



**European Association for  
Chinese Studies  
Association européenne  
d'études chinoises**

# **EACS Newsletter**

## **No. 49, December 2015**

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For change of address information please update your entry in the EACS database under:

<http://www.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/eacsdb/>

Password and login data requests should be directed to the treasurer.

All membership payments should be sent to the Treasurer.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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With the publication of the EACS Newsletter No.48, Bart Dessein's term of office came to an end. Starting from the present Newsletter No.49, I will take over his duties as your newsletter editor. I would like to thank Bart for the excellent job he has done during the past years.

I also offer my sincere apologies for the unexpected delay in publication of the current Newsletter. It was postponed due to the dire need of developing a balanced report on the events that took place in Braga in July 2014.

As in the past, the content of the Newsletter continues to be dependent upon your contributions. All contributions should be sent to the Editor by E-mail. Please remember to check your copy carefully before sending it. Workshop and conference reports should not exceed 600 words. Calls for papers should not exceed 100 words. Remember to include all relevant information when contributing new book titles (author, title, publication place, publisher, year, pp., price in EURO and ISBN). Names and titles in non-Latin script such as Cyrillic are welcome provided that the author's name is in transcription and a short content summary in English is included.

Every effort is made to include all re-levant news, but the Editor reserves the right to edit all contributions for publication.

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### **REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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I have sat down to write my report several times this year, hoping to be able to concentrate my thoughts and comments on the on-going activities of the EACS, only to be forced to revisit, in interviews with journalists and discussions with interested parties, what occurred at our conference in Portugal last year. The most recent interview was just a few days ago. It is understandable that such a large-scale state-sponsored project as the Confucius Institutes arouses interest, and that people seek information and answers about the activities, intentions and personnel of the Confucius Institutes in Europe, and elsewhere. But, I am seriously concerned that the unhappy events that took place in Braga in July 2014 may come to be so intertwined with the EACS that the EACS risks being defined and understood in the context of what occurred.

I must first unequivocally state that there is no direct relationship

between the EACS and the Confucius Institutes or their parent organization the Hanban. Indeed, the EACS and the Hanban cannot be compared to one another, or viewed as similar in any way. The EACS is an academic association of individual members worldwide. The Hanban is an organ of the People's Republic of China, funded by the Chinese state, and lead by senior Chinese government officials whose salaries are paid by the Chinese government. The wages of the Chinese staff members of the Confucius Institutes are similarly paid for by the Chinese government, as far as I know. The wages of the officials of the EACS, i.e. the President, the Vice-President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, the Webmaster, the Editor of the Newsletter and the Webmaster, are not paid for by the EACS. The wages of the members of the EACS board are not paid by the EACS. Our work is voluntary. The only transfer of funds from the EACS to its officers and board members is for travel costs involved in attending meetings.

I have been repeatedly asked to comment on the reasons why Confucius Institutes in Europe are located within universities, or in certain cases in other educational institutions. My reply is that this mirrors the establishment of foreign non-business organizations in China. In China there are, at present, no non-affiliated, independent foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs must be affiliated to an existing Chinese organization. In the case of educational entities, affiliation is predominantly with a leading university. In China leading

universities fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, and so foreign NGOs with educational activities are affiliated to universities. When the Hanban considered how to proceed in establishing its Confucius Institutes in Europe, the domestic model already in use in China lay nearest to hand. However, quite different regulations for NGOs and for affiliated organizations, or partner organizations, exist in Europe, compared to China.

For the EACS it is now time to move on and focus on the future of Chinese Studies in Europe rather than allowing the disturbing and unacceptable events that occurred at our conference in 2014 to continue to reflect upon our activities. I have come to understand that I have spent sufficient time trying to ascertain what happened and understand the reasons why it happened, and I now feel certain that the circumstances will never reoccur. What is clear is that the EACS is a democratically organized association of academics world-wide who are interested in understanding the vast and amazing complexity that the field of Chinese Studies offers, be it oracle bone inscriptions, the development of the Shanghai stock market, or the writings of the great Tang dynasty poet Du Fu, or any other aspect of the field. No topic, when approached in an academic manner, lies beyond our scope. Membership of the association is individual and is not compulsory, nor is anyone genuinely interested in the aims of the EACS, as set forth in our constitution, excluded from membership.

The conferences of the EACS bring together its members for academic discussion regarding an immense range of topics. The conference organizers do not disallow the discussion of any topic that does not contravene the laws of the European member state in which the conference is held. The EACS is not beholden to any government or regional authority, and utterly rejects any censorship of conference presentations, conference materials, or any other intervention in its activities. This has been the case since the origins of the EACS almost seventy years ago, and will continue unchanged, I believe, for as long as the EACS exists. I add the proviso 'I believe' since I will come to the termination of my term of office next year in 2016 at our conference in St Petersburg, and I will be succeeded by another president, who will, in turn, be succeeded by yet another president, and yet another thereafter. This is fundamental nature of a democratic association. It is up to members of the EACS to select their future presidents, and it will be up to succeeding Boards of the EACS to present proposals to the EACS General Assembly and, depending upon the acceptance or rejection by the EACS members of these suggestions, to determine the future actions of the association. Only the members of the EACS are competent, within the guidelines of the EACS Constitution, to exert influence upon the activities of the EACS and to determine its future.

Looking forward to the coming twelve months, the next major event for the EACS will be our conference in St Petersburg at the end of August

2016. Professor Alexey Rodionov of St Petersburg University and his team, together with Professor Irina Popova of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts RAS, and colleagues at the State Hermitage Museum, have worked intensively and effectively to organize the conference. I expect that it will be a truly memorable milestone in the history of the EACS.

This summer St Petersburg University organized an EACS summer school bringing together forty post-graduate and doctoral students and a number of professors. It was a very successful activity, and will continue to occur, I hope, in the interim years between the EACS conferences, for many years to come. There is an increasing need for such summer schools, and for a wide range of other activities, when Europe simultaneously witnesses the steadily increasing importance of China as a partner and competitor in international trade, to name only one sphere of activity. At the same time, financial support from the ministries of education in EU member states, and even from some governmental and private funding agencies, for projects concerning China is diminishing. The emphasis of the European Commission on funding projects, through the *Horizon 2020 Programme*, primarily related to innovation, and particularly innovation leading to economically profitable outcomes, cannot be claimed to have had a particularly positive effect upon the development of Chinese Studies in Europe. If it were not for financial support from non-European foundations, in some EU member states the study of China,

the Chinese language, Chinese history and culture, would be non-existent. This is a problem that the EACS alone is unable to rectify, but which it can identify and convey to the relative authorities of EU member states. To fail to accord the study of China, in all its aspects, the importance that it deserves, can only result in a decline in knowledge concerning China in Europe, and unavoidable difficulties in decades to come.

The EACS is now a member of the European Association for the Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH), a non-profit association constituted under French Law that brings together international research and educational associations and societies. Among the ten founding members may be noted the European Association of Digital Humanities, the Network of Institutes of Advanced Study, and the European Confederation of Political Science Associations. Our association, while not a founding member, is one of the eighteen regular EASSH members, together with the European Sociological Association, the Academy of Social Sciences (UK), La Fédération internationale des associations d'études classiques, and the European Society for Environmental History, among others. Many other associations are in the process of becoming members, and it is to be expected that within a couple of years more than one hundred such research and educational associations will be members of the EASSH. The EASSH has come into existence to promote better treatment for the social sciences and humanities in Europe, and seeks to be recognized as a

legitimate spokesperson for the European SSH community in articulating the relevance of SSH in discussion with the European Commission. While individual associations may experience difficulty in influencing EC funding initiatives, it is to be hoped that the opinions of a significant body of associations and societies may be listened to and acted upon by the European Commission.

Before bringing my report to its conclusion, I would like to take up a matter that was discussed at length by the EACS Board at their meeting in St Petersburg in August. It concerns changing the size of the Board. The Board considered seven different options in an attempt to reduce the costs involved in interim meetings, and to make use of the alternative modes for discussion that email, Skype and electronic meetings offer. According to the EACS constitution a meeting of the board must be held every year to fulfil registration regulations. The annual membership fees paid by EACS members remain comparatively modest, and any saving that can be made would allow more funds to be made available for summer schools and other activities. Eventually the matter was put to the vote, and the majority of the Board voted to propose to the General Assembly a somewhat smaller board made up of seventeen members, plus the president. To guarantee the participation of representatives of as many countries as possible, the Board also voted to propose to the General Assembly that no more than two residents of any single country could be elected to the board at an election. These are important amendments to

the current constitution, and require consideration by each member of the association.

Finally, I would also like to inform you that at their meeting the Board decided to investigate the possibilities of founding an EACS journal, an idea that was first presented by the EACS Treasurer Michael Schimmelpfennig at the 2013 meeting of the Board. We can look forward to a report from the working committee at our General Assembly in 2016. The future offers new possibilities!

Roger Greatrex  
President

## **REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY**

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(Short version delivered at the EACS General Assembly in Coimbra on 26 July 2014)

My report will focus on three main areas of my responsibilities:

### **1. Organisation of Young Scholar Award (YSA)**

This year, we received a total of 34 submissions. Papers that fulfilled the criteria underwent two rounds of 'double-blind' reviews. Around 40 scholars and specialists in the respective fields acted as reviewers and helped us greatly in the evaluation process.

Based on the evaluation reports from the reviewers, three finalists were then shortlisted by the jury and they presented their papers at a special

session on 25 July. The jury for YSA 2014 consists of the following EACS board members: Bart Dessein, Alison Hardie, Lucie Olivova, Stig Thørgesen, and Monica de Togni.

I am extremely grateful to all the reviewers and jury members for their generosity in taking the time to evaluate these papers. I would also like to thank the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for their continuous support towards this very meaningful award, which provides a wonderful opportunity for all of us to learn more about the exciting new research of the younger members in our EACS community.

The YSA is also becoming increasingly globalised, in that we are receiving submissions from a range of countries and regions as illustrated in the following table:

Country (based on Candidate's Institution)	Number of Paper(s) submitted
BG	1
CN	2
DE	2
DK	1
ES	2
FR	1
IN	1
IT	4
IT/FR	1
UK	18
US	1

The purpose of this award has always been to encourage research in Chinese studies among young scholars, especially, but not exclusively, scholars studying and working at European institutions. I look forward

to receiving more submissions from different countries and institutions in the next competition in 2016. I would also like to urge all of our members, many of you who are supervising young PhD students or mentoring younger colleagues, to encourage them to consider submitting their work to the YSA.

It is also my pleasure to report that Ros Holmes, the recipient of the 2012 YSA in our last conference in Paris, has published her paper "Pillars of Fat: The Corporeal Aesthetics of Civilization (Wenming) in Contemporary Art" in *The China Journal* No.72 (July 2014), pp.121-138. We encourage all YSA recipients and finalists to get in touch with us with updates on their publications.

## 2. Selection of Future EACS Conference Venues

Our next conference will be held in St. Petersburg in 2016. The Board has also accepted the bid from the University of Glasgow to organise the 2018 conference following Dr Minna Törmä's proposal presentation at the General Assembly.

Planning ahead, we have started collecting proposals for hosting the 2020 conference. Selected bids will be invited to give a formal presentation at the General Assembly. The Board has discussed the procedures for the selection of conference venues and decided that it would be a good practice for such proposal presentations to be held 4 years in advance of the actual conference, that is, applicants for hosting the 2020 EACS conference will need to present their proposal at our next GA in 2016.

Scholars who are interested in submitting a proposal on behalf of their institution are most welcome to contact me for further details.

### **3. Board Membership and Election Results**

A new EACS Board has been elected to oversee activities up to the 2016 conference in St. Petersburg. A total of 86 ballots were cast. In addition to the President, who was re-elected unopposed, the following colleagues were elected (with number of votes following their name): Christoph Anderl (73), Wolfgang Behr (85), Ane Bislev (83), Rüdiger Breuer (83), Monica De Togni (80), Yulia Dreyzis (69), Isabella Falaschi (74), Dolors Folch (54), Mette Halskov Hansen (73), Thomas Jansen (82), Sascha Klotzbücher (79), Alexander Lomanov (68), Lucie Olivová (77), Nicoletta Pesaro (68), Loreta Poškaitė (75), Alexey Rodionov (77), Michael Schimmelpfennig (83), Christian Schwermann (73), Tian Yuan Tan (85), Minna Törmä (81), Natasa Vampelj Suhadolnik (74), Victor Vuilleumier (79), and Mugur Zlotea (74).

I would like to end my report with a word of thanks to the following colleagues and Board Members who have completed their term of office and have stepped down this year: Bart Desein, Mark Gamsa, Gilles Guiheux, Alison Hardie, Maria Khayutina, Carmen Mendes, Dominik Mierzejewski, Roman Shapiro, and Stig Thøgersen. Thank you for your contribution to the Board and the Association.

Tian Yuan Tan 陳羶沅  
Secretary

### **NEWS FROM THE TREASURER**

Dear members of EACS,

let me assure you that last year's turmoil of what has meanwhile been recorded as the "Braga incident" can only be made indirectly responsible for a pending dissemination of membership fee invoices for 2014. In fact, as suggested by the president, the board of the EACS decided in 2013 to issue invoices biannually and collect membership fees for two years at once. This decision has various aims: First, to make long term financial planning easier; second, to reduce administrative costs and time for members and EACS administrators, more precisely, myself and my successors; third, to accrue more funds in time for the biannual conferences; and fourth, to have short term members that only register to participate in one conference contribute a bit more to the association. As a consequence, I will disseminate invoices for the years 2014 and 2015 in conjunction with the publication of this newsletter. The membership fee invoices for the coming years 2016 and 2017 will reach you in conjunction with the newsletter of 2016 to establish this new two-year rhythm.

In addition, the board meeting in St Petersburg this year decided to raise membership fees. Price increases are never popular but I ask you to keep in mind that the very modest annual membership fees of 21€ for



regular members and 11 € for students have been in place since 2010. Since then the acting board has initiated the build up and maintenance of one of, and probably the most, informative websites on what is happening in Chinese studies in Europe, the board has introduced regular summer schools in the years between our biannual conferences supported by the EACS with a significant amount of money (see figures below), it has extended the functions of the EACS database to both improve and streamline the organization and monitor the association's development, and it is planning to introduce databases and a publication series to make the EACS even more attractive for its members.

The new membership fees effective from 2016 will be 31 € for regular members and 16 € for students for one year including PayPal handling charges, meaning that you will receive an invoice for 62 € for regular members and 31 € for students for the years 2016 and 2017 next year, followed by an invoice for 2018 and 2019 in 2018 and so on. Those of you who may still deem this increase too high are asked to compare our prices with those charged by other international associations for Chinese, Asian, or Oriental studies. For obvious reasons and in view of the preparation of the next conference in St. Petersburg 2016, it would be extremely helpful if you could transfer your payments soon after you receive your invoice for the years 2014 and 2015.

Let me express my gratitude to those of you who have already paid their membership fees for 2014 (458

members!) and for 2015 (206 members!) or beyond without even being asked. Thank you for your support! It should be mentioned in this context that the automated invoices to be sent by email will ask members who have not paid their memberships fees for the years before 2014 to contribute these in addition. Please note that the entries of those members who have not paid their dues since 2011 and who will not pay their debt until February 15, 2016, will be erased from the database without further notice.

Speaking of numbers, I am happy to announce that our membership has increased from 966 in the summer of 2014 to crack the one-thousand-mark with 1011 members by the end of 2015. You have to keep in mind though that the absolute figures provided by the database veil the amount of presumably inactive and actually non-paying members amounting to between 250 to 350 people. While only 70 new members joined EACS in 2013 we had an enormous increase of 227 members in 2014, followed by a more modest but still significant addition of 91 new members in 2015. While still pondering whether the exceptional increase of 2014 could be related to our heightened post-"incident" publicity, I would still like to emphasize once more that personal encouragement of your students and colleagues to join our ranks by yourself as members of the EACS is of greatest significance to our association.

As those of you attending the Portugal conference may already know, the library travel grant financial

administration has been assigned to the treasurer. With the generous grant of the Chiang Ching-kuo foundation of 30000 € for three years we were able to support the library travel of 7 members in 2013, 5 members in 2014, and again of 7 members 2015. There is, however, room for more applicants. The remaining funds of currently about 16000 € lead to the decision of the board to submit the next application for a new grant in 2016. The EACS account balances as of December 1, 2015, are as follows:

Giro account:	7.863,68 €
PayPal account:	2.690,85 €
LTG account:	16.479,10 €
Depot (shares worth):	40.789,00 €
Easy Trade (revenue):	181,45 €

The Giro and PayPal accounts are the financial accounts for EACS everyday financial transactions. They consist of the membership fees provided by the association's members. The Library travel grant account is a savings account used for reimbursing library travel grants sponsored by CCK. The pension fund shares in the Depot account are the backbone of the EACS, the Easy Trade account showing the revenue minus taxes received for the financial year lasting from October 1, 2014, to September 30, 2015. The rather modest revenue is related to the fact that the EACS deliberately chose these shares to keep these funds safe even in times of financial crisis.

Expenditures since August 1, 2014, are as follows:

Summer school St. Petersburg:	4.816,50 €
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Board meeting reimbursement:	7750,52 €
Conference costs, copies & others:	724,31 €
Website administration:	1.500,00 €
Website hosting:	184,41 €
Database maintenance:	714,00 €
Postbank interest:	84,92 €
PayPal fees:	180,67 €
Total expenditures:	15.955,33 €

Since the EACS has begun to hold large-scale bi-annual international conferences, the board meeting costs in preparation of the conference have always accounted for a substantial amount of overall expenses. To finally reduce these costs, the EACS board will propose a reduction of the board membership from 24 to 17 members at the coming general assembly in 2016 at the St. Petersburg conference.

I am somewhat excited and proud that the technical refinement and monitoring of payments in combination with the increasing number of paying members has enabled the EACS to support summer schools with significant amounts on a regular basis. The second largest expenditure of this year enabled 30 master and doctoral students to be introduced to international Sinological research and the scholars behind it for a very reasonable amount of money. For the excellent job Holger Schneider is doing in keeping our website up to date, not only with regard to data but also to the platform it runs on, he receives an embarrassingly modest financial compensation that accounts for our third largest expenditure in one and a half years. The other figures mentioned should be self-explaining.

It should also be obvious from the above listing that we continue to try to keep expenses as low as possible.

Let me end this interim report by adding once again that your participation and support as members of the EACS are vital to the Association. Your contributions exclusively serve to continue the EACS's efforts to provide and improve a platform for China scholars in Europe and beyond.

I wish all of you a merry Christmas and a happy and successful new year!

Michael Schimmelpfennig  
Treasurer

### **REPORT FROM THE WEBMASTER**

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During the last 24 months chinese studies.eu has had an average of 1100 (unique IP) visitors each day adding up to around 400 000 visitors per year since Sep. 2013. The number of visitors has stabilized during the last two years while in 2013 (calendar year) this number was 256 000, in 2012 it was 103 000. Visitors spend on average 6:30 minutes on our site while clicking on 9 sub-pages. The website referring to us most commonly is Google with .com, .tw, .uk, and .de and many other languages before Baidu on rank 14 and Yahoo on rank 17. In the exceptional month of August 2014, due to the Braga Incident, social network sites (which are usually not among the first 20 ranks) were the top referrers with Weibo twofold ahead of Facebook. The letter of protest and the Report on

the Braga Incident count approximately 16 000 page views each. Visitors from the Chinese mainland usually make up 5%. In August 2014 they amounted to 40% of total. Our position in the overall ranking of websites (Alexa.com) has improved from a rank around 7.8 million to roughly 4.6 million within the last 12 months.

I'd like to take these prospects as an encouragement for everyone to make our website even more useful by sending in relevant links and/or announcements for our readers (holger.schneider@zhing.de). (Since the website went online in late 2011 one item has been posted every three days on average.) These postings may include not only jobs and conferences but also lecture series, member's publications, current research projects, scholarships, grants and awards, exhibitions, reviews of useful resources and so on.

Holger Schneider  
Webmaster

### **REPORT ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE XX EACS CONFERENCE 22 – 26 JULY 2014, PORTUGAL**

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We developed the idea of presenting a bid for a joint organisation of an EACS conference during the EACS General Assembly in Lund (2008), when one of us was stepping down from the board of the Association and the other one became the Portuguese representative. The idea of combining the Sinological tradition of the University of Coimbra

with the University of Minho's excellence in Chinese studies sounded irresistible. During the General Assembly in Riga (2010) we won the bid with the slogan "EACS Conference 2014 in Portugal: The country where Europe ends and Sinology began". Ambassador João de Deus Ramos, the first Portuguese EACS member and one of the main negotiators of the Question of Macau, gave us all the encouragement to bring such an event to Portugal. He was the perfect choice to make the opening speech in the opening ceremony of the XX EACS Conference, in Braga, on the evolution of Sino-Portuguese relations.

The local organizing committee, especially José Guimarães, worked hard to make it happen and many individuals were consulted during the process. Sponsors were very sensitive to our financial needs, doing their best to reply quickly to our demands. Friends made interesting suggestions regarding logistics and cultural dimensions of the conference. We opened this conference to all Portuguese researchers interested in China, inviting them to be part of the local academic committee or, at least, to submit abstracts.

In order to make the Portuguese organization of the EACS conference more influential and stimulate as many as possible among the local scholars, we agreed to set up a local group of academics who were involved in teaching and investigation related to China. They contributed to the panel organization and gave a lot of valuable suggestions. Many of them acted as sessions chairs.

40 referees were suggested by the Board. For the conference we received 560 proposals for papers and 80 for panels. But after the deadline for the referees to submit their evaluations, there was still a large number of papers lacking a decision (for each paper, there should be three marks given by three referees, but some of the papers had only two or even one referee's opinion). The local organization groups had to make their own decision whether these papers should be presented or not.

We found that selections should have been stricter because there were too many simultaneous sessions and panels to be run and people would not have the chance to go around to listen to the colleagues who spoke on the similar theme.

We tried to form groups of 5 – 6 presentations, with respect to the chronological/historical order or similarity in the domain of the themes. Some colleagues found that in fact, as sessions in Literature, History and Philosophy all started at the same time within the same time slot, they lost the chance to listen to some presentations on the same historical period from point of view of other disciplines. We tried to make some adjustments in the program, and helped colleagues to organize working dinner to exchange information.

Senior scholars with academic experience and reputation in the same or related area were preferred to be invited as chairs for each session, in some special cases, we invited the members of the Local Scientific Committee.

As the Confucius Institute of the University of Minho expected to have a special funding for International Conference Organization from the Confucius China Studies Program, the local organizers decided to invest some money to create some visual impact by means of the professional design of the conference books, conference materials (bags, souvenirs) as well as the signage (banners, roll-ups, signs...). Unfortunately, the extremely unfortunate incident with Xu Lin's interference resulted in the withdrawal of Hanban's funding; it made our decision to improve quality a main reason for the negative balance.

There were altogether 28 student helpers (17 in Braga and 11 in Coimbra) who assisted in organization and logistics during the conference. Their work included organization and preparation of the conference bags, assistance in transportation and exhibition of sinological publications.

Opening ceremony in Braga and welcome ceremony in Coimbra: As the conference had two venues, we decided to make two ceremonies, one in Braga as a general opening session on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, between 9:00 – 11:00 am, chaired by the Braga organizer Dr. Sun Lam, with speech of the President of EACS, Prof. Roger Greatrex, Rector of the University of Minho, Prof. António Cunha, and the "Special Guest" Xu Lin, Director-General of Hanban who was invited to by Prof. A. Cunha. The Braga Keynote Speaker was Ambassador João de Deus Ramos. This ceremony was inaugurated by a presentation of harp

suit inspired by four paintings in memory of Tomas Pereira, all these works being intellectual property of the Confucius Institute at University of Minho.

The Opening ceremony was overshadowed by Xu Lin's order to remove some pages from both of the conference book (please see the Letter of Protest and the Incident Report published on EACS website).

The Coimbra welcome ceremony was held on the 25th, between 9:30 & 10:30, chaired by Dr. Carmen Mendes, with a speech of EACS President, Prof. Roger Greatrex, the rector of the University of Coimbra, Prof. João Gabriel Silva, and the Coimbra keynote speaker Prof. Ming K. Chan from Stanford University, who played an active role far beyond of what was expected from a keynote speaker and was active in organizing the Macao studies' panels.

During the Braga conference (22-24 July), 6 publishers, 2 libraries and 1 academic institution participated in the book exhibition. The Center of Sinology of Taiwan donated about 600 books to the Central Library of the University of Minho. While in Coimbra, between 25-27 July, a Macau Book & Photo exhibition was organised at the House of Lusophony by the International Institute of Macau (IIM), attended by its Dr. Jorge Rangel.

The academic programme was rich and varied, with over 500 presentations on China. Beyond that participants had the opportunity to add quite a bit of Portugal and Portuguese culture to their luggage.

Braga: The municipal council offered an organized trip to historical spots of Braga, the group of EACS members were received by the mayor in his office hall. Two “after-conference events” were offered by the CI at University of Minho: one guided visit to the Orient Foundation in Lisbon, and another visit to “Ramos Pinto”, one of the major wine cellars in the region, which included Port Wine tasting, in Porto – the city elected by European citizens as “Europe’s Best Destination 2014”.

Coimbra: Guided tours allowed participants to learn about the University and the city’s UNESCO world heritage sites, and the Mayor of Coimbra offered a traditional music concert by a students’ Tuna in their dark costumes at the landmark Casa da Escrita (The House of Writing). The fair exhibiting handcrafts and gastronomical delights and the banquet at the University’s S. Marcos Palace contributed to deepen their knowledge of our culture and region.

Braga Opening Ceremony brought a touch of intercultural dialogue between China and Europe, by the presentation of some of the artistic production in painting and music.

Due to the historical link of Coimbra with the Jesuit missions, the Coimbra Organization arranged panels dedicated on Macaology. The exhibition *Do Sul ao Sol* (From the South towards the Sun), held at the University’s Science Museum, highlighted the crucial role of the University of Coimbra in establishing contacts between Europe and China,

as it centralized much of the knowledge about the East since the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Organising such an event in two different cities was a great challenge. Still, we truly enjoyed working together, mixing the Portuguese and Chinese approaches and using the best of the two cultures to offer all participants an unforgettable experience.

We also organised after conference events. In Lisbon, an exclusive tour was made to “Orient Foundation”, with a great museum alluding to the Portuguese presence in Asia. In Porto, elected by European citizens as “Europe’s Best Destination 2014”, an exclusive visit was made to “Ramos Pinto”, one of the major wine cellars in the region, which included Port Wine tasting.

Sun Lam and Carmen Mendes

**REPORT ON THE  
ORGANIZATION OF THE EACS  
SUMMER SCHOOL  
“TRADITIONAL CHINA: A  
CLOSER DISTANT VIEW”  
24 – 30 AUGUST 2015, ST.  
PETERSBURG**

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The EACS Summer School “Traditional China: a closer distant view” was organized by St. Petersburg State University (SPbSU), the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts (Russian Academy of Sciences) and the State Hermitage Museum. The summer school was attended by 33 MA and PhD students and young researchers from the Russian Federation and 12 European countries: Armenia,

Bulgaria, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, UK, Ukraine, Serbia, Finland, France, Switzerland. The attendees were selected among almost one hundred applicants from all over Europe and beyond.

Six local scholars and four international members of the EACS Board gave the following lectures:

- Rüdiger Breuer (Ruhr-Universität Bochum) “Song and Yuan Period *pinghua*: Narrative Texts between Oral Tradition and Written Composition” and “Liu Jingting (1592–1674/75), a Storyteller, Deipnosophist, and Adviser of the Ming-Qing Transition Period”;

- Roger Greatrex (Lund University) “Saved from the Flames: How China's Written Heritage Survived Innumerable Fires”;

- Dmitrii Mayatsky (SPbSU) “Chinese Manuscript Collections at SPbU”;

- Yulia Mylnikova (SPbSU) “Woman in Chinese Art”;

- Lucie Olivova (Masaryk University) “Popular Woodblock Prints: Their Subject-Matter and Purpose and Tobacco Smokers in Popular Woodblock Prints”;

- Irina Popova (IOM RAS) “Chinese Manuscripts Collections of the IOM RAS”;

- Kira Samosyuk (Hermitage Museum) “The Buddhist Artistic Tradition in China”;

- Nikolay Samoylov (SPbSU) “Russia as a Bridge between Europe and China: Past, Present and Future Perspectives”;

- Michael Schimmelpfennig (ANU) “Chinese Commentarial Traditions”;

- Alexander Storozhuk (SPbSU) “Philosophy and Folks Beliefs of Traditional China” (4 classes).

Apart from the classes, the school included excursions to the Chinese Palace of Oranienbaum and to the Hermitage museum, as well as a farewell banquet. The summer school got a very positive evaluation both from the participating students and from the organizers. The school coincided with the timing of the EACS board meeting, which was beneficial to the school and also increased involvement of the EACS board in the school’s activities.

The summer school was sponsored by the EACS, St.Petersburg University and Chinese chain restaurants “Harbin”.

Alexey Rodionov and Yulia Mylnikova

### **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE XXITH EACS CONFERENCE, ST. PETERSBURG, 2016**

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The XXIth biennial conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia on August 23-28, 2016. It is jointly organized by St. Petersburg State University, the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts RAS and the State Hermitage Museum.

The sections of the conference include:

1. Linguistics
2. Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language
3. Premodern Literature
4. Modern Literature

5. Cinema, Theater, Performing Arts
6. Translation Studies
7. Art, Archeology & Material Culture
8. Chinese Manuscripts, Books, Artifacts Abroad
9. Religion
10. Philosophy
11. Premodern History
12. Modern History
13. East-West Contacts & Perceptions
14. Politics & International Relations
15. Sociology & Anthropology
16. Gender Studies
17. Economics
18. Law
19. Media Studies
20. Environment
21. Cross-sectional

Scholars from Europe and beyond are invited to submit their papers and panel proposals online at the conference webpage [www.eacs2016.spbu.ru](http://www.eacs2016.spbu.ru). Abstracts should not exceed 300 words, with an additional list of 5-8 key-words. An international board of referees will evaluate the proposals submitted to the organizers. The language of the conference is English.

**Important dates:**

October 1, 2015 – January 15, 2016: Submission of proposals

January 15, 2016 – February 29, 2016: Evaluation and selection of proposals

March 15, 2016: Notification of acceptance

March 15, 2016 – June 1, 2016: Online-registration

August 23, 2016 - August 28, 2016: Conference

**More information available at** [www.eacs2016.spbu.ru](http://www.eacs2016.spbu.ru).

**Email of the Organizing Committee** [eacs2016@gmail.com](mailto:eacs2016@gmail.com)

**YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD 2016**

The Board of the European Association for Chinese Studies is pleased to announce again the **EACS Young Scholar Award (YSA)**. The purpose of this award is to encourage research in Chinese studies among young scholars, especially, but not exclusively, scholars studying and working at European institutions.

The Young Scholar Award is made possible through generous support by the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange. It was first awarded during the 2004 biennial conference in Heidelberg. Almost all papers submitted by shortlisted candidates in previous competitions have now appeared as peer-reviewed publications. The next YSA will be announced at the XXI biennial conference in St. Petersburg, Russia, in August 2016.

Eligibility:

Candidates for the YSA should be 35 years of age or below (2016 YSA candidates must have been born in 1981 or later) AND their rank of academic employment should be below that of Associate Professor or Senior Lecturer or the equivalent ranks in other systems. The jury welcomes papers of high scholarly promise engaging primary sources,



secondary scholarship, and innovative research methodologies relevant to the field. Papers should be written in English; only single-authored papers will be accepted. Papers should preferably be unpublished; however, candidates may submit papers that are under review for publication in a scholarly journal at the time of the 2016 St. Petersburg conference. Each applicant may submit only one paper of a maximum of 8500 words (approximately 50,000 characters), with a one-page abstract. The word limit includes footnotes but not bibliography. The submission should include the author's full name, institution, and address on a separate page. The author's name and other self-references should be removed in the main paper as the manuscript will be assessed anonymously.

The YSA jury hopes to nominate 3 finalists who will be invited to attend the 2016 EACS conference where their papers will be presented during a special session. The three finalists will each be awarded 1,000 Euros after their presentation. The winner of the YSA will be announced during the conference and honoured with the award of a certificate. Candidates submitting papers for the Young Scholar Award should be registered as EACS members. Please provide your EACS membership number when making the submission.

#### Submission:

The deadline for submission is 17:00 CET on **15 January 2016**. Proof of age and rank should be provided at the time of submission. Only complete

and timely submitted applications will be considered. The three finalists will be notified in May 2016.

Please send papers and abstracts **by e-mail (in word format) to [eacs2016ysa@gmail.com](mailto:eacs2016ysa@gmail.com) AND in hard-copy** to the EACS Secretary-General Dr Tian Yuan Tan, Department of the Languages and Cultures of China and Inner Asia, SOAS, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, United Kingdom. Applicants who encounter difficulties in mailing the hard copy of their work should contact [eacs2016ysa@gmail.com](mailto:eacs2016ysa@gmail.com). We very much hope you will consider submitting your work!

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#### NEW PUBLICATIONS

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D. Berg, *Women and the Literary World in Early Modern China, 1580-1700*. Oxford: Routledge, Routledge Studies in the Early History of Asia. 304 pp. ISBN: 978-1-138-64350-5 (Paperback), 978-0-415-53341-6 (Hardback). 29.99/ 95 £.

P. A. Blitstein, *Les Fleurs du royaume: savoirs lettrés et pouvoir impérial en Chine (Ve-VIe siècles)*. Paris: Les Belles Lettres. 432 pp. ISBN: 978-2-251-42056-1. 35 Euro.

V. A. Journeau, *Poétique de la musique chinoise, Préface de Rémi Mathieu*. Paris: L'Harmattan, "L'univers esthétique". 443 pp. ISBN: 978-2-343-05903-7. 39 Euro.

A. Richter (Ed.), *A History of Chinese Letters and Epistolary Culture (Handbook of Oriental*

*Studies*). Leiden: Brill. 978 pp. ISBN: 978-9-004-29175-1. 231 Euro.

C. V. Yeh. *The Chinese Political Novel: Migration of a World Genre*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press,

Harvard East Asian Monographs 380. 442 pp. ISBN: 978-0-674-50435-6. 54.00 Euro.

## EACS MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT

EACS membership fee is presently €21 per annum for individual and corporate members (for members from Eastern European non-EU countries the cost is € 11.00), and €11 per annum for student members (remember to send in a student-ID). By decision of the board membership fees will be €31 and €16 from 2016 onwards. From this year onwards members will receive invoices asking to contribute their membership fees biannually. Fee payment for up to five years is recommended to save transfer costs. The EACS Newsletter and all other information about Chinese studies in Europe and beyond is sent free of charge to all members.

Please send payments to the EACS Treasurer Michael Schimmelpfennig via bank transfer or Paypal. Members living in the EURO zone are kindly asked to pay by bank transfer to the EACS account: Postbank Stuttgart, bank code 600 100 70, account 484 661 702.

Please use standard international transfer with IBAN: DE81 6001 0070 0484 6617 02; SWIFT-BIC: PBNKDEFF. Please remember to add the name of the Treasurer when making this type of transfer and do not forget to add for whom the payment is made.

Payment by credit card has been replaced by payment by PayPal. PayPal is an online payment system used worldwide. Anyone who would like to send money without extra costs can open an account online that is free of charge for sending money. PayPal only earns money when you receive payments from others. Once you have opened an account you can send money via email for free to EACS or any person, institution, or shops that have a PayPal account.

EACS recommends using PayPal for payment of membership fees. Please send your payment to: [m\\_schimmelpfennig@yahoo.com](mailto:m_schimmelpfennig@yahoo.com)

For opening an account go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) or enter *paypal* into your search engine.

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