

China Eye



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

Summer 2025

Number 86



Contents include:

The George Hogg Tour Reports

SACU Planned Programme for 2025

SACU 60th Birthday Celebrations

Reading about China

Where is the Jinghai Temple?

The Stone God

Food, Migration and Memory; Chinese Culture

Sino File and China Eye Diary

CHINA EYE

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Front cover; Statue of George Hogg at Lanzhou City University. (Peter Jarvis)

Welcome

SACU EVENTS

SACU is holding a special event to mark its 60th Birthday on 20th September; important information is on page 5, We want as many members as possible to join the celebrations which will be at Kings College in London.

Please also see pages 10/11 for details of other activities and keep your eye open for the SACU members' monthly e mail newsletter. Some events are in person, others on zoom. In addition, there are links to items of information and news about Chinese affairs, including exhibitions, film and conferences. SACU council members are putting a lot of effort to bring these to you; so please give them some support.

The George Hogg Tour in April this year, marking the 110th Anniversary of George Hogg's birth.

The complete tour was in three parts; Beijing, camping en-route and Gansu province, where the SACU party was entertained as guests by the provincial government. Four members of the party have written about the trip; the accounts complement each other with little duplication. All are in this issue.

21st Century Fu Manchu

It is depressing to hear the negative reports and articles which appear regularly in the popular press. These seem to have become intense of late warning about the 'threat of China'. Some accusations are quite bizarre and straight out of Fu Manchu. Chinese made cars could gather information to switch off traffic lights, immobilise London and steal sensitive data from motorists. In addition, spy devices could be embedded in household items such as fridges, speakers and air fryers. A report in The Times on 14th May declares that Chinese tech items embedded in systems 'could freeze' the UK. The I newspaper on the 17th April, states on the front page, that electric cars containing Chinese components will be banned from military sites in the UK.

But at the same time, British and Europeans politicians and business personnel are visiting Beijing for trade. In addition, more countries are interested in joining BRICS and progress is being made with China and the Caribbean and Latin American nations, especially Brazil.

Chinese 'forest city'

China is building the world's first Forest City in Liuzhou, where buildings will be covered in 40,000 trees and one million plants. This will combat air pollution and climate change by absorbing 10,000 tons of CO₂ and 57 tons of pollutants annually. The city will produce 900 tons of oxygen while providing a sustainable home for 30,000 residents. It integrates residential, commercial, and public spaces with nature. Renewable energy sources like solar and geothermal power will meet the city's energy needs. The lush greenery will also help lower temperatures and improve air quality and create habitats for birds and insects and boost

urban biodiversity. This innovative project is part of China's push for eco-friendly urban development. If successful, it could serve as a model for sustainable cities worldwide. It represents a bold vision of harmonizing urban life with nature. (*From Facebook 16/3/25*)

Scottish Missionary-Sinologist Alexander Wylie

I attended a Scotland China Association zoom presentation by Professor Ian Gow who has written a book on Alexander Wylie. I had never heard of Wylie, but it appears that he made significant contributions to the transfer of knowledge between China and the West in a similar way to Joseph Needham.

However he is hardly known, and as Ian Gow, says, he is underappreciated. I have a book about the *Scots and China (1750-2000)* written by Ian Wotherspoon. Wylie is not mentioned, even though there is a chapter on Scottish missionaries in China and some of Wylie's contemporaries are mentioned. For more information please see Reading about China in this issue on pages 21 to 23..

Dangerous misinformation?

I have just been reading an article in Foreign Affairs magazine (March/April 2025 which quoted an American source that believes official data on China is overstated and in fact the Chinese economy is only half the size of the US and that a rapid decoupling of the US (alongside its allies) with China would devastate China but do far less short-term damage and almost no long term damage to the US. The same article mentions that the economy of the former USSR was 57% that of the USA; presumably the implication being that China is more vulnerable to US pressure than the USSR was.

Mythical environmental monster (article written in 1999)

The author of this news item, Fred Pearce is writing in the magazine, *New Scientist* of 9 January 1999. He says he has lost count of articles, which predict that China's pollution from coal burning power stations could nullify all the effort put in by Western nations. Since 1980, China has made extraordinary improvements in *energy efficiency* at its power stations and factories. The University of Groningen reports China has cut its energy consumption *per unit of output* in half since 1980. Without this effort, CO₂ emissions would be 50% higher. US investigators in California agree with this. China is one of the few developing countries, where energy demand has been consistently, *significantly less* than GDP. *In fact China is a stunning success story of how a poor nation can begin to tackle greenhouse gas emissions. Note the date January 1999.*

Corrections: Barnaby Powell's article in the Spring issue of China Eye (No 85) on page 8, should read, The Chinese Embassy and not the Chinese Ambassador, invited SACU to the Soho Hotel, screening of the Sinking of the Lisbon Maru. Furthermore, Bi Haibo, mentioned in the photograph captions on pages 8 and 9 is Minister Councillor and not Cultural Councillor at the Chinese Embassy in London. We apologise for these errors.

Walter Fung

Can you contribute to SACU's Mission?

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

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

友 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 SACU Council.

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:

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

Membership payment methods:

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:
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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.

China Eye

Recent back copies are available to view on our website:
<https://sacu.org/magazine.html>

All earlier issues of SACU's magazines *China Now*, *China in Focus* and *China Eye* are available to members in our digital archive: <https://archive.sacu.org>
(Please ask for members-only password)

SACU Newsletter

We circulate a monthly email newsletter to all members. Newsletters include 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:
newsletter@sacu.org.uk
Please remember, you can unsubscribe at any time.

SACU's Digital Communications

Website: www.sacu.org.uk
Email: info@sacu.org.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sacu.uk>
X (Twitter): <https://twitter.com/SACUUK>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@SACU-sd5ys>
WeChat: ID: SACU1965
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/socanglochinseunderstanding>

Our social media channels carry posts and news of events which inform and educate our members and readers about China, especially positive aspects to balance the negative aspects we so often read in the UK media.

SACU Digital Archive

Launched at Chinese New Year 2023, our magazines and early newsletters, SACU documents and rare photo collection can be viewed online: <https://archive.sacu.org>
(Please ask for members-only password)

SACU Events

Please keep an eye on our website, social media and members newsletter for news of forthcoming SACU events. SACU holds events for the public and some members-only meetings. Events are held on Zoom or are hybrid (both in-person and on Zoom). Our AGMs are held as hybrid events.

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 before the pandemic, when we held in-person meetings only, so we continue to hold some online and some hybrid events.

SACU needs a Programme Coordinator. He or she will not expect to be directly involved with each and every individual event. SACU also needs a Treasurer. If you can help, please contact SACU Council

SACU Speakers Bureau

This includes members who offer to give talks in schools or to other organisations on topics relating to China, always from a SACU standpoint of friendship and understanding. Please get in touch if you would like SACU to speak at your school or if you would like to join the bureau as a speaker.

SACU/Peking University Essay Competition

Our annual essay/multimedia competition for schools, generously sponsored by Peking University. Are you connected with a secondary school which would like to take part? Do get in touch.

If you have any membership questions, please contact:
Ros Wong Antrobus, membership@sacu.org.uk

Lecture Series on 'The Art of Living from the Confucius Tradition.'

These are delivered by Dr Katherine Ngo and Dr Kelly Ngo of the University of South Wales. They will be delivered on zoom on **the third Thursday of the month at 7.00 pm.** There are nine talks altogether in groups of three. Please refer to the SACU email newsletter for more details, nearer the time and book via Eventbrite. Also please see pages 19/20.

Lecture 5. A Confucian guide to dining together. (June 19th)

Section 3. The world of work and study. (July to September)

Lesson 6. How to entertain: A Confucian guide to being the host or guest. (17th July)

Lesson 7. How to work together. A Confucian guide to workplace relations

Lecture 8. How to lead: A Confucian guide to wise leadership

Section 4-Public life and problem solving (October to December 2025)

Lecture 9. How to learn. A Confucian guide to public life.

Lecture 10. How to be in public: A Confucian guide to public life

Lecture 11. How to be down to earth: A Confucian guide to humility

Lecture 12. How to solve problems: A Confucian guide to address disputes.

From Barnaby Powell, SACU Speaker's Bureau Organiser

SACU Education Working Group

Our speaker's Bureau is already six-strong, but seeks additional members to cover different parts of the UK. Our main aim is to give Schools Talks on China. We have given a couple of talks in this past year to independent schools which are SACU members and we can follow up with those other schools which have participated in the Essay Competition before. Once we have responses to our invitations, we shall need to follow up and deploy speakers to liaise with schools to set dates, etc. Please advise Barnaby.powell@gmail.com as Convenor if you like to join the Education Working Group and/or volunteer to speak to schools.

Chinese Brush Painters' Society (Yorkshire)

This society provides a focus for all who are interested in Chinese Brush Painting. The society arranges workshops with Chinese and other experienced tutors and provides information and assistance to members on all aspects of the subject. Currently the group has over 140 members, who travel from Cumbria, Cheshire, Nottingham and Lancashire as well from all parts of Yorkshire to attend workshops. These workshops usually take place at a weekend and sometimes for two-days. They are suitable for beginners or experienced artists. The group produces a regular monthly newsletter packed with information. Meetings are usually

held every month at the Pool-in-Wharfedale Memorial Hall LS21 1LG (on the A659) at the bottom of Pool Bank, just off the A658 between Bradford and Harrogate). The venue has excellent facilities and car parking.

Further information from the Secretary: Anne Allan,
Tel: 01422 368482 or email: mail@anneallan.com
Website: www.cbpsvorks.co.uk

China Eye Diary

This year 2025 is Year of the Snake, New Year's Day was on January 29th. 2025. The full sequence of 12 animals is in this order: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. Forthcoming major festivals are;

31st May, Dragon Boat Festival

29th August, Chinese Valentine Day (Double Seven)

1st October, China National Day

6th October, Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Cakes)

29th October, Chong Yang (Double Nine), Seniors' Day

SACU's 60th Anniversary celebration

On Saturday 20th September we will be celebrating 60 years of SACU and would like as many members as possible to join us - so please put the date in your calendar!

We are delighted that KCL LAU China Institute has provided us an excellent venue in the KCL main building on the Strand, London. The Chinese Embassy are kindly sponsoring lunch, and we have a whole day planned (11:00-17:00) of interesting activities.

The Programme will combine marking SACU's 60th anniversary with the 110th anniversary of George Hogg. We are honoured that 3 Delegations of senior representatives will be joining us from China - from CPAFFC; from Gansu Provincial Government and from Shandan Bailie Vocational College. The forerunner of this college was the Bailie School founded by George Hogg. The SACU Delegation visit in April (reports elsewhere in CE) started to build connections with the college and Gansu Province which we hope to develop further in September.

In addition to formal speeches there will be a Panel discussion, and two premiere launches! We will hear some music specifically composed for SACU at 60 by Ben Lunn and we will see the first showing of the CGTN Documentary filmed of the SACU *In the Footsteps of George Hogg* Tour.

Please look out for the Eventbrite Registration link in the next SACU Members Newsletter and encourage your friends and family to join us -everyone will be welcome at what is set to be a really interesting and enjoyable day.

Zoe Reed

SACU Tour 2025: In the footsteps of my uncle, George Aylwin Hogg by Mark Aylwin Thomas

It was an amazing, exhilarating, at times quite emotional three-week long trip to China in April this year accompanied by an interesting, varied, fun and energetic group of SACU members and a few family members, one of whom was my son Sasha. I was so pleased that my son was able, in his very demanding work schedule, to devote at least one week in joining us and to get some way into his Great Uncle Aylwin's story.



The Tour Group

Sasha was just 12 years old when I first visited China back in 1988 as a representative of my uncle's family at the extraordinary, high profile, series of memorial events being held in Beijing, Lanzhou and Shandan, orchestrated by the Chinese Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, in honour of the recently deceased New Zealander Rewi Alley who had died in Beijing the previous December at the age of 90 after living in China for 60 years. My uncle, George Hogg, had been a close collaborator of Rewi Alley in the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives organisation (Gung Ho) back in war-time China. Sasha at that early age was, for the most part, aware of my long-term project of writing my uncle's biography.

I had become inspired by the realization during those memorial events just to what degree of high esteem my uncle's legacy was held. However, Sasha didn't really get into the story so much, as he was away at school, then military service in Finland followed by university in the UK and so on to carving out his career in Cambridge, then London and more recently Stockholm.

At various points along our somewhat hectic, very full travel schedule this April, I was asked to speak about my uncle and his legacy. These were the first occasions when my son got to hear me talk at length about his Great Uncle Aylwin; a rather different experience than just reading the biography I'd written. And this was a very valuable thing; that the next generation should absorb the story of that incredible person, journalist and educator, and that the family memory would get a chance to live on. I'm hoping for some more young family members to join us in the upcoming events in London in July and September celebrating George Hogg's memory, his achievements and anniversaries.



Statue and family photo

During this April's tour, in the footsteps of George Aylwin Hogg, it became quite clear to me that his memory is held in even higher esteem than I had estimated back in 1988. Indeed, his story is being held up high by the very top echelons of the Chinese government as a shining example of friendship and compassion between Britain and China as allies during those war-torn years of the 1930's and 40's. Indeed, President Xi Jinping himself has a close personal connection with the school in Shandan, his father having been principal there for eighteen years back in the 1980's and 90's.



New statue unveiled in Beijing

My book "Blades of Grass – the Story of George Aylwin Hogg" finally got published in 2017, and more recently has been translated into Chinese which was published in March this year by the prestigious Renmin Publishing House in Beijing. The translated book was launched at the main stage of the China Stand at the London Book Fair in March, an event which attracted very wide interest from the Chinese media.

I am indebted to SACU's archivist Dr Li Linxi, with her passion for the subject, for brokering the publishing deal, for being responsible for the translation and for her tenacity in promoting the book so diligently.

The Chinese version of Andrew Hick's book, *A True Friend of China* translated by Peter Chin and colleagues was also promoted at the Fair,



London Book Fair



**A True Friend to China (Chinese Version) and
Blades of Grass (George Hogg) Chinese Version**

Until now, the extent of Aylwin's story known to the Chinese has been limited to what he achieved there, once he had arrived in Shanghai in 1938 soon after the infamous atrocities perpetrated in Nanjing. He became a journalist reporting to the West in his own inimitable style on the war situation, and then joined the Gung Ho movement, the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives, where he founded a technical training scheme. What became legend was the way he saved the school that he created and his pupils in what became known as their "Little Long March", a hazardous trek over 1000 km away from the war zones during the worst winter in living memory, and of course the tragedy of his demise just half a year later.

What he achieved in those eight action packed years is really remarkable. Now, through my book in translation, the Chinese speaking people may get to understand where he, their hero, came from, his background, why and how he came to China in the first place.

His own personal story did not get to be known in his own country to any great extent. Europe of course had its own war going on at the time and so there was no real focus in what was going on so far away in China, a different and distant continent altogether. So, we now need to talk more about him here, to tell of his inspirational humanitarian spirit, to tell of the love and respect for his fellow human beings regardless of race, belief or cultural differences and his selfless striving with compassion for a common positive goal, his truly astonishing achievements in a short life so tragically cut short.

What an inspirational man! He is remembered in high esteem by a nation whose view on history is "what has been in the past is still with us, never to be forgotten". Throughout our tour in April, media attention was very much apparent. Added to this, we were accompanied the whole way by the Chinese Global Television Network (CGTN) who is producing a documentary about George

Aylwin Hogg which will be premiered in September at the celebrations of both SACU's 60th and George Hogg's 110th anniversaries. The documentary will be available worldwide on CGTN's network and all of their various media channels.



CGTN shooting in Shandan

In George's home town, Harpenden, an exhibition dedicated to George's story is being opened in July this year in their fine modern museum. This is to be the first such exhibition outside China and its aim is to educate as many young people as possible about this truly inspirational young man. Huge thanks go to SACU's Zöe Reed and Peter Jarvis for initiating the idea of this tour "In the Footsteps of George Hogg", and to Wild China's Tom Lewis for bringing it about so magnificently.

"In the Footsteps of George Hogg" Tour – April 2025 by Peter Jarvis

In January 1938, a 23-year-old British journalist named George Hogg arrived in Shanghai, expecting only a brief stop as part of a world tour. What he witnessed in China, however, changed him profoundly — and he never returned home.

Moved by the suffering of the Chinese people at the time, George sought ways to help. He met Rewi Alley, the New Zealand-born writer and political activist, and became involved in the Chinese Industrial Co-operative (CIC) movement. Inspired by its mission, George dedicated himself to its work.

After serving as CIC Secretary in northwest China, George became headmaster of the "Bailie" school for war orphans in Shuangshipu, Shaanxi, in 1942. In 1944, with the war advancing across North China, he led 60 orphaned students on a 700-mile journey over snow-covered mountains to Shandan in Gansu Province. There, he established a new school — but tragically died of tetanus a few months later, aged just 30.

Today, George Hogg is remembered as a hero in Gansu and Shaanxi — a symbol of courage, compassion, and international friendship. His story has been recounted in several books and brought to the screen in the 2008 film *The Children of Huang Shi*, starring Jonathan Rhys Meyers. When Xi Jinping met the late Queen Elizabeth on a state visit in 2015, they discussed George as a true friend of China.

I am deeply honoured that George was my grandfather's youngest brother. Having first visited China in 1990 I had long dreamed of retracing his journey from Shanghai to his final resting place 2,000 km away. Last year I set in motion a program to make that a reality, working with Wild China and the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU).

Last month, 13 of us — including George's nephew Mark Thomas, his son, and my own two children — took part in an incredible 22-day adventure. Our journey took us from Shanghai, to Nanjing, Xian, Baoji and then to George's cave house in Shuangshipu, from where we started our own "Little Long March". The local hospitality was heartwarming — with cups of tea, homegrown strawberries, and an evening of food and dancing. Some of us braved the fierce winds (weather warnings throughout China) to camp under the stars — a fitting end to an unforgettable day.

In Lanzhou, the Gansu government hosted a symposium to commemorate the 110th anniversary of George's birth, attended by many local dignitaries. We were honoured by the presence of Mr Wang Bing, Vice Governor of Gansu Province (population 26 million), and Haiden Cocking, Second Secretary of the Political Section at the British Embassy in China. I was deeply moved by how many people gathered to honour my great-uncle George — and proud that my children were there to witness it.

Our final stop was Shandan, where we visited George's tomb and the impressive Bailie Vocational College — a testament to the educational legacy he and Rewi Alley began more than 80 years ago. His work continues to inspire.

Peter is grand-nephew of George Hogg. He is a SACU council member and an IT and business consultant. (This article originally on LinkedIn, is reproduced with permission of Peter)

In the Footsteps of George Hogg-SACU Tour April 2025 by Andrew Hicks

I feel that our trip to China, a diplomatic mission or goodwill delegation and not a holiday, was one of the most successful things in my decade or so as a Trustee of SACU in cementing friendship with China and the Chinese people. Though if the recent TV programme filmed in China, *Race Across the World*, looked arduous it had nothing on the George Hogg tour. Our itinerary was non-stop action with no breaks, visiting ten cities and it was fun but exhausting.

If I've ever made the slightest contribution to world peace it was by crossing the world to tour China and to eat for Britain. At so many formal banquets we sat at vast round tables not much smaller than Piccadilly Circus as course upon course of food circulated in front of us on a motorised Lazy Susan. The Peking duck was a special challenge. It was particularly difficult using chop sticks to persuade a slim, floppy pancake to sit flat on ones plate, by which time the duck itself is already way out of reach. Next time it comes round you fumble with slices of duck, dropping half of them into your tea. At last, you add the sliced vegetables, a small triumph, roll it up and eat it at last with your fingers. And this we did repeatedly across China to promote the good cause of Anglo-Chinese understanding.

Almost everywhere we went we were welcomed to an official reception and banquet. There were speeches of welcome and we of course had to respond. Our visit was especially valued as we came offering a Holy Grail in the form of Mark Thomas who as George Hogg's nephew carries the DNA of one of China's great foreign heroes. With considerable forbearance Mark responded to the welcome speeches with words of gratitude for the short and dedicated life of his uncle and for the overwhelming warmth of the welcome we were being given. I found myself on my feet too at times speaking from the heart with unprepared speeches. These were easy to deliver because I believe fully in the growing truism that historic examples of service and sacrifice by individuals are

the foundation on which strong international relations can be built today. I am drawn strongly to this idea.

My life in retirement has thus been committed to telling the story of the Friends Ambulance Unit, the FAU, which did medical relief work in China throughout the nineteen forties. My book, *A True Friend to China* has been the outcome. I am truly thrilled therefore that Peter Chin, a SACU friend at Xian Beihua University has with his colleagues translated the book into Chinese and has just had it republished. I was invited to the university to do a book launch and a huge and impressive event it was too. In all of my speeches at these George Hogg themed receptions I tried to make the point that Hogg was not unique.

He was an outstanding example of the many principled foreigners who felt anger at the Japanese invasion of China and who desperately wanted to do something to help the Chinese people in their hour of greatest need. However, many hundreds of young volunteers also came to China with the FAU at great personal risk and at least twelve of them, like Hogg, died in China. Their service and sacrifice with the FAU is totally forgotten in the UK but the translated book is now generating interest and sympathy in China.

All of which makes me ask why Hogg has been adopted with such fervour and adulation as one of China's favourite foreign friends. He of course deserves every bit of it and new busts and statues of him seem to be springing up everywhere. Thus, my bucket list is one item shorter as Mark and I jointly unveiled a spectacular new marble statue of him at the Bailie Vocational College in Beijing.

It seems that his developing fame is at least in part because he has been officially recognised in this important role. President Xi Jinping during his state visit in London in 2015 said at the banquet at Buckingham Palace that his country would not forget the economic and moral support given by the British people during the Second World War and named George Hogg exclusively as an example of such a contribution.

This ensures that Hogg is being elevated to a higher level of attention but does not entirely explain the underlying narrative. Public praise in China for outstanding individual contributions to nation building is however a familiar strategy. The Mao era promoted a 'learn from' campaign and one example was 'Learn from Lei Feng'. This Peoples' Liberation Army soldier was idealised to promote communism, celebrating his selfless hard work and service to the people and the party as a model for others to aspire to.

Dr Norman Bethune, the Canadian surgeon who worked in China and died in the service of communism was also set up by Mao as a national hero, even though a foreigner, as an example of selfless service and political commitment to be emulated. Hogg's mentor in the CIC, the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives, the heroic New Zealander, Rewi Alley was praised as an exceptional foreign friend. He was even rewarded materially, being maintained in Beijing by the state from 1953 until his death in considerable luxury. It was in fact in the magnificent house he occupied there that we were entertained to a banquet by the Chinese Peoples' Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries at the end of our tour.

Both Bethune and Alley were committed communists promoting their political principles on behalf of China but Hogg seems to differ in this respect. Reading his book, *I See a New China*, Hogg does not seem to be overtly political and is not campaigning expressly for communism. Neither of the comprehensive indexes for his two biographies has a single entry for 'communism'. So why has he come to such prominence among the many foreigners

who served and died for China? Hogg is of course being celebrated for his commitment to the Chinese people but this may be more for humanitarian than for political service. Primarily there seems to be a narrative of historic friendship being used as a foundation for building stronger relationships today.

As to the details of our tour, perhaps someone else has summarised for China Eye readers precisely where we went and what we did so I will not repeat this now. Suffice it to say that visits to China always disprove the usual negative stereotypes so commonly expressed in the UK. The people we met were warm, open, relaxed and fun, with middle class aspirations just like us. They are highly individualistic, one thing noticeable at the crowded tourist spots being the number of girls dressed up in improbably frothy dress styles and often in period costume for private photo shoots.

The cities are spectacular, fresh and modern, both the mega-cities such as Shanghai and Beijing and also small towns of only a few million people. The infrastructure of airports, high speed trains and highways is extraordinary. The parks and plantings of trees, shrubs and flowers is beautiful beyond belief. The standard of design in architecture, shopping spaces, restaurants and even such minor things as the packaging of snacks is creative and exemplary. So how should SACU put all these positives across to the British public?

As a long time SACU zealot, I sometimes feel that all our hard work trying to do this is but a drop in the ocean, a mere grain of sand in promoting the image of China in this country. However, I believe that our visit was of considerable importance to our generous hosts, that in promoting our country to China we have just achieved something really substantial. Much goodwill was indeed generated.

In recent times relations with China have been swinging wildly, being arbitrarily tossed by strong and changing currents, and a thought now springs to mind. SACU cannot achieve miracles, though it did very well on this tour.

Compared to this achievement, perhaps nothing has recently more improved China's image for the British people than the popularity on TV of Race Across the World because of the very positive impression it gives of China. One young race participant eating with a Chinese family in their homestay praised her generous hosts and sweetly said, 'If this doesn't make me love China, nothing else will'. So many times, when meeting people on our trip to China I had that exact same feeling.



Local tourists living the dream in Shanghai



Posing on the ancient walls of Xi'an



Unveiling George Hogg statue at Beijing Bailie College



Dressed up for the Summer Palace

The George Hogg Tour was indeed major event for SACU this year. It was especially significant in that relatives of George Hogg made the tour and wrote about their experience for China Eye. Andrew Hicks also wrote about the tour and included his impressions of the wonderful changes in China.

A fourth article about this historic tour is by Pedro Agostino on page 24. Pedro writes about his thoughts during the tour.

Celebrations of George Hogg's life are continuing with formal celebrations on September 20th. Please see Zoe Reed's special notice on page 5 and also pages 10 and 11.

SACU 2025 Programme



21 June 2025: SACU AGM – Cheryl

Annual Accounts 2024 completed by Chunbin; Cheryl has finalised Annual Report following final opportunity for feedback from Council members [deadline 1st May] • SACU AGM 2024 [online]

19th July 2025: Embassy Reception for GH Tour participants and SACU Council – Zoë/Pete Embassy are offering to host a Reception at the Embassy in London [Mark will be in UK for the launch of the Harpenden Exhibition hence date]. Embassy have confirmed we have 40 places and I've suggested the invite list is (a) everyone who was on the Tour +1 (b) and GH family members who weren't able to join the Tour (c) all SACU Council members +1.

- Invite to be sent out requiring people to confirm if they can attend for catering
- Informal buffet
- MC Bi Haibo will attend and make a speech [possibly the Ambassador too, but unlikely as a Saturday]
- Director of CGTN Europe will launch 5 min trailer of the full Tour film
- Tech will be good so that Video can be shown and also those not able to attend in person can join by Zoom

22nd July 2025 – Exhibition launch Harpenden and encouraging Students – David Kendall

Iris successfully galvanised local interest in the idea of an Exhibition resulting in the Chair of the Museum Committee David Kendall [and his wife Marsha who volunteers at the museum] joining SACU and the GH Tour. They made a great contribution to the Tour and met local contacts and obtained a few artifacts.

- David working locally to involve Mayor and Schools
- He has an idea to promote YP visiting Gansu through material in the Exhibition [see below]
- Exhibition opening on 22nd July in Harpenden Museum telling the story of George Hogg
- Embassy to attend and present Books about China for local schools [list of choices to be sent to the schools in advance]

George Hogg Cooperative Education Fund -> Link with Gansu fund for Students to visit Shandan Zoë

Seems the Co-Op Adopt idea linked to our George Hogg Cooperative Education Fund is too ambitious. This was launched at our 50th and donations collected for it at the time. There is £3k earmarked for it [sources = £1.5k donated by Vanessa Dingley [GH niece] several years ago; Jenny donated book sale money; Zoë donated royalties for her book.] £3k however is too little to do much with and the intention was to try and fundraise. We don't have the interest or capacity to do this. Meanwhile

Shandan Mayor has a fund set aside to cover the accommodation and travel costs for a group of young people to visit Shandan/Gansu. The only cost they will need to cover is international flight to Lanzhou. A suggestion [from Ruth Lambert] is that we offer say 3 x £1,000 bursaries. There would have to be a competitive way of selecting who gets the bursary and they would need to give SACU something back [e.g. Essay/article for China Eye about Cooperatives in China]. David could offer this in the Exhibition launch [he is going to get a formal letter of invitation from the Shandan Mayor which he will display in the Exhibition]. All local schools will be invited to visit the Exhibition.

Saturday 20th September 2025: Formal Celebration SACU60/George Hogg110 – Ros/Cheryl/Zoë

Venue now sorted and we have The Great Hall and Safra Lecture Theatre at KCL

Zoë liaising Embassy and they have agreed to cover **catering costs** – need to generate the invoice with KCL for Embassy to pay. There may be **additional costs** which SACU will need to cover.

Latest update

PKU has kindly agreed to sponsor Conference bags/pins/brochures etc

A new volunteer is working on the design

Saturday 25th October 2025: Council meeting and Tour of NRI [and JN Cambridge?] – Zoë/ Cheryl Iris liaised with John Mohett to fix date; We need to set up Eventbrite so that members can book a place if they want to join a Tour in the afternoon; we will have in person Council meeting in morning

- Tour Needham Research Institute – Saturday afternoon; with Council meeting in morning



- Ruth Lambert on the GH Tour is a Cambridge Guide and is considering offering a Joseph Needham Tour of Cambridge

October: Panel discussion in LAU China Week Programme [?] – Linxi/Cheryl

Linxi follow up on Cheryl's outline plan for a Panel

- LAU China Institute KCL – China Week talk [tbc]

Activities running throughout the year

- SACU online Zoom series of **related talks: Barnaby**

Talks already programmed include ○ Andrew Hicks – A True Friend to China ○ Mark Aylwin Thomas – Blades of Grass ○ Brian Finch – Sinking of the Lisbon Maru ○ Michael Wood – topic tbc ○ Kerry Brown – topic tbc ○ Ben Lunn – Chinese Classical Music ○ Hugo de Burgh – What China Taught me ○ Keith Bennett - tbc

- **Stand Up Racism - Sinophobia contingent** - join the demonstration [March]
Iris coordinated with organisers for 2025 – this year people were encouraged to join local events rather than one central London event

- **Joint Events in person** London venue with talks from writers [Chinese Embassy tbc] - **Barnaby**

We have one potential speaker who wants to do in person (not Zoom); Zhihan has been contacted to link with Barnaby. We wait to hear

- **Essay/Art Competition** and talks in Schools [promotion flyer available] **Fang and Barnaby**
Competition – promotion underway

Talks in schools: BACS have sent a flyer offering SACU Talks on China to 20 schools that are members of the Mandarin Excellence Programme [MEP] and will refer responses when received.

- **Chinese Labour Corps Armistice Day** [November]
This is coordinated by Peng Wenlan (Meridian Society) – SACU is invited to participate

- **Book production** with Shandan Bailie College/Rewi Alley Research Centre **Linxi**
Linxi liaising with Shi Hong LCU

- **CGTN promotion of SACU activities** throughout the year and general media interest **Linxi** Has been a lot of Chinese media interest following the online Journalist Salon and the London Book Fair; Significant media interest following the George Hogg Footsteps Tour.

- **Social and other media promotion. Cheryl**
We have now set up LinkedIn Account for SACU, but still at very early stage with limited traction and impact as a result of lack of mechanism to share the SACU activities and a clear plan of the target audience. Rob liaising with Jiaxi re Facebook promotion

Zoë Reed zoe@sacu.org.uk

静海寺在哪里？

在萨默塞特的乡下做客的时候，当地的一些朋友问我来哪里？我说南京，没有几个人知道南京。我说就是《南京条约》的那个南京，也几乎没有人知道《南京条约》。我说，就是在这个条约里，香港被割让给了英国成为殖民地，他们说：哦，我明白了。

在 2023 年 5 月 18 日起在大英博物馆开放的《晚清百态》展览上，《中英南京条约》原件几乎成为关注度最高的展品，尤其是对于中国观众，那是必看展品，以至于在它的展柜前总是人头攒动，很多人要排队等待好一会才能凑近端详。

在中国，观众到南京静海寺《南京条约》史料陈列馆能看到条约的中文和英文的复制品。1842 年 8 月 29 日，《南京条约》由清廷代表耆英、伊里布、牛鉴与英国代表璞鼎查在停泊于南京下关江面的英舰康华丽号上签订，这标志着第一次鸦片战争的结束。每一个中国学生都从教科书上知道这是是中国近代史上第一个不平等条约。

当时为条约签订的谈判主要进行了 7 次，其中有 4 次是在南京城墙的仪凤门外长江边的静海寺内举行的。博物馆里陈列着英军上尉约翰·普拉特 John Platt 绘制的油画 The Signing and Sealing of the Treaty of Nanking in the State Cabin of H.M.S. Cornwallis, 29th August 1842，以及按照油画而创作的雕塑。

静海寺建于 1411 年，是明成祖朱棣为了褒奖郑和下西洋的功绩而敕建的皇家寺院，寺庙的名字寓意着四海平静，天下安宁。寺庙屡毁屡建，但是明朝刻制的 5.48 米高的“御制弘仁普济天妃宫之碑”现在仍然树立在静海寺内，它记录了中国外交和航海史上的高光时刻。郑和在远航归来后还曾经在这里居住过。而在这里常年开放的“中英《南京条约》史实展”的主题是“从屈辱到自强”，它把在郑和远航 500 多年后在同一地址发生的《南京条约》的订立表述为“百年耻辱，城下之盟”，也由此中国人开始了成为现代强国而奋斗的百年历程。

晚清百态的联合策展人蓝诗玲在她的《鸦片战争》一书中谈及，与中国人通过教科书、博物馆、电影、电视、报纸等各个途径人尽皆知鸦片战争历史的状态形成对比度是，伦敦似乎有意忽视了英国曾经从事毒品鸦片贸易并为此发动战争的历史痕迹。而如果要理解当今中国与西方麻烦不断的关系，西方读者就必须明白英国在这场战争中的表现，以及中国是怎样表述和记忆鸦片战争的。如果有机会来南京，不妨去静海寺看看。

作者和摄影者：顾红艳，独立策展人、写作者、文博视频博主，现居南京，毕业于英国东安格利亚大学，获文化遗产与博物馆研究硕士学位。

Where is Jinghai Temple?

I was often asked where I was from when I was visiting in Somerset countryside, I answered Nanjing, and few people know about Nanjing. I said it was the Nanjing of the Treaty of Nanjing, and almost no one knows the Treaty of Nanjing. I said in this treaty that Hong Kong was ceded to Britain as a colony, they said: Oh, I see.

At the China's Hidden Century exhibition, which was opened at the British Museum on May 18, 2023, the original Treaty of Nanjing with red seal almost became the most popular object, especially for Chinese audiences. It was a must-see case so that there were always crowds in front of its display cabinet, and many people had to wait for a long time before they could get close to it.

In China, visitors can see the replicas of Treaty of Nanjing both in Chinese and English in Jinghai Temple in which the treaty was signed on 29th August 1842. The Treaty of Nanjing marks the end of the First Opium War (1839–1842) between the Qing dynasty of China and Great Britain. Nowadays, almost every Chinese student knows from textbooks that this was the first unequal treaty in modern Chinese history.

The negotiations for the signing of the treaty were mainly held in 7 rounds, 4 of which were held in Jinghai Temple just beside the Yangtze River outside Yifeng Gate of Nanjing City Wall. The Treaty of Nanjing Historical Memorial Museum displays the replica of the oil painting, The Signing and Sealing of the Treaty of Nanking in the State Cabin of H.M.S. Cornwallis, 29th August 1842 by Captain John Platt, as well as sculptures created based on the oil painting.

Jinghai Temple was built in 1411. It was a royal temple built by order of Emperor Yongle of Ming Dynasty to commend Zheng He's voyages to the Western Ocean. The name of the temple implies tranquility and peace across the whole country. The temple was destroyed and rebuilt many times, but the 5.48-meter-high "Imperially-built Tablet of Hongren Puji Tianfei Palace" inscribed in 1416 is still standing in Jinghai

Temple, recording the highlights of China's diplomatic and maritime history. Zheng He once lived here after returning from his voyage. The Exhibition of the History of the Sino-British Treaty of Nanjing shows the topic: Long March from humiliation to Rejuvenation. It describes the signing of the treaty at the same place more than 500 years after Zheng He's voyage as a century of humiliation and a forced treaty of peace, from then on, the Chinese people began their century-long struggle to become a modern powerful nation.

As joint curator of China's Hidden Century, Julia Lovell said in her book *The Opium War: Drugs, Dreams and the Making of China*, in contrast to the fact that the history of the Opium War is very well known to the Chinese people through textbooks, museums, movies, television, newspapers and many other channels, London seems to have deliberately ignored the historical traces that Britain once engaged in the drug opium trade and launched a war for it. If western readers want to understand the troubled relationship between China and the West today, they must understand Britain's acting in this war and how China describes and remembers the Opium War.

If you come to Nanjing, you might as well visit Jinghai Temple.



静海寺-南京条约史料陈列馆

Jinghai Temple with Exhibition of History of the Sino-British Treaty of Nanjing



学生们在参观展览

Students visiting the exhibition



油画 The Signing and Sealing of the Treaty of Nanking in the State Cabin of H.M.S.

Cornwallis, 29th August 1842 的复制品和基于该油画而创作的雕塑

Reproduction of painting and sculpture based on the painting The Signing and Sealing of the Treaty of Nanking in the State Cabin of H.M.S. Cornwallis, 29th August 1842



展出的《南京条约》复制品

Reproduction of the Treaty of Nanjing on display

Author and photographer: Hongyan Gu, independent curator and writer, currently living in Nanjing. She graduated from the University of East Anglia with a MA degree in Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies. She is also a volunteer at the Mother's Bridge of Love. (<https://www.mothersbridge.org>) and was a member of the organizing committee for the 2nd English Chinese Bilingual Recitation Competition and hosted the finals on November 19, 2023. She is also the creator of the video series Hongyan's Journey of Museums in Britain.

作者:

顾红艳，母爱桥伦敦总部志愿者，2021 年获得英国东安

格利亚大学文化遗产和博物馆研究 专业硕士学位。《鸿雁

英伦博物馆之旅》视频制作者。第二届英中双语朗诵比赛筹备组成员，并主持了2023年11月19日的决赛。

Food, Migration, Memory Festival: A Success in Celebrating British Chinese Cultural Heritage and Culinary Traditions



Food, Migration, Memory Festival drew a lively crowd at The London Archives (photo 1)

On 28 October, the Food, Migration, Memory Festival, part of the "Taste of Memory" project, successfully brought together London's diverse communities to celebrate the cultural legacies of Asian-inspired culinary heritage. This vibrant festival showcased the collective memories of three generations of chefs of Chinese heritage and gives visitors a fascinating insight into their stories of setting up restaurants while struggling, adapting and integrating into British society.



Group photo of distinguished guests, from the right: Ken Tai, Assistant Brand Marketing Manager at Lee Kum Kee (Europe) Ltd, Ms. Sally Bevan, Senior Archivist at The London Archives, Dr. Carol Zhang, Assistant Professor in the Department of Tourism Marketing at the University of Nottingham Dr. Rui Su, Programme Leader for International Hospitality and Tourism Management (Top-Up) at Middlesex University, Prof. Jonathan Liu, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Ming-Ai (London) Institute, Liz Hutchinson, Director of Communications and Marketing at The British Academy, Prof. Martin Broad, Dean of the Faculty of Business & Law at Middlesex University, Chungwen Li, Dean of Ming-Ai (London) Institute, Prof. Stephen Syrett, Deputy Dean for Research & Knowledge Exchange at Middlesex University and Symeon Ververidis, Senior Engagement and Learning Officer at The London Archives (photo 2)

The event began with a series of inspiring welcome speeches from distinguished guests. Liz Hutchinson, Director of Communications and Marketing at The British Academy, said: "We are very proud to have funded this fantastic project. It's an incredibly imaginative example of how to engage and be truly participatory with the public and with communities in doing research. I think this research really shows the value of the humanities and social sciences in helping us to understand people, societies and culture, in the past, present and future."



Liz Hutchinson, Director of Communications and Marketing at The British Academy (photo 3)



Prof. Jonathan Liu, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Ming-Ai (London) Institute (photo 4)

Professor Jonathan Liu, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Ming-Ai (London) Institute, said, "The Taste of Memory project not only provides cultural and social perspectives to understand our community but also reveals how our collective memories shape the well-being of British communities. Ming Ai (London) Institute's mission is to promote the inheritance and development of Chinese culture through education, research, and community activities, fostering cultural exchange and collaboration within the British Chinese community."

Dr Su remarked, "Taste of Memory is not just a reflection on the Chinese heritage of these chefs but also of how food, migration and a different culture contribute to our society. We hope this exhibition will give visitors an understanding of the British Chinese community, and their transgenerational memories of living, coping, and integrating in London and beyond."

Participants at The London Archives enjoyed a multi-sensory immersive exhibition that explored the development of Chinese cuisine in the UK through themes like "Tasting Memory", "Colouring Memory" and "Collage". Supported by Lee Kum Kee (Europe) Ltd, the exhibition showcased more than just traditional Chinese food tastings and cultural displays provided by The Good Earth Group. It also featured historical artifacts, including menus, photographs, and maps, highlighting the history of the Chinese community and its restaurants, alongside stories spanning three generations of Chinese chefs. Attendees participated in interactive activities and hands-on experiences to learn about the connections between food, immigration, and cultural memory, while also hearing firsthand stories from chefs about the challenges and triumphs of their entrepreneurial journeys.

The chefs' stories include reflections from renowned chef Ken Lo, who became a leading authority on Chinese cuisine in the UK. Andrew Wong, chef-owner of the two-Michelin-starred restaurant A. Wong in London, shared his experiences as a British Chinese chef, discussing how he blends two cultures and emphasizes the importance of preserving Chinese customs and rituals.

Dr. Carol Zhang, Assistant Professor in the Department of Tourism Marketing at the University of Nottingham, said: "It is a great honor to be here. My heartfelt thanks to the London Archives, the Ming-Ai (London) Institute, and Middlesex University for collaborating on this brilliant initiative to amplify the voices of minority communities and make cultural spaces more accessible and inclusive."

Symeon Ververidis, Senior Engagement and Learning Officer at The London Archives concluded, "This event, which has involved working with Middlesex, Ming-Ai, Nottingham and other partners, has aimed to present positively all the communities, whoever is a Londoner, and positively all the things that has made London a home for them."



Participants watched videos and listened to interviews with chefs, learning about their experiences in the UK (photo 5)

The entire "Taste of Memory" exhibition is now available to explore online for free:

https://www.britishchineseheritagecentre.org.uk/en_uk/projects/taste_of_memory.html

Editor: Emily Lam

Reviewed by: Chungwen Li, Ying Gao

「忆味」：探索英国华人移民故事及其饮食文化传承

「美食、移民和回忆」为主题的节庆活动反应热烈

(photo 1)

作为「忆味」计划的一部分，以「美食、移民和回忆」为主题的节庆活动于 10 月 28 日在伦敦档案馆 (The London Archives) 成功举行，活动反应热烈。这场充满活力的展览和节庆探讨了三代英籍华人厨师的集体记忆，并为参加者提供了深入了解他们如何创办餐厅、同时在英国社会中奋斗、适应与融入的故事。

活动在一系列精彩的致辞中拉开序幕，当中英国大英学术院传播与市场营销总监 Liz Hutchinson 提到：「我们非常自豪能够资助这个精彩的项目。这是一个极具创意的例子，展示了如何与公众和社区积极互动，并真正参与其中进行研究。我认为这项研究真正显示了人文社会科学的价值，帮助我们理解过去、现在和未来的人、社会和文化。」



「美食、移民和回忆」节庆活动嘉宾合影留念：李锦记（欧洲）有限公司品牌行销助理经理 Ken Tai、英国伦敦档案馆资深档案主任 Sally Bevan 女士、英国诺丁汉大学旅游市场学系助理教授张晓玥博士（Carol Zhang）、英国密德萨斯大学旅游学系高级讲师苏睿博士（Rui Su）、明

爱（伦敦）学院董事会主席柳代立教授（Jonathan Liu）、英国大英学术院（British Academy）传播与行销总监 Liz Hutchinson、英国密德萨斯大学商业及法律学院院长 Martin Broad 教授、明爱（伦敦）学院李中文院长（Chungwen Li）、英国密德萨斯大学商业及法律学院研究与知识交流副院长 Stephen Syrett 教授、英国伦敦档案馆计画协作与培训经理 Symeon Ververidis（由左至右顺序）（photo 2）英国大英学术院（British Academy）传播与行销总监 Liz Hutchinson 致辞（photo 3）

明爱（伦敦）学院董事会主席柳代立教授（Jonathan Liu）提到：「『忆味』项目不仅展示了文化和社会视角来理解我们的社区，还揭示了我们的集体记忆如何改变英国社区的福祉。明爱（伦敦）学院的使命是推动华人文化的传承与发扬，透过教育、研究及社区活动，促进英国华人社群间的文化交流与合作。」

明爱（伦敦）学院董事会主席柳代立教授（Jonathan Liu）致辞（photo 4）

英国密德萨斯大学旅游学系高级讲师苏睿博士（Rui Su）表示：「『忆味』项目不仅展示了英籍华人厨师的文化遗产，更是强调食物、移民以及不同文化如何为我们的社会做出贡献。我们希望这个展览能让参加者理解英国华人社

区，以及他们在伦敦及其他英国地方生活、应对和融入过程中的跨代记忆。」

英国诺丁汉大学旅游市场学系助理教授张晓玥博士

(Carol Zhang) 称：「我很荣幸能与英国伦敦档案馆、明爱（伦敦）学院和英国密德萨斯大学合作，共同推动『忆味』项目，为少数族裔社群提供发声。这是朝着更加开放和多样化的社会迈出的重要一步。」

参加者在伦敦档案馆参加了多感官体验的沉浸式展览，透过『品尝回忆』、『色彩回忆』和『回忆拼贴』等范畴，深入了解华人在英国餐饮业的发展历程。同时还通过传统菜单、照片、地图等资料，介绍了华人社区及餐厅的历史，以及三代中国厨师的故事。参加者透过互动活动和实践体验，了解了食物、移民与文化记忆之间的联系，并聆听厨师们创业过程中的挑战与故事。

当晚还有由李锦记集团赞助，大三元集团（The Good Earth Group）提供的传统中国美食品尝。大三元集团的始创人郭可伦先生是 1950 年代由香港到英国的移民，并于 1970 年代创办了三元集团。



李锦记集团提供酱料试食品尝，带领参加者体验地道中华风味。

厨师们的故事包括名厨 Ken Lo 的回忆，他成为了英国中国食物领域的权威，而伦敦两星米其林餐厅 A. Wong 的厨师兼店主 Andrew Wong 则谈到了他作为英国华人厨师的经历，如何融合两种文化，以及坚持中国习俗和仪式的重要性。

英国伦敦档案馆计画协作与培训经理 Symeon Ververidis 表示：「这场『忆味』展览和节庆是与英国密德萨斯大学、明爱（伦敦）学院、英国诺丁汉大学和其他合作伙伴共同努力的结果。无论是否伦敦人，这个活动向所有不同社区积极呈现英国华人社区的历史。」

参加者观看视频，聆听受访厨师分享他们在英国的奋斗经历，感受他们如何在餐饮行业中坚持与创新 (photo 5)

「忆味」项目内容现已在「英国华人文化传承中心」的网站公布，有兴趣者可以扫描下方二维码或前往项目网站浏览：

https://www.britishchineseheritagecentre.org.uk/zh_cn/projects/taste_of_memory.html

「忆味」项目内容

编辑 | Emily Lam; 审核 | Chungwen Li, Ying Gao

The Stone God Premiere in London by

Nick Smith

"My opera *The Stone God*, adapted from Hong Ying's story *New Moon Rise* (the third book in her *Magical Sangsang* series), came to life in London's Bloomsbury Theatre at the beginning of November 2024 thanks to the vision and generosity of spirit of Justin Lavender, Ali Marshall and the other members of Arcadian Opera, brilliantly supported in the orchestra pit by the New Music Players. The human passions portrayed in the story are universal, but a story must have a location. And the China setting gives so many opportunities for colour, both in the music and the staging.

My hope was that the opera's various Chinese elements could give both performers and listeners an opportunity to understand and reflect on Chinese culture, and happily this proved to be the case. The members of chorus, who in the score are called upon to behave just as a crowd of Chinese locals would were something interesting to happen on their street, took this completely to heart and made real efforts to understand the motivations and mindset of their characters, something that came across brilliantly in the performances.

They were a very convincing Chinese crowd, and many in the audience who had spent some time in China commented to me afterwards how realistic and moving they found these portrayals. Interestingly, it wasn't all one way traffic, either. The opera is sung in English, and the four Chinese lead singers took to this work with a relish I have rarely witnessed, in part perhaps because the story is very much of China. It was a thrill to realize I have created something that can convey Chinese sensibility without the need for fluency in Chinese.

The other work on the program, which was performed before the opera, is an adaptation of Hong Ying's first *Sangsang* story – *The Girl From The French Fort*. I wrote this as a companion piece to the very well-known work for narrator and orchestra: *Peter And The Wolf*. The *The Girl From The French Fort* work has now been recorded by the New Music Players and will be released sometime next year in both an English and a Chinese version. People have been asking me already about future performances: it seems that there is a real need for something to alternate with *Peter and the Wolf*, and it's very exciting that this something could be a Chinese story!"

About Nickolas Michael Smith: Nicholas Michael Smith OBE is a renowned British conductor, composer, arranger, and music educator. For over 30 years, celebrated British musician Nicholas Michael Smith OBE has introduced Chinese audiences to major orchestral and choral works from the western classical canon and raised the profile of Chinese music abroad. Born in 1967, Smith was raised in the UK attending Exeter School. He read music at St John's College Cambridge (1987-90), studying with Robin Holloway and Martin Ennis. In 1994, he moved to Wuhan, China to establish a post-graduate course in music theory at the Wuhan Conservatory of Music. Relocating to Beijing in 1995, Smith began working with professional musicians, conservatories, and the Beijing Concert Hall on educational concerts to foster interest in western classical music.

<https://nicholasmichaelsmith.com>



Iris Yau (SACU Trustee) with Therese Booth (Co-Chair of The Chopsticks Club)



L to R -Iris Yau (SACU Trustee), Yushi XING, Nicholas Michael Smith (The Stone God composer), Coco SHI at the After Party in London



Nicholas Michael Smith (The Composer), Hong YING (Writer), and the Cast of The Stone God on stage at the Bloomsbury Theatre
Photo credits: Iris Yau

How to make friends; The Fourth Talk of “A Practical Guide for Every Day - The Art of Living from the Confucian Tradition” by Fang Wang

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of SACU in 2025, we launched a series of 12 seminars “A Practical Guide for Every Day - The Art of Living from the Confucian Tradition” from January 2025 on, with one seminar each month covering the topics of Daily life at Home, Making Friends and Entertaining, In the World of Work and Study, Public Life and Problem Solving.

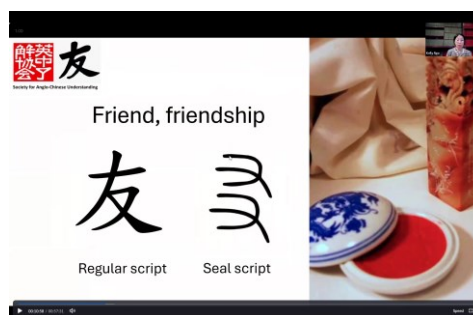
This series of lectures takes inspiration from the importance of everyday interactions and events in achieving Confucian virtuosity. Harnessing the cultural resources of the Confucian tradition in day-to-day experiences has the potential to improve the quality of our lives and those around us. Embedded in common civilities are ancient ideas of propriety.

Propriety in roles and relations (li 禮) is the integration of an outer practical dimension with the related inner attitude – linking thoughts, words, and conduct. Drawing from the exemplary life and perspectives of Confucius as well as early Confucian sources, the theory and practice of such social living will be discussed in relation to modern life.

The talk on 15th May given by Dr. Kelly Ngo is about how to win friends. She started with the introduction of Dr. Joseph Needham’s book “Within the Four Seas” in which the 14th chapter recorded his speech on the first SACU’s meeting on 15th May 1965. His words “.....the smaller our world is, the greater is the urgency of the mutual understanding of the peoples and their cultures. “ echoes perfectly with the challenges we are facing globally.

The founder of SACU, Dr. Joseph Needham, designed the logo of SACU sixty years ago by incorporating the name of SACU in Chinese with a calligraphic work of the Chinese character -- friend 友, which means the mission of SACU is to promote the mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of both UK and China. In her talk Dr. Ngo firstly explained the character of friend in both regular script and seal script. It can be seen clearly from the seal script that the character of friend is composed of two hands, meaning that

two or more people work together sharing the same goal or inspiration. It is close to why Dr. Needham included the character in the logo of SACU, calling for peoples from different nations to work together for better understanding and friendship of peoples and cultures.



After the explanation of Chinese character of friend, Dr. Ngo illustrated the meaning of friends in the Confucian context, which is the sharing of commitment to cultivate ethical character and supporting each other to achieve moral excellence. She explained the meaning of friend by giving us an example of the friendship of Su Shi, Confucius scholar official, and Buddhism Master Fo Yin. When Su Shi was arrogantly proud of himself on the width of his knowledge and scholarship, Fo Yin criticized him by leaving him a note without hosting him when Su visited him. That’s what a true friendship is. Just like in the analects *Master Xun*, “someone who properly criticises me is my teacher; someone who properly praises me is my friend; someone who flatters me is my foe.” Similar sentences could be found in the analects Master Zeng, “through cultural refinement, the exemplary person makes friends, they develop their humanity.” So friends should be criticizing or encouraging each other to become better human beings and bringing out the best of each other.



Friends need to be patient and considerate to each other. Dr. Ngo gave us another example of friendship between Lian Po and Lin Xiangru in ancient State Qin to further illustrate how

to win well-established friendship. Looking down upon Diplomat Lin, Commander Lian argued his team's contribution was much more than Lin's work. Lin was tolerant and praised Lian's contribution without arguing who contributed more. Lin insisted that working together for the interest of the state was the key to the state security. Lian was embarrassed and apologized to Lin and finally they became lifelong friends.

Friends should also be a mirror to reflect on ourselves. As Confucius put, "virtue never stands alone. It is bound to have neighbors." Winning friend is less about what we have but the very person that we are. Humility is the key element to be a good person, to identify and win friends, to appreciate and gain strength from people around us. We have to keep on learning and practicing humility so that we can follow the exemplary people and have more and more good friends. The practice is a long way, just like the two zither players Bo Ya and Zi Qi who were completely in tune of each other, said "A friend is a person who knows of my mind". Humility is the base to win true and helpful friendship.

The talk was so thought provoking and inspiring that quite a few of the audience put up their questions online to further discuss how to win friends nowadays when sometimes people are making friends online and have a broader friendship network than before.

Dr Kelly Ngo is a lecturer of ancient Chinese literature at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. Kelly trained and practiced as a lawyer for several years in London and in Sydney, Australia. Her research interest is in classical Chinese texts for the cultivation of ethical character. She has co-authored a sourcebook of traditional Chinese children's primers, which will be published in November. She is currently working on a translation of a collection of historical anecdotes of exemplary individuals. The whole video could be found shortly at www.sacu.org.uk. The following talks of the series could be joined by registering at Eventbrite. Please also refer to the SACU e mail newsletter.

Fang Wang is a member of SACU Council and arranges the SACU/Peking University Essay Competition



Confucius statue in Shanghai and below, his Tomb at Qufu (WF)



BEIJING, March 17 (Xinhua) – Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang met Ed Miliband, UK Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, in Beijing. They agreed to enhance cooperation in addressing climate change and develop stable and mutually beneficial relations between China and the UK. This serves the common interests, facilitates global economic growth, and promotes joint efforts to address global challenges. Ding said China is ready to work with the UK to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of both countries, consolidate the momentum for improvement and development of bilateral ties, deepen cooperation in areas such as financial services, trade and investment, and low-carbon development, and jointly address climate change to benefit both countries and the world. Miliband said the UK hopes to enhance engagement with China, and is committed to developing a long-term and constructive bilateral relationship to strengthen cooperation with China on energy security and climate change.

Reading about China by Walter Fung

China; Empire of Living Symbols by Cecilia Lindqvist; A Merloyd-Lawrence Book, 1991, 423 pages. The book was originally written in Swedish.

I recently saw this book in Bolton Library and thought I must buy it, but when I got home, I found that I already had it, bought from Bibliophile back in 1996!

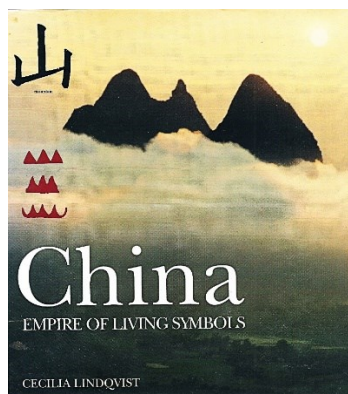
The book examines a selection of Chinese characters and analyses the structure and why they were written in this way. In doing this, his explanations contain much information on Chinese culture and history, some of which I had not seen anywhere else. The book has excellent credentials as the forward is written by Dr Michael Loewe of the Needham Institute.

The book is divided into numerous short sections introduced by short subtitles referring to groups of characters dealing with specific subjects including; oracle bones, man and mankind, water and mountains, wild animals, domestic animals, farming, books, musical instruments, abstract characters etc, etc. The text is accompanied by very many diagrams and photographs on almost on every page, which makes the subject matter more interesting and easier to understand.

I worked in the textile industry for many years and was particularly interested in the section on silk. Some historians believe silk cloth was in use in China 4,700 years ago. Silk ribbons were believed to be in existence 400 years even earlier than that. Patterned silk cloth was woven on a 'two tier' weaving loom, with two operators. Pattern and different colours were achieved by the second operator, called the 'draw boy', who lifted groups of threads from the general warp. Thousands of years later, in 1801, a Frenchman called Joseph-Marie Jacquard achieved this by a punch card mechanism – an early computer?

The book deals with other essential technical aspects of silk production including silkworm breeding. I am amazed how delicate silk thread was processed so long ago and in such high volumes. Weaving, even with modern machinery is a slow and delicate process.

The book also has a short section on calligraphy and stroke order in writing Chinese characters.



Two-Way Knowledge Transfer in Nineteenth Century China; The Scottish Missionary-Sinologist Alexander Wylie (1815-1887) by Ian Gow, Routledge 2023, 228 pages.

This as an important book about a Missionary-Sinologist who studied Chinese culture and science in the 19th century. He made a significant contribution to the transfer of knowledge between China and Britain. He translated many Chinese scripts on literature and science but his work is underappreciated and not very well known. The book is written by Ian Gow, an honorary Professor of East Asian Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Professor Gow gave a presentation to the Scotland China Association in Edinburgh, which I attended by zoom link.

Wylie was first trained as a cabinet maker, but became a printer and went to Shanghai, China in 1847 and took over the London Missionary Society printing press from Walter Medhurst. Wylie wanted to be a missionary and printing provided the opportunity to become one in China.

He taught himself Chinese. In fact, he had a special gift for languages and mathematics. He made significant contributions to the transfer of knowledge between China and Britain both as a researcher and as a translator. Being a printer gave him the means of disseminating his work and also the spread of Christianity. He was involved with a translation of the Bible into Chinese. Other works involved translating the writings of Euclid, Newton and other Western scientists into Chinese.

He also translated Chinese works on arithmetic into English, which showed that China was not behind in this discipline as many thought at the time, believing that the Jesuits introduced that knowledge into China. His most important work was *Jottings on the Science of the Chinese*, which was published as a nine-part series on traditional Chinese mathematics in the newspaper, *North China Herald*. This was acknowledged as a pioneering work on the history of indigenous Chinese mathematics and was quickly translated into French, German and Italian. It would be a further 70 years before a similar work on Chinese mathematics would appear. This work was in Joseph Needham's multivolume, *Science and Civilisation in China*. The authors, Needham and Ling Wang, acknowledged Wylie's earlier work.

Wylie was familiar with the writings of Isaac Newton and together with Li Shanlan, partially translated *Principia* into Chinese. The only surviving copy of their translation is in the library of SOAS in London. Others worked on the translation but it is not difficult to appreciate that translating this work would require not just a good knowledge of Chinese but also of mathematics.

An interesting item recorded on Gow's book is the differing translation for God into Chinese by different missionaries;

Some used the term, ‘Supreme Deity’, others thought ‘Lord of Heaven’ more appropriate, while other used the term ‘Shen’, which means profound or deep. Gow does not provide information on this word.

Wylie helped authenticate the **Nestorian Stele** found near Xi’an in 1625. It held writings in Chinese and Syriac script and also the date of 781. Jesuits believed it was evidence that Christianity had arrived in China much earlier than was believed, but others claimed it was a Jesuit forgery. The dispute raged for over 200 years, but in 1855, Wylie published a paper in the prestigious *Journal of the American Oriental Society* on the Nestorian Church. He also published a report in the *North China Herald*, and he also provided other sources which included an edict in a tenth century Tang Dynasty (618-907) encyclopaedia that specifically mentioned the Nestorians in China.



Nestorian tablet in the Forest of Steles in Xi’an (WF)

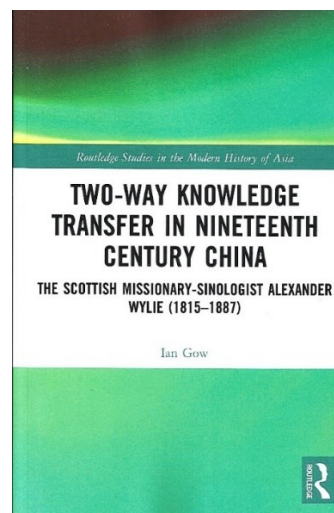
Scholars believe Wylie’s work needs much more recognition. Roel Sterckx, the Needham Professor of History, Science and Civilisation in China at Cambridge University, in a recent work, mentions the two Scottish missionaries, Alexander Wylie and James Legge who put British Sinology on the map in the 19th century,

Wylie’s works were a precursor for Joseph Needham, who was fully familiar with Wylie’s works and cites them extensively in the areas of mathematics and other branches of science and technology. Needham spoke highly of Wylie’s publication *Jottings*, saying that it could be read profitably today.

Wylie never published a full-length book, but 10 years after his death, a book entitled *Chinese Researches*, appeared in which his name was frequently mentioned. Gow, states that a more accurate title should have been, *The Collected Works of Alexander Wylie by William Muirhead*. This work was funded by Wylie’s friends and colleagues with the support of his daughter. This was reprinted in Japan in 1936 and again in Taiwan in 1966.

Gow’s book states that the British focus on China at the end of the 18th century was driven by commercial considerations, with apparently little interest in converting the Chinese to Christianity. Lord Macartney’s expedition was a failure. However, it seems that the arrival of commercial personnel, facilitated the enthusiastic entry of missionaries into China.

Gow’s book, although only 228 pages in length, contains an enormous amount of information about science and literature and also about the very large number of people actually involved. The book requires careful and thoughtful study; there is much information to absorb.



Red Pockets; An Offering by Alie Mah, Allaen Lane, 2025, 229 pages.

This book was reviewed in the Sunday Times Culture supplement (20/4/25). It is a book about a member of the Chinese diaspora in Canada visiting her ancestral village in China and exploring her roots and identity. As a British Born Chinese, I take a special interest in the overseas Chinese, so I immediately ordered the book from Amazon. It arrived the next day and I started to read it as soon as it came through the letter box. It is a paperback and is an uncorrected advance reading copy. A note inside stated that the finished book may not have the appearance and contents of this edition.

It was easy to read and I finished reading it within a few hours. I was intrigued by the title, Red Pockets. Red Pockets would be a more accurate title because it refers to red packets given by Chinese as gifts on occasions such as weddings, birthdays, Christmas or any other occasion when families or friends meet. Usually, they are given by senior family members to children or younger family members.

The author is an environmental researcher who visits places connected to her parents and ancestors. In many cases she combines her environmental research trips with family research. The research takes her to China, Vancouver and

other places, including Coventry and Glasgow, where she lived for a while. In fact, she is a Professor of Urban and Environmental Studies at the University of Glasgow.

Her writings were of especial interest to me, because her family origins are in Taishan (Toisan) county in Guangdong province, which is where my family came from. The author meets family members in her ancestral village and learns about her great grandparents.

I was surprised that she had not hear of 'tomb sweeping' until she was a fully grown woman. I was aware of the practice from a very early age. It is important in Chinese culture to honour ancestors by caring for their graves, especially at the Qingming Festival (usually 4th April). Traditionally it is important to do this otherwise, the dead become 'hungry ghosts' who might cause problems for those who neglect their tombs. This belief and Qingming are mentioned a number of times by the author. In fact, the title of the Sunday Times review is Haunted by 'hungry ghosts'.

Her great grandfather emigrated to Canada and later managed to bring his wife and child into Canada, but had to pay a \$500 head tax. This tax was specifically to deter Chinese from entering Canada. At that time there was considerable anti-Chinese feeling. Many other historical details and items of Chinese culture are incorporated into her book.

The Sunday Times reviewer is not too impressed with the book saying that it is a 'clumsy jumble of personal anecdote, political manifesto and passing observation'. I can understand why he says this, but I found it an informative and entertaining read. Maybe the reviewer was expecting too much and should have accepted the book for what it is, a personal and sensitive memoir of a Chinese Canadian environmental scientist researching her roots, recording her experiences and thoughts along the way.

The title of the review mentioning 'hungry ghosts' is probably inappropriate, as it is only one item in the book. But it was probably chosen to catch peoples' attention.

The Coming China Wars by Peter Navarro, FT Press (Financial Times), 2007 263 pages. The subtitle is: Where they will be fought, How they can be won.

I bought this book back in 2008 and was astonished and found it disturbing. Now much of what Navarro has written has come to pass. Peter Navarro is a business professor at the University of California. He is a recognised word expert in 'translating sophisticated macroeconomic analysis into accessible big picture insights about business, finance and investment'. He is now Donald Trump's trade advisor.

The book does not need a detailed review. The information on the jacket cover and titles of some of the chapters convey

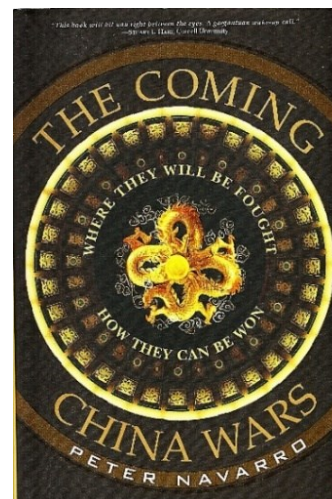
his message adequately. On the jacket cover, he refers to China as a 'nuclear superpower and pirate nation'. The book claims that China has become the world's most ruthless imperialist and is promoting global environmental disaster, that China's thirst for oil is driving nuclear proliferation in Iran, genocide in Sudan and even Japan's remilitarization.

The book discusses China's state-sanctioned thievery and how China's counterfeit drugs and products can literally kill you. Navarro is certainly a China 'hawk'. Trade deficits with the US are discussed, China's alleged actions in the Sudan, Zimbabwe and Iran are condemned, also China's abuse of the veto in the United Nations. He suggests that if this continues, China should be stripped of its veto.

The opening chapter is illuminating. A quote from Business Week mentions the 'China Price' and quotes 'cut your price by at least 30% or lose your customers.' This referred to virtually every manufacturer in the US. It meant for many, a move of production away from the US to China, which could manufacture everything much cheaper.

The book refers to China's 'weapons of mass production'. Some positive points are made in that Chinese workers are better disciplined and have the benefit of efficient organisation but many negative factors are also mentioned such as currency manipulation, lower health and safety regulations, government subsidies and state sanctioned counterfeiting and piracy. A comprehensive list is given of counterfeited items from baby food, soft drinks, batteries, cigarettes, make-up and perfume, chemicals, air conditioning units to elevators and even toilet seats.

The book does include some useful information but emphasis is on negative criticism. The section on the Three Gorges Dam, hardly mentions any of the advantages and concentrates on negatives, loss of arable land, submerging archaeological sites, displacing nearly two million people, prone to earthquakes, corruption, spirally costs and safety issues.



SACU Tour April 2025; My thoughts about China by Pedro Agostinho

The SACU April 2025 tour was my first ever visit to China. I had always wanted to go to that fascinating country which to so many people in the west is still unknown and mysterious. A vast, scenic, diverse, immense landmass of a country that, unfortunately, due to adverse western media propaganda, xenophobia, ignorance, continues to be considered inimical and dangerous.

I was privileged to find myself in the company of interesting and knowledgeable travelling companions, many of whom had been to China before. These SACU members were invaluable to help me learn so much more about China, its history and culture, and to inform and explain to me George Hogg's contribution to the enduring friendship between the Chinese and the English peoples. My thanks and appreciation are due to them and to all the travel guides, drivers and officials who alternated looking after the group from one place to another. They were attentive, patient, jovial and always helpful even when having to overcome the language barrier - once I had to clarify that my name is Pedro, not 'bedroom'!

We travelled through many cities and country areas, met local governments and functionaries connected with friendship associations between China and foreign countries, with journalists, local people, school teachers and their students. They always welcomed us warmly, courteously and were rightly proud of their country. Every occasion, every visit, every place, was for me an overwhelming experience of discovery. Learning even more about China's history, culture, philosophy, achievements, at times through their immense sacrifice, with murderous wars ravaging the country and of her people being crushed and killed on a massive scale.

As my three-week visit progressed, I began to feel and think that I was definitely in a country, in a world, very different from Europe and indeed the western world. Why? Was I seeing it all through the proverbial rose-tinted specs? We were obviously foreigners, the reactions from all the Chinese people we met and their interaction with us were those of natural, friendly curiosity, never unpleasant, dismissive, antagonistic, hostile. Very often, on the streets, wanted to take their photos with us!

Yes, we didn't have much time on our own by ourselves, we had a fairly tight schedule to adhere to, and there was always so much more to see and to learn! But even being there for such a short three-week period, in that immense country, travelling in spotless, fast and efficient trains, planes, coaches, walking around looking at places and people - in a word being educated about China - showed me that another world, a more progressive and prosperous and peaceful world is possible to exist.

China is modern, powerful, rich, but also respectful of tradition and cultural heritage. Creativity in the arts and an incredible but visible advancement in economics, science, technology, AI, are taking place everywhere there. It shows

that aggression towards other countries and their peoples is not needed. China is country, a society, where, if perfection does not yet exist there, one could be forgiven wondering that such is not an impossible



Group photo at Shanghai Song Qingling School



Figures at the Memorial Hall of the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders.



Patriotic figures in Tiananmen Square.

The author, Pedro is a member of SACU. He has dual nationality, Portuguese and British. He has worked as a schoolteacher and as an independent journalist.

Sino File compiled by Walter Fung

Items worth reading again

Thank you, China, (From the Sun newspaper (15/5/04)
China has emerged as the unlikely saviour of the world. Its booming economy has hauled the world from recession following the 9/11 attacks and has also revitalised many

companies of the world. This was highlighted by the Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao on his meeting with Tony Blair as contracts were signed worth £1 billion. China's economy has boosted demands for British goods, which has contributed to record levels of employment. B & Q has 15 stores in China and is expanding rapidly and Rolls Royce has just won a large order from the Cathay Pacific airline for its expansion into China. There are also many other companies benefitting in the same way, including those in Japan and Australia.

However, financially. The most important item is China's part in keeping up demand for bonds issued by the American government. America has borrowed vast sums of money on the international market to pay for the Iraq war and to rev up demand at home as it emerges from an economic slowdown. The Chinese, who are awash with dollars after selling so many of their goods to American markets, has lent much of this money. They have built up a pile of dollars' worth £250 billion. It is probable that the dollar would have crashed without demand from China.

China is also making life easier for Britons by manufacturing goods at cheap prices and keeping down inflation, which has contributed to low interest rates for mortgages. The world owes China a favour because it could well be in recession without the Chinese contribution.

NB: The Economist of 15/5/04 made many of the same points as the Sun.

From the British press

Trump advisor says UK is a servant of China

Peter Navarro, Trump's trade advisor believes that Britain has been a 'compliant servant of the Chinese Communist Party' and allowed Beijing to extend its economic power across the world. He is against British moves to re-engage with China. He warned it was a very dangerous time for countries to be exposed to China during a trade war with China. He attacked ministers for rejecting a relaxation of food standards, which would have allowed imports from the US of chlorinated chicken and said that this would come at a cost in securing a trade deal with the US. He also said that Britain should resist string-laden gifts from Beijing and become a dumping ground for goods that China could no longer sell to the US. *(From The Times 5/5/25)*

China's BYD overtakes Tesla car sales

BYD's global sales reached \$107 billion in the last year, compared to Tesla's \$97.7 billion. BYD (Build Your Dreams) showed a 29% increase in 2024. Very recently, BYD unveiled a super-fast charging system that can inject enough electric to go 232 miles in just five minutes (still to be verified in the UK). BYD's prices are substantially lower than Tesla, especially in China. BYD does not sell into the US because of punitive tariffs.

Across Europe in February this year, new car sales fell by 2.5% to 966,000 vehicles but Chinese made vehicle sales increased by 82% to reach 40,600. Chinese electric vehicle

manufacturers sold 19,800 compared to Tesla's 15,700, which represented a fall of 34%. *(From The Times 25/3/25)*

China's smart cars

China is leading the world in the introduction of self-driving technology. He Xiaopeng, the boss of Xpeng, a Chinese electric vehicle maker in Guangzhou, believes that the industry is on the verge of breakthrough, which could happen this year. Apparently, a Xpeng driver took the Economist correspondent on an impressive 20 minute 'test drive' through the streets of Guangzhou. The self-drive car managed to overtake other cars, avoid scooters and do a U turn, but the Xpeng driver did need to take the wheel on a number of occasions. However, Mr He is confident that Chinese are amongst the leaders, although competition is intense.

There are two paths to commercialisation of self-drive vehicles, robotaxis and advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS). The two are labelled by global industry standards from level zero (no automation) to level five (full automation without restrictions). Level five is still far off because of technical, commercial and regulatory challenges, but cars at lower levels are already on the road. Robotaxis are level four and do not need a driver but they can only operate within restricted areas. There are five Chinese companies running more than 2,300 robotaxis in 11 cities. In the US, 700 robotaxis are operating in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Phoenix.

In 2020, the Chinese state planner, set a goal for level three (L3) mass production. L3 requires no hands on the wheel or eye on the road in certain situations. Drivers would be able to watch films or answer emails. Analysts predict that L3 capable car sales in China will be four times the number in North America and Europe. By 2040, 90% of all cars in China are expected to be L3 compared to 80% in Europe and 65% in the US. *(From The Economist 15/3/25)*

Chinese flying car

The Chinese manufacturer Xpeng AeroHT exhibited a flying car, at the Las Vegas Electronics Show. The flying module, eVTOL, electric vehicle take-off and landing 'flying car' fit into the boot of a 'mother vehicle'. The manufacturer says it has had 3,000 orders for the craft, which will cost between £163,000 and £245,000. Sales are initially for the Chinese market, but the company believes there will be demand in the Middle East. The mother vehicle, is a three-axle van, which can seat four passengers and will fit into a regular parking space.

EHang, another Chinese company is believed to lead the world in the race to launch a two-seater fully certified eVTOL, autonomous aircraft. *(From The Times 10/1/25)*

Rare earth materials

A recent report by USGS Mineral Commodities Summaries, lists the rare earth minerals reserves of a number of countries: China with 44 million tonnes, Vietnam with 22 million tonnes, Brazil with 21 million tonnes, Russia with 12 million tonnes and India with 6.9 million tonnes. It is interesting that the countries with the most are all members of BRICS. The next country with significant deposits is

Australia with 4.1 million tonnes. The US has a mere 1.5 million tonnes. Greenland has 1.5 million tonnes; Tanzania and Canada each have less than one million tonnes. *(From The Sunday Times 9/3/25)*

Change of crew at China's space station

A Long March rocket launched yesterday from Jiuquan in northwest China took three Chinese taikonauts to the Chinese space station. They will spend six months carrying out physics and life science experiments. They will also carry out general maintenance and install equipment to protect the space station against space debris. The leader, Chen Dong, 46, is a former fighter pilot and in 2022, he became the first taikonaut to spend more than 200 days in orbit. They will relieve the three taikonauts already on the space station, who will return to earth in the next few days. China plans to have a moon landing in 2030 and eventually build a base on the moon. *(From The Times 25/4/25)*

BBC World Service cuts

More than 50 former BBC World Service senior journalists and executives have warned that China and Russia could step into the gap left by funding cuts. The BBC claimed that China and Russia were spending up to £8 billion to sow disinformation! (my exclamation mark), while the BBC was cutting 130 jobs to save £6 million. *(From The Times 25/3/25)*

Chinese new C949 supersonic airliner

China could be the first to offer a successor to the supersonic Concord. The Chinese company Comac have issued blueprints for the new aircraft in an academic paper, it will fly at a speed of Mach 1.6, with a range of 6,800 miles non-stop, in excess of Concord's 4,500 miles. It will also be much quieter than Concord with a sonic boom of 89.3 decibels compared to Concord's 105. Although, the C949 will carry more passengers than Concord, 168 persons compared to 128 for Concord, it will, at Mach 1.6 be slightly slower than Concord's maximum speed of Mach 2.2. *(From The Telegraph 31/3/25)*

China to raise retirement ages

The present retirement age for female blue-collar workers is 50 years, which is due to rise to 55 years. For white-collar female workers, the present 55 years will rise to 58 years. For men the present 60 years will rise to 63 years. The changes began on January 2025 and will be phased in over the next 15 years. The changes will be gradual. For men and white-collar women, the pension age will rise by a month every four months and for blue-collar women workers the rise will be a month every two months. There is some flexibility for both men and women, for example men can work on until the age of 66 years. Life expectancy in China today is 77 years, only three years less than the average for fully developed nations. In 1949, life expectancy in China was a mere 35 years. *(From The Economist 21/9/24)*

NB. Some accounts for certain cities, e.g. Beijing, state higher figures for life expectancy up to 81 years.

Nvidia faces \$5.5 billion hit as AI chips are restricted

President Trump's trade war is restricting AI sales into China. The restriction, estimated cost of \$5.5 billion is an attempt to stop China's advance in artificial intelligence technology.

Advanced Micro Devices, another US chip maker is expected to take an estimated \$800 million hit after the US government imposed new restrictions on the sale of its semiconductor products to China. In addition, the Dutch company ASML, the world's largest supplier of chip-making equipment has warned that US tariffs were increasing uncertainty around the world. The US is concerned that AI chips could be used for military applications and breakthroughs in AI.

The new restrictions were imposed after Chinese companies reportedly placed orders totalling over \$16 billion for Nvidia's H20 chips in the first three months of the year. The high demand is believed to be driven by the start-up of China's Deepseek's AI models. Deepseek's chatbot is said to have the same depth and utility as the US ChatGPT, at a fraction of the cost. *(From The Times 17/4/25)*.

China woos Latin American nations

China promised \$9 billion of investment credits to Latin American and Caribbean nations, additional direct investment and visa-free travel to China. President Xi was offering a closer economic partnership at the forum of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean nations (Celac) in Beijing. Two states which recognise Taiwan were present, Haiti and St Lucia.

The presidents of Brazil and Columbia were two of the heads of state in attendance. Columbia's president announced his country's intention to join BRICS. While BRICS members have their differences, it is seen, especially in China, as an axis of economic resistance by the global south to US 'hegemonism'. *(From The Times 14/5/25)*

Shanghai is gateway to birder's paradise

The first thing that strikes you about Shanghai is how clean, quiet and efficient the city is. It is like Swiss efficiency and German green standard with no pollution and chaos. Although it has three times the population of London, even in the centre areas, traffic was light and you could hear the birds singing from the trees. The number of birds was noticeably high with species such as little winged plovers and the three wagtails familiar in the UK.

In addition, there were many exotic grasslands birds such as the red-throated, olive-backed and buff-bellied pipits. Black-collared and white-cheeked starlings, dusky thrush and long-tailed shrikes were very common. China is also excellent at protecting more remote places and national parks. *(From The Times 5/4/25)*

UK should be spending more on defence to 'fend off China'

A former Cabinet Secretary, Sir Simon Case, has warned that Britain should be spending 3% of its GDP on defence 'right now' to protect the country from global threats including an aggressive 'quasi-imperial' China. He said that Britain faced an axis of rival and enemy states, which are cooperating more closely. China is leading them and is the technological and military powerhouse and Beijing is sharing its rapid advances with Russia, North Korea and Iran.

He also said that 30 to 40 years from now, people will be writing PhDs about the rise of the modern Chinese Empire. *(From The Times 22/5/25)*

Trump bans foreign students at Harvard

The US administration has said it is halting Harvard University's ability to enrol international students and has ordered existing international students at Harvard to transfer to another university or lose their legal status. The administration has demanded 'relevant information' on each international student at Harvard who had been involved in 'known legal' or 'dangerous' activity.

Harvard is said to be fostering violence, antisemitism and coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party on its campus. The university has nearly 6,800 international students which is about a quarter of the total number. *(From The Guardian 23/5/25)*

NB. According to the internet, a third of the 6,800 foreign students at Harvard are Chinese, with about 700 Indian.

From the Chinese press

China urges major countries to meet aid pledges

China urges major countries to avoid breaking commitments and to shoulder their responsibilities on foreign aid. Li Ming, a spokesman for the China International Development Cooperation Agency made these remarks in response to the US decision to eliminate over 90% of the US Agency for International Development's foreign aid contracts and \$60 billion in overall assistance around the world., *(From CDGW 21-27/3/25)*

Prospects for the next year.

The target growth will be around 5%. China is committed to sustainable growth, innovation-driven quality development, continued expansion of domestic demand and persistence in multilateral cooperation. Also, emphasis will be on stability and resilience combined with sustainability. There are also targets of 2% increase of CPI and important for the environment, around 3% reduction of energy used per unit of GDP. Efforts will continue to improve living standards and strengthen the economy against external challenges. An important step towards stimulating growth is the creation of 11 million new urban jobs.

China's total goods imported and exported reached 43.85 trillion yuan (\$6.1 trillion) in 2024, which was an increase of 5% from the previous year. There will be further opening up of the service sector and the government is committed to supporting the private sector. The government has been using technology related industries as a key driving force for the economy, which strengthens confidence in the business sector, according to a senior research officer at the Kasikorn Research Centre in Bangkok. *(From CDGW 14-20/3/25)*

Enhancing Grassroots Democracy

Axis Shanghai has established more than 5,700 contact stations across the city to enhance grassroots democracy and to foster closer contact between citizens and the government. Shanghai is where President Xi Jinping first launched the concept of 'whole-process' peoples' democracy in 2019. This is a system in which ordinary people can engage directly with some 15,000 legislators at the national, municipal, district and town levels. They can voice concerns on economic and

livelihood concerns and offer suggestions. In addition, Shanghai has also set up 36 local legislative outreach offices to solicit public feedback on legislative and regulatory issues. The offices are situated in all 16 districts of Shanghai

Contact stations were, in fact, first introduced in 2014 and have become pivotable platforms for promoting the rule of law and good governance. These actions are to reinforce the goal of inclusive government. *(From CDGW 14-20/3/25)*

Oppo and other Chinese companies progress in SE Asia

Last year, Oppo overtook Samsung to become the top smartphone brand in Southeast Asia with an 18% share of the market, represented by 16.9 million sales. Oppo's factory in Tangerang, west of Jakarta is the company's first manufacturing plant outside of China. Oppos has promoted local authorisation, cultivated local talent and integrated into local cultures. Chinese companies in Southeast Asia, try to support local employment. The Oppo factory has nearly 20,000 local employees and has contracts with local suppliers.

China is investing heavily elsewhere in SE Asia. In 2023, China was the third biggest source of FDI, reaching \$17 billion, a year-on-year increase of nearly 20%. The figure for 2010 was only \$4 billion, which has increased substantially. The number of Chinese companies operating in the area increased from 2,600 in 2012 to 6,500 in 2022.

In Thailand, a total of 474,000 electric vehicles were produced in 2024 and by some reports, 620,000 will be made this year. *(From CDGW 28/4 -3/5/25)*

China and UK jointly to address climate change

Ed Miliband, the UK Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, met Chinese Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang in Beijing. The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in addressing climate change. Ding said that developing stable and mutually beneficial relations between the two countries serves the common interests of the two peoples and contributes to economic growth and helps joint efforts to address global challenges. Miliband said that the UK sincerely hopes to enhance engagement with China and is committed to a long-term and constructive bilateral relationship. *(From CDGW 21-27/3/25).*

China, Japan and South Korea to advance cooperation

The foreign ministers of the three countries met in Tokyo on the 22 March in the 11th Trilateral Foreign Minister Meeting. The last was in Seoul last year. The three countries respect each other's core interests and hope to resume negotiations at an early date to reach an agreement to set up a China-Japan--South Korea free trade area. Other factors for consideration include healthy ageing, new energy and green development. *(From CDGW 28/3-3/4/25)*

WHO commended by Peng Liyuan

The wife of Xi Jinping commended the WHO (World Health Organisation) in saving 79 million lives since the year 2000 through its tuberculosis prevention and control programmes working with the world international community. Peng is a goodwill ambassador of the WHO for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. She called for increased investment and steps to eradicate the disease. *(From CDGW 26/3-3/4/25)*

Ship building at Dalian

China's ship building, marine construction, repairs and retrofitting industry is becoming a global leader. The Hengli Heavy Industries company has orders up to 2028. When fully developed, the shipyard will be the largest in the world. Processing of 2.3 million steel plates will be carried out each year to build 150 large ships and 180 engines. In 2024, China's shipbuilding industry built 55.7% of new ships and had 74.1% of the new orders in the world. A recent conference at Dalian, was attended by 200 delegates including personnel from South Korea, Japan, the UK, Germany and Finland. (From CDGW 28/3-3/3/25)

Japan urged to jointly uphold multilateralism

The Chinese ambassador to Japan, Wu Jianghao has called on people in Japan to jointly safeguard justice, the post-war international order and world peace. In an interview in Beijing on the sidelines of this year's Two Sessions Wu urged Tokyo to reject malicious remarks against China and work with China to uphold multilateralism and the global free trade system.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's war of Resistance against Japanese aggression (1931-45) and the World Anti-Fascist War.

Incredibly, right-wing forces in Japan still deny the history of aggression and glorify the wars of aggression. (From CDGW 14-20/3/25)

China issues first green bond on London Stock Exchange

China issued a renminbi-denominated sovereign green bond on the London Stock Exchange on Thursday, marking its first overseas issuance of such a bond. "China has made a solemn commitment to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. During this year's two sessions, it was emphasized that China will work to reduce carbon emissions, cut pollution, and promote green growth," A spokesman said. "This is what we say, and this is also what we are doing."

The bonds were issued under a framework released by the Ministry of Finance in February, which lays the foundation for China to issue offshore sovereign green bonds and allow global capital to invest in its green development.

(From China Daily 4/4/25)

LONDON, March 4 (Xinhua) -- Liverpool's historic Chinatown, the oldest in Europe, is set for a major revitalization, the city council announced on Monday.

The initiative is part of broader plans to rejuvenate the area with new homes and businesses. Supported by local community groups and the University of Liverpool's School of Architecture, the council has designed a new square within Chinatown, which dates back to the early 1800s.

The project will feature two ceremonial stone lions, a red maple wishing tree, and a garden, with completion expected in 2026. The stone lions will mark the 25th anniversary of the Liverpool-Shanghai sister city relationship.

Wang Ming, secretary general of the Merseyside Chinese Association Joint Action Group, emphasized Chinatown's deep-rooted significance. "Chinatown has been home to the local community for more than 200 years. It holds a very special place in our hearts," Wang told Xinhua. The Chinese community is looking forward to the revitalization, hoping it will bring in more visitors, attract investment, and welcome tourists from around the world to Liverpool.

Liverpool City councillor, Nick Small said, "Our goal is to transform Chinatown into a space that residents and the community can take pride in, while also creating a welcoming destination for tourists".

Hong Kong CEO visits Middle East

John Lee Ka-chiu visited Qatar and Kuwait recently for four days. He was accompanied by a business delegation and signed cooperation documents of a total of 59 memoranda of understanding and agreements. There were 35 signed in Qatar and 24 in Kuwait City. They included a variety of items, which laid the foundations of multifaceted cooperation. The delegation included both Hong Kong and mainland personnel. (From CDGW 16-22/5/25)

Agricultural development with Saudi Arabia

China and Saudi Arabia are deepening cooperation in agricultures and sustainable development. There were 600 delegates from government and industry at the China (Beijing) Saudi Arabia Forum on Agricultural Industry and Sustainable Development in Beijing on May 13th.

More than 70 cooperation agreements were signed involving projects financed by more than \$4 billion. Areas covered included, green technology, smart equipment, biotechnology, seed research and development and also cross-border supply chains. Experts saw complementary factors between the two countries especially in infra-structure development, agri-food production, smart agriculture and sustainable farming. (From CDGW 16-22/5/25)

Education ministers of SCO meet in Urumqi

The ninth meeting of education ministers discussed the establishment of a new platform for higher and vocational education collaboration in the SCO countries. This is important in the era of rapid technological change and accelerated knowledge innovation. (From CDGW 16-22/5/25)

NB. The SCO nations include China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Iran and four central Asian nations.

NB CDGW = China Daily Global Weekly



Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding