

China Eye



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

Summer 2022

Number 74



Contents include:

Keith Ray-an Appreciation

Standing up to Sinophobia

China and Ukraine

Ancestor Veneration and Portraiture

The Year of Tourism and Culture, Italy and China

East Side Voices

Reading About China Plus

Observations on East West Differences

Chinese Meticulous Painting

Dragon Boat Racing

Sino File and China Eye Diary

CHINA EYE

Summer 2022 Issue No 74

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**The Autumn issue (Number 75) of China Eye will be available in early September 2022. Please send news or articles for inclusion before 20 August 2022 to Walter Fung, 11 Collyhurst Avenue, Walkden, Worsley, Manchester M28 3DJ. Tel 0161 799 6944,
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Front cover: Four Girls National Park, Sichuan (WF)
Back cover; Dragon Boat Racing at Salford Quays (WF)
All photographs are by the authors except where stated.

Welcome summer 2022

I am afraid anti-China media reports have continued. Some of the letters sent into newspapers are especially disturbing. They show how negatively China is viewed by certain members of the press and general public. Some comments can only be described as; vitriolic'. These are clearly based on biased media reports and attitudes of politicians, especially some senior Tory MPs, concerned about the 'rise of China.' Liz Truss, the new UK Foreign Secretary, delivered a speech which was especially frightening.

The situation in the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean is a continuing cause for concern. The most notable event is China's agreements with the Solomon Islands. More such agreements could be following with Chinese officials visiting about eight other island nations in the Pacific Ocean. One analyst believes that the West has neglected this area, which is why the island nations are prepared to hold serious discussions with the Chinese

The Chinese military is relatively very small for a country of its economic size and population. If China was not strong militarily, it would be vulnerable to blockades by stronger nations wanting to effect regime change or for commercial advantage – as what happened in the past – and not so long ago. China has just one small military base in Djibouti close to the Middle East, where a large proportion of its oil comes from. This is compared to the dozens, if not hundreds, of foreign military bases, some very close to the Chinese mainland.

It is notable that despite the alliances of the Quad and AUKUS, only two Asian nations are involved; Japan and India. The others are the US, UK and Australia. None of China's other 13 immediate neighbours or other Asian nations appear to be sufficiently concerned to join these alliances despite the efforts of successive US Secretaries of State. NATO has about 30 members. There are certainly 'cold war attitudes but ignorance and misunderstanding are also significant factors. This has apparently been recognised and has prompted the report published by the Higher Education Policy Institute which is detailed below.

'UK lacks sufficient understanding of China to make sensible decisions, finds higher education policy report' (From the Guardian 31/3/22)

Despite the growing importance of China in the world, research by the Higher Education Policy Institute (Hepi) concluded the UK lacks sufficient knowledge and understanding of China to "make sensible decisions".

The report says the decision to remove Huawei from UK networks in light of perceived security risks, (estimated cost £500m) could have been avoided if there had been greater understanding and awareness of China. within the UK government".

Hepi finds, the number of Chinese studies students has not increased in the past 25 years and there has been a decline in the number of Chinese studies departments in UK universities. In schools, China is "largely absent" from curricula.

The Hepi report is based on interviews with more than 40 experts in education, government and business and calls for the government to publish a strategy to build China information literacy in the UK, and to consider targeted funding for university Chinese studies and also to help train school teachers to cover modern China. This is long overdue.

In the report, Rana Mitter, professor of Chinese history and politics at the University of Oxford, said: "In a post-Covid world, the way that China responds to everything from science funding to global supply chains will have direct impacts on the UK. There will be debates on how to deal with China but those debates can no longer afford to take a swift and superficial view.

The report author, Michael Natzler, added: "Regardless of the levels of scepticism or support for China's activities there is an expert consensus that the UK lacks sufficient knowledge and understanding of China.

No serious racist incidents in the UK have been reported within the last period. This issue of China Eye includes a couple of articles on standing up to racism and especially Sinophobia. There never has been a more appropriate time for SACU promoting friendship and understanding.

The UN Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet was in China and Xinjiang in late May. Shortly before the tour, Adrian Zenz, a self-styled campaigner against communism, produced more revelations. Some news media columnists have criticised Bachelet's visit and some leading Western figures have called for her resignation; one called the tour a 'Chinese Propaganda Tour', which was highly restrictive. Apparently, Bachelet appeared to accept that the policies in Xinjiang are to tackle terrorism and radicalisation. She was reported to have had some concerns and asked for some procedures to be reviewed but she praised China's poverty alleviation, universal healthcare and China's support for UN policies. (*Yahoo News*)

Quotes from the past:

Although 'White Supremacy' is apparently still believed by some, understanding between nations today is better than that of 150 years ago – and at least many nations today are capable of defending themselves. This is a quote by Lord Palmerston, British Foreign Secretary, not so long ago.

'These half-civilised governments such as that of China require a dressing down every 8 or 10 years to keep them in order. Their minds are too shallow to receive an impression that will last longer.'

On a happier note, please see the report on Dragon Boat Racing at Salford Quays and the photographs on the back cover of this issue of China Eye.

Walter Fung

Can you contribute to SACU's Mission?

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

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

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

SACU Council strives to achieve these aims but needs 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.

Membership

Membership is open to all who subscribe to SACU's aims. Membership applications and renewals can be made online by logging into SACU's online membership account from our website: <https://sacu.org/join.html>

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 |

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Online: pay with PayPal using your PayPal account or credit/debit card, by logging into SACU's online membership account from our website: <https://sacu.org/join.html>

Offline: bank transfer, standing order, cheque, recurring PayPal subscription plan – please email for details: membership@sacu.org.uk

Cheques may be made payable to SOC FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING LTD and send to: Mrs Rosamund Wong, SACU Membership Secretary, c/o 27 Portland Close, Bedford MK41 9NE, Mobile: 07906 956426 email: membership@sacu.org.uk

Your email address will be used only for SACU purposes. It will not be passed to any other person or organisation without your permission. In circulars such as the **SACU Email newsletter** your email details will be 'blind' and not visible to others.

SACU Newsletter

We circulate a monthly email newsletter for members, which lists notices of forthcoming events, member news, and links to topical information that we consider will be of interest to SACU members. Members are invited to send items for inclusion to the SACU newsletter team.

The newsletter is emailed to all members. For your copy, please let the newsletter editor have your current email

address by email: membership@sacu.org.uk
Please remember, you can unsubscribe at any time.

SACU's Digital Communications

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SACU suspended 'live' events because of the coronavirus pandemic. We have since held our events, Council and Executive Committee meetings on Zoom, with a successful 'hybrid' AGM. SACU's membership is spread across the UK and beyond and Zoom has enabled us to reach more of our members and the public than we did when holding physical meetings. We will therefore continue to hold some online and some hybrid events.

We are 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. Please do check our digital communications channels for details of new SACU events as they become available.

SACU's three Working Groups meet by Zoom on SACU Council days to plan more events and activities.

The working groups would welcome more members to join: if you would like to be involved, please contact us.

Ros Wong, membership@sacu.org.uk

Report on Working Groups by Jacob Holliday

SACU's Working Groups meet by Zoom on SACU Council days to plan more events and activities. The most recent working groups meeting was on 23rd April. There were three working groups:

The **Membership Development** working group discussed how the monthly SACU members' newsletter is produced. One outcome of the discussion was that it would be good include more content about Chinese culture and daily life. Also, the process of collating and editing content for the newsletter is quite a big job, so we are looking to expand the editing team – volunteers are very welcome!

The **AGM** working group discussed plans for SACU's upcoming AGM, which will take place on 24th September. Plans are still at an early stage, but we are planning a full

day of exciting events alongside the meeting itself. We are planning a 'hybrid' event, with members able to attend either in person or virtually.

The **Social Media** working group discussed the development of SACU's social media strategy. We are planning to expand the range of content that we share to include SACU members' personal 'China stories.'

All SACU members are invited to attend working groups meetings to contribute to discussion about future SACU events and activities. The next working groups meeting will take place in the afternoon on **Saturday 23rd July** on Zoom. **Please keep an eye on the members' newsletter for further updates.**

SACU has two new Council Members, introduced here by Zoe Reed.

Shanshan Lou joined SACU in 2022. She has been involved in a few UK China culture exchange events while she was doing the linguistics PhD research in York. She taught Mandarin in York Chinese School since 2016 and supported the events including Belt and Road forum in York, KF Class Engine at Railway Museum. She is enthusiastic to promote the mutual understanding of UK and Chinese culture. Shanshan will be helping to co-ordinate SACU's AGM.

Jinzhao Li has worked in education and culture for over two decades. With roots in both Cambridge and China, and a deep and sympathetic understanding of both British and Chinese culture, Jinzhao and partners founded the China Cambridge Centre in 2017. They have a great passion for facilitating cross-cultural communications and for bringing people together. Jinzhao is assisting Ros in the role of membership secretary and eventually will be taking over the post from Ros.

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**

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Tel: 01422 368482 or email: mail@anneallan

Website: www.cbpsvorks.co.uk

China and the Ukraine; SACU Panel Discussion held on 25th May

This zoom meeting was considered a success with over 100 persons present on zoom. The event was recorded and is available online and so only a very brief summary is included here. There was no time for members' discussion and so this was arranged as a separate event on 9th June for SACU members only.

Keith Bennet chaired the discussion. The Panel comprised; Jenny Clegg, Wang Qi (Chinese Embassy) Konstantinos Telmonis (KCL), Martin Jacques, John Gittings and Victor Gao, an experienced diplomat and academic speaking from China.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is something China did not want to happen. However, China does believe that NATO's expansionist policy contributed. China believes in the sovereignty of nations and non-interference in other countries. China in fact did not endorse the annexation of Crimea. China advocates and supports peace negotiations. The situation of Taiwan is not the same as that of Ukraine, as the Western media make out. Ukraine is a sovereign independent nation, whilst Taiwan is a province of China.

China considers the bigger picture - the long-term situation, promoting peace and stability. China believes in the UN Charter and rejects the 'cold war mentality'. Peace talks should be promoted. The Ukraine situation has been building up over the years.

China has sent humanitarian aid to Ukraine and to European countries which have accepted refugees.

The nations of the world should be working together for prosperity, security against terrorism and climate change. NATO claims to be a defensive alliance, but in fact has relations with Mongolia and there is a listening post in that country monitoring both Russia and China. Does NATO have legitimacy in Mongolia?

Victor Gao thought that the war could lead to nuclear weapons being used, if it was allowed to escalate or the Russians were pushed into a corner. World War III is a real possibility.

A recording of the event is available on You tube via the SACU website

SACU members are requested to study the monthly SACU e mail newsletter, which provides news, information and details of webinars and events about China and Chinese culture. In the last period webinars have been given by CARG (Covid Anti Racism) and the No Cold War organisation.

The newsletter gives links to important news items and other information. These are generally sent in by Keith Bennett to whom we owe our thanks.

SACU Northwest Annual New Year Dinner held at Pin Wei Chinese Restaurant, Manchester

The gathering, this year was postponed for a couple of months because of concerns of the pandemic. Eventually 12 SACU members living within easy travelling distance to the centre of Manchester, enjoyed a meal and get-together on 9th April. Most attendees lived in the Manchester area, but there were two members who had travelled from Leeds. After the meal, a few of us relocated to a local coffee shop.



Photograph by Yumin Guo

The Scotland China Association AGM on 27th May 2022

The Annual Scotland China Association (SCA) AGM was held in person, in Edinburgh and on zoom. Seven members attended by zoom, including two in China.

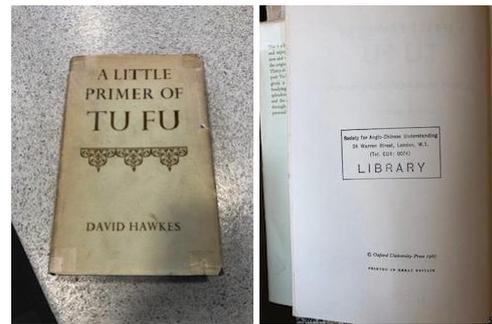
The Convenor, Valerie Pellatt delivered the annual report. Over the past year there were some restrictions to activities due to the pandemic, such as the Schools Competition, but events continued online, via zoom, at the usual frequency of one per month.

There were contribution reports from the Glasgow and the Edinburgh branches. The Association is generally healthy, but needs more members, especially younger people. The financial position was satisfactory, especially when a bequest of £10,000 from Janice Dickson was included.

The Chinese Consul for Scotland paid tribute to the contribution the work of the SCA – a driving force for positive China-UK relations.

After the business part of the meeting, Wendy Alexander of Dundee University gave a talk on Scotland's associations, especially missionary activity, with Northeast China in the early 20th century. Some of her relations were involved. Local archivists are trying to create a museum to record Scottish links to that part of China

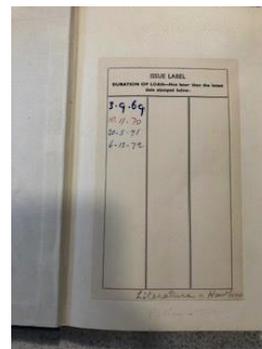
A Little Primer of TuFu - SACU Library book returned, after 50 years!



I was pleased to receive this book in the post recently, from Hugo de Burgh, SACU member and Walt Disney Chair in Global Media and Communications, Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University and Director, China Media Centre, London, UK.

清华大学苏世民书院迪士尼全球媒体与交流讲席教授
and 英国伦敦中国传媒中心主任

On closer inspection though I realised it was a little late – borrowed from SACU's library in December 1972!



Hugo, who had found the library book amongst his mother's effects, said

Actually, it is rather embarrassing to think that she had it for 50 years! She knew Derek and Hongying Bryan (then stalwarts of SACU) and, when I was studying Far Eastern History, decided she ought to know more about China and went to one or two meetings.

From our point of view, we are delighted to receive a piece of SACU history and to know that it has been carefully looked after – for 50 years! Thanks very much for the return, Hugo!

Zoë Reed, SACU Chair

NB. The story of Hongying, who was born and grew up in China, during difficult times, was written into a book, entitled *Fragments of a Life* by Innes Herdan, a former SACU Vice-president. Hongying eventually studied at Oxford University. She married Derek Bryan, a British consul in China.

Keith Ray-An Appreciation



SACU was saddened to learn of the passing of Keith Ray. Keith was born on 7th May 1948 in Hartford, Cheshire. He was educated at Sir John Dean Grammar School and later went on to Clare College, Cambridge University. After he arrived, he was awarded a scholarship for the rest of his time there. He obtained an MA degree in Engineering and later a PhD. He briefly worked for Northampton Council and then as an external management consultant for the Mars Company until his retirement. Keith often travelled to the Mars factory and office in Beijing. His interest and love of China stems from these visits and of course from his Chinese wife, Teresa.

Both he and Teresa contributed much to SACU. Teresa keyed in for the SACU magazine, China in Focus whilst Keith was business Editor. Keith was on SACU Council for about 11 years altogether from June 2001 to April 2012. As well as his activities with SACU, Keith wrote 16 books altogether, a number of them on novel subjects including; *The Strangest Aircraft of All Time*, *Bizarre Cars and '0-60 in 120 years*. His last book, of which he was particularly enthusiastic, was about Straight Eight engines.

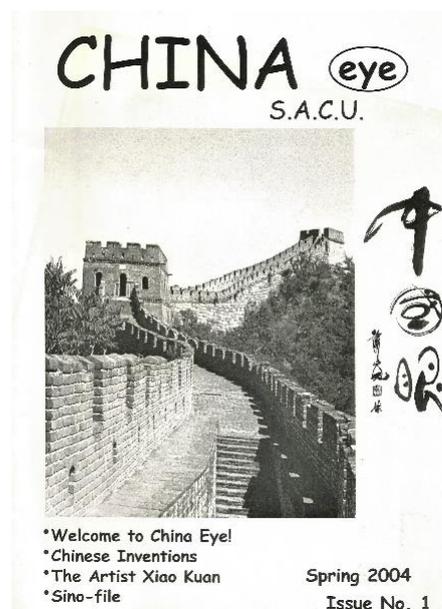
Keith had a special interest in anything to do with cars, railways and engineering. He once posted all the cars he had owned on Facebook and he wrote an article on the Chinese car industry in China in Focus, Issue 13. But he had much wider interests. Keith did voluntary work for Marlow Museum and the Marlow Society. In addition, he was an active trustee for Relate and helped Mid Thames Relate with financial planning.

Other articles for SACU included, China's influence on the English Country Garden, the Grand Canal in China, the History of Kites and the Walled City in Hong Kong;

China in Focus was printed professionally and by 2003 had become too expensive for SACU's then limited membership and budget. The solution was a new magazine, printed by photocopying, which was considerably cheaper. This new magazine combined a paper newsletter with the magazine.

It was Keith who gave the new publication its name, 'China Eye'. The first issue was published in Spring 2004. I volunteered to be the new editor – a position which I still hold today. My computer skills were very limited and for the next 12 years, Keith selected suitable photographs for the front cover and back cover of the magazine and formatted them in a form ready for photocopying.

He wrote some articles specially for the new magazine, which was still finding its feet and had not yet attracted many contributors. He gave me much help and encouragement in those early years of the magazine. I still credit Keith with China Eye cover design even though there have been some modifications.



The first China Eye, in which Keith had considerable input.

Keith was responsible for the Chinese heading, which has appeared on the covers ever since Number 1. If you can read Chinese, China Eye is written in clever artistically stylised Chinese characters. This was the work of Xiao Kuan, a famous Chinese artist, who was approached by Keith for this task. A profile of Xiao Kun appeared in China Eye No.1, translated by Lihua Liu.

For one SACU AGM, Keith arranged for Roel Sterckx, the Joseph Needham Professor of Chinese History, Science and Civilisation at Cambridge University to speak to us.

SACU is grateful for Keith's contribution and support over many years and sends its condolences to his wife, Teresa, son Marcus and grandson Casper.. He will always be remembered especially on page 2 of every copy of China Eye.

Teresa and Marcus arranged a memorial event at Marlow on the afternoon of 7th May. This followed a service at Amersham Crematorium in the morning. Rob Stallard, a SACU Vice-president represented SACU.

Walter Fung

Standing Up to Sinophobia-The Universality of Racism by Andrew Hicks

Andrew is a member of SACU Council. He is a retired lawyer who has had many years' experience in the Far East including Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand. He is a regular contributor to China Eye.

Earlier this year, Andrew drafted a letter for members to send to their local newspapers to complain about racism. Please see the back cover of China Eye No 73. 'Stand up to Racism.'

If you are reading this you must be a member of this planet's most dominant species and will have come across debates as to whether we humans are essentially good or evil. The truth though is rarely found by making a simple choice between binary opposites. We are of course a bit of both, though it is ironic that each of these characteristics is in fact the opposite side of the same coin. Our sometimes ugly racism is the flip side of an extraordinary altruism and willingness to subordinate our own personal interest for the wider benefit of the group.

Our mammalian predicament compels us to struggle for survival and our race has been spectacularly successful primarily because we hunt in packs. We work together for the common good and uniquely among mammals we support the injured or sick who would not survive without collective help. The family, the tribe or other group is the key to our survival against all challenges.

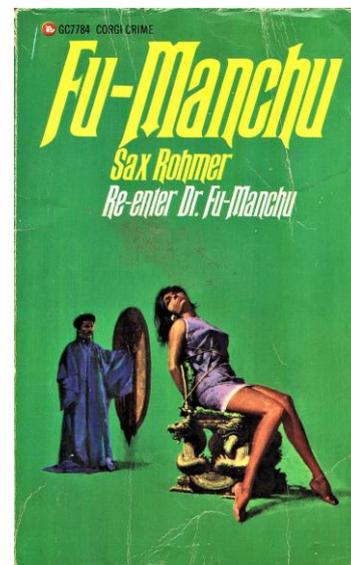
At first, we had natural predators such as lions and bears. We hunted and gathered and then grew crops and raised animals at which point natural predators were no longer a threat. However, with expanding human populations and competition for land and resources our enemies soon became other groups of humans. The new pattern then emerged that humans do good and support those within their own group but of necessity are capable of great evil towards those of opposing groups. Our human enemies we thus vilify, hate and fear, racism being an aspect of this tribalism.

In our personal relations we are naturally at ease with those like ourselves with whom we can relate most easily but are suspicious of others who are different in race, culture and language whether or not actual fear is justifiable. This response is the basis for a universal human racism, the corollary of our fine altruism towards those within our own group. It may be uncomfortable to suggest that racism is thus a normal and natural characteristic of humankind; what is more important is to understand why we are that way, that racism is the other side of our admirable ability to bond together in groups.

Racism comes in many forms and on a spectrum of toxicity. It ranges from an active hatred of physical difference through to an unthinking assumption that the other is our inferior. Repeating lazy racial stereotypes can also be highly offensive, though an accusation that this is racism will probably provoke an angry denial from the offender.

Current dialogue about racism tends to focus on asserting that black lives matter but we also have to stand up to Sinophobia. Racism against blacks that would stir up a storm, when aimed at Chinese or other Asians can pass by without criticism. Particularly since Trump called covid 'the Chinese disease', racist attacks against ethnic Chinese have hugely increased in the US and UK. One has to ask what created this negative perception.

I have beside me on my desk a novel called *Re-enter Dr. Fu-Manchu* by Sax Rohmer, reprinted as recently as 1967 despite its overt racist portrayal of the Chinese. The blurb on the back reads, 'Imagine a person, tall, lean, and feline; high-shouldered with a brow like Shakespeare and a face like Satan: a close-shaven skull and long magnetic eyes of the true cat green. Invest him with all the cruel cunning of an entire eastern race, accumulated in one giant intellect. With all the resources of science, past and present; with all the resources of a wealthy government - which, however, already has denied all knowledge of his existence. Imagine that malevolent being and you have a mental picture of the yellow peril incarnate in one man, Fu-Manchu.'



In addition to this inflammatory language, on the front cover is an image of the man-devil with a long, flowing Chinese robe and moustache, in front of him 'one of our girls' in a skimpy dress securely lashed to a Chinese chair entwined with dragons. It seems unlikely Fu-Manchu is going to be nice to her.

Sax Rohmer produced thirteen Fu-Manchu novels between 1913 and 1959 selling millions and powerfully promoting the stereotype of the Chinese evil criminal genius and the Yellow Peril of Orientals invading and threatening the western nations. Surprisingly ghost writers produced further Fu-Manchu novels between 1984 and 2012. Many of the novels were filmed and a negative and racist perception of Chinese people was portrayed and promoted. It would not surely be possible to publish so slanderous a depiction of a racial group if the targets were black.

As the biggest economy and population in the world, China has long been feared for its size and potential power. Suspicion has been based on perceptions of a distant and

unfamiliar culture of clever people with an ancient civilisation that could easily threaten us in our own lands. We are further divided by language and different writing systems. We have had direct contact only since the nineteenth century unlike say India or Africa which we have known for longer and better. The communist revolution further set us apart and the years of the Cold War was a time of fully expressed antagonism.

While the reforms and economic success of China since the eighties should be a cause for congratulation and celebration this has instead prompted a competitive response, a fear that China will overtake the West in technological and economic terms and present a significant threat to us. Negative media coverage of China's efforts to maintain its stability and geographical integrity as in Tibet, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the South China Sea and Xinjiang has not improved western perceptions. Then there is the unfortunate origin of covid in Wuhan.

That all this leads to inoffensive Chinese people being attacked in our streets is unthinkable and Sinophobia must be called out. My view is that this is best done not by hysterical self-flagellation and condemning ourselves as a racist nation. Rather we should assert our progress since WWII as a successful multi-cultural nation and say that racism is utterly counter to our tradition as a tolerant and outward looking country that has benefited from successive waves of immigrants from all over the world. I for one certainly feel that my life is enriched by the cultural variety we enjoy in the UK that so greatly relieves our northern European greyness and I abhor any racism that challenges this.

We must also continue the work of SACU in presenting a positive image of the Chinese people, promoting friendship and arguing that our governments should engage positively. It is for us to choose whether China's economic progress is either to become a threat or a promise by developing good relations with them as active commercial partners. Improved relations with China and a more positive portrayal in the media will also do much to minimise the racism against Chinese people which is all too apparent at present in this country.

Reading About China Plus

Dance with the Dragon by Julia Boyd, IB Taurus, 2012 London

The dust-jacket of this book announces 'The Vanished World of Peking's Foreign Colony.'

In a similar way to Shanghai, there was a large number of foreigners residing in Peking (Beijing) from the Boxer Rebellion and prior to the 1949 revolution. The 'colony' included fossil hunters, explorers, philosophers, dropouts, diplomats, writers, missionaries and refugees. They included: Bertrand Russell, the philosopher, Sven Hedin,

the explorer, Wallis Simpson (who married Prince Edward), Peter Fleming, the author, Reginald Johnson, who tutored the Last Emperor and many others. The book describes the social life, the embassy parties and the intrigues and other activities of a privileged social class. The author has used previously unpublished letters and diaries which reveal the foreigners' perceptions and reactions.

I was especially interested because of a description of Feng Yuxiang (The Christian General). The description of Feng baptising his troops with a fire-hose is quoted in many books accounts and regarded as anecdotal because nobody has been able to provide a reference. Here in this book, a reference to this baptism by fire-hose is given as 'Brigadier LF Field, unpublished memoir, Imperial War Museum. Department of Documents: cat.ref.LFF'

The 'baptism' itself is described on page 130 of *Dance with the Dragon*. 'A large number of Feng's soldiers are jam-packed into a large barrack square. A missionary acting for Feng read out a service of baptism and then fire-hoses opened up on them. Afterwards, Feng declared that they were all now Christians and that they had better learn to behave themselves as such'.

BEIJING, April 6 (Xinhua) -- A new book launched by renowned British sociologist Martin Albrow was held simultaneously in Beijing and London, both offline and online.

"*China and the Shared Human Future: Exploring Common Values and Goals*" is the latest book from Albrow, a fellow of the British Academy of Social Sciences (and also a member of SACU).

His previous book, "*China's Role in a Shared Human Future: Towards Theory for Global Leadership*," was published in 2018. Albrow is a pioneer in the study of globalization in the West, and he has focused his research on China's development, systems and governance.

The newly published book is a compilation of his articles about China and centres on a range of topics, including the philosophy of building a community with a shared future for humanity, global governance and China, poverty reduction and elimination, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Belt and Road Initiative, and climate change.

Experts attending the forum agreed that the concept of a community with a shared future for humanity has emerged from the fundamental interests of the people of China and the world, and that it points future globalization in the right direction.

Through an objective analysis, they said, the book notes that building a community with a shared future for humanity is the solution China has presented for world peace, stability and development, and that it will help international scholars understand China's model of governance and development.

Stand-up to Racism by Arron Van Rompaey

Arron is the Project Teams Coordinator for SACU. He is a recent Master's graduate from the King's College London Global Affairs programme, specialising in China's International Relations and Politics.

On the 19th of March 2022, 10,000 people took to the streets of London as part of the Global Day of Protest for UN Anti Racism Day. SACU stood with them, spreading awareness of the rise in Sinophobia and anti-southeast Asian sentiment.

We were also accompanied by a Chinese dancing lion, much to the delight of passers-by both young and old. This lion was the hit of the march, providing joy and movement to an otherwise serious affair. Its inclusion was a superb idea, blending our sombre message of anti-Asian hate with a living example of the joy and culture that Chinese people bring to British society. The lion is the true topic of this article, but first I would like to talk about something a little more serious: prejudice and hatred.



The group in Parliament Square by Hiu Man Chan

They are big topics. They are also evils that unnecessarily divide humanity and blight the lives of countless individuals. According to government statistics, anti-Asian hate crimes have spiked since the start pandemic, with a trebling of instances where the victim identified as Chinese. Sadly, increasing hate-crime statistics like these are seen for many different cultural and ethnic groups today, both in the UK and beyond. Furthermore, these statistics rarely paint a complete picture – hate crimes are notoriously under-reported and fail to consider numerous smaller instances of abuse. By one statistic online anti-Chinese ‘hate-speech’ has increased by as much as 900% since early 2020.

I am not qualified to make broad social commentaries about the causes of the state of the world today, or blame anyone (other than the perpetrators) for attacks against Asian people. In fact, I think I am not alone in feeling confused by the thought of such hateful sentiments. I have never met a person who did not consider themselves to be reasonable, someone who (at least to their own judgement) evaluated the world and responded to it in a correct and proportional way, barring the occasional slip-up. Does this mean that racists are somehow exceptions from the norm? Are they deranged individuals who truly believe that an innocent Chinese

person could cause them or their loved-ones harm, and thus they need to lash out in defence? I sincerely doubt it. I think it is far more likely they fail to consider the personhood of those they hurt. They fail to realise that this person is not an appointed representative of a regime or a group or a way of life. They are not Covid Patient Zero. They are simply a human being trying to get on with their day. They likely share almost every possible commonality with their attacker: they want to be happy and loved, they want to provide for themselves and their families, and they want the British weather to be a little more consistent. We are all human first and foremost, regardless of our external appearance or the cultural heritage we carry with us. Which brings me back to our lion.

As mentioned, the lion was the belle of the ball during the anti-racism march. Its striking appearance meant that SACU got continuous publicity, as everyone wanted a picture with the lion! It was a particular hit with children, with one girl in particular spending as much time as she could playing with the lion. At first, she was afraid of it (which is probably an understatement, she was wailing with tears streaming down her face, it seemed like genuine existential terror), but, after pretending to feed it and some encouragement from her father, her face became a beacon of joy. She was also rather amusingly calling it a dragon, and of course no one had the heart to correct her. In the little girl's defence, I believe this is a very common error, as the lion dance and the dragon dance are both popular Chinese cultural exports, and the lion does not always look particularly lion-like to a western audience. This girl's mistake is completely forgivable (and adorable), but it serves as a metaphor for the cultural preconceptions we all have, and the costume we all carry with us.

The little girl only saw a dragon, which was actually a human being (trying to be a lion). Similarly, people with extreme prejudices might not see the person they hurt as a person. Instead, they see a costume. A costume possibly coloured and decorated by the actions of a government on the other side of the world, but more likely coloured by the media and messaging they were exposed to here in the UK. They see the dragon of their preconceptions, not the human being in front of them.

The message of understanding and friendship between people of the UK and China has been at the forefront of SACU since its inception, but it has never been more relevant than today. We must always strive to remember that, like the Chinese lion, underneath the costume of culture and difference and exoticism, we are all human beings.

The following zips provide information of race motivated crime;

https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/twitter-sees-900-increase-in-hate-speech-towards-china-due-to-coronavirus-120032800240_1.html

The governments statistics on racially motivated hate crime, can be found here

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8537/CBP-8537.pdf>

ANCESTOR VENERATION & PORTRAITURE by David Rosier

During my 30 years of collecting Chinese Imperial Court Costume, I came to rely heavily on Ancestor Portraiture to visualize the full ensemble of regulate court wear. Gradually, however, I came to recognize these scroll paintings as an important category of art which linked to one of the most fundamental aspects of Chinese Culture – *Veneration of one's ancestors*. This article will explore the origins and evolution of ancestor veneration together with the production and usage of Ancestor Portraits in the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368-1911).



Fig:1 Fourth Rank Civil Official -19th century (Met-New York)

Concept of Ancestor Veneration (Chinese Patriarchal Religion) Ancestor veneration transcends China's religions, such as Taoism or Buddhism, and has been described as a *'bedrock faith of all Chinese'*. It has been defined as *'the ritual celebration of deified*

ancestors plus those with an identical clan surname and who are linked to a specific Ancestral Shrine or Hall'. Gods, along with the spirits of ancestors, are considered part of the earth and are therefore neither supernatural nor transcendent. Ancestors are humans that have become 'godly creatures' whilst retaining their individual identities. They are regarded as a connection to Heaven (*Tian*). As with so much of Chinese culture the concept of ancestor veneration is linked with Confucianism which calls for the respect of one's ancestors and is regarded as an aspect of filial piety. The concepts are therefore complimentary and have co-existed for well over 2000 years although ancestor veneration appears to have its origins in the Shang and Zhou Dynasties (1600 – 221 BCE).

The concept (respecting heaven, honouring ancestors, taking care of the funeral, and sacrifices to distant ancestors) was subordinate to Empire/State but was diverse and inclusive. It emphasised the social and moral function of religion and evolved from the worship of Heaven where the emperor (Son of Heaven) was the representative of the people, and the elders, or parents, represented the family or clan.

A person is thought to have multiple 'souls' – most important are the *Hun* and *Po*. On death the *Hun* ascends to heaven and *Po* descends into the grave or resides in a Spirit Tablet. *Po* must be placated through regular offerings and sacrifices either at an Ancestral Hall or, for the masses, a

dedicated temple on prescribed dates. This is regarded as a vital practise because unhappy ancestors are greatly feared. This was very evident as recently as the late 19th/early 20th century when modernisation, particularly railway construction, threatened land where ancestors has been buried. The fear was shared throughout society and included the court, led by the Dowager Empress Cixi who pioneered a range of reforms linked to modernisation and industrialisation. In modern China those fears seem generally to be no longer prevalent given the rapid development of infrastructure across the country in recent decades.



Fig:2 19th century Export Watercolour of an Ancestral Hall (Private Collection)

Evolution of Ancestor Veneration & Portraiture Long established Funeral Rites were designed to provide comfort to the deceased, protection from malevolent spirits, correct separation and direction of the soul, plus appropriate obeisance. Burial would occur at a time set according to status. A delay of 7 months for an emperor down to one month for a commoner. Following the funeral, the Spirit Tablet would be placed in an Ancestral Hall or stored at a communal temple.



Fig:3 Spirit Tablet

Regarding Mourning there were elaborate rituals appropriate to specific religions. The period of mourning reflected the relationship with the deceased but often a period of 3 years was declared, a period linked with the time that an infant is deemed to be totally dependent upon parental care. White is the colour of mourning and Confucianism determined the wearing of sackcloth, a restricted diet, retreat

to a mourning shack and a show of grief at specific times of the day. Clothing would gradually migrate from undecorated white material, for an initial period, to partial decoration on a white ground and then a return to normal clothing. At Court designated periods of ancestor veneration would require, from the emperor downward, the wearing of 'Regular Robes' which had silk grounds of a sombre colour with only subtle designs woven into the brocade.



Fig:4 Regular Robe for Mourning - 19th century (Chris Hall Trust)

The most important festival is the *Qingming Festival* (Tomb Sweeping Day/Ancestor Day) which falls on the 15th day after the Spring Solstice (April 4th/5th or 6th).



Fig: 5 The ritual originates from the *Spring & Autumn Period* (770-476 BCE) but became a formal festival

under the direction of the Tang Emperor, *Xuanzong* (712-756 CE). Grave sites are visited and cleaned with prayers and offerings made.

Regarding Ancestor Portraiture records indicate that the production of images of the deceased date back to at least the Han Dynasty (206 BCE-220 CE). Portraits would appear on funeral banners as the burial party approached the tomb. Sadly though, no examples appear to have survived. Tomb Art in the Han and Tang dynasties was vitally important but was predominantly in the form of wall murals or models of items that would be placed in a tomb and were associated with the needs of the afterlife.

Portraits of the nobles being used for ancestor veneration has been traced to the Tang Dynasty (618-907). It is thought to have developed at the time that Buddhism was fully establishing itself in China. The believe was that the power of the living person resided in the portrait after death.



Fig:6 Tomb Guardian – 8th Century. (Met – New York)

Buddhism arrived, via the Silk Route, in the Han Dynasty, but it was Emperor *Taizong* of the Tang (629-646) who instructed the monk, *Xuanzong* (602-664), to travel to South Asia to collect instructional Buddhist texts. On his return, he spent the remainder of his life translating these into Chinese.

Fig:7 Emperor Gaozong (649-683)



(Smithsonian)

By the Song Dynasty (907-1279) there are records to indicate that portraits, specifically for ancestor veneration, were being painted by court artists. The was the great age of 'Classical Chinese Landscape' painting and portraits were never regarded as a mainstream form of painted art. These paintings, however, were very much an aspect of court ritual art and therefore formed part of

the Imperial Art Collection. Portraits were initially hung in *Founders Hall (Jinling Hall)* in the late 11th century in the capital of *Kaifeng* and were also then displayed, as appropriate, at a tomb, imperial hall, or shrine. The portraits were full length with the subject wearing regulated court costume but with very little furniture or other trappings of wealth. Whilst the facial features were accurately painted, faces were expressionless with the eyes often dull and lifeless. This was partly due to *Court Painting Traditions* but also to the fact that the image would be representing the deceased.

The invading Mongols, who created the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368), were surprisingly enthusiastic about embracing Han Chinese court culture, including ancestor veneration. It was a period that saw the creation of the *Office of Imperial Ancestor Worship* to administer the production and the rituals of displaying portraits in a dedicated *Imperial Portrait Hall*. Whilst court artists produced portraits of the emperor, and his immediate family, the popularity of commemorative portraiture increased rapidly and in

response the number of professional artists, and commercial workshops, increased dramatically.

The Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) resulted in the production and use of Ancestor Portraits becoming a major 'industry' as rising prosperity and imperial patronage saw an ever-broadening section of the upper social classes seeking to create images for future veneration. The second half of the dynasty resulted in a significant number of portraits that have been successfully preserved in, predominately, museums around the world.

Stylistically they tend to mirror Song portraits although by the later years of the dynasty there was the introduction of decorative carpets and a fabric covering to the chair.



Fig:8 Yang Hong – Ming General – 16th century (Smithsonian)

Ming emperors created regulations associated with the ritual calendar and defined which ancestor to venerate and appropriate dates.

Perhaps one of the most significant developments was linked to Emperor Yongle's decision to move his capital from Nanjing to Beijing in 1403. After 17 years of construction the 'new' Imperial City, with the Forbidden City at its heart, was occupied in 1420.

The infrastructure of the Imperial City included a vast imperial hall – *The Imperial Hall of Ancestor Worship (Taimiao)*. This complex is just south of the Forbidden City and consists of 3 halls. The largest, which faces south, was built on a 3-tiered platform surrounded by marble walkways. It housed seats and beds for the storage of imperial spirit tablets for deceased emperors and empresses. These were displayed, together with appropriate ancestor portraits, for rituals performed by the emperor. This building is flanked to the east with a hall dedicated to princes/princesses and to the west a hall for meritorious courtiers. These buildings are long, and narrow compared to the main building.

Ancestor Portraits – Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)

The Qing Dynasty saw the production of ancestor portraits extend to a much broader spectrum of society and resulted in a significant variation of picture composition compared to earlier dynasties.

Whilst there were a vast number of portrait artists their names were not added so as to not draw attention away from the deceased. Individuals were painted in a frontal pose and virtually life-sized. They would be seated on a carved throne, or chair, with a decorative carpet and often additional trappings of a privileged life.

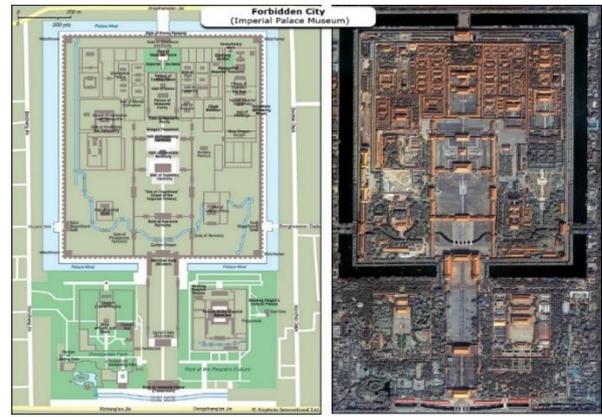


Fig:9 Forbidden City – Imperial Hall of Ancestor Worship (bottom right)



Fig:10 Imperial Hall of Ancestor Worship – Main Hall

The subject would wear their most formal of court costume that clearly demonstrated their rank and status. Having said that I have seen numerous examples, for officials, that contain a mixture of different rank emblems (hat finials/court necklace) that contradicts the insignia of rank badge (*buzi*). I can only speculate this reflected the career progression of the individual during their adult life.

China Eye Diary

Next year is the Year of the Rabbit and 2024 is the Year of the Dragon

The full sequence of twelve animals is; Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

Remaining Festivals for 2022 are: -

- 4th 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)



(Smithsonian)

Fig:11
 Prince Yu –
 1st Rank
 Prince.
 18th Century



Fig:13 Imperial Prince & Wife 18th c
 (Smithsonian)



Fig:12 Imperial Princess-18th c
 (Minneapolis Institute of Art)



Portraits of women, individually or with their husband, were also produced as were multi-generational portraits.

Fig:14 Ming/Qing Multi-generational (Met-New York)



Fig:15 Qing Duke & Wives
(Private Collection)

Whilst emperors, and often the nobility, would have been painted during their lives, the greatest challenge for commercial artists was to accurately reflect the facial features because most of these portraits were painted after the death of the subject. Artists rarely had a formal live sitting with officials or lower nobility, nor access to the body prior to burial. Therefore, the artist would have to depend on verbal descriptions provided by relatives which often proved notoriously contradictory.



Fig:17 Civil Official & Wife – Ancestral Hall



Fig:18 Official's Wife – facial photograph
(Private Collection)

In the 19th century it became fashionable for officials to be painted as a couple, or with multiple wives, often with an ancestral hall surrounded by symbols related to longevity/immortality as a backdrop. These portraits became the most sought-after examples of this art form.

Finally, from the late 1880's onward increasingly photographs of the deceased were deployed on a painted body, and background, so solving the problem related to facial accuracy.

Ancestor portraits were rarely seen by anyone outside the immediate family during the imperial era but after 1911 a proportion became available for sale although, particularly in Southern China, the display of portraits for veneration continues in ancestral halls and temples.

Today these records of Ming and Qing costume of the court have become highly collectable following examples being acquired in the 20th century by Westerners. They command increasingly high prices but, I suspect, retain greater appeal to a Western buyer than a Chinese collector. Interior designers in the West were purchasing ancestor paintings in the late 20th/early 21st century in large quantities. These would often become a central feature in commercial or private oriental themed interiors. Despite, however, the commercial appeal there is still much that scholars of Chinese culture can learn



Fig: 16 Artists Facial Characteristics Album –
19th Century (Peabody Essex Museum)

To overcome this issue, artists would travel with 'pattern books' of facial characteristics (plus examples of costume furniture, and backdrops) that could be built as an identikit image with the agreement of the closest relatives. This resulted in portraits displaying distinct similarities which become obvious when multiple examples are studied. The expressions remained generally sombre and detached but created an appropriate image for the offering of prayers and sacrifices.

The Year of Culture and Tourism between Italy and China by 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.

Two countries with a thousand-year historical heritage and 50 years of diplomatic relations. The Year of Culture and Tourism between Italy and the People's Republic of China was initially scheduled for 2020, to coincide with the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of Italy-China diplomatic relations and looking forward for the positive trend of Chinese tourism in the Peninsula to be confirmed and its growth to consolidate.



Detail of a Roman fresco (photo by Carlo Marino)

It has been postponed due to COVID-19 and the event has been reorganized for 2022 and includes a very varied program of shows and events, both in Italy and in China, with theatrical performances, restoration projects, events on the protection of cultural heritage, film reviews and so on.

In Italy there will be music and dance performances typical of the Chinese tradition and culinary demonstrations.



Venice (Photo by Carlo Marino /Pixabay)

The postponement of the Year of Tourism and Culture has become the symbol of the resumption of the exchange of knowledge and culture between Italy and China, essential to support the revival of the economy.



Roman Houses in Rome - Detail of a Fresco (photo by Carlo Marino)

A forum for tourism cooperation, a photographic exhibition and a concert were planned at the Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome at the presence of the respective leaders of the two tourist departments. Dreams shattered by the Covid-19 pandemic. This was the beginning of stagnation. Three variants and countless lockdowns later, the Italian Minister of Culture Dario Franceschini and his Chinese counterpart Hu Heping try again: 2022 will be the year of cultural exchanges between the two countries.

And now despite the terrible war in Europe. But Culture is the only great opportunity for peace.



Detail of Palazzo Clementi Roma (photo by Carlo Marino)

With Covid now part of everyday life and travel between China and Italy still largely impractical, the program of events for the year of culture is all about digital and bilateral exchanges are now impossible in person. There will be the exhibition on the origins of the Italian nation "Tota Italia", set up last May in the Quirinale stables and ready to leave for Beijing.

China, on the other hand, will make available some statues of the famous terracotta army of Xi'An, which will be gathered in the exhibition "Parallel space".



Statues of the famous terracotta army of Xi'An (Photo by Carlo Marino through Pixabay)



Statues of the famous terracotta army of Xi'An (Photo by Carlo Marino through Pixabay)

An important sign of trust on the part of the People's Republic of China and a confirmation of the fundamental role of artistic production in the consolidation of Italy-China relations. Just as in 2019 China had praised Italy for having returned archaeological finds to the PRC as part of the agreements contained in the memorandum of understanding on the Belt and Road (these were 796 terracotta statuettes stolen in times of war and found in Italy). In the year of Italy-China culture, the terracotta soldiers of Emperor Qin Shi become also the symbol of the fight against the trafficking of archaeological finds carried out by both countries.



Exhibition on the origins of the Italian nation "Tota Italia" (Photo by Carlo Marino)

The bilateral initiatives as revealed by the two countries will make extensive use of technology to bridge the physical gap. A working table will be dedicated to digital technology with the aim of defining efficient and ongoing measures opportunities of access to digital cultural contents by both countries.

As for music, for example, the spearhead of Italian culture and an element much appreciated by the Chinese public, the inauguration concert of the cultural exchange initiatives is held simultaneously between China and Italy thanks to audio and video links. The Ministers agreed that the digital dimension is of particular importance for the realization of the Year of Culture and for the future of the cultural relationship between Italy and China, for the exchange of content for the benefit of both countries.

The Chinese side wanted to praise the Italian action as the rotating G20 Presidency, which resulted in the Rome Declaration of 30 July 2021, which constitutes the basis for a rich future activity of that forum in promoting the role of culture as a growth factor, post-pandemic development and regeneration, for the protection of the environment, for the protection of work and for the safeguarding of cultural heritage. This work is effectively part of the extensive collaboration between Italy and China in multilateral forums dedicated to Culture, starting with UNESCO.



Emperor Trajan's column Rome (photo by Carlo Marino)



(Photo by Carlo Marino)

The spokespersons of the governments of the two countries speak of tourism as a "priority", but on a practical level the situation remains stagnant. And above all one-way.

Due to the restrictions born in the midst of the pandemic, the PRC currently does not provide for the possibility of issuing tourist visas, while Italy accepts foreign residents but flights are few and prohibitively expensive, and the conditions of return for Chinese citizens (long mandatory quarantines and at the expense of the traveler) remain a strong deterrent. The year of culture and tourism Italy-China has become, in 2022, the year of culture but practically without tourism.



Piazza di Spagna ("Square of Spain"), at the bottom of the Spanish Steps - Rome (photo by Carlo Marino)

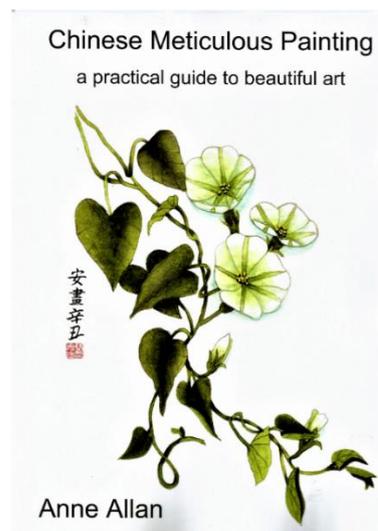
Of the 5.3 million Chinese travelers who had chosen Italy as their destination in 2019, today there is not even a shadow. However, experts in the tourism sector reassure: Chinese citizens still think of Italy and will be increasingly interested in experiential and individual tourism. The only concern? Being able to propose sustainable and above all Covid-free tourism.



Napoli (photo by Carlo Marino/Pixabay)

Great weight for the year of Italy-China exchanges will also be given to twinning, with possible new city pairs that will add to the historical combinations of Milan-Shanghai (since 1979), Florence-Nanjing (since 1980) and Venice-Suzhou (1980).

Chinese Meticulous Painting; A practical guide to a beautiful art by Anne Allan



I am not a Chinese brush-painter myself, but I can recognise an excellent book on the subject. This book is a large attractive format in full colour. It is a very practical and comprehensive book, describing 17 techniques in Chinese brushpainting. It is lavishly illustrated, 250 large pages, making the techniques described easy to follow. Each step is very clearly explained.



Camellia with bees

Anne Allen, the author has had over 20 years' experience in the subject, studying and teaching this style of painting. She is organiser of the Yorkshire Brush Painters' Society (Yorkshire) which meets usually monthly in Pool-in-Wharfedale Memorial Hall (LS21 1LG). Full details are at the bottom of page 5 in this issue of China Eye. Anne has been member of SACU for many years.

Walter Fung

East Side Voices, edited by Helena Lee. A summary of a review appearing in the Financial Times and a review by Dr Yong Sun. Translated by Jiaxi Li.

East Side Voices; The Revelation of Identities of Second- Generation Immigrants of Asian Ethnicities in the UK

Dr Yong Sun has summarised a book review by Lucy Cheung (a Chinese columnist for the Financial Times) Lucy's review was in Chinese, presumably for Chinese readers. Both Yong Sun and Jiaxi Li are SACU members.

See the link [http://www.ftchinese.com/ story/001095423](http://www.ftchinese.com/story/001095423)

Helena Lee believes that in the eyes of mainstream British society, the image of East Asian and Southeast Asian immigrants remains one-dimensional and vague, therefore she decided to compile a collection of essays to explore the survival status and minds of the Asian communities.

Some time ago, a collection of essays 'East Side Voices' exploring East and Southeast Asian immigrants in Britain was published in the United Kingdom. The editor, Helena Lee said, "This is a book for future generations."

Helena met up with me in London and shared some of her experiences: When she was watching Tarantino's movie, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, in a London cinema, all the audience burst into laughter at a controversial scene supposedly featuring Bruce Lee.

Helena was surprised that nobody had ever questioned such explicit acts of racism. She was very disappointed at this while she was on her maternity leave at that time. Although the western communities, including the movie director, later said it was unintentional, Helena Lee said this was unacceptable, "It was actually hurting the minority communities when nobody was aware of such forms of racial discrimination. Also, people tend to find it difficult to express their feelings when they are hurt by racism."

Helena also remarked that there are very few films or TV series focusing on racism so far, therefore, she hopes that this publication can help future generations to find ways to express themselves. In this book, Helena even deliberately parodies the English name of "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood", using "Once Upon a Time in... Middlesex" as the title of her article as a hint (Middlesex is where she grew up). She loves reading; however, she finds it very difficult to find books on topics of East Asian identity in British libraries. Helena Lee believes that in the eyes of mainstream British society, the image of East Asian and Southeast Asian immigrants remains one-dimensional and vague. Moreover, Asians are thought to have collective ways of thinking, therefore, the differences among individuals are overlooked. This is very damaging to East Asian and Southeast Asian communities in Britain. As a result, Helena Lee decided to publish a book to reach more readers and share a deeper understanding of this issue.

Helena Lee is the feature director of the British *Harper's Bazaar* magazine. Her career has enabled her to have connections with a number of people in the arts industry. The book "East Side Voices" features 18 individuals of East and South-East Asian descent from all walks of life in the

UK. Most of them wrote about their professions and growing up as Asian immigrants. A Chinese actress in the Harry Potter series, Katie Leung wrote about how her Chinese appearance led to her success in the movie industry yet brought her some confusion. The only Chinese chef with two Michelin stars in the UK, Andrew Wong questioned the distorted reputation of Chinese food in Britain.

Besides these perspectives, a Malaysian novelist, Tash Aw, also evaluated his own experiences as an insider and outsider and did some analysis on the ideological and cultural dimensions. There is also some light-hearted content produced by best-selling children's book author and entrepreneur, Amy Poon. She focused on the topic of divorce and presented the cultural differences and clashes in a humorous way.

Dr Yong Sun's own impressions are as follows: -

The first impression of the book 'East Side Voices' in English on the 4th of March 2022

This evening, I received a book written in English, edited by Helena Lee. This 217-page book is called 'East Side Voices: Essays Celebrating East & Southeast Asia identity in Britain', collective writings from 18 second-generation immigrants of East Asian and Southeast Asian descent in the UK. Some writings are from Taiwan but none from mainland China was included. I have just read the preface, author's notes, and acknowledgement so far. The book makes me think of the song 'The Orphan of Asia' by Lo Ta-yu, a Taiwanese singer who wished to release the song in mainland China in 1983. I can almost hear the song still playing in Britain now. This is a publication worth careful reading. I must keep this book and continue reading it.

My second impression of the book 'East Side Voices' in English on the 6th of March 2022

Now I am halfway through the book. It is challenging to bring British and Chinese cultures together, though cultural integration is essential for our shared common destiny. This collection of the experiences of numerous authors shows that this integration of cultures still has a long way to go and that success is dependent on the contributions of many experts. China's influence in the world is disproportionately small compared to the size of China's global economy. There is still considerable room for improvement and we look forward to seeing further cooperation between UK and China.

My third impression of the book 'East Side Voices' in English on the 7th of March 2022

I have finished reading the book. With a collection of writings from 18 second-generation immigrants to the UK and of East Asian and Southeast Asian ethnicities, this book presents the current situation of British immigrants from a cross-sectional angle. In terms of writing styles, I personally like the essays of Katie Leung and a Vietnamese author, Tuyen Do. This publication is definitely worth adding to your book collection.

For those readers who can read Chinese, the above book review is as follows:

1. 书评：作者 Dr Yong Sun (member of SACU)

读 2022 年英文版《East Side Voices》一书有感之一

2022 年 03 月 04 日

今天傍晚收到 Helena Lee 编辑的 2022 年英文版《East Side Voices: essays celebrating East & Southeast Asia identity in Britain》一书，全书 217 页收集了 18 位东亚裔和东南亚裔在英国的第二代移民写的集子，有台湾的，但没有中国大陆的，目前读了引言和作者小记以及致谢，令人想起 1983 年台湾罗大佑带着期盼去大陆出的歌曲《亚细亚的孤儿》，觉得这歌曲也飘荡在英国，书值得细品不能扔了。

读 2022 年英文版《East Side Voices》有感之二

2022 年 03 月 06 日

书读了有一半，命运共同体需要文化大融合，中英文化融合并非易事，收集起来众多作者的经历说明，文化融合有很长的路要走，这些有待众多专家们贡献才智。中国的经济占世界经济的总量与她在世界上的影响力不成比例，有很大的发展空间，中英能否携手拭目以待。

读 2022 年英文版《East Side Voices》有感之三（完）

2022 年 03 月 07 日

书读完了，书收集了 18 位东亚裔和东南亚裔在英国的第二代移民写的集子，给出了英国移民现状的一个横切面，从文笔上来说，喜欢梁佩诗（Katie Leung）和越南裔的作者 Tuyen Do 写的，该书有收藏价值。

2. 以下源自：金融时报的中文网站，见链接 <http://www.ftchinese.com/story/001095423>

英国二代亚裔移民的身份启示录

（书评：作者 FT 中文网专栏作家 张璐诗 Lucy Cheung，摘要：Dr Yong Sun）

2022 年 03 月 02 日

“East Side Voices”：英国二代亚裔移民的身份启示录 - Helena Lee 认为，在英国主流社会眼中，东亚和东南亚移民的面目依

然单一而模糊，因此她决定编著一本文集，探讨这一群体的生存状态和内心世界。

不久前，一本以探索英国东亚及东南亚移民身份为主题的文集《East Side Voices》在英国出版。“这是一本为下一代而出的书”，主编 Helena Lee 在伦敦与我见面时提起她的一段经历，几年前在伦敦的电影院里看昆汀·塔伦提诺执导的《好莱坞往事》（Once Upon a Time in...Hollywood），当影片进行到此后引发争议的李小龙一幕情节时，全场观众都发出了笑声。她诧异于居然没有人对这样露骨的种族歧视发出疑问，这让当时正在休产假的她感觉心寒。尽管包括导演在内的西方人群后来曾表示这是无意之举，但 Helena 认为“是可忍，孰不可忍”：“他人没意识到这是种族歧视，但实质上是对少数族裔团体的一种打击。而当一个人受到伤害时，有时很难去清楚表达自己的感受”，Helena 意识到现阶段还极少有探索类似主题的影视作品，她希望做出这本书，能帮助下一代找到表达自我感受的方式。在书中，Helena 甚至刻意戏仿《好莱坞往事》的英文名，以“Once Upon a Time in... Middlesex”（Middlesex 是 Helena 长大的区域）作为自己文章的标题，以作暗示。Helena 喜欢阅读，但她发现平时在英国的图书馆里，很难找到探讨东亚身份话题的书目。她认为，在英国主流社会眼中，“东亚群体的面目依然单一而模糊，而且倾向于群体思维，由此所有差异性都被磨平，而这对在英国的东亚、东南亚人群很有损害性。”她因此萌生出要做一本书，不光可读，还要有深度。

Helena 是英国《时尚芭莎》杂志的专题总监，由于工作关系，她与众多文艺界人士都有联系，这也为她为该书挑选作者提供了便利。《East Side Voices》一书中，收录了 18 位在英国各行各业的东亚与东南亚裔人士。每个人大都从自身职业出发，比如撰写各自成长中作为亚裔移民所遇到的身份话题。比如电影《哈利·波特》系列中的华裔演员梁佩诗（Katie Leung），写自己的东亚面孔成为了她进入影视圈的门票，然而也带来困惑；当今英国惟一的米其林二星中餐厨师黄震球（Andrew Wong）对中餐在英国被扭曲的名声发出提问；除了以自我职业作为切口，还有像马来西亚裔小说家欧大旭（Tash Aw）由自身经历和旁观的角度出发，从思想和文化层面去做分析；轻快内容的则有像畅销童书作家和企业家潘慧霞（Amy Poon）那样，以“离婚”的主题切入，风趣写下中西文化的差异和碰撞。

3. 注：本文英文版由李佳锡（member of SACU）完成。

4. 英文版由 Walter Fung (editor of China Eye) 编辑

Some Observations on Differences between East and West by Walter Fung

I bought a copy of the book *East Side Voices* edited by **Helena Lee**. It presents a wide spectrum of experiences and views from a variety of East and Southeast Asian individuals living in Britain. I have only 'dipped' into it so far, but can see some parallels with my own experience, although as a senior British Born Chinese, I am at least a generation removed from most, if not all of the authors.

About 15 years ago, I visited an old family friend. She said you are welcome to come, but I live in a typical 'throw nothing away' Chinese house. I immediately knew what she meant as my house and those of some of my Chinese relatives could be described in the same way. Gemma Chan in *East Side Voices*, was amazed when her dad offered her a Marks and Spencer plastic bag of 1990's vintage. She later refers to her dad's Golden Rule No 1, 'nothing goes to waste.'

The Chinese love for money and good food seems quite universal. Is it because, since time began, previous generations in old China were always short of these basic necessities? One of the main Chinese government's priorities has been the eradication of poverty. Through the ages, China has had many disasters with millions of people starving to death. Historians of old China, recorded that the average peasant in old China, 'lived on the brink of disaster'. A universal basic freedom, is freedom from poverty.

China Eye No 59, Autumn 2018 contained a report, entitled, '**Is Yellow the New Blackface?**' This was a conference which discussed the under-representation of British Chinese and East Asians in the screen media. It was held at Blackburne House in Liverpool and was convened by Rosa Fong of Edge Hill University. Speakers included Lucy Sheen, and Diana Yeh (by DVD). David Yip (The Chinese Detective) sent a message of encouragement.

The reluctance to employ Chinese and East Asian actors in major roles is a cause for concern. But it seems it has always been the case. In the 1930s, a film was made of Pearl Buck's novel, *The Good Earth*. Although the internationally-known Chinese actress, Anna Mae Wong was eminently suitable for the starring role, it was given to a Western actress who was made up to look Chinese. No satisfactory explanation was given for this. Some film critics thought that Anna Mae Wong would never play a leading role, unless the leading man was also Chinese. It was unacceptable, at the time, for a Chinese lady to play opposite a white actor.

Richard Nisbett, a psychology professor compares how Asians and Americans think. (From an article by Hana R Alberts in *Forbes*, May 11 2009)

East Asians see things in context, whilst Westerners focus on the point in hand: the former are dependent, the latter independent; the former are holistic, the latter analytic. The social aspect to these differences is that Asians are collective, Westerners individualistic. Another interesting

observation mentioned was that, Canadians predict that a stock whose value is rising will continue to rise, whilst Chinese tend to think that what goes up will come down.

Nisbett's work is discussed by **Ed Yong** in *New Scientist*, March 2009. He presents a chart by Daphna Oyserman, a professor of psychology, Education and communication in the University of South California. A summary of the qualities of Easterners and Westerners are:

East; Collectivism; harmony, duty, context, hierarchy.

West; Individualism; private, self-knowing, unique, independent

George Soros in *The Crisis of Global Capitalism*, on page 95, makes the points that 'Pure reason and a moral code based on the value of the individual are inventions of Western culture, they have little resonance in other cultures. For instance, Confucian ethics are based on family and relationships and do not sit well with imported concepts imported from the West'.

Professor Alan Macfarlane in **Youtube videos makes certain important points**. Macfarlane is a professor of anthropology at Cambridge University. The following comments are my understandings from his talks.

The West sees China through a distorting mirror. There are prejudices and views associated with an imperial past. Many analysts and reporters, even so called 'experts' and historians, know very little. They write 'what they think they know'. Some have never even been to China. He recommends that people should go and see for themselves and meet the people. They should go and make friends with Chinese people and in this way get 'inside' and get to know them and the country in depth. Get to know and understand the language, customs and culture. He believes the Western media, including the BBC, tend to concentrate on negative news and aspects of China; Aljazeera, a little less so.

His view is that Western thought is moulded by a '**binary**' approach, Chinese thought by comparison is a '**quantum**' approach. He maintains that this is influenced by religion; Western religions have one single God. (Christianity, Judaism, Islam), whilst China has many; Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism and ancestor worship plus many other gods. All beliefs merge and are tolerated, without any conflict.



Buddha, Lao Zi and Confucius all together in the same chapel in a temple on Wutaishan (photo from the guidebook. WF)

Whilst India has a caste system and England has social classes, there has never been such systems in China.

Education has always been valued in China and determines social mobility and position in society in China. The basic social unit in the West is the individual. In China there are structured relationships between people, the family is very important.

Macfarlane has been to China 16 times in recent years. He invariably went with a Chinese student companion as a translator and was able to speak to people at all levels of society, from workers, civil officials, politicians, business people to university professors. He says he has been 'transformed' by his visits to China.

Recommended reading; Alan Macfarlane. *China, Japan, Europe and the Anglo-sphere; A Comparative Analysis*. Cam Rivers Publishing, Cambridge 2018

Additional comments; -

Some scholars hold the view that Western civilisation has its origins in Greek democracy, Roman law and Judeo-Christian religion. Chinese civilisation developed entirely separately and along different paths.

Some analysts believe that 'white superiority' influences Western thinking and is behind certain policies of the 'Anglosphere'. Many believe socialism and communism are misguided, if not completely wrong ideologies and must be opposed, if this means covert action or even force. 'Sinophobia' is certainly present in our society, Sinophobia against which the recent SACU march demonstrated.

Some Western politicians, especially those in the Anglosphere, oppose the 'Rise of China' They justify this by claiming, China does not play by international rules, is an autocracy. 'is 'not like us' and does not share our values. A senior US politician has declared, 'nations must choose between freedom or tyranny!'

However, East and West have a lot in common as a basis for friendship and understanding, as presented by Andrew Hicks on the back page of China Eye No 73 in the notice, Stand up to Racism'.

Bertrand Russell, the philosopher visited China in the 1920s. He commented. 'In many ways the Chinese are the most civilised nation in the world and it is shameful that we make it our business to teach them lessons in barbarity'. A traditional Chinese proverb is, 'Good iron is not made into nails. Good sons are not made into soldiers.' This is in contrast to the Western military tradition, with royal sons festooned with military decorations. In the modern world of course, the PLA is necessary for national defence in a potentially hostile world.

Negative reporting of China is likely to increase as events develop. The security departments of certain Western countries are to be extended, specifically to deal with China. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been criticised as producing 'debt traps.' People fail to note that all agreements have been voluntary. 'Cheque book diplomacy' has been mentioned, but this is better than 'gun boat diplomacy'. And not a single life has been lost in the BRI negotiations. Compare this with the hundreds of thousands –

if not millions, of lives lost to European armies in Africa - competing for colonies and building empires. And, that continent was still horrendously poor after 300 years of Western involvement.

Sino File Summer 2022 compiled by Walter Fung

Chinese President Xi Jinping recently replied to a letter from pupils at the Francis Holland School in Britain on the topic of climate change.

His text is summarised; Planet Earth is like a big family and the whole of mankind is like a single community, which needs to address the challenge of climate change through cooperation. 'Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.'

The Chinese government has been rallying all of society to protect nature and the ecological environment like "we protect our eyes," and promote green development and work hard to build a beautiful China.

Xi said Chinese schools at all levels and all categories attach great importance to education on ecological civilization. Chinese pupils foster good habits of energy conservation and environmental protection, and learn about a green and low-carbon way of life.

Xi said he would welcome the pupils from the Francis Holland School to visit China and take a look at the world's largest wind farm, solar power plant and man-made forests as well as scenic national parks. He encouraged them to exchange ideas with Chinese pupils and contribute to green development in the future.

The Francis Holland School is a London-based international school dedicated to the education of girls. It encourages its students to pay close attention to environmental protection and climate change. Year-4 students from the school recently wrote to Xi about climate change. (*From CTGN 22/4/22*)

Chinese Embassy slams rude and arrogant remarks

A spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in the UK on Thursday expressed firm opposition to the remarks of British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss over China. Truss in a recent speech launched an unprovoked attack on China, criticizing it for not condemning Russia's action in Ukraine and claiming that if China did not play by "the rules," the West would unite to prevent its rise. She also said that "the West should help Taiwan to defend itself". Calling the UK official's remarks "arrogant, rude and unreasonable," the Chinese spokesperson reiterated that China's policy and position on the Ukraine issue are consistent and clear.

The spokesperson pointed out that the international community hopes that peace can return to Europe at an early date, adding that some people, instead of working earnestly to promote peace talks and an early ceasefire, are bent on instigating the escalation of conflict and inciting bloc confrontation. "It seems to them that the chaos in Europe is

not enough, and they want to take the whole world down. What kind of mentality is this?" China has always stood on the side of peace, on the side of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and on the right side of history. (CTGN 29/4/22)

Liverpool-based studio opened by Tencent Game

The facility is currently housing 12 members of the company's global production team. Headed by Tencent Games global vice president of partnerships Pete Smith, the new English studio, will have global reach. This is not the only foray into business outside of China. In recent times; the tech conglomerate invested in New Zealand-based MayDay, which has since relaunched as RiffRaff Games.

The Liverpool-based Tencent studio will support development with partner studios. Tencent wanted a central location for production staff to call home and for global expansion. The company believe in-person mentoring is key to growth. and this is best achieved through regular on-site collaboration. Liverpool is a vibrant city full of creativity and diversity and has been a hub of game development since the start of the gaming industry (From the Internet, SM Bulletin Networks 9/5/22)

Chinese Ambassador visits Manchester University

On April 27th Chinese Ambassador to the UK, Zheng Zeguangu visited the University of Manchester and met university president, Dame Nancy Rothwell. While meeting her, Ambassador Zheng said that the University of Manchester, as a higher education institution, well-known in the UK and around world has a remarkable reputation for its openness, innovation, and excellence in education and this attracts students from all over the world, Chinese students in particular. There are currently about 9,000 Chinese students at the University of Manchester. (Embassy notice 1/5/22)

China Xpress's First Anniversary

On 26 April, Zheng Zeguangu, Chinese Ambassador delivered a speech at a ceremony at the Port of Liverpool, to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the China Xpress - direct shipping route between Shanghai and Liverpool. Claudio Veritiero, Chief Executive of Peel Ports, Darren Wright, Managing Director at DKT Allseas, operator of China Xpress, and Paul Kallee-Grover, Chairman of the Liverpool China Partnership, also spoke. Guests included Zheng Xiyuan, Chinese Consul-General in Manchester, and Councillor Clare Louise Carragher, Mayor of Sefton.

Ambassador Zheng congratulated the one-year anniversary and expressed thanks to all those, who have supported the healthy development of China-UK relations. In just one year, this new shipping route between Liverpool and Shanghai has developed from a short-term temporary arrangement to a long-term arrangement. Liverpool has had historically strong ties with China in shipping and trade. The rapid development of China's economy and the establishment of the sister-city relationship between Shanghai and Liverpool, have resulted in increasingly close exchanges and cooperation in trade, investment, culture, education, and sports. As a significant maritime centre, Liverpool is playing an ever more prominent role in

promoting China-UK trade. (Chines Embassy report 29/4/22)

World's first commercial hydrogen-powered train

Beijing Review of November 9th 2017 showed a photograph of a train powered by hydrogen fuel cells being put into commercial operation in Tangshan, Hebei province on October 27th 2017. It was built by China Railway Rolling Corporation and was said to be the world's first.

New expanded Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) in New York City

A \$118 million new facility is to be built on the existing museum in New York in a 68,000 sq. ft. space involving artist/architect Maga Lin with Ralph Appelbaum as exhibits designer. The existing building will close in 2023 and re-open in 2025. The new museum expects about 300,000 visitors a year. Some residents feel that the new museum is relevant to serve a growing and diverse public, especially in the current spate of attacks on Asian people. (From Bloomberg, Internet, 2/4/22)

From the British Press

Six UK judges defy call to leave HK

Six British judges on Hong Kong's highest court are not sanding down after two of their colleagues quit over curbs on freedom of speech. The six believed that their continued participation in the court of final appeal is in the interest of the people of Hong Kong. The judges said that they had carefully considered the comments of Lord Reed who resigned. (From The Times 1/4/22).

Biden's Asia visit is 'a visit of destruction'

Beijing condemned Biden's trip to Asia; the Global Times called it 'extremely abnormal'. Biden will meet Yoon Suk-yeol, the new South Korean president and Fumio Kishida, Japan's prime minister. They will talk about global supply chains, North Korea's nuclear programme and Covid-19. A key element of Biden's visit is to strengthen the resolve to stand up to an increasingly assertive China. In Tokyo, a meeting of the Quad (an alliance comprising the US, Japan Australia and India) will take place. Another item is likely to be the anticipated Indo-Pacific Partnership. This replaces the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which Trump left in 2017 and which Biden has not re-joined. (From The Times 20/5/22)

Quad statement and a new Australian prime minister

The Quad issued a statement opposing any change in the status quo in the region. No name was mentioned but it was aimed at China. The Chinese foreign ministry spokesman responded by saying that to incite bloc confrontation is an act that threatens a peaceful stable and co-operative order at sea. He quoted a Chinese folk-song, 'There is fine wine if friends come, but if wolves come, they will be greeted with shotguns'. Wang Yi, Chinese foreign minister is to travel to the Solomon Islands on Thursday to cement a security agreement.

Australia has a new prime minister, Anthony Albanese to whom Chinese prime minister, Li Keqiang sent a letter of congratulations and said that China is ready to work with Australia and learn from the past. Albanese expected the relationship with China to remain difficult, but suggested

that his government would take a less bullish line with China. *(From The Times 25/5/22)*

Beijing confines 22 million to curb Covid

Nearly all of Beijing's 22 million citizens have been ordered not to leave the city. This has prompted panic buying, as residents fear a lockdown as strict as the one in Shanghai. City officials had already swabbed more than three million people in a five-day programme after the detection of 80 cases since Friday. This mass-testing follows a similar programme in Shanghai, a city of 25 million people, which has been in lockdown for more than a month. These are efforts to contain the Omicron variant. Tens of thousands of people have been moved to quarantine camps and others have been confined to their homes. The official death toll in Shanghai rose to 190 last night from 500,000 infections. *(From The Times 27/4/22)*

China's efforts to become techno-independent

The Economist has examined areas in which China is striving to become technically independent of the West. A strategic blueprint was published in 2021 to cover the years until 2025. The Chinese government is pouring money into this effort and is encouraging the private sector to do the same. In 2021, a record 2.8 trillion yuan (\$440 billion) was spent. This sum is equivalent to 2.5% of GDP - an increase from 2.0% five years ago. The US equivalent is 3.0% of GDP.

On February 11th, SMIC, China's biggest chipmaker said that it would invest \$5 billion in 2022. Areas for attention by China, include vaccines, agrochemicals, civilian aircraft, semiconductors, computer operating systems and payment networks. Some progress was made in agrochemicals by the purchase in 2016 of Syngenta, a Swiss seed and agrochemicals giant.

China's latest five-year plan stipulates that China should produce 70% of the computer chips it uses by 2025. It was only 20% last year. Civilian aircraft is quite a problematical area. Since 2008, \$72 billion has been spent, but many foreign- parts are still used. Chinese airlines have ordered hundreds of the Chinese built C919 aircraft but a Western analyst says that it is not competitive in the global market, compared to the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320. *(From The Economist 26/2/22)*

Lang Lang helps deprived children

The Chinese piano virtuoso, Lang Lang will donate hundreds of keyboards to British schools to create 'piano labs' to help more children learn music. His 2019 album, *Piano Book* became the bestselling classical album of the year. It has been announced that his International Music Foundation will set up state-of-the-art piano tuition centres in London state schools.

The project is modelled on his foundation's successful programmes in China and the US. Nearly 200,000 children have been given access to keyboards. Lang Lang, 39 has previously called for more music tuition especially for disadvantaged communities. He gave his first public recital when he was five years old. The first school to benefit will be Winns Primary School in Waltham Forest, a relatively

deprived part of London. Some 54% of children are from minority backgrounds. *(From The Times 19/4/22)*

China's lockdown having impact on the West

The lockdown in Shanghai, a city of 25 million people and a GDP about the size of Poland's is having an effect on the rest of the world. In Covid areas, people are not allowed to leave until the area has had no new infections for 14 days. Half of America's top 200 suppliers have facilities in or around Shanghai. Tesla, Elon Musk's electric car factory has been shut since the end of March. Some companies such as Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp., China's biggest chip maker, are operating as closed loops, with employees living on site. This allows production to continue but is affected by transport delays and other disruptions. Other problems are caused by the Ukraine crisis and the global shortage of chips. *(From The Times 30/4/22)*

China dominates processing of key materials

A number of key elements are essential for the global green revolution. They include copper for its conductivity, lithium for batteries and several others. The EU started to make a list in 2011 and the US in 2018. However, it seems that China is far ahead having recognised this need back in the 1990s. A report in the Sunday Times of 1st May states that, to an extent, the Chinese have already won the race for these materials and presents the following information from Benchmark Mineral Intelligence.

The amounts of selected materials being processed or refined by the EU, US and China are listed, presumably as global percentages: -

Nickel; EU 10, US one, China 68.

Cobalt; EU 15, US zero, China 73

Graphite; EU zero, US zero, China 100

Lithium; EU zero, US four, China 59

Manganese; EU five, US zero, China 93

Material production figures are;

Cathode; EU zero, US, one, China 80

Anode; EU zero, US one, China 89

Lithium-ion battery cell manufacturing; EU seven, US seven, China 79.

Nexperia's investment in Newport

The UK general manager of Nexperia, Toni Versluijs, responded, in a letter to the Times, to the view that Nexperia's investment should be blocked, 'China has no place in Britain's tech future'. Versluijs said that we have acquired capacity, not technology, reinforcing Britain's role a global industry, investing £80 million into Wales and securing 500 jobs. Newport was at risk of bankruptcy. Far from being a Chinese company, Nexperia's parent company was founded by a Chinese entrepreneur and the share can be bought by any institutional investor. *(From The Times 16/5/22)*

Sale of Chinese art items

Dr Wou Kiuan, who worked at the Chinese embassy in London collected about 1,000 items during the 1950s and 1960s. He died in 1997 and the family are selling his private collection. A 4inch soapstone seal made in the 18th century for the Qianlong Emperor recently sold for more than £15.5

million. Sotheby's which sold it at auction in Hong Kong said that Wou had a burning desire to preserve these relics of China's rich history, which are scattered across Europe, and to promote Chinese art and culture. (*From The Times 4/5/22*)

Global Warming, Dates of National Targets for Zero Emissions

2045; Sweden, Germany (both legally binding)
2050; UK, Spain, France, Canada, Japan, (legally binding); Italy, US, Brazil, South Africa, Argentina, Australia.
2053; Turkey
2060; Russia, China, Saudi Arabia
2070; India
(*From The Times 14/4/22*). Source Net Zero Tracker

China air disaster

A Boeing 737-800 China Eastern Airway's plane nosedived into a mountain on the way from Kunming to Guangzhou. None of the 132 passengers survived. The plane lost height very rapidly and caught fire before it hit the ground. The captain of the aircraft, Yang Hongda was an experienced pilot with an excellent safety record. This accident was the first fatal after 4,227 days of safe flying. China has a good safety record; the last fatal crash was in 2010. (*From The Times 23/3/22*)

Progress in water transfer from south to north China

The north, where 40% of the population live, desperately needs water. Beijing is not far from the desert and the city can go for months without rain. The UN sets water scarcity at an annual 1,000 cubic metres per person. Southern China has an abundance of water but most northern provinces fall below that UN level. In a dry year, some do not even reach 200 cubic metres per person.

To address this, the South-to North Water Diversion Project is showing positive results. It has been in operation for a decade and water resources in the north are recovering. Fishermen have returned to the banks of the Grand Canal in Beijing; ground water levels have stabilised after falling for decades and Beijing is greener and the air is more pleasant. Two water routes are in operation, the Eastern Route along the ancient Grand Canal and the Central Route, with a Western Route planned.

However, US researchers point to negative aspects of the project, displacement of people and evictions. They say that this is only a 'band-aid' solution and will not solve the problem. They also say that water is not used effectively in China and it is too cheap. (*From The Economist 14/5/22*)

Life skills to be taught in Chinese schools

Primary and secondary school pupils will begin in September to take lessons in, 'life skills,' which are being put on the curriculum. Six-year-olds will be taught the basics; by this age they should be able to cook and clean for themselves. Other subjects include housework, bathing and basic maintenance of home appliances. Students will also learn traditional arts and crafts, community service and aspects of recycling. One-hour 'life skills' lessons will be held once a week. The school system is under pressure to reduce academic homework and the use of extra-curricular classes and after-school private tutoring. A 2015

government survey found that on average, Chinese students spent 8.1 hours a day studying when at primary school and 11 hours a day when at high school. (*From The Times 7/5/22*)

From the Chinese Press

China is top provider of vaccines

China has provided over 2.1 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines to more than 120 countries and international organisations. This is a third of the total number of vaccines administered outside of China; most have been supplied to developing countries. President Xi Jinping recently announced that China will provide a further 600 million as donations and a further 400 million will be supplied via joint production between Chinese and African countries. These steps are aimed at helping the African Union to vaccinate 60% of the African population before the end of 2022. In addition, China will donate 150 million more doses to member countries of South-east Asian countries. Chinese companies have also launched joint production with developing countries which will produce an annual manufacturing capacity of over one billion doses. (*From China Daily Global Weekly 11-17/3/22*)

Vaccines for Omicron

Two Chinese Omicron-specific Covid-19 vaccines developed by Sinopharm and Sinovac were been approved for clinical trials by China's drug regulator on April 26th. If successful, the new vaccine from Sinopharm will be used as a third or fourth booster. China National Biotech Group (CNBG), a subsidiary of Sinopharm said that the vaccine was already cleared for clinical trials in Hong Kong on April 13th. CNBG has developed two vaccines widely used worldwide; it began work targeting Omicron in early December. (*From China Daily Global Weekly 22/4-5/5/22*)

Not the time to relax Covid measures

As the pandemic continues and the virus keeps mutating, it is far from the time to relax the efforts in fighting it. This was judgement of a meeting of the CPC on May 5th. China is a populous country with a large elderly population and uneven developments in different regions. China lacks adequate medical facilities for the whole country and population. Relaxing the rules now would almost certainly lead to mass infections along with severe cases and fatalities. (*From China Daily Global Weekly 13-19/5/22*).

Social welfare

The Central Government has provided 3 billion yuan (\$475.4 million) to shore up weak links in social welfare to ensure people's wellbeing. The funds will be used to support 261 projects in connection with child welfare, the homeless, rehabilitation, disabled people, veteran services, funeral services and mental welfare. The Central Government expenditure this year exceeds 2021 by 200 million yuan (\$31.4 million) (*From Beijing Review 24/3/22*)

Never too late to learn

In 2019 Beijing announced a new policy allowing people over the age of 60 to travel free on public buses. This allows seniors to travel to senior universities. These seem similar to Universities of the Third Age (U3A) in the UK. Senior

education in China is part of a national strategy to cope with an ageing population.

At present (January 2020) there are 76,000 senior universities in China with 8 million students according to the China Association of the Universities for the Aged. It is believed that within five years, the number is expected to reach 50 million, which will be 20% of the retired population of 250 million. *(From Beijing Review 30/12/20)*

US companies still see China as a ‘priority’

The 24th edition of the American Business in China White Paper issued by the American Chamber of Commerce, said that its member companies stand committed to the Chinese market. About 83% say they are not considering relocating manufacturing or sourcing outside of China. Colm Rafferty, the chamber’s chairman said that its members believe a decoupling of the US and China’s economies is in neither country’s interest. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 20-26/5/22)*

Increased higher education rates

A total of 240 million Chinese people have received higher education as a result of significant progress in tertiary education over the last decade. The Ministry of Higher Education has said that 44.3 million students are attending colleges and universities in China – the largest higher education system in the world. On average, people who have recently joined the labour force have had 13.8 years of education. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 20-26/5/22)*

Online service to help disabled people

Efforts to set up comprehensive services to improve the lives of disabled people and to create more job opportunities for them have been boosted. On line services have begun operation for applying for living allowances and subsidies for nursing services. This initiative was launched on China’s 32nd National Disability Day. So far, as of late April 2022, government allowances and subsidies have benefitted over 12 million disabled people, who are struggling financially and 15 million severely disabled people. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 20-26/5/22)*

Governance surveys; US and China

Beijing Review published the current results of the Edelman Trust Barometer (ETB). Edelman is an American public relations and marketing consultancy firm. In terms of general trust Edelman asked respondents in various countries to indicate how much they trusted their government; Results were;- China 91%, US 38%.

How much trust in domestic media;- China 80%, US 39%
How much trust in United Nations;- China 85%, US 48%.
How much trust in the WHO; - China 87%, US 49%.

In terms of general trust considering the four institutions of government, business, media and non-governmental organisations to do ‘what is right’. China 83%, US 43%. *(From Beijing Review 24/2/22)*

Family doctors

The plan is to expand family doctor services to cover at least 75% of the population by 2035. By 2035, family doctors are expected to serve about 85% of priority patients, which

includes, the elderly, pregnant women and children as well as people with disabilities, chronic diseases or mental illness. Efforts will be made to raise the percentage of people registered with family doctors by one to three percent every year from 2022 onwards. Fees will be jointly covered by China’s medical insurance, the government and the individual. *(From Beijing Review 24/3/22)*

National People’s Congress (NPC) to become more diverse

The new NPC to be elected before next January should have wider representation of people from all walks of life, including more women and more people from grassroots-level. A maximum of 3,000 deputies, including 36 from Hong Kong and 12 from Macao should be elected for the 14th NPC. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 11-17/3/22)*

High quality home-grown Chinese brand goods

Higher quality Chinese goods have been on the rise in recent years. The Chinese style and designed good are catching up with, or even outperforming foreign equivalents in many aspects. Mobile phones and similar products are becoming top choices for a growing number of Chinese consumers. Investment by Chinese companies in research and development have produced 5G and high-speed railways. The injection of cultural elements is boosting people’s interest in domestic goods e.g., products based on exhibits in the Palace Museum. However, innovation, quality and marketing are also important elements. *(From Beijing Review 17/2/22)*

Zhejiang province to be a template?

Outlook Weekly magazine announced Zhejiang to be a template for common prosperity for China as a whole. This followed China’s central government resolve to tackle the country’s problems of uneven and insufficient development. Zhejiang is a large province, both in population and surface area. In 2020, its per-capita GDP exceeded 100,000 yuan (\$16,000) with its urban disposable income ranking first China, as it has done for the last 20 years. The province has high-quality development, leading scientific and technological development, global digital facilities, world-class manufacturing bases with international standards of innovation and competitiveness. Residents enjoy clean water, paved roads, regular bus services and good standards of phone, broadband and postal services. The goal of achieving common prosperity by 2035 seems entirely attainable. *(From Beijing Review 24/3/22)*

Women’s development

The average life expectancy of Chinese women reached 80.88 years in 2020, up from 77.37 years in 2010. The social status of women has increased significantly over the past decade. The sense of achievement, happiness and security has also increased dramatically. This information was released in a National Bureau of Statistics report on December 31st. The gender gap in compulsory education has been eliminated with the net enrolment of primary school-aged girls remaining above 99.9% for six consecutive years. The presence of women in the workforce has seen a steady increase. Last year there were 67.79 million female employees in urban jobs, up 39.5% from 2010. Women currently account for 43.5% of total employment. *(From Beijing Review 30/12/21)*

Dragon Boat Racing at Salford Quays on 29th May 2022

This year, the event was organised by the Xinhua Chinese Association (XCA) of Manchester with the UK Chinese Scholars and Students Association UK (CSSA) and Suman Educational International. XCA strives to promote Chinese culture in the UK and to provide a platform for Chinese people to have their voices heard and for them to become involved with social activities in the host society. The event had a number of sponsors and supporters including all of the Greater Manchester local councils, especially Salford City, and the Chinese consulate in Manchester. In attendance were the Chinese Consul General, the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and the mayors of the local councils including the Mayor of the City of Salford and the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

Dragon Boat Racing has its origin in ancient China. During the Warring States period of Chinese history. In 278 BCE, Qu Yuan, a patriotic statesman of the state of Chu, tried to warn its rulers of the danger from the neighbouring state of Qin. When Qin invaded, rather than see his state conquered, Qu Yuan drowned himself in the River Miluo, a tributary of the Yangtze River. The local people rowed their boats to try to save him, but when it was clear he had drowned they threw food into the river so fish would not eat his body. This event is commemorated by Dragon Boat Racing by Chinese people all over the world; in China, Viet Nam, South Korea, Singapore, US, Canada, the UK etc. The offering of food to the fish is marked by the preparation of 'Zong Zi' triangular dumplings, food wrapped in large leaves. In Chinese, the festival is known as Duan Wu Jie and falls on the fifth day of the fifth month on the Lunar Calendar.

Thirty-six teams took part this year. About a dozen were from academia, mainly from CSSAs in northern England universities. Others were from business and civic societies. Berry's the jewellers, a major sponsor sent a team. SACU contributed to the sponsoring and our logo appeared on publicity leaflets and the front cover of the programme.

Apart from the actual dragon boat races, cultural performances were staged including Lion Dances, Kung Fu, traditional Chinese opera and dance and there was a demonstration of Chinese calligraphy. A particularly attractive and interesting event was a wonderfully colourful display of Chinese Ethnic Minorities costumes worn by ladies from Guangxi province.

Please see the back cover for a selection of photographs.

Women-friendly cities in China

The United Nations has proposed the concept of 'women-friendly' cities, which take into account the female perspective and encourage women to participate in all segments of urban life - in fact, to be on an equal footing with men. Since 2021, cities like Changsha, Shanghai and Nanjing have expressed their intention to become female-friendly urban areas. More Chinese cities are expected to follow suit. Cities nationwide are working hard to improve life for all and to make their cities to be more inclusive and equal for everyone. *(From Beijing Review 14/4/22)*

Record number of Chinese patents

Over the past 10 years, the number of patent applications has increased four times. This was stated by Aiden Kendrick, Chief Business Analyst of the Munich-based European Patent Office, during an interview with Xinhua. The number of applications from Chinese companies hit a new record in 2021. *(From Beijing Review 14/4/22)*

Unmanned road vehicles

On February 26th the city of Yangquan in Shanxi province has issued a license to Baidu for the commercial operation of its unmanned autonomous driving services. This is the first of its kind in China. The license means that a safety supervisor is not needed in the driver's seat in Baidu's autonomous vehicles which are operating in designated areas of the city. Baidu started autonomous driving research in 2013 and has carried out road tests in nearly 30 Chinese cities. *(From Beijing Review 10/3/22)*

New cleaner oil tanker

COSCO Shipping has taken delivery of the world's first crude oil tanker powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG) dual-fuel main engine. The ship is 333 metres long and 60 metres wide. LNG is its main fuel. The use of clean energy in shipping is expected to help reduce sulphur oxides emissions by 99% compared to current oil tankers. In gas mode the ship has a range of 12,000 nautical miles, in dual-fuel mode, 24,000. *(From Beijing Review 10/3/22)*

China's robotic probe to investigate moon's resources

The Chang'e 7 robotic probe is to search for water and other minerals at the moon's south pole. It is looking for traces of ice and will investigate the environment, and land formation. In addition, it will explore natural resources beneath the surface. The report was issued on the side-lines of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference which opened in Beijing on March 4th. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 11-17/3/22)*

Defence Budget to increase by 7%

A defence budget of 1.45 trillion yuan (\$230 billion) is planned for the 2022 fiscal year. This is the seventh single digit increase in the last seven years. If approved by China's lawmakers, it will mark the return of a 7+ percentage increase after slightly smaller amounts in 2020 and 2021. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 11-17/3/22)*

The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding

