

China Eye



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

Spring 2022

Number 73



Contents include:

SACU Reading Group; May 4th Writers

Evolution of the Imperial Dragon

Lee Kai Hung Chinese Gallery, Manchester Museum

Matteo Ripa, First Chinese Students in Naples

Lockdown in China

China Eye Quiz

Standing up to Racism

The Eight Hundred Film Review

Sino File/China Eye Diary

CHINA EYE

Spring 2022 Issue No 73

China Eye is published by the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU), a registered charity No 294651 and a company limited by guarantee No 00876179.

SACU was founded in 1965 to promote understanding and friendship between the peoples of China and Britain and is open to all those interested in Chinese affairs and who are supportive of its aims, regardless of political affiliations.

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ISSN 2513-8898 (printed)

ISSN 2633-240X (on-line)

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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. If you wish to receive this newsletter, please let SACU have your E mail address, which will be sent out bcc (blind copies). Nobody else can see your E mail address. SACU will not use your E mail for any other purpose other than SACU business. It will not be passed to anyone else without your permission and you can unsubscribe at any time. Please send details to Ros Wong, membership@sacu.org.uk

The Summer issue (Number 74) of China Eye will be available in early June 2022. Please send news or articles for inclusion before 20 May 2022 to Walter Fung, 11 Collyhurst Avenue, Walkden, Worsley, Manchester M28 3DJ. Tel 0161 799 6944, E mail; walter.fung888@btinternet.com

Front cover: The New Year Tiger in Liverpool

All photographs are by the authors except where stated.

Welcome

President Xi sent a New Year Greeting to the 48 Group on 26th January 2022.

He sent his warmest congratulations to the “Icebreakers” 2022 Chinese New Year Celebration in London hosted by the 48 Group Club in partnership with the China-Britain Business Council and the China Chamber of Commerce in the UK. In the 1950s, British entrepreneurs, led by Mr Jack Perry, embarked on a journey to break the ‘ice’ of the Western trade embargo on China.

Beijing Winter Olympics

Most reporters have said that the Winter Olympics in Beijing were a huge success, despite the diplomatic boycotts by the Anglosphere countries plus about five more. However, 32 head of states, senior ministers, members of royal families and heads of international organisations did attend the opening ceremony. Included were the Presidents of all of the mid-Asian republics, Argentina, Poland, Serbia, Egypt, Pakistan, Singapore and Russia. Senior ministers included those from Korea, Japan and France. Royalty members were from Cambodia, The UAR, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Luxemburg, Monaco and Qatar. The presidents of the World Health Organisation and the World Intellectual Property Organisation attended as did the Secretary-general of the United Nations.

Apart from the results of the sporting events, two items raised eye brows: Eileen Gu, an American born Chinese subject preferred to participate in the Chinese PRC team and a Taiwanese athlete was seen wearing a mainland Chinese outfit.

One positive consequence of the Winter Olympic Games is the interest generated amongst Chinese people in winter sports. A report claims that 300 million Chinese people have been encouraged to participate or take up winter sports, which will be good for the domestic economy.



The Birds' Nest Stadium in Beijing

March Against Racism

This year SACU is participating in the UN March Against Racism. Please see a full report on the back page. There are regular racist incidents against Chinese people – and anyone who looks Chinese almost every week. A Singapore student was badly injured a few months ago. However, the situation is not as bad as in the US, where the number of racist incidents is significantly higher and could even increase further. Joe Biden has publicly declared that China will not

overtake America ‘on his watch’, but China continues to make progress. The Chinese economy expanded by over 8% last year and is likely to continue to grow steadily – the target for 2022 has been set at 5.5%.

Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery in Manchester

This issue of China Eye includes an article by Bryan Sitch, of the University of Manchester Museum. A new Chinese Culture Gallery is being set up in Oxford Road. Bryan is appealing for items for the collection. Please see page 5.

Walter Fung

Young SACU's First Event at Haidilao, Piccadilly organised by Jacob Holliday and Aaron Van Rompaey

On the 26th of February, Young SACU held their first event, a hotpot social dinner in London for China-interested people looking to make new friends and expand their network. The event was a resounding success! All 23 tickets were sold, and all attendees were eager to express how much they enjoyed themselves. The overwhelming feedback was that they were grateful to have had an opportunity to meet like-minded people, and I am confident everyone walked away having made at least one new friend. The delicious food was also appreciated!



This event also succeeded in increasing the awareness of the work of SACU as a whole, and at least one new member has joined because of the event! Discussions are in place to make this a regular (possibly annual) event. The next Young SACU event will be a webinar entitled ‘Living Anglo-Chinese Relationships: Experiences of SACU members young and old’ sometime in Spring 2022. More information will be coming soon.

Aaron Van Rompaey

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 the support of individual members. All SACU Council members are volunteers, nobody is paid. If you can help, please contact **Zoe Reed, SACU Chair**, on 07768 207702 or email: chair@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 administrative burden, please consider paying by standing order, or use Paypal via our website: www.sacu.org.uk
Send applications and renewals to SACU Membership Secretary, Ros Wong, 27 Portland Close, Bedford MK41 9NE. Mobile: 07906 956426, email: membership@sacu.org.uk
Please be sure to include, full name, address, post code, telephone number and email address.

Your email address will be used only for SACU purposes. It will not be passed to anyone without your consent. In circulars such as the SACU Email newsletter your email details will be 'blind' and not visible to others.

The SACU Email newsletter is issued monthly and provides news and details of events involving China or Chinese culture. For your copy, please let the newsletter editor have your email address. Contact **Ros Wong** at membership@sacu.org.uk
Please remember, you can unsubscribe at any time.

Michael Sheringham and Fang Wang compile the SACU email Newsletter. It is distributed by Ros Wong to whom information and enquiries should be directed.

Chinese Brush Painters' Society (Yorkshire)

This society provides 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 from all parts of Yorkshire to attend workshops. These workshops usually take place at a weekend and sometimes for two-days. They are suitable for beginners or experienced artists. The group produces a regular monthly newsletter packed with information. Meetings are usually held every month at the Pool-in-Wharfedale Memorial Hall LS21 1LG (on the A659) at the bottom of Pool Bank, just

off the A658 between Bradford and Harrogate). The venue has excellent facilities and car parking. **Further information from the secretary Anne Allen, Tel 01422 368482 or email mail@anneallan Website: www.cbpsyorks.co.uk**

SACU, like other organisations, suspended 'live' events because of the coronavirus pandemic and conducted internal meetings in the virtual world, using Microsoft Teams for Council and Executive Committee meetings. However, we are still making increased use of our newsletter, social media and website to post articles and online events which inform and educate our members and readers about China and help counteract the many negative arguments currently appearing in the western media.

Our newly formed **Working Groups** are currently planning more Zoom online events so please do check our digital communications for details as they become available.

Website: www.sacu.org.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/sacu.uk

Twitter: twitter.com/sacuuk

YouTube: 1965 SACU

WeChat: ID: SACU1965

The Working Groups are:

- Public Education [UK], led by Zoe Reed
- Chinese and China Connections, led by Wang Fang
- Membership Support and Development, led by Ros Wong.

In 2022 the working groups will meet on SACU Council days and will also have independently convened planning meetings to programme more events. All meetings and events are likely to remain online.

All groups would welcome more members to join, so if you would like to be involved, please contact us.

Ros Wong
membership@sacu.org.uk

And a reminder... here are a few informative websites about China; -

<https://chinacannel.org/> The Los Angeles Review of Books with plenty of reviews of books both from and about China

- Laszlo Montgomery's history podcast series <https://www.teacup.media>
- <https://www.chinasage.info> "Your guide to all things Chinese" the website of SACU Vice President Rob Stallard.
- TED Talk by Eric Li (explanation of the system of government in China)

The Lee Kai Hung Chinese Culture Gallery at the Manchester Museum by Bryan Sitch



This new gallery in the Manchester Museum in Oxford Road, is in the process of development and is dedicated to building understanding and empathy between Manchester, UK and China.

It will be the Manchester Museum's first ever permanent space devoted to Chinese culture and will highlight and celebrate the cultural heritage, historic and contemporary links between Manchester and China using exhibits, personal stories, as well as international research.

The gallery will include a conversation space where people from different communities can share their responses to the displays. It will also serve as a welcoming space for meetings and other activities, such as craft demonstrations.

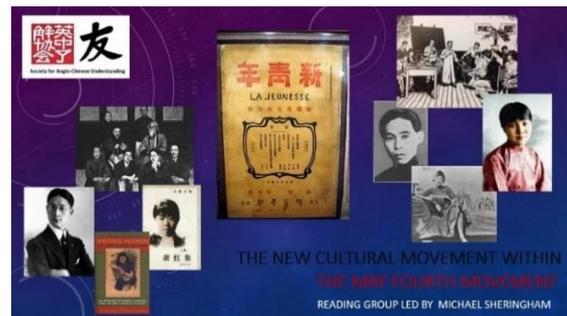
This multilingual gallery is being developed with the generous support of Dr Lee Kai Hung, a retired Hong Kong businessman and honorary graduate of The University of Manchester, in close collaboration with the Manchester China Institute at the University of Manchester and local Chinese communities.

Bryan Sitch (a SACU member), Deputy Head of Collections, is interested to talk to other members about interesting objects and stories relating to Chinese people settling in the UK (especially Manchester) to work, study or to join other family members or to bring up a family. As with all museum objects, it is the context that really makes them meaningful.

For example, Chinese people from Hong Kong and the Northern Territories often brought their personal possession in striped plastic bags when they came to the UK. One of the bags with a photograph of the person when they left home would make a powerful exhibit in the new gallery. Sometimes such objects, put to one side but still of great sentimental value, survive in the family's possession, together with souvenirs of home and other potential interesting exhibits. If you can think of something that may be relevant to our project, do please get in touch. My colleagues and I would love to hear from you.

If you can help Bryan, please contact him; bryan.sitch@manchester.ac.uk

SACU Reading Group on May Fourth Writers and their writing



We have been meeting online to discuss Chinese literature of the May Fourth period – roughly from the beginning of the 1920s to the end of the '30s - for the past 8 months. We are a small group meeting once a month to discuss stories and poems by well-known writers of the period, including Lu Xun, Mao Dun, Bing Xin, Guo Moruo, Lin Shuhua, Ding Ling, Xiao Hong, Xiao Jun and Yu Dafu - well-known in China, but not so much overseas even among those interested in China and its cultural tradition.

Lest you think that we are specialists and all literate in Chinese, let me assure you that we are reading these stories and poetry in English translation from various sources which I have collected, starting with online stories published by the Hong Kong Chinese literature magazine, *Renditions*, and publications such as *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Literature* (2007) and the earlier collection *Straw Sandals: Chinese Short Stories 1918-1933* (1974). Some of these stories were published by the Chinese Foreign Languages Press in a magazine *Chinese Literature* from the 1950s through to the early 2000s, but unfortunately, I no longer have these copies, which we used for an earlier reading group with SACU origins. This press also published a series of books of Chinese stories and novels under the Panda label, which was also discontinued.

I copy and distribute the stories and poems to our group on email attachments, with background information about the writers. So our participants do not have to buy the books, unless they wish to. We have had lively discussions based on our reading, with interesting views exchanged.

What have we discovered from our readings of the literature of this period? Though I have been reading about these writers and poets since I studied Chinese literature as a university student, I have gained a new insight during our recent readings and discussions. My provisional reassessment is that the new writers and poets were mostly individualistic and self-centred in a time of social turmoil and their own youthful idealism and confusion. Many, such as Guo Moruo and Xu Zhimo expressed their feelings in romantic poems often of a more personal nature. Others like Lu Xun, Mao Dun and Xiao Jun, for instance, wrote realistic stories which stand out for their preoccupation with social issues and desire for social change. This was a time, around the patriotic May Fourth Movement when Chinese

intellectuals, especially the youth, were disillusioned with the values of 'old China' and supported reform, many soon turning to more revolutionary solutions, particularly Marxism.

Many of these writers travelled abroad to study, mostly to Japan, America, Britain, Germany and France and some to Russia to experience the revolutionary changes of the Soviet Union. So they learnt foreign languages and read and translated Western and Russian literature, imbibing these cultures and introducing their literature in the new vernacular Chinese language and literature which they were creating.

As for my own impressions of this literature, I am somewhat surprised that I was initially so impressed with the romantic nature of this writing (I was young and idealistic too!). Later I was more interested in Lu Xun's stories and poetry, which reflected and satirised the reality of Chinese society in its sorry state. Then it was the poetry of the 'converted' progressive poets and writers who reflected the revolutionary struggle and the resistance against the Japanese invaders which moved me most.



In our reading group we are currently reading the stories of Ding Ling, who made the transition from writing about self-indulgent bourgeois women to one who observed at close hand the life of working people, particularly the peasants in the countryside. She became a feminist writer within the ranks of the communist community in Yan'an and an influential literary figure throughout her life.

We are still discussing what we make of this writing in a significant period which left its mark on contemporary Chinese culture and literature.

We would welcome any new participants to our group, with plenty more to explore in the writing of these May Fourth writers. If you would be interested to join us (for free!), please contact us:

Michael Sheringham at msheringham@hotmail.com or
Ros Wong at ros@sacu.org.uk

We usually meet online at 6.00-7.30 pm on Wednesday, mid-month.

Michael Sheringham

Recommended YouTube presentations

Sinoist Books; Stories from China.

The Chinese Literature Readers Club is for anyone who has an interest in reading books translated from China.

<https://sinoistbooks.com/our-events/clrcuk/>

SACU Monthly e mail newsletter; The SACU monthly e mail newsletter lists amongst other important information about SACU and its activities details and links of news reports and video links to subjects which contribute to Anglo-Chinese Understanding. The following two are especially relevant in the present climate and are highly recommended.

Andrew Hicks (SACU Council) wrote this letter to his MP, **Damian Hinds**, Minister of State for Security and MP for East Hampshire, on the MI5 circular to MPs about the alleged 'Chinese spy':
[Text of Andrew's letter - download here](#)

Peter Hunter (SACU) sent this YouTube link to an interview with **Dr Jeffrey Sachs**:
"BBC host confronted on anti-China framing on live TV" - BBC Newsnight on YouTube, 23 April 2021
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyW5Ci2vrss>

This interview with Dr Jeffrey Sachs, who is an American professor puts the anti-China allegations in perspective and records the various western violations of international law. It is a very clear and forceful talk which makes a lot of sense.

There a wealth of information and views not widely recorded or seen in the mainstream western media on Youtube. Especially illuminating are the video presentations by Kishore Mahbubani, Daniel Bell and Graham Allison and their views on modern China. These people are highly qualified and knowledgeable intellectuals.

Kishore Mahbubani is from Singapore and was once a candidate for the post of Secretary-general of the United Nations. Daniel Bell is an American professor working in China. Graham Allison is also an American professor, but based in the US.

EVOLUTION OF THE IMPERIAL DRAGON: MING & QING DYNASTIES 1368-1911 by David Rosier

David spent over 25 years working and living in East Asia. During 14 years in Hong Kong he, and his wife Wendy, assembled a collection of over 600 items of Chinese Imperial Court Costume. In 2019 this collection was acquired, in its entirety, by The Shanghai Museum. Returning to the UK, David became an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society focussing on the arts and culture of the Imperial Chinese Court, particularly the Qing Dynasty. Lecturing takes him around the UK, Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

In my previous article I traced the origins of the Imperial Dragon and how this creature developed stylistically through the Qin to Yuan Dynasties (221BCE-1368CE).

From the outset of Imperial rule China had determined that the dragon, as the personal emblem of the emperor, should be deployed on a range of regulated court costume to denote the rank and status of members of the nobility. In addition, the creature would become an integral part of a range of formal, and semi formal, court robes in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) worn not just by the nobility but by civil and military officials.

The iconic Qing Dragon Robe (*Jifu*) has been discussed previously. This article will, therefore, concentrate on the specific design elements of the dragon which denoted the period of creation and the status of the wearer.

INTRODUCTION

As previously discussed, evidence indicates that a dragon motif, deployed on costume as a mark of imperial status, had been used from the Han Dynasty (206BCE-220CE) onwards although virtually no examples have survived from the earlier dynasties due to the fragility of the silk and the tradition of robes being buried with their owners. This issue continued in the Ming Dynasty and limits the examples available for study. However, in contrast to earlier dynasties, we have access to Ancestor Portraits which clearly illustrates the costume of that period.

The concept of an imperial dragon being the central design on formal and semi-formal court costume evolved gradually during the Ming Dynasty but underwent radical changes as the Manchu established the Qing Dynasty in 1644.

Dragon Insignia - Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)

China restored a nobility created from the numerically dominant Han Chinese when the Ming Dynasty was established in 1368. This followed a peasant uprising that, surprisingly, was able to force the Mongols to retreat to their homelands.

Ming Emperors would rule until 1644 when foreign barbarians, this time the Manchu, would again seize the

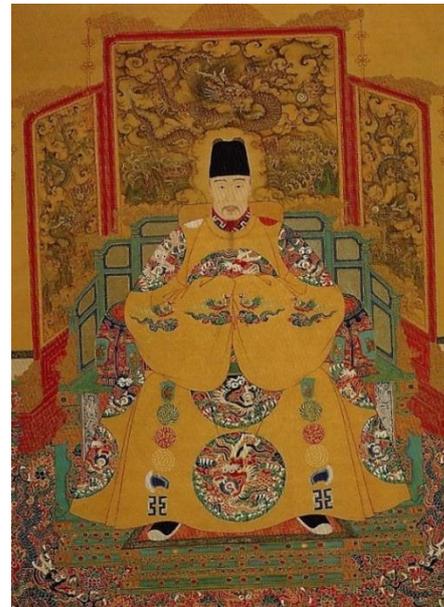
'Dragon Throne' from a morally and economically bankrupt court. The Manchu established the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) which would prove to be the final dynasty as China was torn apart by anti-Manchu uprisings and expansionist Western Colonial powers in the 19th century.

The first Emperor, *Hongwu* (1368-1398), immediately abolished, and replaced, the *Yuan Court Costume Regulations*. The process would, however, take 20 years to be fully codified (1391).

Once established the regulations imposed strict costume rules that applied to all members of the Imperial family, both male and female, and covered formal and semi-formal wear.

Ming clothing for the nobility reflected earlier times with ceremonial wear based upon flowing robes adorned with belts, plus attached ribbons, that denoted rank. In addition, distinctive coronets were also worn plus the addition of insignia of rank badges.

The silk ground for formal robes were dyed in the colour



that denoted the rank of the wearer based on the 5 colours of the Chinese Cosmos.

Fig 1: Emperor Jiajing (1521-1566), Ceremonial Yellow Robe. 12 Dragon Roundel Insignia

During the dynasty the practice of deploying a wide range of

iconography, indicative of rank, underwent significant expansion so adding considerable complexity.

Court robes for senior nobles (Ranks 1-4 of the 12 levels) carried either 12, 8 or 4 dragon roundels (**Fig:1**) whereas badges for the nobility (ranks 5-12) were square and restricted to the back and front of a bright red, full cut robe (*Pufu*). Red being the dynastic colour of the Ming.

Emperors wore 12 roundels depicting the 5 clawed *Lung dragon* (**Fig:2**) applied to a silk ground dyed Imperial Yellow, the most prestigious of colours and reserved for the emperor and empress.

Roundels were synonymous with Heaven, and immortality, hence their restricted usage. Ranks 5-12 of the nobility, and all officials, wore their insignia in a square which represented the Earth and mortality. The most senior dragon was the 5 clawed 'Dragon of Heaven', whereas creatures possessing a lesser number of claws represented lower ranking nobility.



Fig:2
16th
Century
Lung
Dragon
Roundel
mperor's
Surcoat

The regulations determined that a 3 peaked rock (landmass) was surrounded by foaming waves (oceans). The dragon flies toward heaven, through distinctive cloud designs, in pursuit of a Flaming Pearl which represented knowledge and enlightenment. The representation of the cosmos would remain constant for the remainder of imperial rule and also became incorporated into Qing Dragon Robes. Ming dragons were normally seen in 'profile' (side-facing) with 'portrait' (front-facing) dragon designs being rare. The overall design is symbolic of the dragon (emperor), being the vital link between Heaven and Earth in his role as the Son of Heaven. In contrast, Princes wore a four clawed Mang dragons within in 8 or 4 roundels. This distinction between Lung and Mang dragons was strictly maintained.

From Ranks 5 through 8 the nobility worn 2 insignia contained in a square rather than a roundel. The relationship of earth to heaven and the link provided by the emperor was retained.



Fig:3 is
an insignia
for an
Imperial
Duke
dating
from the
early 17th
Century.

Nobles, Ranks 9-12, would have worn a mythical 2 horned animal known as a Qilin which was a combination of a dragon (head), deer (body) and bear (tail). This design was later utilized for a 1st Rank Military Official in the Qing Dynasty (Fig:4). In Chinese culture claws/talons outranked hooves which were superior to creatures with paws.



Fig:4 Qilin Insignia
- 17th Century

Dragon Insignia - Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)

The Qing Emperors immediately introduced their own philosophy and style to regulated court costume. Historically the Manchu had focused on hat finials plus belt plaques as indicators of rank. However, having maintained the Confucian basis of government, the Manchu adopted the tradition of wearing of insignia of rank badges (*buzi*).

In 1652 and 1700 revised Qing costume regulations defined a system of dragon designs for the nobility as the most important visual evidence of the rank and status of the wearer. The last, and most extensive, review of the regulations was undertaken by Emperor Qianlong (1735-1796) as he sought to appropriately merge his Manchu

culture within that of the dominant Han Chinese.

The project, titled *Huangchao liqi tushi* (The Illustrated Catalogue of Ritual Paraphernalia of the Qing Dynasty) was completed in 1759. Insignia were either woven into the *Chao fu*



(nobility) or were applied as an independently created textile. Fig:5 is a portrait of Prince Yu who was a 1st rank prince and Qianlong's uncle. His *Chao Pao* contains 4 Lung dragon roundel insignia to denote his status.

Robes opened centrally and, therefore, the front badge would be split. Badges gradually reduced in size from the Ming dimensions and became approximately 12 inches in diameter from 1700 onward. The style of clouds changed over time and have become indicators of a specific period as does the form and length of the dragon's eyebrows.

The 12 ranks of the nobility utilized a specific dragon design as the prime indicator of their status within the Imperial Clan. In contrast to the Ming the Manchu adopted a front facing (Portrait), 5 clawed, *Lung* dragon (Fig:6 & 6a) as the most senior dragon form. This style of dragon was initially reserved for the Emperor, Empress, plus the four ranks of Imperial Princes and Princesses. However, later in the dynasty, the honour was extended selectively to other nobles.



Fig 6a: 18th Century Imperial Insignia for a Crown Prince

Fig 6/6a represents the pinnacle of design plus weaving/couching and embroidery techniques produced by the Imperial Manufactory in Nanjing during the dynasty.

Profile dragon roundels (Fig:7) did not disappear but were used in combination, particularly on semi-formal robes, as a further determinant of rank.

THE QING IMPERIAL DRAGON



Imperial Lung Dragon Roundels from a Surcoat
Chao Fu
Portrait and Profile Dragons
1680

The number of claws a dragon possessed ranged from 5 to 2, with each form relating to a specifically defined status or role within the nobility. Claws could be added on promotion but equally removed on demotion.

The 4 clawed *Mang* dragon supposedly represented the lower levels of the nobility, including Princes and Princesses plus Imperial Dukes. However, as mentioned, in the later decades of the dynasty this distinction became diluted in the sense that Emperors allowed an ever-increasing number of the nobility to wear 5 clawed *Lung* dragons. By the end of the dynasty in 1911 the regulations had become so lax that virtually everyone wore a *Lung* Dragon, even officials on the semi-formal dragon robes.

The 3 clawed dragon was a representation of an immature *Qi* dragon, where the scales of the body had not fully formed (Fig:8). This dragon was, therefore, appropriate to represent Imperial children. The age of majority was 15 at which time the father's rank, less one level, would be adopted by the young adult. This presumably retained a degree of ambition as the emperor possessed the authority to promote for exceptional services. Insignia for Imperial children are easily recognized because of their smaller dimensions.

IMMATURE 3 & 2 CLAWED 'QI' DRAGONS



Imperial Child's Roundel
Three Clawed Qi Dragon
1890



Imperial Dragon Roundel
Low Ranking Princess or Consort
Two Clawed Qi Dragon 1800

The 2 clawed dragon was also an immature *Qi* dragon but was deployed on adult sized insignia. This rare manifestation was reserved for certain low-ranking princesses, or consorts, many of whom had found themselves at court with no male association from which to derive their rank. Only the Emperor could award this insignia which allowed the woman to remain at court.

There were no single clawed dragons, but a hoofed dragon did exist (Fig:9), late 19th C. This was reserved for usage by selected non-Manchu nobility. These individuals had been promoted by the emperor in recognition of their exceptional



services to the court. There remained, however, the perceived need to visually identify those nobles who were not directly of the Imperial Clan bloodline.



Fig 10. All insignia roundels, or squares, were deployed predominately on plain silk brocade surcoats (*Gun Fu* [emperor]/ *Chao Fu* [nobility]) but have also be found on semi-formal indoor, or outerwear, robes.

The emperor's surcoat, plus the first 4 Imperial

Ranks, had 4 insignia roundels (back/front/shoulders). In contrast, ranks 5 to 12 of the nobility wore their insignia within 2 squares (back/front).

Imperial ladies did not utilise an outer surcoat but were required to wear a sleeveless vest [*Chao Gua*] decorated with vertical dragons. Fig:10 is a 18th Century example where the design of the dragon was appropriate to the wearer's rank.



Fig 11: 18th Century Insignia Roundel for a 2nd rank Prince

Dragon roundels used on semi-formal robes also had their number and design strictly regulated, as was the colour of the silk brocade robe ground. Robes for Imperial ladies would have 8 roundels deployed, typically 4 portrait and 4 profile dragons. Fig:11 is an example of a male profile dragon woven on a brown silk ground permissible for a 1st or 2nd rank Prince. It would have been positioned on the lower section of the robe.

Finally, nobility of Ranks 9 to 12, on occasions, adopted the insignia of a 1st Rank Military Officer, the *Qilin*, as had been the practise in the Ming Dynasty. It was often the case that lower status noblemen would seek to forge a career in the military so making this form of insignia appropriate.



Fig:12 is, however, clear evidence that not all insignia followed the established regulations and so defy interpretation.

Here we have a roundel, indicating high Imperial status, and yet the creature portrayed is a *Qilin* which is associated with a 1st rank military official. The *Shou* symbol above the creature's head adds further confusion as it is suggestive of a Crown Prince. We will probably never know the status of the wearer of this 'unique' design.

As the last example illustrates the task of accurate identification of rank, and the date of production of the insignia, can prove challenging.

Matteo Ripa and the first Chinese students in Naples

Carlo Marino

Carlo is a linguist and journalist who has worked in several European countries and Costa Rica. He is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society and is currently the Italian and Vatican correspondent for the European News Agency. He lives in Rome and has studied the Chinese language for 10 years. This is his second article for Chnia Eye. .

From 1734 to 1759 Charles of Bourbon reigned in the city of Naples (1716-1788). Charles was the eldest son of Philip V of Spain and Elisabetta Farnese and his kingdom was a prosperous and culturally rich kingdom. In 1732, Matteo Ripa (1682-1746), a secular religious, managed to obtain authorization to found the College of Chinese Students.



Charles of Bourbon King of Naples

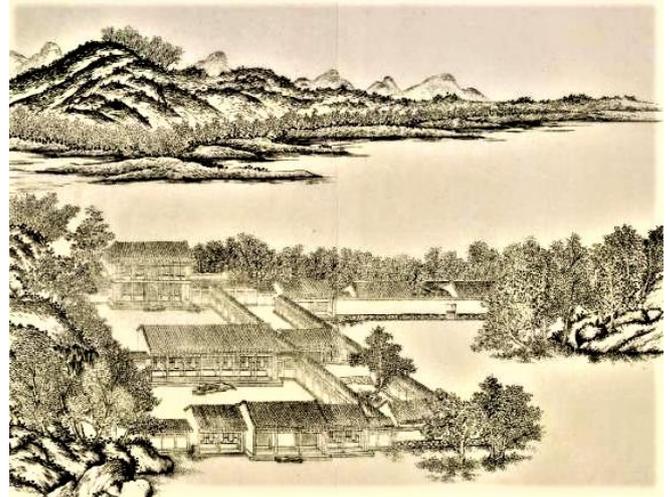


Naples

Matteo Ripa (马国贤 Ma Guoxian) had been in China from 1710 to 1724, as a missionary and painter at the court of Emperor Kangxi (1661-1722) of the Qing dynasty. Matteo Ripa arrived in Beijing on February 6, 1711 and was admitted to court as a painter and above all copper engraver.

In April 1714 he finished the copper engraving of the 36 views of the imperial villa of Gehol (Rehe, Manchura) and Kangxi liked it so much that he ordered him to publish the entire album in a large number of copies.

In addition, between 1714 and 1717, Ripa also engraved the Great Map of the Empire of China on copper, an impressive cartographic work consisting of 44 plates.

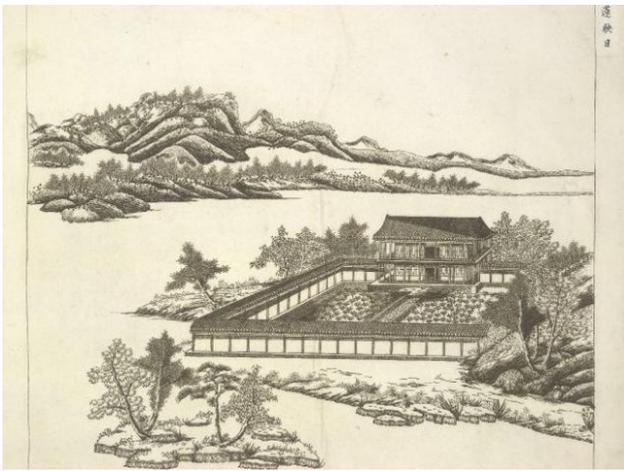


Copper engravings by Matteo Ripa



A part of the Great Map of the Empire of China by Matteo Ripa

With the death of Emperor Kangxi at the end of 1722, Ripa decided to return to Naples to found a College for young Chinese students.



Copper engraving by Matteo Ripa

The new emperor Yongzheng authorized him to leave China and take four young Chinese with him (Giovanni Battista Gu Ruohan 谷若翰, 1701-1763; Giovanni Evangelista Yin Ruowang 殷若望, 1705-1735; Filippo Huang Batong 黄巴桐, 1712-1776; Lucio Wu Lujue 吴露爵, 1713-1763), accompanied by the master Gioacchino Wang Yajing 王雅敬, who then left Naples for China in September 1734.

In the ancient heart of Naples, in that part of the district "Sanità" called "Vergini" (Virgins), there is a "cluster" of alleys and stairs baptized with the exotic name of "I Cinesi", "The Chinese". To suggest that name centuries ago was not a vivid imagination, but the sign of a daily presence.

The first Chinese to arrive in Naples were the five, who landed on November 20, 1724 following Father Matteo Ripa, who wished to evangelize China with the Chinese themselves: an idea that came to him while baptizing a thirteen-year-old boy, who was then among those who would follow him to Naples, on the day of St. John the Baptist in 1714.

In the 18th century, the College of Chinese Students hosted 51 young Chinese people who were never less than fourteen years old and who over the years had devoted themselves to the study of Latin, Chinese, philosophy, theology and morals. The College of Chinese Students in Naples was a place of curiosity in the eighteenth century, a lively point of reference for the cultural and social life of the city, Italy and Europe.

Matteo Ripa was born in Eboli in 1682 to a well-to-do family in the town that was still a rural village, his father was a physician as well as a baron, and soon Matteo was sent to Naples to study.



The district in Naples where the College of Chinese Students was situated

Ordained priest he was sent to Rome where he formed the first Fide propaganda nucleus dedicated to missionaries and since the Jesuits defended the Chinese rites, Matteo Ripa was sent to China where he brought the nomination as Cardinal to the Papal Legate Tournon in chinese 多樂 (Duō lè). The Cardinal later died in confinement at Macau, 8 June 1710 because of the divergences that arose.

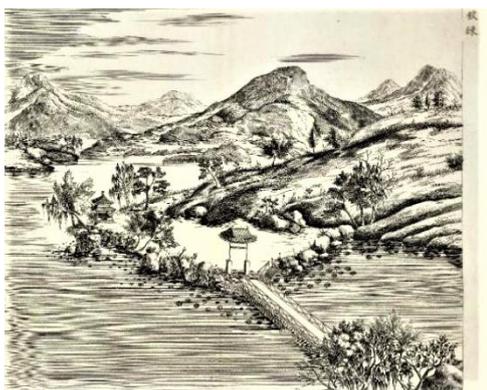
The Kangxi Emperor received him kindly at first, but upon hearing that he came to abolish the Chinese rites among the native Christians, he demanded from all missionaries on pain of immediate expulsion a promise to retain these rites.

At Rome, the Holy Office had meanwhile decided against the rites on 20 November 1704, and being acquainted with this decision, the legate issued a decree at Nanjing on 25 January 1707, obliging the missionaries under pain of excommunication to abolish these rites. Hereupon, the Kangxi Emperor ordered Tournon to be imprisoned at Macau and sent some Jesuit missionaries to Rome to protest against the decree. Tournon died in prison, shortly after being informed that he had been created cardinal on 1 August 1707.



Papal Legate Carlo Tommaso Maillard de Tournon in Chinese
多樂 (Duō lè)

When the cardinal died of heartbreak, Matteo Ripa managed to be appreciated by the court of the emperor Kangxi (of the Qing Dynasty, of Manchu origin) for his artistic skills.



Engraving by Matteo Ripa

He was a skilled mechanic and connoisseur of clocks, but after the death of the emperor himself, he returned to Europe. During the return journey Matteo Ripa wore a Chinese suit, had shaved his beard and together with his Chinese companions embarked in Canton on an English ship: it was January 23, 1724. The ship arrived in Sunda Strait, the strait between the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra, the first days of March, in the midst of a strong storm that made him not a little worried about the fate of his frightened and numb companions.

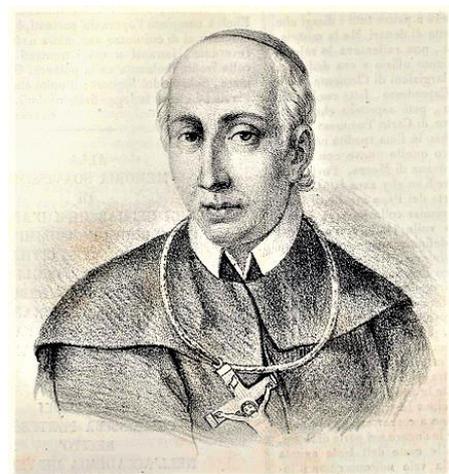
On March 24, after leaving the port towards the island of St. Elena, reached on June 13 and where they stayed for six days and then they travelled till reaching the beach of Dill, in England. The news of his arrival was disclosed by the major English newspapers, so much so that King George I of Hanover expressed the desire to meet him. It was the ambassador of the King of Sardinia who went to Matteo

Ripa to present him with the invitation of the English sovereign, Ripa accepted and was received at court with great welcome. After three hours of talks, the King held him for lunch with his oriental companions and after a last audience Matteo Ripa thanked the Sovereign for the attention and kindness granted him. On the same evening, the King, through his Lord of the Court, gave Ripa a package containing gold coins for a value of about three hundred Neapolitan ducats. On 5 October the party left London for Italy. On 1 November they docked in the port of Livorno to leave on the 11th of the same month on a ship flying the English flag and on 20 November they landed in Naples.

After receiving the honors from King George in London, Matteo Ripa bought a building with an adjoining church on a hill in Naples: here is the place that will later be called the college of Chinese students.



A Palace in the district in Naples where the College of Chinese Students was situated



Father Ripa (马国贤. (Ma Guoxian)

Father Ripa, tenacious and ingenious, was convinced of the righteousness of his initiative and that he was inspired by the Lord. He went also to Vienna the capital of Austria, a landlocked East Alpine country in the southern part of

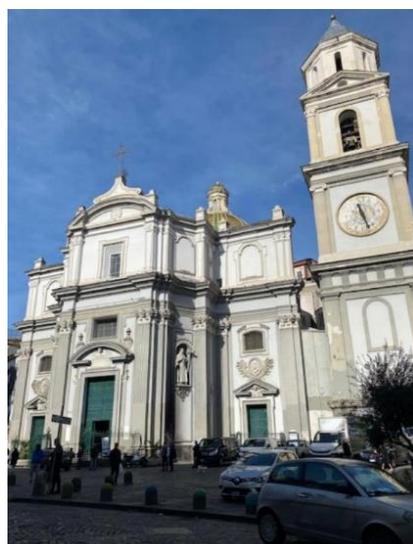
Central Europe. to meet the Emperor Charles VI of Habsburg on whom Naples depended. He stayed in Vienna from July 1726 to May 1728. He was received twice by the emperor obtaining royal protection at the new ecclesiastical foundation in Naples.

He also promised to prepare not only Chinese priests, but interpreters of the Chinese and Indian languages, necessary for the imperial "Ostend Naval Company" General Company Established in the Austrian Netherlands for Commerce and Navigation in the Indies in 1722 .



The flag of the "Ostend Naval Company"

Thus was born the "College of Chinese and Indians" in Naples. After completing the project, in 1719 Matteo Ripa opened the school for Chinese catechumens and Christian collaborators.



And in Naples he was preparing to continue that experience: it would have been the beginning of a new fascinating long story.

This institute welcomed Chinese and Indian students and while a part of Matteo Ripa's life ends, a parenthesis opens

that saw a real bridge with China with his work and with the Oriental institute of Naples.



Seal of "L'Orientale" University of Naples

Following his death, the college and its occupants suffered persecution and subsequently in 1869 the college became a corporate entity with the name of Asian College but because of the dissipating of its money and resources the entity went into bankruptcy and after the unification of Italy, the College of Chinese Students was transformed in 1868 into the Royal Asian College. In December 1888, a state law transformed the Royal Asian College into an Oriental University Institute, now better known as the "L'Orientale" University of Naples.



Former Building of "L'Orientale" University of Naples

Over time things changed for reasons of space and the original college was transformed into a hospital. Anyway, what remains is the wide-ranging international message that the great Matteo Ripa gave to the link between Naples and China.

U.K. Film Première: 'The Eight Hundred' by Barnaby Powell

Barnaby worked in international finance for many years, much of it in the Far East. He is a member of SACU Council and has contributed several articles to China Eye.

A member new to SACU, Dr. Chan Hiu Man of the UK-China Film Collab initiative, kindly invited members to the international IMAX Première of this film at Cineworld on Leicester Square on Monday, 14th September. I attended the event on behalf of those members unable to take up the invitation and found this lurid re-enactment of the historical Japanese attack on Shanghai in 1937 totally absorbing, if not overwhelming.

The curved, wide-screen projection and the 'Sensurround' effect of cries and voices from behind the audience enveloped us all in the thick of the action from start to finish. The event depicted is the extraordinary defence of the Sihang Warehouse as a last redoubt by 400 Chinese soldiers - the 800 number was given to the international press to give the Japanese the impression of a larger force - against the relentless onslaught of Japanese infantry and aerial bombardment over four days. After holding back the Japanese invasion for three months, the Chinese troops were heavily depleted and in full retreat. In a determined effort to boost the morale of the people, Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek of Nationalist China ordered a desperate last stand, which appeared to be a futile gesture, but which turned out to be an act of heroic, if suicidal, defiance.

Amidst the thunderous scenes of explosions and carnage, individual lives are exposed with pathos and humanity. Many of Chiang's army were not regular soldiers, but conscripts - farmers, book-keepers and young boys - who could barely fire a gun, let alone withstand the constant hail of bullets and grenades. But somehow they did - in the vain hope that the Allies would come to their aid. It was this that was the most bizarre aspect of the battle, for the Allies' representatives were watching the slaughter from the International Settlement just across the Suzhou Creek from the warehouse. Up above, an airship with an observation car attached beneath it enabled observers to follow the action as closely and dispassionately as they would a sporting spectacle.

The release of the film at this time rather begs the question why this historical event has been so lavishly depicted for a younger generation and an international audience. The answer must again be as a morale booster at a time of pandemic and as a reminder of the great resilience and resourcefulness of the Chinese people. A deeper question, however, is how the still open wounds of civil war may somehow be healed. One of the reasons for the delayed release of the film is supposedly that it was soldiers of the Nationalist, not the Communist, army whose heroic actions are depicted. Countries are more often torn apart by civil war - with its deadlier brutality and savagery - than by war with foreign powers. As rival forces compete for the soul of

China, seeking settlement of time-worn scores, so the great prizes of redemption, reconciliation, stability and peace remain firmly beyond their grasp.

7th Global China Dialogue – Reforming Global Governance by Barnaby Powell

SACU members Zoe Reed and Barnaby Powell attended this forum for the 7th GCD, held at the British Academy in London on December 10th 2021. A broad assemblage of academic experts and thinkers from around the world gathered to deliberate in person and online on solutions to the pressing problems facing the international community. The focus was on four areas: the Transformation of Society and the Environment; Digital Security; Personal and Cultural Identities; and the Reform of Institutions.

Prof. Nick Butler (KCL) stressed the need for national self-sufficiency in energy supply; on climate change, CO2 emissions would need to peak by 2030; Asia had not heeded the demands of COP26. Dr. Robert Falkner (LSE) called for a multi-lateral framework for 'climate action'; noted that China, Russia and Saudi Arabia had not increased their pledges on de-carbonization. Dr. Bin Hu (Tsinghua) noted that China was 60% urbanized, but emissions per capita were only 40% of the US, to be reduced by 90% from 2030-50. Prof. Jeffrey Sachs (Columbia) noted that the real contest between the US and China was not Liberal Democracy vs. Authoritarianism but over the need for multi-lateral co-operation to rebuild the international order based on rules written jointly.

Prof. Madeline Carr (UCL) noted that in the realm of Cybersecurity the technology had become an expression of power/values - hence the challenge was how the use of data was to be governed. Mr. Nigel Inkster (author of 'The Great De-Coupling') spoke of the need for content control, where algorithms incorporate ideological values; also, of how the West was falling behind in Africa, where China was providing the 'meal' (infrastructure, connectivity), while the West provided only the 'condiments' (capacity building, human rights law). Prof. Rong Ke (Tsinghua) liked the idea of 'global co-opetivity' in the digital economy and the creation of a single 'ecosystem' for growth and health. Dr. Xiaobai Shen (Edinburgh) wanted an inter-operability of systems towards a more open society; also, to sit down to deal with the global pandemic together.

Prof. van der Veer (Max Planck) spoke about the problem of identity in a world divided between scientific rationalism and religion. Prof. Roulleau-Berger highlighted the characteristic of 'emotional socialism' in young Chinese migrants as a mark of self-identity. Prof. Carsten Herrman-Pillath drew attention to the urban-rural divide around Shenzhen. Dr. Qing Cao (Durham) spoke about the importance of state developmentalism and cultural heritage in a state-driven social market economy. Prof. Li Chungling (Beijing) spoke about the new generations born in the '80s and '90s after Reform and Opening and their pride in China's long history and the country's cultural repertoire.

Charles Grant (Centre for European Reform) stressed the need for institutional reform. Sir Mark Lowcock (LSE) spoke of the need for more international funding of humanitarian assistance in crises and disasters. Masood Ahmed (Centre for Global Development) spoke of the need to pay more attention to emerging markets. Prof. Colin Bradford pointed up the global social divide between people left behind vs. the privileged; the importance of the G20 as the main forum for easing political tensions; and the urgent need for engagement with China towards a convergent, shared future.

Prof. Zheng Lu (Tsinghua) spoke of the need for reform of financial institutions towards reducing income inequality at a time when the desire for material improvement was high but social justice low. Prof. Robin Cohen (Kellogg) spoke of how social and migration problems have moved on beyond the capacity of existing institutions to deal with them. Prof. Martin Jacques (Cambridge/Tsinghua) spoke of the pressing need to co-operate with China in dealing with the pandemic and climate change. Prof. Zhao Kejin (Tsinghua) estimated the cost of Covid-19 to the world economy to be in the region of \$10 trillion.

Finally, SACU member Prof. Martin Albrow bade farewell on the occasion of his retirement and the launch of his new book, 'China and the Shared Human Future – Exploring Common Values and Goals'.

The event was a heartening demonstration of the will of a meeting of minds to achieve that common, shared future which both China and the West desire.

The Space Between Us by James De Burghe

James is a SACU member living in Nanning, Guangxi province in China. He first visited China in 1987 and has lived there permanently since 2004. He served as the UK voluntary Consular Warden for Guangxi province for five years and was the legal agent for Guangxi investment promotion to both the UK and the US. He is now a voluntary member of the Chinese poverty alleviation programme. He has written several articles for China Eye.

It is not unusual in the run of human affairs for differences in culture and beliefs to drive wedges between nations and peoples. In past centuries these wedges often led to bloody and protracted wars.

When you look at today's world you can still see these old prejudices and tribal instincts at play in international politics and trade. In the relationships between the west and the Islamic world they have been played out in violence and protracted wars that have brought only death and economic ruin to all parties. In the relationship between the Anglosphere and China there is a conundrum. This seems to be based on a deliberate act of misunderstanding initiated within the Anglosphere.

If I sound a little harsh I believe that the facts bear me out. China opened its doors to the west back in the 1970's. This initiative led by an agreement between China and the USA was the beginning of a process that yielded benefits not only to these two countries but began a number further processes that had a profound and beneficial effect on the rest of the world. When the fall of the Soviet Union happened there was a huge expectation in the Anglosphere that China would now adopt western style democracy and more important western style capitalism. It did not happen.

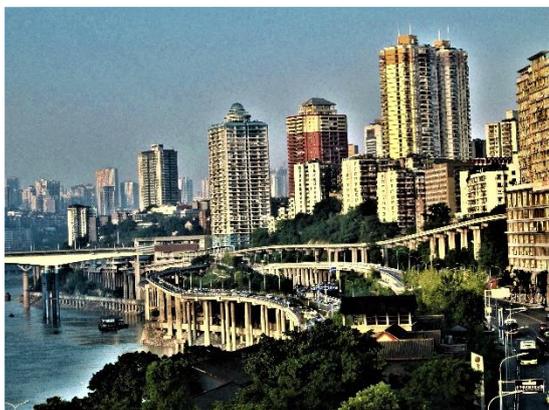
The usual attempts at the destabilisation of China, using students failed to gain popular support and led to the myth of the Tienanmen Square incident. A story acknowledged as false by Bill Clinton but which is still used as a propaganda story against China to this day. Despite this western capital continued to pour into China attracted by low wages and high productivity. These capital investments ignored the social consequences of their acts on their own national economies.

Tens of thousands of workers in the west lost their jobs and that meant a huge drain on government funds in unemployment benefits whilst at the same time losing tax income. Likewise, these western governments did nothing at all to stem this outward flow of capital, claiming that free trade, globalisation and the free movement of capital was more important than the welfare and livelihoods of their citizens. In the west this attitude led to growing poverty and a huge disparity between rich and poor.

China itself recognised the growing problem and made a conscious decision to develop its own industries. To this end it made huge investments in education, science, and research and development. This was all carried out in a political environment described by China as Marxist Socialism with Chinese Characteristics. Capitalism was welcomed but controlled and as time passed and lessons were learnt it was continually modified to suit the purpose and aspirations of China. The country progressively opened up more and more of its economy, joined the World Trade Organisation and promoted multilateralism at the United Nations.



Bustling Beijing; China's vibrant economy in the capital



Bustling Chongqing China's vibrant economy in the South-west

The Chinese economy grew rapidly and surpassed every western nation except the USA. China was also aware of the impact that its growth had made on other nations and it set out to ameliorate these impacts by buying government bonds in the USA and other western countries to help shore up their economies. China invested two trillion dollars into the USA alone. Chinese companies also began to invest directly in western countries creating taxes and jobs in the USA, UK and other western countries.

China warmly embraced western culture, music, art, food and language were all warmly welcomed by the Chinese people as were the thousands of foreigners who poured into China. English became a compulsory subject in all Chinese schools. Today 60% of all Chinese people can have at least a basic understanding of English, but in the west only around 1.5% of the population can understand any Chinese language.

In the west and in China there were always those who opposed any kind of détente between the two cultures. In China they were disregarded but, in the USA, and UK in particular from the year 2000 onwards they began to gain political power and an undercurrent of anti-Chinese rhetoric began to swell in both the USA and UK in particular. By the time we reach the present day that undercurrent has turned into a mainstream torrent of abuse, propaganda, false news and distortion. Ignoring the fact that China bailed out the west of its last major economic disaster, ignoring the fact that China has lifted more than 800 million of its own population out of poverty, ignoring the fact that Chinese medical aid and vaccine gifts have saved countless lives in the third world and that Chinese investment has started to lift Africa out of poverty.

Today western warships patrol off the coast of China and the west is indulging in a new cold war with China. But is China threatening the west? Well according to western news media everything China does threatens the west, Everything China achieves is a lie and The Chinese people are the subjects of a repressive authoritarian regime. Either deliberately or in ignorance they omit to tell their readers that China has 8 political parties, that no one can enter politics in China without a popular vote and that every process of law and policy in China has to be approved by the National People's congress manned by people voted for by the Chinese population.

There is a small ray of hope, the USA now faced with rampant inflation and growing unrest has at last held talks between the US president and the Chinese President in the hope of normalising relations between the two countries. Of course, this was largely ignored by the western news media.

Lock Down: What it is really like to be inside a C-19 Lockdown in China by James De Burghe (January 2021)

On December 9th 2021 9 cases of the Delta variant of C-19 were discovered in Nanning City, Guangxi Province. Eight of the cases were people who had arrived from Vietnam the ninth was a local Taxi driver. The Vietnamese had been smuggled across the border illegally. The Taxi driver lived in my area of the city, Xinxiang District with a population of around 250,000 people, and at 4pm on the 9th an immediate lockdown of the area was ordered.

Loudspeaker vans toured the area informing us of what was happening and at the same time police in full Hazmat gear closed all the roads and stopped all traffic in or out of the area. All shops, restaurants and public places closed immediately. People were asked to remain in their homes. The following morning an army of various departments arrived in the area. PCR testing was carried out by one group. Disinfection by another groups and social welfare by a third. By the evening of the 10th every home had been supplied with food parcels containing fresh fruit and vegetables, rice, meat, and cooking oil.

The sensible actions of the infected Taxi Driver were applauded, as soon as he discovered he was unwell he phoned the local health authority and warned them. He also stopped his family from going out of their apartment. As a result further cases were confined to his family.

After seven days of no further infections people were allowed out of their homes for exercise and food shopping. After 21 days with no further infections the lock-down was lifted and the area returned to normal.

The unfortunate Vietnamese nationals all recovered and co-operated with the local police to identify the people who had smuggled them into China. These individuals were arrested and paraded through the streets of a border town in hazmat suits with placards around their neck identifying them as a warning to others not to try the same crime. That was the only part of the story covered by the western press.

The taxi driver and his family fully recovered and became something of a local celebrity. No one here resents these lockdowns; on the contrary they applaud them. People in Nanning are not unaware of what has happened in the USA and other countries and they accept cheerfully the inconvenience of a lockdown as being far better than losing loved ones to this pernicious disease.

China Eye Quiz

How well do you know China? Try our new quiz and write down your answer (a)-(d) then check your answers on page 27.

Question master; Rob Stallard

1. The Chinese mainly know Tibet by which name?

a) Taibei b) Tianbai c) Xizang d) Xinjiang

2. What is considered the most unlucky number in China?

a) thirteen b) three c) seven d) four

3. Which European nation established the first official trading post in China?

a) The Netherlands b) Britain c) Portugal d) Germany

4. In 1980 China set up a number of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) to promote rapid economic development. Which one of these was NOT a SEZ?

a) Xiamen b) Shenzhen c) Xi'an d) Shantou

5. Bird's nest soup is made from the nests of which bird?

a) brown booby b) swiflet c) flamingo d) hill prinia

6. The robot that trundled around the moon's surface in 2013 was called what?

a) baby dragon b) Wallace c) Confucius d) Jade rabbit

7. Xuanzang's trip to fetch Buddhist scriptures from India took place during which dynasty?

a) Tang dynasty b) Song dynasty c) Sui dynasty
d) Han dynasty

8. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is what?

a) Organizes Yangzi River monitoring and management
b) Group of Eurasian nations
c) Group of provinces of southern China
d) Municipal council for Shanghai

9. The Mongol dynasty ruled the whole of China for about how long?

a) 20 years b) 150 years c) 235 years d) 90 years

10. What is at the famous site of Leshan, Sichuan?

a) stone Forest b) classical gardens c) giant Buddha
d) bamboo forest

11. Which colour was reserved for the roof tiles of Imperial buildings?

a) black b) red c) yellow d) brown

12. How would you say 506 in Chinese?

a) 五百零六 wǔ bǎi líng liù

b) 五百零九 wǔ bǎi líng jiǔ

c) 六五百 liù wǔ bǎi

d) 五白零六 wǔ bái líng liù

13. Qingdao, famous for Tsingtao beer, was under which country's control at the end of the 19th century?

a) Germany b) France c) Belgium d) Japan

14. Canton is the old name for which city?

a) Hong Kong b) Xiamen c) Guangzhou d) Haikou

15. 雨 Yǔ is a common character what does it mean?

a) clothes b) abundance c) snow d) rain

16. Zhaolin Park, Harbin hosts a famous set of sculptures in which material

a) gold b) epoxy resin c) iron d) ice

17. The 'Hundred Schools of Philosophy' period occurred when in Chinese history?

a) Eastern Zhou dynasty b) Tang dynasty c) Han dynasty
d) Western Zhou dynasty

18. Together with Yunnan and Guangdong, which other province lies on the Tropic of Cancer?

a) Fujian b) Hainan c) Anhui d) Guangxi

19. Jingdezhen is famous for the production of what?

a) porcelain b) firecrackers c) silk d) moon cakes

20. Which event marks the traditional end of the Chinese New Year (Spring) festival?

a) Easter b) Confucius' Birthday c) Lantern Festival
d) Qingming Festival



Liverpool Chinese New Year Celebrations February 2022; The Lion visits the Hoi Yin Community Centre in Nelson Street.

Sino File 2022 compiled by Walter Fung

San Francisco City offers Apology for Racism

On February 2 2022, the City of San Francisco Board of Supervisors offered a formal apology to Chinese immigrants and their descendants over past atrocities. This city became the fourth city in the state of California to issue a formal apology, following the cities of Antioch, Los Angeles and San Jose. Numerous incidents of racism occurred against the Chinese community dating back to the 19th century, including the closure of Chinese schools between 1870-1885. The three-day riot in 1877 was also mentioned. Four people died and dozens of Chinese laundries were destroyed or looted. However, Justin Hoover, executive director of the Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA), commented that an apology is not enough unless it is met with real action and budget solutions that will truly benefit the community. (From CHSA Newsletter received 8/2/22)

The Wandering Elephants

Sixteen Asian elephants began a trek from their home area in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan province, about a year ago. The reason for the migration and ultimate destination were unknown. However Chinese wild-life agencies, local police and others, occasionally using drones, tracked them and helped them on their way by unobtrusively providing food, when necessary, and even building roads.



The herd included very young ones and a new baby elephant was born on the way. A month or two ago, they began heading back home. They were guided across a bridge to help them cross a swollen river. Construction of a new National Park especially for Asian elephants is being accelerated to house them. They have so far covered over 1,400 km. (Various news sources, August 2021)



Elephant families crossing a road in Yunnan, China. They eventually returned home to Yunnan. (Photographed from the TV screen, CTGN)

Chinese Ambassador's New Year Address

On January 24, the Chinese Embassy in the UK held an online reception in celebration of the Chinese New Year 2022. Ambassador to the UK Zheng Zeguang delivered a speech entitled *Celebrating Proud Achievements and Pressing Forward with Confidence*. Lord Mandelson, former First Secretary of State, Sir Douglas Flint, UK's Special Envoy to China's Belt and Road Initiative, Stephen Perry, Chairman of the 48 Group Club, and Phil Agland, famous British director, also spoke at the event.

Around 500 people attended the reception online, including British government officials, members of both Houses of Parliament, heads of British universities and other educational institutions: research, academic and cultural. Also present were friendship organisations representatives of British and Chinese media, diplomats, representatives of the overseas Chinese, Chinese institutions and international students.

Consul General of China to Manchester, Zheng Xiyuan, Consul General of China to Edinburgh, Ma Qiang, Consul General of China to Belfast, Zhang Meifang, and the Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London, Law Sun-on, took part.

The reception started with the joyful melody of *Chinese New Year Overture*, followed by a short video about the Chinese New Year traditions and the Beijing Winter Olympics, displaying the charm of Chinese culture, the modern sports facilities and the vigour of winter sports. The mascots of the Beijing Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, "Bing Dondun" and "Xue Rongrong", were displayed at the reception, adding to the festive atmosphere and warming up for the Winter Olympics.

Prince Charles visits London Chinatown

On 1 February, Chinatown welcomed HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall to mark the lunar new year and the 40th anniversary of the Chinese Information and Advice Centre. China Exchange CEO, Freya Aitken-Turff, and volunteer, Sau Hing Au, were invited to a small private meeting with HRH The Prince of Wales to discuss racism, anti-Asian hate and the role of heritage activities in breaking down harmful stereotypes. Lion dance performances and enthusiastic crowds lined the streets to create a celebratory welcome. Several CE volunteers helped steward the crowds outside and got to greet the Royal visitors during the celebrations. Congratulations to CIAC for the 40th anniversary and coordinating the Royal visit.

Good news for London Banking. Plans for growth after \$10 trillion (Bloomberg / London) via Gulf Times, 24/1/22.

The UK's relations with China may be at a low ebb but China Construction Bank Corp's City of London outpost is seeking ever closer financial ties. The branch is the only renminbi clearing bank in the UK, making it an essential conduit to potentially huge flows of Chinese money and investment.

It has cleared some 64tn yuan (\$10tn) of transactions since 2014 – the largest volume outside Asia – and is planning for growth. Yang Aimin, who has run the UK operations of China’s second-largest lender since 2018, said in an interview last week he is targeting double-digit clearing volume growth in 2022 after it grew 18% last year to 11.9tn yuan. He’s also expecting the business of servicing Chinese companies listed in London to grow.

His ambitions are good news for the City of London, which is looking to burnish its credentials as the international finance centre of choice now it sits outside the European Union. The UK government has long sought to lure Chinese investment, a process that started in earnest in 2014 with a deal allowing CCB to facilitate offshore yuan clearing in London and the issuance of a 3bn yuan bond in London in 2016, the first sovereign RMB bond issued outside of China and Hong Kong.

Brain drain to China

The UK suffered an outflow of nearly 1,300 scientists in 2020, having been a net importer of academics in 2015, the year before the Brexit vote to leave the EU, OECD data shows. The new analysis of scientific migration data also shows a remarkable turnaround in the fortunes of the US and China.

In 2015, the US was the most attractive scientific destination in the world, enticing close to 3,000 net scientists. But by 2020, that dropped to 1,000. In the same period, China went from losing scientists, to replacing the US as the world’s most attractive destination. In 2020, a net total of nearly 1,800 academics relocated to the China. (*From Science/Business:1/2/22*)

From the British Press

Timetable to ‘ditch’ Huawei

Under government plans announced yesterday, all Huawei equipment must be removed from UK telecom companies’ critical networks by January next year. All Huawei equipment must be removed from all 5G networks by the end of 2027. The move is made under the Telecommunications Security Act that came into force last November. The UK government claim Huawei is closely linked to the Chinese government. 5G is expected to become more embedded in national infrastructure, industry and daily life. (*From The Times 19/2/22*)

Huawei active in the Arctic

China is working on plans for a ‘Polar Silk Road’ which may become viable as rising temperatures open up new sea routes. Two years ago Huawei formed a partnership with ICE Wireless and Iristel to expand high-speed internet coverage in Canada. The people of Iqaluit (population 7,600), the capital of Nunavut, find it hard to get a signal for communications. However, telecom companies are hesitant in supplying facilities for such a small number of people. Huawei may be prepared to help, but Canada, similar to the UK, Australia and the US may ban Huawei from its 5G programme. (*From The Times 22/12/21*)

UK boost for Chinese nuclear industry

Britain has given the seal of approval to a Chinese design for nuclear power stations. This is a landmark decision that will help Beijing’s hope of exporting the technology worldwide. The Office for nuclear Regulation and the Environmental Agency have said that the Hualong pressurised water reactor plan submitted by China General Nuclear Group (CGN) was suitable for construction in the UK. It meets the high standards expected. CGN have gained a real prize because its design has been approved by a western regulator – the ‘ultimate mark of good housekeeping’.

British regulators had studied the design for five years. CGN agreed in 2017 to provide financial support for the EDF Hinkley Point plant and it has the right to become a partner in another plant at Sizewell in Suffolk. CGN was also given the option to build another plant of its own design at Bradwell in Essex. However, UK-China relations have cooled and Bradwell may not happen, but some managers are keen to maintain good contact with CGN, whilst construction of Hinkley Point proceeds. (*From the Times 8/2/22*)

China’s techno-independence

China’s 14th five-year plan, the strategic blueprint published in 2021, will cover the time until 2025. The plan makes self-reliance in science and technology a cornerstone of economic policy. Combined public and private research and development was 2.8 trillion yuan (\$440 bn), equivalent to 2.5% of GDP. This was behind the 3% or so of America, but was an increase of just over 2.0% five years ago.

The five-year plan stipulates that by 2025, China should produce 70% of its own chips. This is a significant increase over the 20% of last year. This is a direct result of President Trump halting the sale of sensitive hardware to Chinese telecoms equipment makers, ZTE and Huawei.

On February 11, China’s biggest chipmaker said that it would spend \$5 bn in 2022 for new semi-conductor factories. Three days later, the Hong Kong unit of Standard Bank became the first foreign lender outside mainland China to be directly linked to CIPS, the Chinese equivalent to the Belgium-based SWIFT interbank system.

Other areas China is working on include vaccine development, agrochemicals and civil aviation. (*From The Economist 26/2/22*)

China plans to develop world-beating AI industry

Analysts believe at present China lags behind America in terms of both investment and cutting-edge innovation. They say private Chinese AI firms received less than half as much investment as their American counterparts. The Chinese five-year plan for AI has the goal of creating an industry of 400bn yuan by 2025, of achieving ‘major breakthroughs’ in technology and leading the world in some applications. Five years later the aim is to dominate the industry, which by then should be worth \$11trn in sales. (*From The Economist 22/1/22*)

Birdwatching ‘taking off’ in China

In the year 2000, there were three birdwatching organisations in China, now there are about 100. There has been a boom in the activity in the last ten years. Surprisingly, the movement of people from the countryside may have something to do with it. City dwellers are more into birdwatching than rural folk. Maybe natural beauty is scarcer in cities than the countryside. Education may have something to do with it, as city people tend to be better educated. Technology may also be contributing as digital cameras are now available and people like to share their sightings and shots of birds. Similar observations on birdwatching have been noticed in India as well as China. (From *The Times* 24/12/21)

Tibetan hunters become park rangers

Members of remote Tibetan tribes have given up hunting to become park rangers to help protect some of China’s natural environment. Yalung Zangbo Grand Canyon is one of the longest and deepest river valley on Earth. It is home to many endangered species, including clouded leopards, golden cats and red gorals. Members of the Lhoba and Monpa tribes have been recruited as rangers. This action has lifted them out of poverty and helps preserve the local ecology.

The canyon is more than 300 miles long and at its deepest point is more than 20,000 feet deep. The canyon includes spectacular topography and is a ‘natural vegetable museum’ It is home to almost all terrestrial vegetation types from tropical to arctic zones. In addition it is home to more than half of the mammals, four fifths of the insects and three fifths of the fungi on the Tibetan Plateau. There are more than 2,100 village rangers, 44 full-time professional rangers and 51 forest keepers. Almost every household has a forest ranger. Across the whole of China more than one million eco-rangers were hired between 2016 and 2019 as part of the poverty reduction plan. It was funded by £1.64 billion from the central government and another £320 million from provincial governments. (From *The Times* 26/11/21)

China building low-gravity machine

Li Ruilin, a researcher at the Chinese University of Mining and Technology, told *The Times* that the world’s first low-gravity machine is being built at Xuzhou in eastern China. The gravity simulator is 5.6m tall and due for completion this spring. It will allow scientists to conduct longer and more significant space experiments on earth than are currently possible on board an aircraft as it dives towards the ground. The machine uses ‘diamagnetism’, by which objects, including non-ferrous items, can be levitated by magnets. Thus, ‘antigravity’ can be maintained as long as required, whilst free-fall generates low gravity only for a short time. (From *The Times* 14/1/22)

Olympic issues

Chinese officials have warned athletes not to make political statements at the Winter Olympic Games. They have said that any behaviour or speech that is against the Olympic spirit will be subject to certain punishment. The Olympic Charter rules against any kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda. However, it is believed athletes will be able to express themselves outside events.

A few countries, including the US and UK, have announced a diplomatic boycott. Others such as Japan and New Zealand have said they will not send political representatives but have not called it a boycott. The prime ministers of Mongolia, Pakistan and Argentina are expected to attend, as will the Secretary General of the United Nations. (From *The Times* 20/1/22)

China economic activity in Iraq

Iraq’s prime minister is promoting an economic alliance with China and has announced investments which should transform the lives of thousands of Iraqis. Contracts have been awarded to 15 Chinese companies for the construction of 1,000 new schools across the country. This follows on from a deal to build 1,000 new clinics and an airport at Nasiriyah, in southern Iraq. There is also talk of the redevelopment of Sadr City, which involves the building of 90,000 homes. Iraq will pay in oil, but according to a report in the *Global Times*, there is a charitable element and humanitarian aid. (From *The Times*, 26/2/22)

British judges in Hong Kong

William Hague wrote an article in *The Times* on 8th February 2022 saying we should pull out British judges from Hong Kong, because this supports the pretence of judicial independence and lends legitimacy to a system that is incompatible with our values.

In a letter to the Times on 4th February, a former Hong Kong attorney-general (1983-88) made the point that British judges and others from Australia and New Zealand made a huge contribution to Hong Kong’s jurisprudence over 24 years and that in the 1984 Sino-British negotiations, China made a remarkable concession. It allowed foreign judges to sustain and develop the common law upon Chinese soil and maintained the trust of the international community.

Gulf States visit Beijing

Foreign ministers from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait, along with the Secretary General of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), arrived in Beijing yesterday. China bought a sixth of the GCC’s total exports before the pandemic. The Times said that they are looking for new security guarantees in the uncertainty regarding Washington’s reliability in the region. China is keen to ensure supplies of energy remain stable. According to the *Global Times*, the visit could result in a free-trade agreement. Negotiations began in 2004, but little progress has been made. (From *The Times* 11/1/22)

World’s most admired men

This survey was conducted by a YouGov poll involving 42,000 people in 38 countries (presumably in 2021). Number 1, Barack Obama with 7.8% of the votes. Second Bill Gates with 6.7%. Number three Xi Jinping with 6.5%. Ninth was Vladimir Putin with 3.4%.

I found this strange in the present cold war climate. No sign of President Biden! (From 1/23/12/21). YouGov is a British market research company.

MG Motor UK selling electric cars

MG Motor UK is owned by SAIC, a Chinese motor car manufacturer. In the UK, MG sold more electric cars than many other brands such as Renault, Honda and Mazda. A total of 30,600 electric cars were sold by MG during 2021. *(From The Telegraph on line 12/1/22)*

From the Chinese Press

China's Whole Process Democracy

Beijing Review of December 16th 2021, published a 20-page White Paper on Democracy. The points were made that there is no fixed model for democracy, it is constantly evolving and all aspects of society should be involved in a consensus building process. Biweekly consultative forums convened by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference is an important innovation in China's consultative democracy. This is being done whilst ensuring political stability and social progress. Democracy is not a system which can be dictated by outsiders. The heading of the article in Beijing Review is, 'China: Democracy that Works'.

China's GDP expands 8.1% in 2021

According to the China National Bureau of Statistics, China's GDP reached 114.4 trillion yuan (\$18 trillion) in 2021- an increase of \$2 trillion, which is equal to that of Canada or Italy. China's economy is expected to account for 18% of the world economy in 2021 and its growth expected to account for 25% of world economic growth. The strong performance of exports and innovation was notable in 2021. China is still the top destination for foreign direct investment. It expanded by 14.9% year-on-year to a record high of 1.15 trillion Yuan last year. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 21-27?1/22)*

New Airport in Guangdong

A new civil airport opened in Shaoguan on 27 November. It is situated in the Ruyuan Yao Autonomous County in Shaoguan about 60 km from the Danxia Mountain, a nationally renowned scenic spot near Nanhua Buddhist Temple. The Airport is designed to handle two million passengers, 4,000 tons of cargo and the take-off and landing of 9,500 planes each year. The airport will link with major cities, such as Beijing, Shanghai, Nanning, Hangzhou and Kunming. This will be the ninth airport in Guangdong. *(From Beijing Review 2/12/221)*

Cultural Relic Protection

China's state Council recently approved new guidelines on cultural relic protection and technological innovation during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25). For the first time, the directive includes technological applications to conserve and research relics. Relics tell the story of China's civilisation. There are 766,700 immovable cultural relics and 108 million pieces (sets) of state-owned movable cultural relics. In the future, authorities at all levels should continue to improve laws and regulations.

In addition, more funds and investment will be allocated to protect historical and cultural heritage. More relevant educational and training activities will soon be launched. *(From Beijing Review 2/12.21)*

Shanghai, world's largest port

Shanghai ranked first in the world for the 12th consecutive year. Last year it handled 32 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent) of containers in foreign trade and 6.3 million in domestic trade. There was a year-on-year increase of 13,4%. Technological support, such as automatic terminals and intelligent heavy trucks, played a part in achieving the growth amid the Covid-19 pandemic. *(From Beijing Review 13/1/22).*

No nuclear war

A joint statement issued at the UN by the five permanent members of the Security Council, who are also nuclear powers, was aimed at preventing nuclear war. 'A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.' China is the only nuclear power that has promised no first use of nuclear weapons. China has rejected accusations by the US that 'China is rapidly expanding its nuclear capabilities'. However, because of safety and security concerns, China will modernise its nuclear capability and maintain it at the minimum level necessary for deterrence. The US nuclear arsenal is about 20 times that of China. *(From Beijing Review 13/1/22)*

Geely aims for 40% electric vehicle (EV) production by 2025

Lotus, the UK sports car maker is looking to an IPO which will extend its parent company, Geely of China, internationally. It plans to make 100,000 cars globally by 2028, which is a 60-fold increase over 2021. Four new electric vehicle models are projected over the next five years.

In 2017, Geely acquired 49.9% of the Malaysian car maker Proton and by this gained control of Lotus. The Swedish up-market EV maker came into Geely's possession as it is owned by Volvo, which in turn is owned by Geely. China is the world's largest 'New Energy Vehicle market; 5.5 million units are expected to be sold there this year, an increase of 84% from 2021. New Energy vehicles (NEV) include electric, hybrid and fuel cell. Geely is investing heavily in EV development and has the goal of 40% production to be EV by 2025. The Swiss bank UBS predicts that by 2030, 66% of all new cars in China will be electric. *(From SCMP 22/2/22)*

Tibet's GDP growth

The GDP of Tibet Autonomous Region exceeded 200 billion yuan (\$31.4 billion) in 2021, representing a year-on-year growth of about 7%. Disposable income of rural residents increased by 14%, that of urban residents 13%. Urban unemployment remained below 5%, with 52,000 new jobs being created. GDP this year is expected to grow by 8%, while disposable income of rural residents is expected to grow by 10%, that of urban residents by 8%. *(From Beijing Review 13/1/22)*

UN Human Rights Council

In 2021, on four occasions, about 100 countries supported China against anti-China motions in the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council. The defeated motions were directed at alleged human rights abuses in China. *(From Beijing Review 13/1/22)*

Ping-Pong diplomacy revived?

The 2021 World Table Tennis Championships were held at Houston, Texas on November 23rd 2021. To mark the 50th Anniversary of Ping-Pong Diplomacy, two teams each consisting of one American player and one Chinese player were set up. (*From Beijing Review 2/12/21*)

The original incident occurred during the early 1970s when the US and China had no diplomatic relations. Indeed, US citizens were not allowed by their own country to enter China. At a table-tennis tournament in Japan, a member of the US team boarded the Chinese team bus by mistake. After a period of awkward silence, a conversation started between him and a Chinese team member. After the journey, the two men shook hands and exchanged gifts. When Chairman Mao heard about it, he was not angry, but praised the Chinese player for his diplomacy. The US team was invited to China but their passports had to be hastily modified to allow them to enter.

British Chamber in China optimistic about JETCO restart in 2022, despite delicate China-UK relations **By Yin Yeping 17 February 2022**

The British Chamber of Commerce in China said it remains optimistic that the first annual meeting of the UK-China Joint Economic and Trade Committee, known as JETCO, will be convened in 2022 since the last one was held in 2018. Prior to 2018, meetings were held annually.

"The UK has consistently held the view that it is important to engage with China in areas of mutual interest, including trade...we anticipate that [JETCO] will continue going forward," said Julian MacCormac, chair of the British Chamber of Commerce in China. JETCO is an important platform to build understanding and enhance bilateral trade and investment between the UK and China.

Previous meetings have led to market openings in China, including in the cosmetics and food and beverage sectors, and helped support investment from China to the UK, the chair said, hoping for positive steps to enhance trade and investment in this year's JETCO.

With Prime Minister Boris Johnson reportedly seeking closer economic ties with China by restarting trade talks, the UK government's China policy, at least in economic and trade areas, seems to have taken a new turn. However, the tougher attitude toward Beijing from some cabinet members over so-called security needs continuing to cast a shadow of uncertainty that hampers the potential of bilateral economic and trade ties from being fully unleashed, experts said.

When talking about the biggest challenges for British companies in doing business in China, MacCormac said that "most companies say they are not directly impacted by difficulties in the UK-China relationship."

The latest British Chamber of Commerce in China's Business Sentiment Survey highlights that while many companies are concerned about bilateral tensions, businesses remain overwhelmingly committed to the Chinese market and optimistic about their future in China, according to the Chamber.

Despite the weak growth of the global economy remaining a concern, MacCormac said that "the British companies are optimistic about their prospects in China for 2022 and many UK companies say they have plans to increase their investment in China." The British Chamber believes that the JETCO could help address some of the challenges, and the companies will have the potential to unlock significant trade and investment opportunities in China.

Rocket launch, first in the New Year

China launched a Long March 2D carrier rocket on January 17th. The rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in Shanxi province placed the Shanxi 13 experimental satellite in orbit. This was the first launch this year and the 406th mission of the Long March rocket family. The Long March 2D has a lift-off weight of 300 metric tons and is capable of transporting multiple satellites to different orbits. (*From China Daily Global Weekly 21-27/2/22*)

Chinese couples rush to wed on 'auspicious day'

The date 22 February 2022 (22/2/22) was considered an auspicious day in China for number of reasons. The pronunciation of 'two', in Mandarin, sounds like the word for 'love' (ar = 2, ai = love). Chinese people believe good things come in pairs. In addition, 22 February was also the 22nd day of the first month of the Chinese Lunar Calendar. (*From China Daily Global Weekly 25/2-3/3-22*)

Upgrade of China-New Zealand trade

China and New Zealand are to upgrade free trade agreements from April 7th. This paves the way for further economic and trade co-operation. This is a new landmark since 2008, when the two countries entered into a bilateral treaty – the first for China with a developed country. (*From China Daily Global Weekly, 18-24/2/22*)

BELJING, Feb. 7 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday sent a congratulatory message to Queen Elizabeth II on the 70th anniversary of her accession to the British throne. In the message, Xi said Queen Elizabeth II has long cared about and supported Britain-China friendship, and is a witness to and promoter of the development of bilateral ties, noting that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level,

Xi expressed his hope that the two sides take this opportunity to deepen friendship and mutual trust, expand exchanges and cooperation, and work together to promote international solidarity. In so doing, he added, they can create benefits for both countries and their people, and make new contributions to helping the international community jointly tackle global challenges and promote world peace, stability, prosperity and development.

NB The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited China and Hong Kong during October 1986. She visited Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Kunming, Guangzhou and Hong Kong. She met all the senior Chinese leaders: President Li Xiannian, General Secretary Hu Yaobang, Premier Zhao Ziyang and of course Deng Xiaoping. Sightseeing highlights included the Terracotta Warriors and the Great Wall, where the Queen took her own photographs. In Shanghai, amongst

the greetings were the chimes of Big Ben from the building which normally sounds 'The East is Red'. The Queen hosted a banquet aboard the Royal Yacht, Britannia, moored at Shanghai, for the Chinese President Li and his wife.

UK decision to ban Huawei

The UK government's decision to ban Huawei 5G equipment and services "had nothing to do with national security," and was because of American pressure. Speaking at an event on Monday, Vince Cable, who served as Business and Industry minister for five years in the coalition government led by David Cameron, said that the decision against the Chinese tech giant was taken "because the Americans told us we should do it." In July 2020, Boris Johnson's government announced that Huawei products would be removed entirely from the UK's 5G networks by the end of 2027, citing new advice produced by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). The move came just months after the United States imposed sanctions against Huawei on the grounds that it was acting contrary to US national security or foreign policy interests. The US barred Huawei from acquiring crucial components such as microchips and forced it to create its own operating system.

Cable, who has a reputation for being more sympathetic towards China than most UK officials, added that during his tenure as minister, the intelligence and security services gave repeated assurances that there was no risk posed by using Huawei services. "If Britain had kept with 5G, we would now be at the forefront of countries using the most advanced technologies. And we're not," said Cable. (*From Internet, Benjamin Fox EURACTIV 17/1/22*)

LONDON, Feb. 16 (Xinhua) -- Britain relied on China more than ever before in 2021 in terms of trade, as Chinese goods accounted for a seventh of all British imports, The Telegraph has reported.

"Dependency on China has steadily grown over the past decade and reached a record high of 14 pct of total imports in 2021," Ana Boata, an economist at credit insurance company Euler Hermes, was quoted by the British newspaper on Friday as saying.

China exported 63.5 billion pounds of goods to Britain last year, about 12 billion pounds more than from Germany and 26 billion pounds more than from the United States, said the report, citing the latest statistics.

China Eye Diary

Next year (2022) is the Year of the Tiger. Years are in a sequence of twelve animals: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

2021; Year of the Ox
2022, Year of the Tiger
2023, Year of the Rabbit,
2024, Year of the Dragon

Chinese Festivals for 2022

5 April, Qing Ming (Tomb Sweeping)
3 June, Dragon Boat Festival
4 August, Chinese Valentine Day
10 September, Mid-Autumn Festival
1 October, National Day (usually a week-long holiday)
4 October, Chong Yang (Chinese Elders' Day)

The Chinese Year of the Tiger

The Chinese name for tiger is 'hu. When the Lord Buddha called all the animals to him, the tiger came third after the rat and the ox.

People born in the year of the Tiger are said to be brave, wise and strong and big and bold in their business dealings. They can make a fortune and then lose it. So 2022 could be an explosive year in many ways, especially in a business venture. But a tiger can breathe new air into a project. A tiger likes to be the centre of attention, is quick tempered but is sincere and always gives 100% of himself. Some famous tigers include, Queen Elizabeth II, Lady Gaga, Stevie Wonder and Leonardo Di Caprio.

Jacqueline Buksh

Some Notable Chinese Historical Characters

Li Qingzhao, Chinese woman poet



Li Qingzhao (Jinan Museum, Shandong) (WF).

Li Qingzhao (1094 to after 1155) is regarded by some scholars as China's greatest woman poet. She was born into a scholar-official family which had a large book collection. She was thus well educated and wrote poetry from an early age. She married and lived happily but during the Jin-Song Wars, she and her husband fled to Nanjing taking what

possessions they could. However, they lost much of their collection of books, paintings, bronzes and inscriptions

Her husband died in 1129 and she never recovered from this event. However, she did remarry but it was not a happy union. Her new husband obtained a government post using a fraudulent CV. She demanded a separation and exposed his wrongdoing. By doing this, she violated the Confucian code of loyalty to a husband. She was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, but was released after nine days due to the intervention of an influential relative of her first husband.

According to the Wikipedia, craters on Mercury and Venus are named after her.

Further reference; Mair VH, Sanping C and Wood F, *Chinese Lives*, Thames & Hudson, London 2013.

Zu Chongzhi, the Chinese Pi man

Zu Chongzhi (429-500) was a famous Chinese astronomer, mathematician and engineer. He was born into a learned family and studied natural science, literature and philosophy. Amongst his research projects, he calculated that the value of π was between 3.1415926 and 3.1415927. He did his calculations over 1,000 times to come to this conclusion. In fact, he was continuing the work of Liu Hui, who lived 200 years before him. Zu was the first person in the world to calculate π to seven places of decimals and was about 1,000 years ahead of any Western scientist.



From Learn Chinese (Peoples Education)

He became well-known and Japanese scientists called π , the 'Zu Ratio.' Recently he has been honoured, by having a crater on the back of the moon named after him.

NB. π is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.

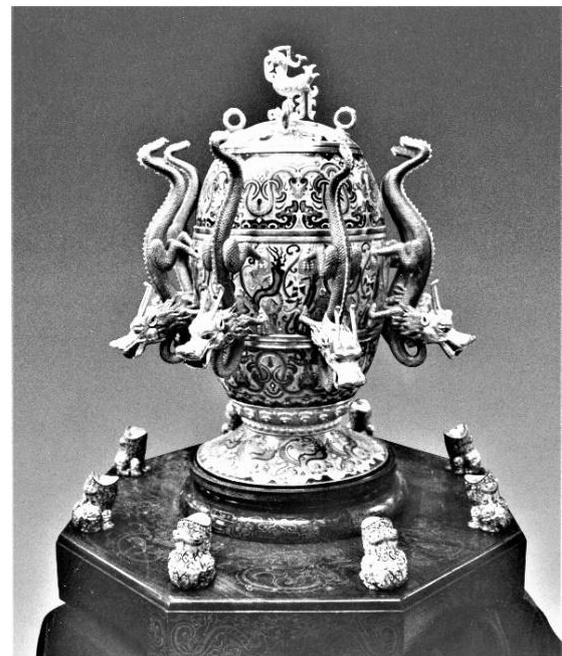
Reference; 'Chinese Culture', Higher Education Press Beijing 2006

Zhang Heng and the seismograph

Zhang Heng (78 -139) was a famous astronomer who constructed many astronomical instruments including a device which can be described a 'celestial globe'. This allowed positions of the celestial bodies, sun, moon planet and stars etc to be recorded and predicted.

He lived in the Han Dynasty and invented other devices including a seismograph, which gave warning of earthquakes. His device could report tremors in remote places and could predict major earthquakes by detecting minor tremors.

His inspiration for the device came when his chariot stopped suddenly and he was nearly thrown out of his carriage by inertia. He constructed a large copper vessel about eight feet in diameter and placed on the outside, eight dragon figures with their heads pointing downwards and set in eight directions: east, west, north, south, northeast, southeast, northwest and southwest. In the mouth of each dragon he placed a copper ball and under each, he placed a copper toad with its mouth wide open. Inside the large vessel was a complicated mechanism which was stable and in equilibrium in normal times. However, when a slight tremor occurred, a pendulum activated a lever in the direction of the quake which opened the mouth of the dragon of that direction. This released a ball which fell into the mouth of the toad below. The device was so well designed that only one mouth would open in the direction of the quake, the others remaining closed.



Photograph from SACU collection

Reference. *Ancient Chinese Inventions* by Deng Yinke, Cambridge University Press 2011.

Reading About China Plus

China Eye readers will recall the regular contribution by Dr Haris Livas-Dawes who passed away about four years ago. I think it is a good idea to recommence this series of articles. SACU members are invited to send in a review or short article on books they have just read – or read many years ago - about China. Anything from 1,000 words to a short paragraph is welcome. However, they must contribute to friendship and understanding of China

China: Engage. Avoid the New Cold War by Vince Cable (Bite-Sized Books Ltd 2020)

I regard this book as extremely valuable and useful in understanding China especially in the current situation. Vince Cable is eminently qualified to write it. His experience includes Chief Economist of Shell, cabinet minister in the Coalition Government responsible for business, innovation, skills and trade, a former leader of the Liberal Democratic Party and also a visiting professor in Practice at the LSE.

The book has only 88 pages, but is very concise and packed with relevant information and analyses. It is written in very clear and simple English. He first explains China's current position in world trade. When the US and China are assessed in purchasing parity power terms (PPP), China overtook the US as early as 2014. In many ways PPP is a more accurate measure than straight GDP in dollars, because a dollar buys considerably more in China than in the US.

In PPP accounting, the IMF puts the GDP of the US at \$21.4 trillion, that of China at \$24 to 27.3 trillion in 2019.

Sir Vince discusses, the trade situation between the US and China, China's technological advances including artificial intelligence. He discusses the situation in Hong Kong, human rights issues and how both the West and China view each other, the factors involved and the priorities of each side.

Dawn of Victory: Thank you China! Star Shell Reflections 1918-1919. The Illustrated Diaries of Jim Maultsaid. This book is by Barbara McLune, Maultsaid's granddaughter. (Pen & Sword Military Books, Barnsley 2017).

This work records the diary of an officer in the British Army who was in charge of 500 men of the Chinese Labour Corps, (CLC) who contributed to the Allied war effort against the Germans in World War 1. The men were non-combatants but carried out essential manual work such as unloading and loading supplies, digging trenches and after the cessation of hostilities, clearing the battlefields and burying the dead.

The book is illustrated with sketches by Maultsaid and photographs taken at the time. Although he constantly refers to the CLC men, rather patronisingly, as 'his boys' he has a

genuine respect for their customs, points of view and their sometimes, unpredictable and erratic behaviour. He develops an affection for 'his boys' which is reciprocated. At the end of the war, the CLC men want him to accompany them back to China, which he is unable to do.

As a parting gift they produced a banner for him, to which every single one of the 500 men in his company had contributed. 'In a Chinese custom, he dips his finger into a bowl of water saying, 'Farewell!! Farewell!! May the Gods care for you and keep you.' He salutes and 500 Chinese 'boys' bend low. Can I ever forget? No! No! No!'

This is an attractive hard-backed book of 348 pages of glossy quality paper. It covers relatively mundane – but still interesting day-to-day occurrences together with more sobering aspects of war.

Although the 140,000 men of the (CLC) made an important contribution to the Allied war effort, not a single monument was erected to their memory. Over 2,000 lost their lives, but this figure is almost certainly an underestimate. Some analysts put the figure as high as 20,000.

In August 2014, a movement to erect a monument to the men and 'to ensure that we remember them', was initiated by Steve Lau. It was he who recommended this book. The story of the CLC, plus Steve's inaugural speech at the launch of the movement, in London, August 2014, is recorded in China Eye No 43, Autumn 2014.

The Art of Chinese Living An Inheritance of Tradition (in 4 volumes) By Xiang Yao. Published 20th January 2022 by HarperCollins Non-Fiction, Cloth-bound presentation case with four paperback books, £80.00

The Art of Chinese Living records the many traditions of Chinese life and culture. It includes everything from cuisine and history to art and rituals, calligraphy and music to artefacts and interiors, and from widespread national traditions to daily family life. There are over 1,100 stunning pages in four lavish volumes, for, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Included are 10,000 commissioned photographs and illustrations.

The books are in fact a love letter to Chinese culture written by a mother keen to share her passion for Chinese traditions, with her own children, and those of families around the world. The books are for those who wish to rekindle their traditions or those eager to learn more about Chinese history and culture. There are recipes and home-made gift ideas and a timeline of Chinese dynasties and cultural artefacts, *The Art of Chinese Living* is a treasure to share.

This last book was brought to our notice by Katrina Power via Zoe Reed, SACU Chair.

China Eye Quiz Answers

1. c) 'Tibet' is the name used in other countries, 'Bod' is used by Tibetans themselves, while China uses 'Xizang' meaning 'Western Treasury of Buddhist texts'.

2. d) The number four in Chinese is 'si' which unfortunately sounds like the Chinese for 'die'. To avoid the bad luck some buildings do not have a fourth floor and streets do not have a house number four.

3. c) The Portuguese were at Macau in 1557. At the time Portugal was the leading sea power and set up trading posts throughout much of the Far East.

4. c) Encouraged by the continuing prosperity of Hong Kong, China under Deng Xiaoping set up the first SEZs in southern China in 1980. More were created in 1984 all over China.

5. b) The swiftlet (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*) produces its nest mainly out of saliva. The saliva gives a gelatinous texture to soup and that is why it is used rather than for its flavour. It is an expensive ingredient; one kg may cost £1,500.

6. d) In December 2013 Chang'e 3 landed on the moon and launched a rover called 'Jade Rabbit' 月兔 Yùtù that trundled around for a day or so. The rover is named after the legend that a rabbit lives on the moon.

7. a) The famous journey, fictionalized in the 'Journey to the West' brought many scriptures back to China from India. Tang Emperor Taizong built the Great Wild Goose Pagoda at Xi'an to house the books.

8. b) The S.C.O. was set up in 2001 at Shanghai as a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance a bit like NATO, Its members include China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan - China's western and northern neighbours.

9. d) Although the Mongols declared themselves Emperors of China in 1271 it took until 1279 to take over southern China. They ruled until 1368 so that is 89 years.

10. c) Leshan has the Giant Buddha 'Dafo' 233 feet [71 meters] high carved into a cliff during the Tang dynasty - the largest Buddha in the world.

11. c) Yellow is a very auspicious colour in China, it is probably best translated as 'golden' as that gives to a non-Chinese a better idea of its attributes. Yellow was the colour of Qing dynasty Imperial robes and the roofs of Imperial buildings.

12. a) If there is a zero in the number you need to put 零 líng in the sequence.

13. a) Qingdao means 'blue-green island' and it remained a small fishing village for many centuries. The Germans took control in 1898 as a treaty port and held it until 1914. It is a popular beach resort on the Shandong peninsular.

14. c) The name was given by early European traders who rendered Guangdong (the name of the province) as Canton. Guangzhou is the name of the city. The character 州 'zhou' means administrative centre or prefecture and is part of many Chinese city names.

15. d) A word of universal importance, particularly ages ago when almost everybody worked the land, is the one for rain. It is a picture of little drops falling downwards from the sky.

16. d) Harbin holds an annual ice sculpture fair at Zhaolin Park from January to March, reflecting the really long, cold winters (typically -30° C). It gets so cold that fruit and milk are sold in frozen form. Lanterns made out of ice feature at the Chinese New Year festival here.

17. a) The great schools of Chinese thought all began in the period leading up to the Qin dynasty. The Eastern Zhou dynasty is normally divided between the Spring and Autumn and the Warring States periods.

18. d) The Tropic of Cancer marks the northernmost places where the sun can be seen directly overhead in the northern hemisphere. The line runs through many desert areas.

19. a) It was near Jingdezhen, Jiangxi that the first deposits of kaolin (China Clay) were discovered and exploited. Huge amounts of porcelain have been produced there since the Song dynasty

20. c) The Lantern festival occurs on the full moon following Chinese New Year and so is two weeks after it. Traditionally lanterns are lit and lion dances take place.



Tibetan prayer flags at a sacred site outside of Lhasa. The cyclists said they had cycled all the way from Nepal. (WF)

STANDING UP TO RACISM



A March Against Racism, as part of the UN Anti Racism Day 2022, was held on Saturday 19th March in London and Glasgow; also, on 20th March in Cardiff

It was organised by 'Stand up to Racism' and by the TUC and was supported by a range of trade unions, community and faith groups and campaigns.

SACU joined the 'Standing up to Sinophobia' and anti-Chinese and East and South East Asian racism. In the last two years there has been a staggering 50% increase in racist attack on these ethnic groups.

Marches can achieve much, but even more can be accomplished by letters written in to newspapers. The more letters, the more effective. Andrew Hicks has drafted the below statement. The wording can be used by members of SACU to send in to their own local newspapers. (You can copy the text from the SACU newsletter or China Eye No 73 on the website, www.sacu.org.uk) Remember, the more letters – the greater the impact.

'The Black Lives Matter campaign focuses on racism and discrimination against all peoples and cultures. Sadly however, in recent years and since Trump's insistence on calling Covid 'the Chinese virus', ugly racist incidents targeted at Chinese people have hugely increased.

As British people we have no basis for suspicion of China as a newly successful nation. In fact, we have many examples of allegiance between our nations. China sent a hundred thousand labourers to assist our soldiers on the Western Front in World War One. In World War Two, China was a crucial ally. China refused to surrender and tied down huge Japanese armies, diminishing Japan's strength against the allies in the Pacific.

After the Cold War had ended, China released the entrepreneurial and capitalistic instincts of its huge populace and pulled hundreds of millions out of poverty. Through trading with them we have now become close commercial partners which has benefitted our economy.

Nations such as ours do have particular personal characteristics. These are hard to define whether Chinese or British, but it's worth a try. Think of an energetic, patriotic northern culture, having strong traditions of politeness, honesty and social order, quite hierarchical, relying on closely bonded social groups, sometimes shy but warm and humorous when approached, their lives being based around the essential institution of the family, though moving from being a strongly patriarchal society to giving greater equality to women, having a strong work ethic with people always keen to improve their condition in life and wanting their leaders to give them prosperity and stability.

So, who am I attempting to profile, the Chinese or the British? My point is that we are remarkably similar and my description can cover both peoples. Despite past assertions that the Chinese are strange and inscrutable, we are in fact much more similar than different. This gives a strong foundation for friendship and confounds any racists.

It surprises my friends when I tell them that the Chinese have great respect for our traditions of parliamentary democracy, for our legal system and education. The evidence for this is clear as Chinese families are keen to send their children to our private schools and our universities where they are by far the largest group of overseas students.

Here in Britain, we have a fine tradition of accepting different races into our country and should be proud of our humanitarian instinct to oppose mindless racism. We must be alert to the threat of a growing racism against Chinese people, which is totally contrary to our best British traditions and it must be vigilantly guarded against. It is not who we are'



Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding

