ensure its continuation as almost a state within the Empire, controlling a number of urban centres as bases. The code may have been originally the creation of Zhang Bao Tsai, but the only surviving version is that issued by Zheng Shih, probably its originator. It had the simple advantage of being simple, tough and very, very strict.

Put simply, the code proscribed beheading as the ultimate penalty for a wide range of misdemeanours: stealing from the public fund, stealing from villages supplying the pirates or paying tribute to them, holding back booty, disobedience to a superior, rape of female captives, consensual sex with female captives (the lady would be thrown overboard, with a cannonball tied to her legs); other offences were punished by flogging, mutilation, quartering, or some other form of public degradation. Booty captured was distributed in line with procedures down by the code, no exceptions. Similarly, unattractive captured women would be released, the attractive ones ransomed. Pirates who married captives were expected to be faithful to them. Adultery was severely punished as a source of disunity among the pirate community. Generally speaking, the code worked. It made the Red Flag Fleet, in the words of Richard Glasspole, an English East India Company ship's captain who, along with seven British Sailors, was held captive for three months in 1809: '... intrepid in attack, desperate in defence, and unyielding even when outnumbered.'

Any admiration for the Red Flag Fleet, its effectiveness and its leaders needs to be tempered by remembering the sheer ruthlessness and viciousness that accompanied raids on coastal settlements and its attacks on shipping. Working effectively with Zhang Bao Tsai, Zheng Shih well earned her other moniker: 'The terror of the South China Sea'. From Macau to Guangzong villages and towns were attacked. In many cases victory meant that all captive males were killed, women and children sold into slavery. Torture was used to extract the whereabouts of hidden treasure. Ships crews were also often unceremoniously executed if they put up too strong a resistance.

Qing attempts to crush the Red Flag Fleet were ineffectual. Defeats were inflicted on the Imperial navy in 1804 and a running series of naval encounters followed, usually resulting with a Red Flag victory and often the suicide of the shamed Qing admirals. In 1808 the Imperial Chinese Government, goaded into action by domestic and foreign criticism, fought with the Red Flag Fleet near its bases close to Hong Kong and the islands of the Pearl River Delta. Pirates, though, proved better sailors and more effective fighters. The Qing fleet saw many warships captured, sixty-three of them, and their crews joining the pirates, although the alternative option was execution. The government navy was reduced to commandeering fishing boats. Similarly, attempts by the Dutch and British East India Companies, and the Portuguese Navy to suppress the Red Flag Fleet also came to nought.

Female pirates were common at this time. Lin Yu Yuan, for example, married Red Flag Fleet captain Cai Qian (1761-

1809) in 1799. She was English-speaking, an expert on Western weaponry and a highly successful buccaneer. She negotiated arms deals, ensuring the pirate fleet was well-equipped with modern weapons and able to counter most threats from the Qing navy: most threats ... but not all. In one encounter off Wenzhou, a government force surrounded Cai Qian: he killed himself rather than surrender, but Lin Yu Yuan carried on her pirate career. But the fortunes of the Red Flag Fleet began to change. Defeats at the hands of the Portuguese at the Battle of the Tiger's Mouth in autumn 1809 and the Battle of Chek Lap Kok in January 1810, along with desertions to the Qing Government by some pirate fleets, pushed Zheng Shih to seek an amnesty from the Qing government. The Imperial government was very willing to offer amnesty as the price to end this threat to its prestige and its trade; while potentially strengthening its navy with ex-pirates pirates killed in fighting and sailing skills.

The near universal amnesty, negotiated by Zhong Bailing (1748-1816), governor of Guangdong province, was generous. Punishments were rare: out of 17,318 pirates who surrendered during 1810 sixty were banished, 151 were exiled and 126 executed. The rest were pardoned, allowed to keep their ships and their booty in return for a pledge to give up the pirate life. They became, most of them, respectable farmers, sailors, fishermen and merchants in South China.

Their mother-stepson relationship having being legally annulled, Zhang Bao Tsai and Zheng Shi were married by the governor. Circumventing their embarrassing refusal to bow to him as the representative of the Imperial government, they bowed to him as the officiator of their nuptials. Zhang Bao Tsai became a captain in the Imperial navy, based in Guangdong, while Zheng Shi set herself up with a gambling house. A son and daughter to the happy couple soon followed.

Zhang Bao Tsai died at sea in 1822. The grieving widow moved to Macau, established a gambling house, a brothel and a salt-trading business with her share of the loot. During the First Opium War (1839-42) Zheng Shi advised Lin ZeXu (1785-1850), the Imperial official who sought to stamp out the opium trade, playing an active role in the defence of China against the British.

In 1844 Madam Zheng Shi died in Macau, surrounded by family and friends. Her sixty-nine years were packed with adventure: ruthlessly negotiating her way from poverty and prostitution to vast wealth acquired as a pirate and businesswoman. She received an Imperial pardon and ended her days held in respect by all who knew her. Zheng Shi, though, remains best known to posterity as the 'Pirate Queen of the South China Seas'.

Suggested Further Reading

Charles F. Neuman, *History of the pirates who infested the China Sea from 1807 to 1810* (Oriental Translation Fund, 1831)

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Joseph Needham and ‘Brand China’

Steve Bale

Steve lives in central Beijing and on the north Norfolk coast. He first travelled to China in 1988, and has been helping his Clients build brands there since 1997. Many of Steve's photographs and stories are on his website www.ChineseCurrents.com



Mention ‘China’ and ‘science and technology’ in the same breath to someone, and what kind of response are you likely to get? These days, ‘innovative’, and ‘advanced’ are two of the words that might trip off the tongue. Quite a difference from, say, 20 years ago, when ‘copycat’, ‘laggard’, and perhaps lots of head-scratching may well have been the typical response.

By any measure, the rapidity of China’s progress in science and technology in the last two decades has been nothing short of astounding. The rest of the world’s view of China’s development in this field has been informed by writers, analysts, academics and – most significantly – by people’s own views of China’s brands and, of course, of the country itself.

In 2018, ‘foreign-tourists’ made 30.5 million visits to mainland China; an increase of almost five per cent compared with 2017. Many of those visitors avidly shared their impressions of China to friends, family, and colleagues via word-of-mouth and the numerous social-media channels.

Consequently, hundreds of millions of people all over the world are hearing about China’s impressive modernity from

people who have experienced the airports, the high-speed rail network, the subway systems, the 4 and increasingly 5G connectivity, the electric-vehicles and the ‘cashlessness’ themselves.

The burgeoning fascination with all things Chinese has spurred a wave of interest in Chinese history. One of the popular subjects in this genre is ancient China’s technological superiority. Long-overdue news of China’s ‘four great inventions’ [si da faming] – paper making, printing, gunpowder, and the compass – has at last reached large numbers of people in the Western world. To the extent that, these days, any half-decent pub quiz team would be expected to know all the names of the ‘four-greats’.

The story has travelled far and wide. But, as is so often the case with stories, very few people know the name of the storyteller.

This would not have worried Joseph Needham (1900-1995) in the slightest. He was fully focused on one, albeit Herculean task: To give China the long-overdue respect it deserves for its scientific contributions to humankind.

Joseph Needham studied biochemistry at the University of Cambridge under the tutelage of Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, who would be jointly-awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1929. Needham was a brilliant student and equally exceptional researcher, who would go on to author more than 100 scientific publications between 1921 and 1942.

A Harvard reviewer was so impressed by one of those publications, a book titled *Biochemistry and Morphogenesis*, he or she was moved to write: “[It] will go down in the annals of science as Joseph Needham’s magnum opus, destined to take its place as one of the most truly epoch-making books in biology since Charles Darwin.”

Surely, then, it would only be a matter of time before he followed Sir Frederick’s path all the way to the Nobel rostrum.

Perhaps he would have, had he not met Lu Gwei-Djen (Lu Guizhen), also a biochemist at Cambridge. She had arrived there in 1937 to pursue post-graduate studies, after fleeing from war-torn Shanghai.

Lu ignited his intense passion for studying Chinese characters, which he went on to describe as, “...A liberation, like going for a swim on a hot day. [For it gets you] entirely out of the prison of alphabetical words and into the glittering, crystalline world of ideographic characters.” Lu, whose father was a distinguished Nanjing pharmacist, also fired Doctor Needham’s fanatical interest in China’s long and illustrious history in numerous fields of science.

Informed by professor Luo Zhongshu, who was close to scientists in Chengdu (beyond the vast territory occupied by Japanese forces), he realised that China's scientific institutions were in a parlous state.

Determined to help, he persuaded the British government that he should be its man in charge of the British Scientific Mission in China. By 1946, he and his team of 10 Chinese and six British scientists had visited 296 'places of learning' on journeys totalling many thousands of difficult miles.

During this grand tour of schools, universities, laboratories, and industrial units, the work of this small team resulted in the provision of 'tons of scientific equipment' as well as some 7,000 science books.

Many scientists and others he met were keen to talk about China's incredible science history. They also introduced him to the literature that provided the all-important evidence that supported the many wondrous stories.

In the 'Acknowledgements' [Preface, page 11] of the first volume of *Science and Civilisation in China* [1954], Joseph Needham would write, "*The work gave unimagined opportunities for acquiring an orientation into Chinese literature of scientific and technical interest, for in every university and not a few industrial installations, there were scientists, doctors and engineers who had themselves been interested in the history of science, and who were not only able but generously willing to guide my steps in the right paths.*"

The longest of the physical 'steps' towards his enlightenment was a four-month expedition from Chongqing to the ancient Mogao Grottoes, also known as the 'Caves of the Thousand Buddhas', near Dunhuang, Gansu province.

Surrounded by boundless desert, the small 'oasis town' of Dunhuang became an important site for merchants traversing the 'southern section' of the Silk Road – the ancient superhighway between China and the Western world.

In the 1,000 years that followed the excavation of the first grottoes in the 4th century AD by Buddhist monks, the Mogao Grottoes developed into one of the Buddhist world's greatest cultural sites.

Mogao became a staging post for the spread of Buddhism from India to China; as well as the place where Chinese monks could worship and meditate, before continuing their 'Journey to the West'.

For Joseph Needham, also, this was as much a spiritual journey as it was an arduous physical one. His quest was to see with his own eyes the place where the Diamond Sutra was 'discovered' a few decades before. This document,

found in the 'Library Cave', is regarded as one of the most important artefacts in the history of science.

Remarkably, it is precisely dated. The date that appears on the sutra corresponds to the 11th May 868 in the Gregorian calendar. Even more remarkable is that it was not hand-drawn. It was printed...

...587 years before Johannes Gutenberg printed the Bible in Germany [1455]; and 608 years before William Caxton published *The Canterbury Tales*, England's first printed book [1476].

Recorded on the Diamond Sutra is the Chinese translation of a 'question and answer' dialogue between a disciple, Subhūti, and the Buddha. An alternative name of this sutra, 'The Perfection of Wisdom Text that Cuts Like a Thunderbolt,' seems entirely fitting as well as prophetic in that, more than any other, this was the 'China first' that had inspired Joseph Needham to embark on what would be a more than 50-year mission to persuade the world that China had been the home of the world's most advanced ancient civilisation by far.

His experiences and rich encounters during the numerous journeys that followed the 'Dunhuang Expedition' would convince him that the plan to write a "single slim volume" on the history of science in China needed to be re-thought: "*During my time in China I realised that one volume would not be enough, and that it would probably have to be seven,*" he wrote.

Back in Cambridge, Joseph Needham began to type the pages that would become the monumental *Science and Civilisation in China*. He was surrounded by mountains of beloved books from numerous Chinese sources. A kid in the world's biggest and best sweet shop:

"What a cave of glittering treasures was opened up! ... One after another, extraordinary inventions and discoveries clearly appeared... often, indeed generally, long preceding the parallel, or adopted inventions and discoveries of Europe. Wherever one looked, there was 'first' after 'first.'"

Indeed, there were so many 'firsts' after 'firsts', that, although the plan for seven volumes didn't change, volumes 4 to 7 were split into 24 parts. Several of these were completed by academics from the Needham Research Institute and published after his death in 1995.

The final book in the collection, *Science and Civilisation in China, Volume 7, Part II: General Conclusions and Reflections*, lists the 262 'firsts' that were described in earlier volumes of the work.

But, why then didn't China go on to develop 'modern science' before the 'industrial revolution' in Europe, instead

of seemingly running out of creative steam at around 1500 AD?

This is known as the 'Needham Question'.

A Google search for the term and '1500 AD' yielded 4,230 results, including links to numerous attempts to provide possible answers.

Here's one more:

Could it be that, after four millennia of frenzied activity, the Chinese Dragon had simply decided to take a well-deserved nap?

It's worth remembering that, for Chinese Dragons, 500 years is but a blink of an eye.

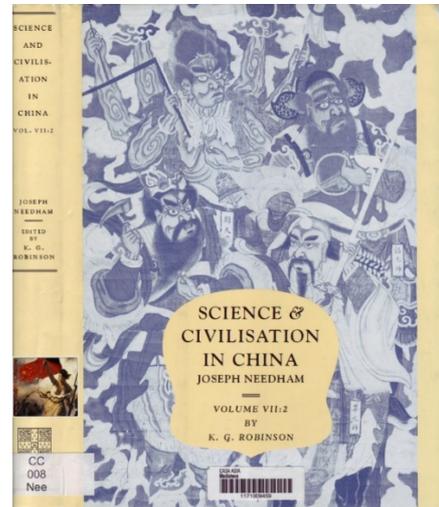
References at: www.chinesecurrents.com/josephneedham.html

A selection of 20 of the 262 'inventions and discoveries' that are described in Science and Civilisation in China:

- Air-conditioning fan in 180 AD
- Algorithms in the first century AD
- Antimalaria drugs in the 3rd century BC
- Camera obscura, an explanation in 1086 AD
- Clockwork mechanism in 725 AD
- Coinage in the 9th century BC
- Crop rotation in the 6th century BC
- 'Chinese triangle' in 1100 AD
- Natural gas as fuel, in the 2nd century BC
- Diabetes (link to some foods) in the 1st century BC
- Gear wheels (chevron-toothed) in AD 50
- Inoculation against smallpox, 10th century AD
- Metal used to fill tooth cavities in 659 AD
- Nova, a recorded observation, 13th century BC
- 'Pi', an accurate estimation in the 3rd century AD
- Porcelain in the 3rd century BC
- Rockets (two-stage) in AD 1360
- Rotary fan in the 1st century BC
- Seismograph in AD 132
- Silk, the earliest spinning in 2850 BC

"The mere fact of seeing them listed brings home to one the astonishing inventiveness of the Chinese people."

Joseph Needham



*A section of the 'Caves of the Thousand Buddhas'
(Photo courtesy of Steve Bale)*

QING DYNASTY IMPERIAL DRESS ACCESSORIES – PART I

ULTIMATE POWER DRESSING HEADWEAR

David Rosier

In previous articles I have concentrated on the mandated court costume, primarily robes, that the 12 Ranks of the Imperial Clan plus the 9 Ranks of both Civil and Military Officials were required to wear. The driving motivation of this 2000-year-old protocol was the objective, through visual clues, to indicate the rank and status of the individual wearer. Given this objective the textiles known as Insignia of Rank Badges (multiple roundels and squares worn on outer surcoats) were the most important of costume embellishment.



Military Official wearing a winter hat and ceremonial finial

This mandated system, however, extended beyond the robes and covered a range of dress accessories, included

within the Court Costume Regulations, which were worn primarily as an additional indicator of the rank of the wearer. This article will provide an insight into the nature, purpose and construction of Official Headwear plus Hat Finials and in the next edition I will consider Court Necklaces, Ceremonial Belts and Award Plumes.

Male Court Hats and Finials

Court hats (*Chao Guan*) were an indispensable item of regulated costume and appropriate versions were worn for numerous court rituals but also as a standard feature of semi-formal court wear (clothing worn for the performance of the wearer's daily responsibilities either at the court or in Central or Provincial Government).

Practical considerations determined there were 2 forms of court hat with a version appropriate for the winter months and a summer equivalent.

As with most aspects of court protocol there was an established routine as to when the differing versions of the hat would have been worn. The winter version would normally be worn from the 9th Moon of the Lunar Year and changed for the summer hat with the coming of the 3rd Moon in the following year.

Winter Hats was known as the 'warm hat' which related to its construction. This was a close-fitting cap with a quilted crown and an upturned brim. The brim was lined with fur, for added warmth, but, not surprisingly, given that these items were covered by the costume regulations, the type of fur was pre-determined for the Imperial Clan and the first five ranks of the Civil and Military Officials.

The Emperor would have fur added to his robes (trim and/or lining) plus his winter court hat and would be a combination of sable and black fox. Matters were complicated further for senior Imperial Clan members as the regulations specified a change of fur at the Lunar New Year. The Emperor could also award any individual the honour of wearing sable fur in recognition of an exceptional contribution.



Emperor's Winter Hat – 1759 Regulations Illustration

The majority of senior officials would wear mink whilst the lower ranks would wear seal skin or velvet.



Once the summer season was confirmed by Imperial Edict the structure of the court hat changed according to the regulations. The summer hat was known as the 'cool hat' and was a conical shape which would shade the wearer from the intense summer sun. The hat was created from finely woven split bamboo.

There would be a taut red silk covering and a thin brocade rim. The hat was lined with gauze and had a sweatband on the inner rim. Unlike the winter hat the creation of a summer version required highly skilled artisans and the manufacturers tended to be generational family businesses located primarily in Shandong and Sichuan Provinces.



Emperor's Summer Hat Illustration 1759
Civil Official's Summer- semi-formal finial

Court Hats were embellished with either ceremonial spikes or semi-formal finials known as 'Mandarin Buttons'. The function of these finials was to identify a person's position and rank within the 12 Ranks of the Imperial Clan or the 9 Ranks of both Civil and Military Officials.

The distinguishing feature was colour of the semi-precious stones, or glass imitations, which were fixed to the crown of the hat. This practise was established within the initial Court Costume Regulations published by the Manchu in 1638, 6 years prior to actually establishing the Qing Dynasty in China.

The most extensive revision, and expansion, of Court Costume Regulations was completed in 1759 under the direct management of the Qianlong Emperor. The completed regulations (*Huangchao liqi tushi*) occupied 18 volumes of reference material and included 5000 pages of descriptive text and in excess of 6000 hand painted illustrations.

Ceremonial finials, or 'Spikes', were worn with the formal Chao Guan hat. They were effectively bolted to the crown of the hat but despite this they remained top-heavy and difficult to balance whilst moving around.

The Emperor wore a finial created with Eastern Pearls (freshwater pearls from the rivers of Manchuria) which were set into a gold design that incorporated 12 Lung Dragons across the 3 tiers.

The summer version of this hat would have an additional decoration on the brim. The brooch would be a gold figure of Buddha surrounded by 15 Eastern pearls.

Crown Princes, and lesser Princes, would wear identically designed finials but with a lesser number of pearls and dragons but this reverted to a single ruby in the 19th Century.

In contrast, a Civil Official of the 1st Rank would wear a finial where a ruby stone would be set in the body of the spike which would then be topped with a piece of ruby red cut glass. The requirement for these stones to be genuine gems was relaxed in the early 18th Century.

Finials were of a fixed metallic design with 3 sections – a broad base of high relief symbols, a spherical section with the rank stone and an upper section containing the cut glass or gem of that rank.

The regulations specified these finials could incorporate one of 4 colours (ruby red, sapphire blue, white rock crystal and gilt metal) which would cover the 9 ranks. Variations of settings within the mid section would distinguish the actual rank. In 1730 opaque stones were used to identify the subordinate rank eg: Clear ruby red = 1st Rank and opaque red = 2nd Rank

Up until 1727 the Chao Guan could be worn without the ceremonial spike on semi-formal occasions. After this date a new hat was introduced, the *Ji guan* (Festive Hat) which did not require a ceremonial finial but, instead, were worn with what has become known as 'Mandarin Hat Button'. These were a large bead of varying materials that related to the rank of the wearer.

The regulations covered both the nobility, including the Emperor, and all levels of Officials. The Emperor wore a single pearl set in gold or a hat with a knot of red silk cord.



Mandarin Buttons for officials incorporated the colours appropriate to the specific rank and were either a clear or opaque material. In 1759 the revised regulations standardized the system which would remain in place until the end of Imperial Rule in 1911.

Hats for the ladies of the Court

Formal and semi-formal female costume was controlled by the Court Regulations and were based heavily on the male equivalent with only a limited number of unique features.

With regard to the formal Chao Guan hat this was far more elaborate and flamboyant than the male equivalent.

In winter the Empress, and secondary Imperial Consorts, wore a crown-like hat with a ceremonial spike comprising of Eastern Pearls and golden Phoenixes arranged in a maximum of 3 tiers. The base of the hat was covered with red silk floss on which 7 golden phoenixes were attached. The Phoenix (Feng Bird) was the personal emblem of the Empress.

The rear of the hat had 3 strings of pearls attached with a golden clasp and contained a lapis lazuli decoration in the mid section.



The brim was trimmed with black fox fur as determined by the regulations.

Lesser ranked consorts and princesses wore a similar design but with a lesser number of phoenixes and an appropriate change of the type of fur.

Manchu Noblewomen wore hats similar to their husbands but with a rear tassel created with brooch-like

plaques decorated with kingfisher feather and semi precious stones.

Hats rested on a diadem (*Jin yu*) a golden circlet decorated with semi precious stone

Summer hats were of a similar design to those worn by the men of the court.

Conclusion

Court hats were an integral part of Formal and Semi-formal Imperial Costume that was required to be worn not just at the court but also by officials in Central and Provincial Government. Not surprisingly the structure, iconography and materials deployed were strictly controlled by the Court Costume Regulations which were policed by the Board of Rites.

The design and materials would allow an observer to determine the heirarchy in which the person operated and their rank within that environment.

In the next article I will consider the Court Neckaces and Robe Belts that were also covered by the regulations for the nobility and Officials.

China's 70th Anniversary National Day Parade in Beijing on 1st October 2019

The parade featured 15,000 troops of the PLA, 580 pieces of military equipment, 160 planes and helicopters. They exhibited the latest advanced weaponry. In addition, about 100,000 civilians also took part representing each individual province and regions of China and the national minority peoples. As the photographs show, China's scientific achievements were also on display, with floats carrying models of wind turbines, the new radio telescope and China's space effort. China's arts, historical heritage and modern and traditional culture were also represented.

President Xi Jinping, with Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and current and former senior leaders at his sides, opened the formal proceedings with a short speech. He emphasised the path of peaceful development and opening-up strategy based on mutual benefit with all the counties of the world to build a community with a shared future for all mankind. There will be unwavering efforts to achieve the 'Two Centenary Goals' (2021 and 2049) to realise the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.



A large portrait of Dr Sun Yatsen, regarded as the Father of modern China by all Chinese worldwide was in Tiananmen Square. There was a greeting from Jimmy Carter, the 39th president of the US who normalised relations with China.

NB. The photos were taken off a PC screen, hence the poor quality. (WF) The full parade can be seen on Youtube.

Learning Chinese the old way

Rob Stallard

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

To learn written Chinese is quite a challenge, particularly for someone like me getting on in years. To read newspapers you can get by with learning about 2,000; however, there are in all something like 200,000 but the majority of these are archaic or very rarely used. It has been said that learning the characters represents an extra year at school to achieve the same competence as in a western language.

Before the formation of the republic in 1912 the three most hated books were the language primers that were recited repeatedly day after day as the first steps to learn the language. The teacher would stand at the front and recite a line; the whole class would then repeat it. This way of learning the language went unchanged for the best part of a thousand years.

The three primers were the 100 Names, three character classic and the 1,000 character classic.

The 100 Names 百家姓 Bǎi jiā xìng

There are very few family names in China and the popular ones are shared by millions. The classic has actually 504 names in the version used since the Song dynasty (960 – 1279CE). Learning all the common names is actually a very useful first step. You can then read and write down people's names and read signatures on documents and shop signs. As in English many of the characters have meanings by themselves. 王 Wang is the most common name on mainland China and also means 'king, monarch'. 李 Li the second most common name with 92 million sharing the name, it means 'plum'. 马 Ma is the 13th most common name and is the top name among the Muslim community and means 'horse'. 'Ma' is an example of how names have an uneven regional distribution. You can sometimes make a guess about someone's original province based on their name.

The vast majority of family names are a single character. The two character names are towards the end of the classic and include the family name of Sima Qian 司马迁 - the name of the great historian who lived in the Han dynasty.

When Chinese emigrated from China they took their family names with them and these have over the centuries developed different pronunciations. So 刘 Liu (which is the Imperial family name of the Han dynasty emperors) is variously spelt as Lau, Lou, Low and Lew – you need to see the written character (probably in its traditional form 劉) to be sure of the correct family name.

Here are the first few entries in the 100 names. I have included the traditional form when it is different. It is organised as groups of eight names rhyming on the last name:

赵 趙	Zhào	冯 馮	Féng	朱	Zhū
钱 錢	Qián	陈 陳	Chén	秦	Qín
孙 孫	Sūn	褚	Chǔ	尤	Yóu
李	Lǐ	卫 衛	Wèi	许 許	Xǔ
周	Zhōu	蒋 蔣	Jiǎng	何	Hé
吴 吳	Wú	沈	Shěn	吕 呂	Lǚ
郑 鄭	Zhèng	韩 韓	Hán	施	Shī
王	Wáng	杨 楊	Yáng	张 張	Zhāng

With so many people sharing the same family name great care is taken in choosing the personal name which always comes second in China. For example Xi Jinping 习近平 has family name 习 meaning 'practice' and 近平 'approaching equality and peace'.

One colloquial way to refer to the mass of Chinese people is the 老百姓 Lǎo bǎi xìng 'venerable hundred names' or just 百姓 Bǎi xìng 'hundred names'.

The Three Character Classic 三字经 Sān zì jīng

While the 100 names is just a list of names the 'Three Character Classic' is a long discourse on history and correct behaviour. It contains many examples of how historical figures prospered by diligent study. It is rooted in Confucian orthodoxy

It is divided into three character groups in blocks of four, 12 characters in all. The characters follow a rhythmic structure to be spoken out loud by the whole class. It also dates from the Song dynasty (c. 1280CE) and is attributed to Wang Yinglin or Ou Shizi. The historical section was updated over the centuries to reflect the rise of new dynasties.

Here is how it begins (simplified characters only):

人之初 Rén zhī chū
性本善 xìng běn shàn
性相近 xìng xiāng jìn
习相远 xí xiāng yuǎn.

'People are born good natured. Their characters are similar but develop differently'.

苟不教 Gǒu bù jiāo
性乃迁 xìng nǎi qiān
教之道 jiāo zhī dào
贵以专 guì yǐ zhuān.

'If not taught, their nature changes. The principle to be taught is that concentration is precious.'

昔孟母 Xī Mèng mǔ
择邻处 zé lín chù

子不学 zǐ bù xué
断机杼 duàn jī zhù.

‘When Mencius’s mother chose a home, her son did not learn so she broke her loom.’

This last story is abbreviated so much that it hard to understand. The second sage of Confucian philosophy, Mencius, is held up as the prime example of why study is important. The story goes that his mother moved house three times just to find the best place for her son to study (according to Feng Shui and so on.). To demonstrate to him the folly of laziness and lack of concentration she deliberated wrecked the cloth she was weaving.

Many common characters are introduced including the numbers and also a potted dynastic history. Among the encouragements to study diligently is the case of Liang Hao who at last passed the gruelling Imperial examinations at the age of 82. There is hope for us all yet!

There is a very touching modern video made at the Ningbo Hanxiang primary school by Zhang Junye. It emphasizes the timeless nature of the classic:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2z2b67n> (recommend view full screen)

Thousand character classic 千字文 Qiān zì wén

The third and final classic is the really difficult one. It consists of 1000 unique characters (well actually 999 as 絜 is reused once) chosen more for calligraphy practice than for learning Chinese. It is a long piece and has to go through contortions to use characters only once. It was intended to be read aloud by schoolchildren in two related groups of four characters, most rhyming with the last group. To put these 1,000 characters in order so that they rhyme, make some sort of sense and do not repeat is an amazing feat. This would be quite impossible in English. It was written about 550CE towards the end of the Period of Disunity. The story is that Emperor Wu of the southern Liang dynasty (r. 502-549) wanted a new calligraphy exercise for his son. He had one thousand characters penned by the great sage of calligraphy Wáng Xīzhī. The scholar Zhōu Xīngsì 周兴嗣 took on the task of ordering them so that they made sense. The legend has it that he completed it all in one night but at the cost of turning his hair white. Many students must have had a similar reaction to having to learn so many characters!

It starts with cosmology and then the seasons, it goes on to describe all sorts of things: food, ancient heroes, acts of the Emperors, self cultivation, ethics, daily life at the Imperial court and so on.

Here is the first bit (simplified characters only):

天地玄黄 Tiān dì xuán huáng
宇宙洪荒 yǔ zhòu hóng huāng.

‘Heaven is dark, earth golden; the cosmos is vast and diffuse’

日月盈昃 Rì yuè yíng zè
辰宿列张 chén sù liè zhāng.

‘Sun and moon wax and wane; the stars are fixed in their constellations.’

寒来暑往 Hán lái shǔ wǎng
秋收冬藏 qiū shōu dōng cáng.

‘Cold follows warmth in due cycle; in autumn, food is gathered for winter.’

闰余成岁 Rùn yú chéng suì,
律吕调阳 lǜ lǚ tiáo yáng.

‘Extra days complete the year; Tuning harmonizes the yin and yang’. The last couplet needs more explanation. It was long thought that musical notes are associated with yin-yang principles. It refers specifically to the 律吕 lǜ lǚ which was an ancient bamboo pitch pipe which had 12 pipes and so may allude to the cycle of 12 months and 12 years.

To avoid duplication the author uses many archaic characters and strains the meaning so that translation is a challenge. It should be considered as a writing exercise rather than a piece of fine literature. Here is a video of the classic being recited in the age-old manner by children:

https://youtu.be/u_1EDmdLetQ

Western rejection

When westerners began to set up their mission schools in China in the 19th century they were appalled by the degree of rote learning that Chinese students were subjected to. Their new schools used the western approach of starting by teaching simple dialogue using a restricted vocabulary and building on everyday things. There is an interesting account of how a Guangzhou missionary school approached the issue that you can read here: <https://tinyurl.com/y68t76gt>.

Modern Revival

So why are these ancient fossils from a bye-gone age of any interest?

Firstly the way that they describe nature, ethics and history is a useful glimpse into Chinese attitudes. The Confucian thinking about relationships and roles is made very evident.

Secondly children nowadays continue to be under intense pressure to excel at school as the passport to a bright and prosperous future. So many parents are turning back to the old ways to give their children an advantage. With the university entrance examination (gaokao) still based on factual recall, many children are put through memorisation of these classics to get used to learning things by heart. This is rather similar to continuing to teach children the abacus, it has been shown that it does help with learning mental arithmetic.

References

I have attempted my own translation of two of the classics because the versions I came across did not read well and were hard to follow. At the bottom of these two web pages are also the references I have used in writing this piece.

<https://tinyurl.com/y4qj3fyy>
<https://tinyurl.com/y6cze3lr>

CHINA AT 70: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

A SACU Celebration at King's College, Strand Campus on 16th October 2019

Dr Frances Wood, a SACU Vice-president chaired a Panel presentation and discussion with four eminent speakers:

Professor Martin Albrow (Eminent Sociologist and Emeritus Professor at the University of Wales and SACU member)

Dr Sun Xin of the Lau Institute (King's College). Dr Sun was standing in for Kerry Brown who sent his apologies.

Jenny Clegg, a SACU Vice-president

Mr Wang Qi, Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of the Peoples' Republic of China



The panel (left to right): Dr Sun Xin, Professor Martin Albrow, Dr Frances Wood (chair), Dr Jenny Clegg and Mr Wang Qi.

Mr Wang Qi began by praising SACU's efforts to further Anglo-Chinese friendship and understanding. He then provided a list of achievements of China since 1949.

Amongst the most significant are: China's successful space programme, 'super rice' (a vast increase in output per hectare), high-speed rail development and advanced malaria treatment.

China is now the second largest contributor to the UN budget and the largest contributor to the UN peace-keeping force. Thirteen Chinese soldiers have died whilst on UN duty. China is the largest investor in renewable energy and is a major player in climate control. It has significantly increased its position in the Human Development Index. Over 700 million Chinese people have been lifted out of poverty and the goal is to eradicate poverty by 2020. In addition, significant progress has been made in living standards and there are now about 400 million middle-class Chinese. Eighty-six percent of the people in China trust their government. The Belt and Road Initiative now involves 166 countries and regions of the world.

Jenny Clegg reviewed China's past 70 years, the huge achievements both domestic and economically. The goal is to become a great modern socialist state by 2049, its 100th anniversary. During WW2 China tied down millions of Japanese soldiers which would otherwise be available to attack Russia making it fight on two fronts. At the end of the war, 100 million Chinese were refugees and up to 20 million were dead. Since then it has risen from a war torn, famine ravaged country to become the second largest economy in the world. At present there are trade and strategic problems with the US, who have surrounded China with military bases and view it as a security threat. There are great challenges to overcome to attain its goal for 2049, however the future is bright, but 'the road is twisted'

Dr Sun Xin stated that China still faces certain challenges: an ageing population, rural-urban inequality and incomplete urbanisation. In 1978, 17.92% of the population lived in cities. By 2017 the figure had increased to 58.52. There is still a way to go. To move to an advanced nation status, China needs to avoid the 'middle income trap' i.e. reaching a certain level and not moving further.

Martin Albrow believes that the West should learn from China. The 'China spirit' is a key part of Xi Jinping's 'New Vision for Development'. In the newly published English translation of his Zhejiang newspaper articles, the word 'spirit' occurs 74 times. It is the 'Party spirit' that will provide the energy and motivation for success and it inspires the 'consultative democracy' that binds the party to the people. China is committed to socialism with Chinese characteristics and to national progress. He pointed out the roadside hoardings all over China which are exceeding clear for all to see and remember and to take action. How many cities in the West could display their values the way Xining, Qinghai province does with the twelve socialist values:



The Chinese characters say: Prosperity, Civility, Freedom, Justice, Patriotism, Integrity, Democracy, Harmony, Equality, Rule of Law, Dedication, Friendship

During discussion, it was pointed out that well over 100 million Chinese travel abroad every year and over 99.99% go back home to China. Also, of the hundreds of thousands of Chinese students who study abroad 85% go home.

Thanks are due to all the speakers and to the Lau Institute, KCL for use of their premises and also to the SACU Council members whose efforts made this successful event possible. They include Zoe Reed, Ros Wong, Cai Chen and Linxi Li.

Walter Fung

Sino File Winter 2019 compiled by Walter Fung

China White Paper

A white paper issued by the Chinese government reaffirmed China's commitment to never seeking hegemony and called on all nations to jointly build a world community with a shared future for mankind. The paper highlighted the country's achievements and explained the reasons for its success. China has no intention of challenging the US nor replacing it. Cooperation between the two is the only correct choice and a mutually beneficial relationship is the only path towards a better future. The white paper answers the question of where China is headed after 70 years of development. (From *The Star (Malaysia)* 30/9/19)

Heroes of nation honoured

At a ceremony in the Great Hall of the People, President Xi Jinping awarded medals and honorary titles to domestic and international 'heroes. They are individuals who have made contributions to China. They included: Jean-Pierre Raffarin (former French prime minister), Raul Castro (former Cuban president), Thai princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Of special interest to SACU was the honour bestowed on Isabel Crook (Canadian anthropologist and educator), born in 1915. Now aged 104. She is the mother of Michael Crook, a SACU member in Beijing.



Isabel Crook receives her award from Xi Jinping (From *The Star* to which acknowledgements are due)

A total of 42 individuals were given awards. Chinese recipients included Tu Youyou, the first Chinese citizen to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She helped develop anti-malaria medicine. Another was Yu Min, a nuclear physicist. (From *The Star (Malaysia)* 30/9/19)

China to meet emission's goals early?

An international study believes that China may meet its carbon emission goals several years early. China was one of the first to sign the Paris Agreement on climate change. It has pledged to halt the rise in emissions by around 2030. Studies indicate that emissions are already beginning to peak. (From *Internet, LSE Grantham Research Institute March 2016*)

From the British Press

Hong Kong government hopes to resolve crisis

Carrie Lam insists that the Hong Kong government itself hopes to resolve the crisis, but urged foreign critics to accept

that four months of protests marked by escalating violence were no longer a peaceful movement for democracy. She said that Chinese intervention was provided for under the Hong Kong constitution, but did not state under what circumstances this would happen. The unrest has reduced the number of tourists and damaged business. (From *I 9/10/19*)

Hong Kong goes into recession

Hong Kong has fallen into recession for the first time in a decade as months of political unrest take their toll. GDP shrank by 3.2% in the three months to September and the economy contracted by 0.5% in the second quarter of the year. The problems have been the US-China trade war, the general global slowdown and the violent anti-government protests. The number of tourists fell by more than a third compared to a year earlier. (From *The Times* 1/11/19)

Johnson set to grant Huawei's access to UK 5G

The UK is preparing to allow Huawei to have access to Britain's future 5G telecoms network – endorsing Theresa May's decision. Senior sources in Whitehall say that Huawei will be allowed access to non-contentious parts of the network. This will not please the US, which has banned Huawei over fears that it is close to Chinese intelligence agencies. This follows further recent meetings about this issue. One fear is that by not allowing Huawei, the UK could be left behind as there is no good substitute in the West. However, Huawei's operations will continue to be closely watched. Britain has the technical expertise to safeguard against potential security breaches. (From *The Sunday Times* 27/10/19)

Trade war deals

Beijing has raised expectations that the trade war with the US could be resolved after both sides agreed to repeal tariffs gradually. China's commerce ministry said that each country must simultaneously drop some duties to pave the way for a highly anticipated 'phase one' deal. An agreement is expected to lead to America shelving plans to escalate the trade war next month. The Trump administration had intended to impose more tariffs on goods worth \$156 billion. Both sides have agreed to cancel additional tariffs in different phases as progress is made. (From *The Times* 8/11/19)

In return for cancelling tariffs and not imposing additional ones, the US is expecting concessions from China, such as buying more American agricultural products, better intellectual property protection and significant improvements in market access. (From *The Times* 6/11/19)

China to invest \$280 billion in Iran

China has said that it will invest \$280 billion in Iran's besieged oil and gas industry. The cash injection is part of a \$400 billion agreement reached in 2016. This was confirmed on a visit to Beijing by Iran's foreign minister, according to the respected trade magazine, *Petroleum Economist*. In return, China will be able to buy oil at a guaranteed discount of at least 12% and will have first refusal to run all new or rebooted oil, gas and petro-chemical production projects. A significant clause allows China to station up to 5,000

security personnel in Iran to protect its investments with more to guard supply lines, including the Gulf.

China is intent on drawing Iran into its Belt and Road Initiative. Heavy investments have already been made in Pakistan and other neighbours of Iran to build trade routes across central Asia. China has already contributed to the building of the Tehran metro and is constructing a rail-link between Tehran and Mashhad, about 500 miles to the east. *(From The Times 9/9/19)*

Grammar schools prepare Chinese for university

Ten state grammar schools are in talks to be paid to teach thousands of Chinese teenagers looking to apply to British universities. The plan is to teach Chinese youths aged 16/17 A-levels for up to six months and to give them help to apply to UK universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. The fee per pupil could be up to £2,000 for the six months. The group of grammar schools is working with officials in Jiangxi province and is led by Desmond Deehan, the head of Townley Grammar School in Bexley. Townley has already taught about 100 Chinese pupils for a few weeks over the last three years. This scheme considerably enlarges on that programme. Other schools involved include Haberdashers' Adams Grammar School, Ripon Grammar School, Lancaster Royal Grammar School, Rugby High School and Clitheroe Royal Grammar School. *(From I 7/10/19)*

Improvement in pollution in Chinese cities

The Air Visual Air Quality Report 2018 of the 15 most polluting cities in the world, showed 12 to be in India, two in Pakistan but only one in China, Hotan. This is in Xinjiang AR. The most polluting is Gurugram in India; Delhi is number 11. This is a massive improvement in Chinese cities achieved over the last few years. *(From The Economist 26/10/19)*

China and Japan joint naval exercises

The navies of the two countries carried out communication exercises in waters south of Japan. This is the first joint exercise in eight years. Relations seem to be improving after eight years of tension. *(From The Economist 26/10/19)*

Russia helps China's defence system

President Putin has said that Moscow is helping to develop an early warning system for China. Only Russia and the US are believed to have such systems, which detect intercontinental ballistic missiles. They comprise an array of ground-based radars and space satellites. This shows a new level of defence cooperation between Russia and China, which has developed through increasingly close political and military ties. *(From I 5/10/19)*

China leases a Solomon island

China has leased Tulagi, once the British HQ of the Solomon Islands. Under a strategic cooperation agreement, the Chinese Sam Enterprise Group will develop the island and those nearby as a special economic zone. The Sam Group is a partner of China National Chemical Corporation and is believed to have exclusive development rights over Tulagi and its immediate islets. This deal came days after the Solomon Islands switched diplomatic allegiance from

Taiwan to Beijing. The islands are about 1,000 miles north-east from Australia, where some concerns have been raised. *(From The Times 18/10/19)*

Mass wedding in Kuala Lumpur

A total of 99 couples of ethnic Chinese origin tied the knot on the 9th day of the 9th month at a Buddhist temple in Kuala Lumpur. Nine is considered a lucky number because it sounds like 'long lasting' in Chinese. The number also has close associations with Imperial China which had nine dragons on the Emperor's robes. Most of the couples wore black suits and white bridal dresses as in the West, but a few brides opted for red, the traditional colour, which symbolises luck, joy and happiness. *(From I 10/9/19)*

World's top 20 companies for carbon polluting

A list of the top 20 carbon polluters in the world, showed four to be US companies. The Saudi Arabian Oil Company was the highest, with Chevron of the US at number two. Exxon of the US was number four. Two other US companies, Peabody Energy and Conoco Phillips of the US were 12th and 13th respectively. BP of the UK was number six with Shell at number 7. The only Chinese company was Petro China/China National Petroleum at number 10. *(From I 10/10/19)*

Greene King shareholders back takeover

Investors owning 99% of the shares backed a £2.7 billion deal for transfer of ownership to CK Bidco, controlled by the CKA Group, chaired by Victor Li, the eldest son of Sir Li Ka-shing, the Hong Kong billionaire. Greene King employs 38,000 staff in its 2,700 pubs, restaurants and hotels in the UK. When the deal was announced in August, CKA said it was looking for businesses with strong cash flows. *(From I 10/10/19)*

US bars China from space conference

China has accused the US of 'weaponising' visas after a delegation of Chinese space experts was prevented from attending a global conference in Washington. Several members of the Chinese National Space Administration, including its vice-chairman were conspicuously absent from the International Astronautical Congress, an annual global space conference now in its 70th year. Mike Pence, the US vice-president opened the meeting by declaring that America would only seek space co-operation with 'freedom-loving nations'. The US State Department rejected Beijing's accusations and pointed out that the US issued 1.3 million visas to Chinese travellers last year. *(From The Times 25/10/19)*

Order to stop trade with China!

President Trump ordered US firms to cease trading with China and immediately to start looking for an alternative to China. He tweeted that 'frankly (we) would be far better off without them' Legally Trump cannot compel companies to abandon China immediately. *(From I 24-25/8/19)*

Fears over China's £1billion rescue of British Steel

Thousands of workers have backed a deal to sell British Steel and its giant Scunthorpe steelworks, to Jingye, a Chinese company, despite concerns about the buyer's motives. The trade unions have warned that the government

needs to provide support to help turn around the loss-making business. There are fears that it could open the door for another Chinese company to make an offer to Tata Steel, owner of the Port Talbot steelworks. It has also emerged that the sale to Jingye is a rebuff to Liberty Steel Group in Rotherham, which is run by Sanjeev Gupta, which was still in talks as recently as the weekend. Scunthorpe supplies Crossrail, HS2 and the automotive industry. Jingye has offered to keep as many of the 5,000 employees as possible and invest £1.2 billion over 10 years. There is speculation that Jingye is moving into Europe to ameliorate the impacts of tariffs in a global trade war. *(From The Times 12/11/19)*

World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC)

With over 3,000 delegates travelling from across the world, and 500 British businesses in attendance, the WCEC is welcoming the biggest visit of Chinese entrepreneurs and investors the UK has ever seen. Some delegates have already invested over £10.4 billion into the UK, and many more could follow. This three-day event was a dynamic showcase of British and Chinese business. It was held at ExCel 21-23 October and was the first time it was held in Europe. Singapore Chinese businessmen set up the convention 30 years ago. Many senior figures from British and Chinese businesses were present, including the Chinese Ambassador to the UK.

The report in the Sunday Times was written by Heather McGregor, executive dean of Edinburgh Business School at Heriot-Watt University. She praised the comfort and reliability of Chinese high-speed trains compared to British ones. She also mentioned, the attendance of Suwei Jiang, the PWC partner in charge of its 300-strong UK-China business group, which last year launched the China Talent Network. This provides a platform for individuals in the UK with Chinese heritage and links to learn, network and develop a business or career. *(From The Sunday Times 27/10/19)*

Glass walkways to be regulated

China is clamping down on glass walkways, the construction of which has seen a huge increase. Following a crack in a bridge in Henan province two weeks ago causing alarm, dozens of the glass attractions have been ordered to close and new developments have been put on hold. Beijing is considering the introduction of new safety regulations. All bridges claim they are safe, but at present there are no safety standards at national level. Tourists are not aware that there is no legal protection for their lives. The number of glass bridges has grown quickly without management and proper maintenance regulations. *(From The Times 1/11/19)*

China to host football Club World Cup

In a controversial decision, Fifa council decided to hold an expanded World Cup in China in June and July 2021 in China. The Fifa president admitted that money was partly behind the decision, but added that Fifa will not gain because any surplus would be reinvested in football. Europe could be represented by Liverpool and Chelsea and winners of the Champions League and Europa League between 2018 and 2021. A total of 24 teams would take part in the tournament. Uefa and the European Club Association opposed the arrangement. This revamped World Cup will

take place every four years and replace the Confederations Cup. *(From The Times 25/10/19)*

From the Chinese Press

China's 70th anniversary parade

The scale of the military parade was the biggest so far. There were troop 59 formations and a military band. More than 160 aircraft and 580 pieces of equipment were on display and 15,000 military personnel took part.

In addition to the military aspects, there were floats extolling China's green efforts, athletes, young people displaying their youthful energy, displays of industrial and scientific innovation and historical emblems recording the struggles and hardships of people in China. Each province and region, including Hong Kong had a float included in the parade in which over 100,000 civilians took part. The entire event can be seen on YouTube. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 4-10/10/19)*

China International Import Expo (CIIE)

The Second CIIE will begin in Shanghai on 5 November. More than 3,000 exhibitors from more than 150 countries and regions will be present. Chinese consumers can view newer and more up-market products and exhibitors can show their goods to China's huge market. Today, premium brands of imported milk and toys are available even in remote areas. Despite protectionism in some nations of the world, the CIIE is showing that win-win cooperation is the way forward and also display China's efforts to improve world trade and boost the world's economy. *(From Beijing Review 17/10/19)*

Record number of Chinese companies in Global Top 500

Fortune magazine's 2019 list, 'Fortune 500' released on 22nd July, contained 129 Chinese companies. This number exceeded the number of US companies for the first time. Three of the top five were Chinese. Sinopec, PetroChina and State Grid were second, fourth and fifth respectively. Chinese companies have continued to expand with 77 of them moving up the list. However, in many industries, the international competitiveness of Chinese enterprises needs to be improved, especially in the areas of research and development, design and branding. Profitability is also an important factor in an international market. Large sales do not necessarily mean strong profitability. *(From China Today September 2019)*

Per Capita disposable income increases 59.2 times

Over the past 70 years, the income of both rural and urban residents has grown substantially. The per capita disposable income in 1949 was 49.7 RMB. This grew to 28,228 by 2018, a nominal increase of 566.6 times and a real increase of 59.2 times. This meant an average annual increase of 6.1% every year.

By the end of 2018, the number of rural poor in China had dropped to 16.6 million. This figure is about 750 million less than the poverty number at the end of 1978. *(From China Today September 2019)*

White paper on nuclear safety

China's State Council released a document, 'Nuclear Safety in China', in which it states that China has always regarded nuclear safety as an important national responsibility. The industry has always been developed subject to the strictest standards. It pursues a path of innovation and nuclear safety with Chinese characteristics. *(From China Today October 2019)*

Vote of confidence in China

Despite the 'trade war', major companies are expanding their activities in China. These include: Walmart, BASF, Exxon-Mobil, Procter & Gamble, Saudi Aramco, BMW, Cargill, ABBB, Tesla and GE. Walmart recently invested 700 million yuan in a distribution facility and has plans to invest a further 8 billion in logistics and supply chains in China over the next two decades. In the first six months of 2019, foreign direct investment rose 7.3% year-on-year to 533.14 billion yuan. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 30/8/19 to 5/10/19)*

China and Kazakhstan strategic partnership

The two countries decided on 11 September to develop a permanent comprehensive strategic partnership. President Xi Jinping said that China is willing to deepen all-round cooperation with Kazakhstan and seek synergy between the Silk Road Economic Belt and Kazakhstan's Bright Path new economic policy and strengthen connectivity. Cooperation in industry, science and technology innovation, people-to-people contact and cultural contacts would be boosted. *(From China Today October 2019)*

China's Forex

The foreign exchange reserves (forex) of China stood at \$3,104 trillion at 31 July this year. This represents about 27% of all global forex, according to the IMF. Thanks to the reserves, China has enjoyed stable and fast economic growth and will benefit from favourable international trade and financial environment long term. To manage its forex, China State Administration of Foreign Exchange has offices in Singapore, Hong Kong, London, New York and Frankfurt. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 30/8/19 to 5/9/19)*

Strong growth in robotics

The Chinese Institute of Electronics predicts that China's market for service robots may reach \$2.2 billion, representing about a quarter of the global market. Considering the rapid development in parking and supermarket robots, the market for China's robots is expected to be close to \$4 billion by 2021. *(From China Today October 2019)*

China is engine of world economic growth

The Chinese economic growth rate between 2013 and 2018 averaged 7.0%, compared to the world's average growth rate of 2.9%. The output of agricultural products, grain and meat is first in the world and total exports and imports are also first in the world. China's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) and inward FDI are both second in the world. In terms of tourism, China's outward-bound tourists and overseas tourism expenditure rank first in the world. In addition,

China leads the world in high-speed trains and expressways. *(From China Today October 2019)*

China's growth target to be met.

A growth of 6.2% is anticipated for the fourth quarter of 2019 and it is likely that growth for the year will not be less than 6.0%. The target is 6.0 to 6.5% growth for the year. The lower growth compared to previous years is because China is making the transition from high-speed growth to a stage of high-quality development, paying more attention to creating more jobs and increasing people's income as well as protecting the environment and ecology. In the first three quarters of the year, 10.97 million were housed in cities. This represented 99.70% of the full-year target. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 1-7/11/19)*

China's aircraft development

The fifth test model of the C919, China's first narrow-body passenger jet took off in a test flight in Shanghai on 24th October. It is on a fast track to gain airworthiness before entering the market in 2021. It is being developed by the Commercial Aircraft Corp of China and will compete against the single-aisle Boeing B737 and the Airbus A320. So far 815 orders have been received from buyers all over the world. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 1-7/11/19)*

Research and Development (R&D) new records

Last year China's funding for R&D totalled 1,967.79 billion yuan, an increase of 11.8% over 2017. This represents 2.19% of total Chinese GDP. Since 2013, China's R&D spending has been the second largest in the world. The spending on science and technology was 951.82 billion yuan, an increase of 13.5% over 2017. *(From China Today October 2019)*

Caring for the elderly

An official said on 8th October that China is capable of dealing with an ageing population by providing more affordable and high-quality care services and products. At the end of 2018, the number of people over 60 years of age exceeded 249 million – 17.9% of the population. The number is expected to peak at 487 million by 2050, which will be more than 33% of the population. Action has been taken to care for the urban elderly of all incomes. The central government will grant subsidies and local governments will implement policies in land, fiscal services, taxation and recruitment. Some 64 cities have participated in the plan so far, which has received 1.4 billion yuan (\$198 million) and has provided 70,000 new beds for seniors. *(From Beijing Review 17/10/19)*

Improving housing in rundown urban areas

Progress is being made to renovate 2.74 million homes in shantytowns. Work began in the first nine months of this year. The target is to start renovation of 2.89 million homes by the end of this year. From January to September this year, more than 940 billion yuan (\$133 billion) was invested in the renovation projects. Shantytown transformation has been a priority in recent years. The overall plan is to renovate 15 million dilapidated homes from 2018 to 2020. This will contribute to the urbanisation drive and improve people's lives. *(From Beijing Review 24/10/19)*

Heritage protection

China will soon announce the eighth group of 762 cultural heritage sites to be put under national-level protection. The total will reach 5,058 historical and cultural sites under national protection and preservation. The sites consist of ancient ruins, tombs, grottos and structures. (*From Beijing Review 24/10/19*)

Polar research

Basic polar research will be fostered in six priority areas by the State Oceanic Administration. A team of 100 experts drew up the research areas. They include: polar ice sheet instability and sea level change, Arctic atmospheric-sea ice interactions and climatic effects, geological features and resources and how the Sun-Earth coupling interacts with polar zones. China will promote international exchange in an annual event for discussion on polar science research. (*From Beijing Review 17/10/19*)

Sinophile by Flo and Ivor Kenna

Beijing Review (BR) of 15th August reports that young people are doing well in China. As many as 92% of those born in the 1990s have a surplus of money after paying for living expenses every month. In the same issue Kerry Brown of KCL, Lau Institute and SACU writes about Boris and Beijing. 'China is not the UK's largest trading partner. Ireland and Luxemburg rank higher than Chinese investment, which in the UK is less than 2% for the economic life of the average British person.'

The same issue also points out that the UK produces 300 graduates in Chinese studies nationally in one year. This is 0% increase over the level of two decades ago

Isabella Watson, a British national in BR of 22nd August, commented on her experience of receiving acupuncture treatment in Beijing. 'I used to dismiss acupuncture as an old-fashioned pseudoscience. The treatment is long, the process is painful, and, after everything, the recovery speed is so slow. However, the miracle of my recent treatment and recovery totally changed my mind.' Actually, people we know (Flo and Ivor), have not found it particularly painful.

Zimbabwean Vice-president Kembo Mohadi is responsible for an article, 'Chinese Help is no Debt Trap' Interestingly he offers 'tobacco, soybean and cotton, which need to be beneficiated so that we can export the finished products to China. At present China imports soybeans from the US.

BR of 29th August is critical of US tariffs on imports from China. As much as 41% of all apparel, 72% of all footwear and 84% of all accessories imported to the US comes from China.

BR reports foreign news from Europe. There is a nice picture in 5th September prominently displaying the EU flag showing protesters outside the Houses of Parliament in London on August 28th after Queen Elizabeth announced that she had consented to Prime Minister, Boris Johnson's request to suspend parliament until October 14th. The same issue reports that Trump actually repeatedly attacked the

European Union, and praised a no-deal Brexit, despite the adverse impacts it would have, dangling a free trade agreement before the UK.

There is also an excellent picture accompanying news from Syria in BR of September 12th. In the picture, participants walk through to the 61st Damascus International Trade Fair on August 28th in which 1,700 companies from 38 countries took part, which aims to boost foreign investment in Syria's reconstruction.

China is now getting round to producing the computer chips it used to obtain from the US before, 'the US imposed a ban.'

On the cover of BR for September 19th, there is a fine picture of Angela Merkel, German Chancellor and President Xi Jinping shaking hands. The cover story is entitled, 'A Steady Signal. Merkel's visit sees China and Germany commit to economic cooperation and multilateralization.'

The general impression from reading BR for some time is that a certain pattern is developing.

First World: The United States, the sole superpower intervening all over the world, using its political, economic and military power.

Second World: The other developed countries.

Third World: The developing countries.

Hence for example, the encouragement by the US of a split between the UK and the EU.

Later in the same issue of BR, we learn of an interesting new way of discovering lung cancer: - 'Using Zhou's method, when a patient inhales xenon gas and holds his or her breath for about six seconds, doctors can get an illuminated image of the lungs'.

Between 2017 and 2018, 'Foreign direct investment (FDI) flow to developed countries declined by 27% to the lowest point since 2004; flows to developing countries remained stable, rising by 2%, with their share in global FDI increasing to a record 54% . FDI in a developing country buys much more labour than FDI in a developed country.

Moving on to BR for October 17th, we see some marvellous pictures of the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the PRC. Friend of SACU, 104 years old Isabel Crook received the 'highest honour' of her life, the PRC's Friendship Medal'. By the end of July 2019, 136 countries and international organisations had established partnerships with China under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Bad news in BR for October 24th. 'China has nearly 25% of the world's new cancer cases, with 10,000 patients added every day. Every year, there are two million cancer-induced deaths, with lung, breast and stomach cancers, the most common types.'

President Xi and India's prime minister Modi are getting on well together in informal talks. In 1990, the trade volume between China and India was only \$170 million, but in 2000, the number climbed to \$2.9 billion and surged to \$95.5 billion in 2018.

China Eye Diary-Chinese Festivals

Chinese New Year, the Spring Festival will be on 25th January 2020. This will be the start of the Year of the Rat. In China, New Year's is the first day of a 'Golden Week' seven-day National Holiday.

Lantern Festival, 8th February
Qing Ming, 4th April
Dragon Boat Festival, 25th June
Chinese Valentine's Day, 25th August
National Day, 1st October.
Mid-Autumn Festival, 1st October.

In China, there is a second 'Golden Week' Holiday beginning on the 1st October. Qing Ming is now a three-day holiday as is Labour Day beginning 2nd May.

Living history in Babaoshan: Our SACU pilot event in Beijing, China. A tour of Beijing's Babaoshan Cemetery given by Michael Crook on October 12, 2019

Tamara Treichel

This report has been written by SACU member Tamara Treichel, cosmopolitan and creative writer, based in Beijing. Tamara is a regular contributor to China Eye. She has her own personal website (see notice at end of this article). She wrote an article on Babaoshan in China Eye No 51, Autumn 2016.

Our Babaoshan guided tour, Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU) Beijing chapter's first event, given by SACU member Michael Crook, a British expat in Beijing, was a big hit! Michael did the heavy lifting, and he was the perfect person to give the tour because he knew some of the foreign friends buried at Babaoshan personally. SACU member Tamara Treichel helped Michael organize the event in the form of suggestions and notes.

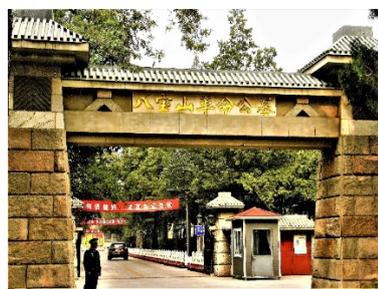


Michael Crook photographed in Manchester (WF)

The foreigners interred at Babaoshan had helped China's cause by being involved in the building of a new China that eventually led to the foundation of the People's Republic in 1949 either by supporting the cause politically, giving favorable coverage to China during that era in history, or providing medical or some other form of assistance.

Babaoshan (八宝山) means 'eight treasurer hill' and is where China's most eminent citizens are buried. It is a great honour for foreigners – friends of China - to be buried there.

Michael's mother Isabel Crook, 103, was in attendance as well and also knew some of the foreigners who had found a final resting place at Babaoshan. Isabel, a Canadian anthropologist who made a lot of contributions to the founding of New China in 1949, won the prestigious Friendship Medal awarded by the Chinese government in the Great Hall of the People on September 30 this year.



The entrance to Babaoshan cemetery (WF)



Group photo at Agnes Smedley's grave.

Isabel still has incredible stamina for her age. She occasionally requested to get up from her wheelchair and walk several steps during our tour and placed some white chrysanthemums that had been made available to us in front of the headstones. It was a delight for all to have her participate in this event. A Chinese woman called Fu Han, who had made a touching documentary about Isabel's life called *Isabel Crook: Childhood Memories from Bailuding*, also joined our tour, as did Israel Epstein's widow, Huang Wanbi. Further information and pictures can be obtained from Tamara's website; or the SACU website;

<http://tamaratreichel.com/chinese>

<https://sacu.org/living-history-in-babaoshan-our-sacu-pilot-event-in-beijing-china/>

The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding

