



Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding

2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTS

Registered Office: 15a Napoleon Road, St Margarets, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1
3EW Registered Charity No. 294651 Registered Company 876179

The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU) is a voluntary, non-profit, people-to-people organisation that has been dedicated to promoting understanding and friendship between the peoples of the UK and China since our founding, by Dr. Joseph Needham and others, in 1965. SACU is a member-based organisation. We have no political affiliations and are open to all who subscribe to our aims.

SACU's mission is

To promote understanding and advance the education of the UK public in all aspects of China and the Chinese People by:

- providing facts and analysis about China – not uncritically but always from a firm basis of friendship
- helping the British people to understand the meaning of China – past and present
- promoting friendship and mutual respect between the peoples of China and the UK.

We aim to promote understanding – for a purpose

- to help the UK flourish in a world increasingly influenced by China
- to help overcome misplaced suspicion and increase understanding of China within UK
- to help members progress their China-related interests and so to help SACU thrive

SACU also has a role in helping to support people from China making their way in the UK as students and workers, with friendship and understanding as well as education in all aspects of living in UK.

Chair's Summary (Zoë Reed)

2021 was another pandemic year, so we continued to conduct all our business and most of our events online. Our events and activities took place throughout the year with quarterly Council and Working Groups interspersed with public panels and internal member-only SACU ChinaChats.

In April we had a meeting with the Kings College London LAU China Institute and they offered to support SACU by promoting our events and inviting us to participate in theirs. In May we were invited to a meeting with the Chinese Embassy and we were also busy interviewing applicants for the SACU Secretary. This is a volunteer post, as are all SACU posts, and we were delighted to receive 13 applications after placing our advert on the British Council Generation UK LinkedIn site. SACU is one of the 8 founding partners of this network site. June was a very busy month including the online event *SACU – Education as a Bridge to Anglo-Chinese Understanding*. We were invited to a private view of an exhibition at Brunei Gallery, SOAS, curated by Iris Yau SACU Council member. June also saw the start of the SACU Members Reading Group convened by Michael Sheringham and the induction sessions for our new Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-Chair Programmes – welcome additions to the SACU Team. We had the SACU ChinaChat on *A moral question, a moral duty, behind the scenes with Iris Yau*. In June, we hosted a double virtual event, combining the SACU Essay Competition Award Ceremony with a conversation between Dr Frances Wood, SACU Vice President and Michael Crook and his mother Isabel (now 106).

In July we held an event for the young people who had applied to be Secretary but not been successful to brief them and see if their interest in SACU could be sustained. In October our AGM included a highly successful hybrid event, *Railways and Reunions*, in partnership with Manchester Consulate. We were pleased to host conversations between Madam Alexandra Sun and Sir Hugh Cantlie as well as a speech from Michael Wood, SACU President. We decided that hybrid events are the way forward for SACU events as this offers people the choice of whether to attend in person or online. In December we had a successful Panel event *China, Climate Change, COP26 – what comes next?*

As ever, I cannot over-emphasise how vital the volunteer contribution of our SACU Council members is. Everyone has busy lives and it is their commitment to the cause which enables them to find the time to weave in work for SACU. As we grow and more of us get involved in organising and coordinating SACU activities, it is important to have clear lines of communication and governance arrangements.

In recent years, the way that China is discussed in politics and popular media has become increasingly acrimonious. The Council has decided that SACU must remain relevant, and this sometimes involves arranging activities to discuss controversial topics. SACU needs to develop a response to the current climate that keeps SACU true to its mission to 'promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of China and the UK' and to 'provide facts and analysis about China – not uncritically

but always from a firm basis of friendship'. This will involve an ongoing discussion in which SACU members share their own perspectives and listen to those of others. As Chair I'm grateful for the hard work of all my Council colleagues and their willingness to contribute and compromise.

The work of my SACU Council colleagues is set out below and speaks for itself. And taken together I think members can be proud of their Council and the work undertaken during 2021 to progress SACU's mission. For myself, I've certainly felt honoured to work with such a committed group of people – which I have been doing as Chair since 2009. I signalled two years ago that I would step down this year however we still haven't identified a new Chair. I've therefore offered to remain in post until spring 2023 and asked everyone on Council to begin the search for my replacement in earnest!

Executive Committee

The executive committee is responsible for implementing the decisions of the SACU Council. In 2021, we welcomed three new SACU members to the executive committee: Jacob Holliday (Secretary), Peter Farrar (Vice-Chair), and Imtiyaz Basharat (Treasurer). They joined Zoe Reed (Chair) and Ros Wong (Membership Secretary).

Secretary (Jacob Holliday)

Jacob Holliday took on the role of SACU Secretary in summer 2021. Prior to his appointment, Zoë Reed had been managing secretarial functions alongside her main role as SACU Chair. His primary responsibility is the drafting of agendas and minutes for SACU Council meetings, executive committee meetings, and AGM meetings as well as working with others to ensure follow through on decisions.

In the context of the pandemic, we decided to use a hybrid format for the 2021 AGM. This proved a great success, combining the benefits of an in-person meeting whilst including members who, for reasons of convenience or safety, preferred to attend virtually. At the AGM, SACU members voted that SACU convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO); we subsequently applied to the Charities Commission to convert to CIO status. As of August 2022, our application is still being considered.

We have been working to strengthen SACU's organisational structures. This included the recruitment of **Li Jiaxi** to support the development of SACU's digital media strategy, **Arron Van Rompaey** as Project Groups Coordinator and **Jinzhao LI** to take over from **Ros Wong** as Membership Secretary when she steps down later in 2022. As we expand our team and streamline our organisational structures, SACU is increasing its capacity to organise events that contribute to our overall mission – that of promoting friendship and understanding between the people of China and the UK.

Jacob's other ongoing projects include the rationalisation of the SACU Teams account and the promotion of 'Young SACU'. Young SACU got off to a strong start with a well-attended social event in London in February 2022.

Vice Chair (Peter Farrar)

Peter Farrar joined SACU Council as Vice-Chair with responsibility for programmes in summer 2021. This year SACU began to implement various organisational structures that will support SACU as it continues to develop and expand its programme of activities.

We have started drafting governance documentation defining the different forums and individuals involved in overseeing SACU's activities. This work will enable SACU to bring in new volunteer support by giving members more clarity on how they can support SACU activities. Additionally, it will allow SACU's leadership to coordinate and support the work of SACU volunteers.

We have also developed a consolidated forward programme, which collates details of all SACU's planned activities into a single document and maps these against SACU's objectives. As well as enabling effective oversight of SACU's work, this programme also allows SACU's leadership to review how closely SACU's programme of activities corresponds to SACU's stated aims and objectives. Additionally, we will circulate a survey among all SACU members in autumn 2022, which will help us review how well SACU's programme aligns with members' interests.

Treasurer (Imtiyaz Basharat)

In late 2021, **Imtiyaz Basharat** became SACU Treasurer and is now co-signatory for SACU's PayPal and Co-op Bank accounts.

Thanks to past donations and a steady stream of income from SACU membership subscriptions, SACU continues to enjoy a healthy cash balance. If we maintain and grow our membership base, we will have a reliable income stream over the medium term.

The SACU executive has been discussing how best to enable SACU members not resident in the UK to pay membership fees through digital payment methods, though it is noted that the overall percentage of non-UK based members is a small proportion of the total membership base.

Aside from expenses related to the publication of the China Eye magazine, SACU's main expenses in 2020-21 consisted largely of license fees necessary for hosting online events and venue-hire costs for the 2021 AGM. For transparency, we note that the Manchester Consulate, which provided technical assistance for the 2020 AGM, later reimbursed SACU for the full cost associated with the venue hire.

Membership Secretary (Ros Wong)

In 2021 SACU welcomed 56 new members. We were particularly delighted to welcome several younger members who took up officer posts. In the same period, we lost some members through lapsed memberships, some resignations, and the expiry of complimentary memberships for our 2020 Essay Competition students. Sadly, the deaths of four members, **Emeritus Professor Ian Lister** in March 2021, founder member **Ivor Kenna** in June 2021 (see obituary in *China Eye* Issue 71 Autumn 2021, pp.21-22), **Lai See Chew** in October 2021, and **Keith Ray** (April 2022) (*China Eye* Issue 74 Summer 2022, p.7). Overall, this resulted in a net gain of 16 paying members, with total SACU membership fluctuating around 300 people.

Most of our members are UK-based but we have several international members in China, low numbers in USA, Canada, Australia, India and Malaysia and several European countries. The majority of new members reported that they had heard about SACU via an internet search or word of mouth – confirming the value of our digital presence as well that of personal contacts.

In July 2021, SACU began using Membermojo to manage SACU's membership. This is an inexpensive online software that automates much of the routine administration involved in running a membership organisation. Members can now access their own record at any time to review, make changes and renew their membership by using their email to login. I would like to thank Dr Patrick Naughton-Doe (SACU) for sharing his knowledge of Membermojo: this was a great support for me in choosing and learning how to set up this software.

At the 2021 AGM, I gave a year's notice that I would stand down as Membership Secretary, effective from the 2022 AGM. We advertised within SACU and interviewed several members for the post. We selected Ms Jinzhao LI, of the Cambridge China Centre. Jinzhao and I are working together over summer 2022 with a view to Jinzhao formally being appointed Membership Secretary at the Council after the AGM in September.

Public Education & Cooperation with External Partners

One of SACU's core objectives is to improve the British people's understanding of China. We promote this goal by organising SACU speaker events and seminars, by collaborating with external partners; and through the Speakers' Bureau, which arranges to send speakers to British schools.

Iris Yau (Publicity & External Partnerships)

Since I was elected as a Council member at the 2021 AGM, I have continued to design posters and flyers to promote SACU events. I have also designed a 'house style' for SACU's digital communications: a new SACU banner for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and the e-newsletter; and a SACU virtual background template for fellow council members to use for official events. I redesigned SACU's logo to incorporate the English text 'Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding' (the previous

logo contained only Chinese characters). You can see the new logo at the top of this report.

SACU continues to develop its external partnerships. In the last year, this included participation in the Demonstration to Stand Against Racism/Sinophobia (at which there were over 100,000 marchers); hosting the Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable to discuss his new book *The Chinese Conundrum*; and partnering with Sinoist books as part of the *Chinese Write Now* Festival (over 290,000 virtual attendees!). We continue to work with partners old and new, including UK-China Film Collab; Sinoist Books; China Exchange; Guanghwa Bookshop; and the King's College London LAU China institute.

Public Education (Barnaby Powell)

The SACU Speaker Bureau now has six members – Rob Stallard, Walter Fung, Michael Sheringham, Andrew Hicks, Ed Conduit and Barnaby Powell. Invitations to give a schools talk on China have gone out to most independent schools with state schools to follow. Two schools have already taken up the offer. We hope for a good response over the coming year as schools arrange to fit us into their schedules.

Zoë Reed and Barnaby Powell attended the 7th Global China Dialogue Forum at the British Academy on December 10th, 2021. This was a broad assemblage of academic experts and thinkers from around the world gathered to deliberate in person and online about solutions to pressing problems facing the international community. The focus was on four areas: The Transformation of Society and the Environment; Digital Security; Personal and Cultural Identities; and The Reform of Institutions.

SACU also participated in webinars organised by Georgetown University of the US and Blackfriars Hall, Oxford in the 'China and the World: Cultural Dialogues' series. Our President, Michael Wood, and Kerry Brown were lead speakers on Education. Barnaby Powell acted as moderator for some fascinating discussions on Chinese Shakespeare, Chinese Opera, Buddhist Caves at Dunhuang, and Xunzi and Plato.

SACU-PKU Essay competition (WANG Fang)

The SACU-PKU essay competition is open to secondary students in both the UK and China. In June, we celebrated the winners of the 2021 essay competition with a virtual ceremony. We received many excellent entries. Special congratulations are due to Ella Gonen (Highgate School) and Ina Lin (The King's School, Canterbury) for winning first prize in the 16+ and under-16s categories respectively.

The SACU-PKU 2022 essay competition was opened to secondary school students in the UK and China in December 2021. By the submission deadline of May 2022, we had collected 12 papers from three schools. To encourage more students to enter this competition, especially under the circumstances of the pandemic, we postponed the deadline to Autumn 2022. We plan to have the award ceremony in October 2022.

SACU Publications

SACU publishes a quarterly magazine for members, *China Eye*, available in paper or as a PDF. Members also receive a monthly e-newsletter, containing news about upcoming SACU events, along with a curated selection of media articles and notices of non-SACU events of interest to our members and of relevance to our mission.

China Eye (Walter Fung)

It has been an especially difficult period for the image of China over the last year with a substantial increase in negative and misleading reports in the news media. China Eye has continued to report on and emphasise the positive aspects of China. Articles by Andrew Hicks and James De Burghe are especially relevant. Andrew points out that China and the UK have cooperated in the past and have much in common – the basis for friendship and not cold war attitudes.

Two obituaries have appeared in the last period, for Ivor Kenna and Keith Ray. Both made valuable contributions to SACU and to China Eye. Ivor, together with his wife Florence wrote a Sinophile column every issue from No 1 right up to No 70. Keith was instrumental in the establishment of China Eye; it was he who suggested the name 'China Eye' back in 2004.

I thank the authors of articles, without which China Eye would not have appeared. New authors for the China Eye include Russell Berg, Gerard Tierney, Carlo Marino, Arron Van Rompaey, Yong Sun and LI Jiaxi. Also, many thanks are due to the regular contributors Rob Stallard, Jacqueline Buksh, Tamara Treichel, Barnaby Powell, David Rosier, Andrew Hicks, James de De Burghe, Ros Wong and Zoë Reed. I have received messages of encouragement in connection with the appearance of China Eye and also the wide variety of subjects covered. These are much appreciated.

Keith Bennett has sent in links to important news items, Cilla Hollman has continued to proof-read Sino File and LI Linxi and LI Jiaxi have prepared the PDFs for the printers. These are all valuable contributions and I am very grateful to them and indeed to everyone who has helped me in some way over the past year. And so, we enter the nineteenth year of China Eye with optimism.

SACU Newsletter Report for 2021 (Ros Wong)

Our monthly members' newsletter has been an important way for SACU members to keep in touch, particularly during the Covid pandemic when we have not held face-to-face meetings.

Michael Sheringham was Editor throughout 2021. WANG Fang was Co-Editor to June 2021 when I took over. Thanks are due to members who sent in items for inclusion and to regular contributors, notably Keith Bennett (for Articles in the Media), Jenny Clegg, Rob Stallard and Zoë Reed.

Moving into 2022, Michael Sheringham has continued his reliable work as Editor. Iris Yau took over as Co-Editor for several issues, bringing a fresh design and more

concise content. Peter Farrar became Co-Editor in June 2022. I continue to contribute as a proof-reader.

We have a Digital Communications team of Iris Yau, LI Jiaxi, and Arron Van Rompaey, so newsletter contents can now be coordinated with our social media channels and items posted in a timely manner. We would welcome more volunteers to work on developing our digital presence.

SACU Archives (LI Linxi)

We were delighted when Peking University offered to fund the digitisation of SACU's Archives. We have been working with TownsWeb Archiving to digitise and upload historic SACU documents – dating back to 1965! – to an online database. As of August 2022, the archive digitisation project is about 90% complete. Once the project is complete, SACU members will be able to access photographs, magazines, and books from the SACU archives via an online portal.

Council of Management and Executive Committee as at October 2022

President and Vice Presidents [able to attend Council meetings]

Michael Wood President
 Jenny Clegg Vice President
 Jane Hadley Vice President
 Rob Stallard Vice President
 Frances Wood Vice President

Executive Committee

Zoë Reed SACU Chair
 Peter Farrar Vice-Chair (Programmes)
 Jacob Holliday Secretary
 Imtiyaz Basharat Treasurer (Stepping down October 2022)
 Ros Wong Membership Secretary

Other Council Members

Walter Fung China Eye
 Andrew Hicks CIO advisor and constitution
 Pete Jarvis Webmaster
 LI Linxi SACU Archivist
 Barnaby Powell Speakers' Bureau
 WANG Fang Essay competition
 Iris Ching Man Yau Publicity & External Partnerships
 Flo Kenna Supernumerary Council member

Former Council members

Ivor Kenna [died June 2021]
 Tom Harper [stepped down May 2021]

BALANCE SHEET as of 31st December 2021 **0876179**

2020		2021
<hr/> FIXED ASSETS <hr/>		
0	Net written down value	0
<hr/> CURRENT ASSETS <hr/>		
22154	Balance at Bank	28871 <i>(see note 1)</i>
<hr/> Less CURRENT LIABILITIES <hr/>		
0	Deferred Income to 2022	0
22154	SURPLUS OF CURRENT ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES	28873
	REPRESENTED BY:	
18218	ACCUMULATED FUND BROUGHT FORWARD	22154
3926	SURPLUS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR	6719
£22154	ACCUMULATED FUND AT THE END OF YEAR	£28873

Note 1. Current account £20063, Savings account £7740, PayPal £1070

STATEMENT BY DIRECTORS

For the year ending 31st December 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

Approved and signed on behalf of the Board of Directors by

.....[Chair] Director, on..... 2022

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2021

2020		2021
INCOME		
4450	Membership subscriptions applicable to 2021	5158 <i>(see note 1)</i>
1130	Donations/Fundraising	1328 <i>(see note 2)</i>
0	George Hogg Education Fund	0
2000	Essay Competition Fund	3000
27	Other	1362 <i>(see note 3)</i>
£7608		£10848
EXPENDITURE		
90	AGM & COUNCIL Expenditure and Administration	1370
2667	Chine EYE printing and postage	1662
508	Website/Online Events/Social Media	697
0	Events and publicity	0
405		400
£3670		£4129
£3938	NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£6719

Note 1. Comprises membership income received across Co-op and Paypal. Please note that this also includes a number of discretionary donations received alongside membership payments which have not been able to be separated for the purposes of reporting.

Note 2. Includes Consulate General of PRC in Manchester – AGM venue hire partnership event (£1280).

Note 3. Comprises account credits, Amazon donations, loose cash received and HRMC Charities credit.

