



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

EACS Newsletter

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EACS ADDRESSES

Change of address information and all membership payments should be sent to the Treasurer.

President

Brunhild Staiger, Institute of Asian Studies, Rothenbaumchaussee 32, 20148 Hamburg, Germany
Tel. +49 40 4288740
Fax +49 40 410 7945
E-mail: staiger@giga-hamburg.de

Secretary

Roel Sterckx, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA, United Kingdom
Tel. +44 (0)1223 335137
Fax +44 (0)1223 335110
E-mail: rs10009@cam.ac.uk

Treasurer

Matthias Richter, University of Colorado at Boulder, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, 279 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309, USA
Tel. +1-303-735.0426
Fax +1—303-492.7272
E-mail:
Matthias.Richter@Colorado.edu

Webmaster

Luca Pisano, Dipartimento di Orientalistica – Sezione Sinologica, Via Giulia di Barolo 3/a, 10124 Torino, Italy
Tel. + 39 011 6703852
Fax +39 011 6703858
E-mail: lupisano@inrete.it

EACS NEWSLETTER

The EACS Newsletter is published twice a year: in spring, and in autumn. All contributions should be sent to the Editor by E-mail or on a diskette. 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 relevant news, but the Editor reserves the right to edit all contributions for publication.

Newsletter Editor

Ann Heirman, Department of Chinese Language and Culture, Ghent University, Blandijnberg 2, B9000 Gent, Belgium. Tel. +32 9 264 41 56; fax +32 9 264 41 94
E-mail: Ann.Heirman@UGent.be

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LETTER OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The XVIIth EACS Conference to be held from 6-10 August in Lund is drawing closer. The Organizing Committee in Lund headed by Roger Greatrex is busy with the preparations and we may expect a wonderful and interesting conference. More than 250 paper proposals have been selected by the referees which would mean that 200-220 papers will be presented.

Apart from the various panels there will be some special events to which I should like to draw your attention. The first highlight will be the welcome reception on the first evening (August 6). On that occasion we shall together with representatives of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, which almost from its beginning has supported the EACS in many ways. Those registering for the conference are asked to pay a small contribution for the reception, which, however, will not cover the costs. To make it a festive event the evening will additionally be sponsored by the CCK Foundation and the EACS. This will offer European sinologists an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas with representatives of the CCK Foundation.

You may expect a second highlight on the next morning at the opening session. We invited the renowned Swedish sinologist Göran Malmqvist to give the keynote speech entitled "Recollections of a retired European sinologist". This will be followed by the paper presentations of the nominees

for our Young Scholar Award, which will be awarded in Lund for the third time. A number of very promising papers have been submitted, and I am sure we shall have a stimulating competition.

The third event that I should like to announce here will be the banquet on the last evening (August 9). The highlight will be an after dinner speech on the early history of our Association. At our last Board meeting it was decided to support endeavours to collect materials on the history of the Junior Sinologues (who had their first meeting 60 years ago) and of the EACS, founded in 1975. Both the Junior Sinologues and the EACS have an important place in the development of European sinology, and preserving their history ought to be an urgent task as long as those active in these early developments are still available. I am therefore very glad that Kristofer Schipper, who may be considered one of the founding fathers of the EACS, has agreed to give a talk on the decline of the Junior Sinologues and the establishment of the EACS.

I hope your curiosity has been aroused and many of you will attend the conference. If you want to know more about the programme, please consult the conference website under <http://www.lu.se/eacs>.

April 30, 2008, Brunhild Staiger

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

The upcoming conference has again brought about some new applications

and some renewals of membership. Twenty-four members have joined EACS in 2007 and seventeen in 2008. Calculated by the criterion of not exceeding three years of unpaid dues, the exact number of present members is 448. However, a total of 840 persons are still registered in the database. I expect some of them will renew their membership. EACS finances are in good shape: At present, there are ca. 9,200 Euros on the giro account, and the three custody accounts amount to a total of 39,800 Euros. I will present the balance in detail on the upcoming conference in Lund and in the next newsletter after the conference.

Members who wish to pay their dues are kindly asked to do so as advised on the website (<http://www.soas.ac.uk/eacs/pay.htm>). I will still accept cash payments during the conference. However, this option is only offered for cases in which bank transfer entails unreasonably high bank fees and credit card payment (by Visa or American Express) is impossible. **If you need to pay in cash, please have the correct amount in Euros ready.** I cannot guarantee to be able to change and will definitely not be able to accept Swedish kronor or any other currency.

When you pay your dues, please be sure to state for whom you are paying and for which years. Please make sure you fill in all the fields of the form, including name of member(s) for whom you are paying, years for which you are paying, etc.; “name of the card holder” is *not* sufficient without the other information. For bank transfers, the name of the respective member should be stated in the memo. The bank advices I receive do not always contain the name of the sender. Tracing the

senders of anonymous payments is very time consuming and sometimes even leads to no result. Also, I would like to encourage members to make use of the database to check their payment status. I recommend that you keep a note of your login name and password somewhere to aid your memory.

Thank you for your co-operation,

Matthias Richter

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear EACS members,

For five years now it has been my pleasure to edit the EACS newsletter. Since my term as a board member has come to an end, EACS Newsletter 40 will be my last newsletter after a series of ten. I learned a lot about all kinds of European activities, and I hope our newsletter kept you informed. I would like to thank the board for the many helpful suggestions, and all EACS members for sending their contributions to the newsletter. My very special thanks (and lifetime Belgian chocolates) go to my colleague Tim Wright who corrected the English phrasing of all newsletter texts.

I wish EACS all the best for the future!

Ann Heirman

**THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FIRST CONFERENCE OF JUNIOR
SINOLOGUES IN CAMBRIDGE,
LONDON AND OXFORD (1948)
AND THE ORIGINS OF THE
EACS**

Sixty years ago, four women and fourteen men participated in the first conference of the Junior Sinologues in England. The *Introductory Note* of the *Notes on a Conference of Junior Sinologues held at Cambridge, London and Oxford* explained the background: “The idea of holding a Conference of Junior Sinologues was born in Leiden in the summer of 1947, when students of Chinese from the United Kingdom, met those of similar interests in the University of Leiden, and mutually realised the undesirable degree of isolation in which those engaged in this field are working. As a result students from six European Universities met at Cambridge in January 1948. The Universities of Leiden, Stockholm, Paris, London, Cambridge and Oxford were represented.”

According to one of the participants, Professor Edwin Pulleyblank, the students who visited Leiden were Piet van der Loon (Cambridge) and Bill Dobson (Oxford). The *Introductory Note* also mentions the aims of these activities:

“The hope was expressed that from the Conference would ultimately emerge a more closely integrated School of European Sinology, in which frequent exchange of information and personal visits would become the rule. To that end an agenda was drafted, designed to afford an exchange of information on the syllabi and facilities in the different

centres represented, and on personal interests, and lines of research of the delegates themselves.”

Eighteen scholars met in Cambridge on the sixth of January, 1948 – this could be regarded as the real date of birth of the EACS.

The *Notes* included a list of all delegates:

Leiden:

A.F.H. Hulsewe, R.P. Kramers, P. Swann, Tjan Tjoe-som, Mrs. H. Wink

London:

E.G. Pulleyblank, Miss H.M. Wright

Paris:

J. Gernet, J.W. de Jong

Stockholm:

H. Bielenstein

Cambridge:

E.B. Ceadel, P. Van der Loon, Mrs. M.C. Van der Loon, J. de Morpurgo, Miss G. Scott

Oxford:

W.A.C.H. Dobson, D. Hawkes, K.G. Robinson

In addition to the “Junior Sinologues”, more senior scholars participated in some events and presented papers: Prof. Haloun (Cambridge), Dr. A. Waley, Prof. W. Simon (London), Prof. H. H. Dubs (Oxford). The delegates also visited major libraries and the British Museum. They also discussed the development of Chinese Studies at their own institutions and their research projects. At the final meeting, the delegates decided to meet again in the following year (in Leiden) and to exchange materials and information.

For a quarter of a century, the Junior Sinologues met (nearly) every year,

and the numbers of delegates and papers increased rapidly. By 1955, there were also American, Russian and Chinese participants.

Junior Sinologues Conferences

1948 (I)	Cambridge, London and Oxford
1949 (II)	Leiden
1950 (III)	London
1951 (IV)	Paris
1952 (V)	Cologne (Köln-Wahn)
1953 (VI)	Rome
1954 (VII)	Durham
1955 (VIII)	Leiden (Oud-Poelgeest)
1956 (IX)	Paris
1957 (X)	Marburg
1958 (XI)	Padua and Venice
1959 (XII)	Cambridge
1960	Moscow [cancelled]
1961 (XIII)	Hamburg
1962 (XIV)	Breukelen-Nijenrode
1963 (XV)	Torino
1964 (XVI)	Bourdeaux
1965 (XVII)	Leeds
1966 (XVIII)	Copenhagen-Humblebaek
1967 (XIX)	Bochum
1968 (XX)	Prague [cancelled]
1969 (XXI)	Senegallia / Marcerata
1970 (XXII)	Stockholm
1971 (XXIII)	Oxford
1972 (XXIV)	Leiden (Noordwijkerhout)

Because of their success and growth, the conferences became too big and difficult to handle. Thus, in 1975 a formal organisation was established, the EACS; the first president was Professor Sören Egerod (Copenhagen).

Since 1976 the EACS members have met regularly at two-year intervals; the last conference was in Ljubljana in 2006, the next will be in Lund in August 2008. Membership has grown from 18 to more than 700.

Thomas Kampen
<http://www.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/staff/kampen/>
 Institute of Chinese Studies
 University of Heidelberg

NEW RESOURCE: VerreTaal – CHINESE LITERATURE IN DUTCH TRANSLATION

We are pleased to announce the launch of VerreTaal, an online database of Chinese Literature in Dutch Translation:

VerreTaal is a collaboration between the Department of Chinese Studies and the Sinological Library at Leiden University and the Research Centre for Translation at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Using English as the interface language, VerreTaal aims to provide a research tool for translation studies, (comparative) literary studies, (inter)cultural studies and area studies, Chinese studies and other academic fields -- and for the general reader and library user.

The database lists Dutch-language, direct and relay translations of works originally written in Chinese. At present it includes book titles in poetry, fiction and non-fiction, and drama. Entries in multiple-author anthologies contain individual author names, story / essay titles and corresponding page numbers where available. In the near

future, we hope to expand the database to include journal publications.

VerreTaal can be browsed by authors, translators, titles and subjects, or searched using traditional and simplified Chinese and Hanyu Pinyin. It has been tested on various platforms and browsers and is accessible free of charge at <http://www.unileiden.net/verretaal/>.

Audrey Heijns, Research Centre for Translation, Chinese University of Hong Kong
Hanno Lecher, Librarian, Sinological Library, Leiden University
Maghiel van Crevel, Professor of Chinese language & literature, Leiden University

INSTITUTIONALIZING THE HUMANITIES IN THE P.R. CHINA: THE 1950s

Project at the University of Hamburg
Funded by the German Research Foundation
Start of the project: December 2006;
duration: 36 months.

The project examines the content and rules of academic work in China during the 50s, specifically the then newly established fields of history, literary criticism, and philosophy. It focuses on the 1950s, as the legacy of those years still endures in present-day China. Firstly, this project will examine the interrelation between party line and academic discourse, both in terms of content and in terms of elements and patterns of ritual communication. As complementary source material, interviews with contemporary

witnesses are conducted.

With regard to ideologizing the humanities, the role of the Chinese intellectuals is seen neither as that of victims nor as that of the culprits of the process. Furthermore, Maoism is understood as a depersonalized process originating pre-1949.

The project is based on research that analyzes the various discourses in China at the time, as well as on theories of ritual and previous research on Stalinism. It aims to contribute to a greater sensitivity towards early signals of political change which - then as now - gradually appear and develop within academic discourse.

Yvonne Schulz Zinda (philosophy)
University of Hamburg

WRITING, RITUAL AND CULTURAL MEMORY IN EARLY STATES

From November 5 to 7, 2007, a diverse group of international scholars were invited by Dr. Xiaobing Wang-Riese (University of Munich) and Dr. Daniel Graña-Behrens (University of Frankfurt) to Munich, to participate in a three-day conference entitled "Writing, Ritual and Cultural Memory in Early States". The conference followed an earlier symposium in Shanghai (cf. EACS Newsletter No.36). This year's discussion in Munich provided a forum for a trans-disciplinary exchange among sinologists and mesoamericanists.

Dietrich Harth (University of Heidelberg) opened proceedings by establishing the scientific framework. He gave a speech on the invention of the term "cultural memory"

(“kulturelles Gedächtnis“), which was developed by a group of Heidelberg scholars and which refers to the shaping of the normative worldviews of a culture through the process of recurrent remembrance. In this context, Daniel Graña-Behrens and Markus Eberl (University of Tulane) shed light on how social memory and ancestor veneration was cultivated in classic Maya societies. Robert H. Gassmann (University of Zurich) analysed two types of “filial piety” *xiào* and the significant changes they may have caused in the ancestral system of the Eastern Zhou period, while Dennis Schilling (University of Munich) discussed social and ideological changes in the Eastern Han using burial steles and epitaphs as evidence.

Writing and textual compositions act as a driving force in the process of the formation of cultural identity, especially in relation to conceptions of time. In this context, Xiaobing Wang-Riese argued that the conception of past and future in early China reached their historical dimensions only in Zhou bronze inscriptions. Edward L. Shaughnessy (University of Chicago) reviewed past theories about the mean periodicity of the moon in the Western Zhou calendar and presented new evidence to show that the “four moonphases theory” proposed by Wang Guowei (1877-1927) is essentially correct. Maria Khayutina (University of Munich) drew on inscriptions on bronze vessels to examine the ways the Western Zhou royal calendar was used in the context of the social background of its users.

Touching upon the topics of paleography and the deciphering of glyphs, Ken-ichi Takashima

(University of British Columbia) introduced his own “synchronic evidential approach” that allows scholars to identify linguistic and cultural aspects of early Chinese. Maarten Jansen (University of Leiden) examined the way in which pictographic manuscripts of the Mixtecs were represented in ancient pictography, and Victoria Bricker (University of Tulane) elaborated on the pre-Columbian conceptions of cult and time. Gordon Whittaker (University of Göttingen) drew the conclusion that most of the so-called “scientific proof” in support of proto-historical contact between China and Mesoamerica is indeed hardly more than wishful thinking.

The third day of the conference was reserved for open debate, with Hans van Ess, Thomas O. Höllman, Ma Jian, Achim Mittag, Berthold Riese, Christian Schwermann and others as discussants. Comparing two cultures that are as diverse and structurally different as China and Mesoamerica, will result in observations which – at best – may bring parallels to light that can be considered innate to all prehistoric cultures. However, when trying to understand cultural phenomena, the way these phenomena are scientifically approached is indeed a trans-disciplinary problem. The Munich conference therefore marked an important step in making new methodologies and scientific procedures available to a trans-disciplinary audience of culture experts.

Thomas Kaiser
University of Munich
kaiser.tom@gmail.com

SUMMER SCHOOLS FOR DOCTORAL, MASTER AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

At the same time as BA and MA degrees are being reformed all over Europe, many European universities have begun to offer summer schools for doctoral students. These schools typically offer workshops centred around international research programs. Students receive credits for a variety of activities, such as participation at workshops, conferences, or the publication of a research article. In order to offer PhD students relevant international workshops, European universities are currently striving for increased collaboration in the offering of doctoral summer schools. In this context, spring/summer schools around a central topic aimed at PhD students are among the possible formats for collaboration.

Another type of summer school is aimed at advanced BA students or Masters students and typically focuses on a broad field (such as Chinese Studies) for a diverse audience. It brings together teachers and students from many different European universities, raising interest in a range of research topics in a context of European mobility.

At the EACS Conference in Lund, August 2008, a panel will be organized on the possibilities of European collaboration in the framework of Summer Schools for doctoral, masters or advanced undergraduate students. We welcome everyone to join us. If you want to present a brief collaboration proposal, please contact the organizers of the

panel (Ann Heirman:
Ann.Heirman@UGent.be or Sun Lam:
slc@ilch.uminho.pt).

Ann Heirman
Sun Lam

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

China, Chinese Civilization and the World

The 17th International Conference on “China, Chinese Civilization and the World: History, Modernity and Future Prospects” will take place at the RAS Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Moscow on October 22-24 2008. Its main theme is “*30 Years of Reforms in the PRC: Experience, Problems and Lessons*”.

The Conference will be organized by the RAS Institute of Far Eastern Studies, together with the RAS Academic Council on Comprehensive Studies of Modern China, the Russia-China Friendship Association and the Russia-China Committee for Friendship, Peace and Development. Apart from the two Plenary Sessions, the conference proceedings shall include the following panels:

- ÷ Economic Aspects of Reform in the PRC;
- ÷ International Relations of the PRC in the Context of Reforms and Open-Door Policy;
- ÷ China’s Political History in the Reform Period;
- ÷ Society and Culture in the Reform Period.

In addition, a round-table discussion on *China's Road to the Future* is planned. We invite all scholars to take part in the conference. For more details, please, visit our website: www.ifes-ras.ru

Mikhail L. Titarenko
Director, RAS Institute of Far Eastern Studies
Chairman, RAS Academic Council on Comprehensive Studies of Modern China

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE EACS BOARD

At the Lund meeting this year in August we need to replenish the EACS Board with new members. According to article 9 of our Constitution, the Board is made up of twenty-four members, including the President, and is elected by the General Assembly every two years at the time of the biennial conference. It goes without saying that candidates for Board membership are normally scholars actively engaged in Chinese Studies and affiliated to an academic institution in Europe. Our constitution requires a balanced representation from different European countries. As a rule therefore the Board should include no more than three residents of any single country (the President counts as one of three). Board members cannot serve more than three terms (which means 6 consecutive years). In Lund at least eight Board members stand to step down having served their full term. I therefore would like to encourage all EACS members to nominate candidates for the new Board. I especially appeal to outgoing Board members who are

the only representatives of their country to try and nominate a new Board member from among their colleagues. Candidates who wish to be nominated for election at the General Assembly in Lund 2008 should contact the Secretary in writing or by e-mail (rs10009@cam.ac.uk) prior to that meeting. Many thanks indeed.

Roel Sterckx

NOMINATION FOR ELECTION TO OFFICE FOR PRESIDENT

All members of EACS are invited to nominate candidates for the position of the President of the Association. According to the article 10 of our constitution, the President is elected for a period of 2 years (and may be re-elected for two further consecutive terms of office). Article 9 of the constitution provides for direct election of the President by the General Assembly and requires nominations for this election, signed by two Ordinary Members, to be in the hands of the Secretary at least two months before the date of the General Assembly.

The Board proposes Brunhild Staiger, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Asian Affairs, Hamburg. Brunhild Staiger has agreed to continue for another two years.

VENUE FOR THE 2012 CONFERENCE

During the General Assembly in Lund we will also be discussing where to hold the EACS Conference in 2012 (after Riga 2010). This will then be decided at the General Assembly by

vote. If you would like to suggest that the conference be held in your country or institution, we kindly ask you to prepare a proposal that can be presented to the General Assembly. Please make sure that the proposal includes basic information about the institution as well as about the plans for organizing the conference, including details about the accommodation and other facilities.

Roel Sterckx

**CHIANG CHING-KUO
FOUNDATION LIBRARY
TRAVEL GRANT**

In 2008 the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation continues its generous support to EACS by funding one-week visits for specialised research in Sinological libraries in Cambridge, Heidelberg, Leiden, London, Oxford, Paris or Munich.

Applications received before the deadline of **October 20th** will be considered *within 3 weeks after receipt*.

Applicants should be **Sinologists based permanently in Europe** and preferably paid-up members of the EACS. Applications from non-members will be considered, however, especially in case of students and young scholars (**up to 35 years**), if accompanied by a recommendation letter from an EACS member.

Priorities are given to applicants as follows:

a. Central and Eastern Europe students

b. Western Europe students
c. Central and Eastern Europe scholars
d. Western Europe scholars

APPLICATIONS must include:

- 1) a letter stating the library to be visited and intended dates of travel;
- 2) a statement of purpose, to include a short description of the research project, including precise indication of the sources and material to be used (the easiest way to obtain this information is to consult the electronic catalogues of the respective libraries accessible also through the EACS website).
- 3) a written statement obtained from the Librarian of the institute where the proposed visit is to take place confirming that the research materials required are available for consultation;
- 4) a one-page curriculum vitae with a list of main publications (in case of more advanced scholars);
- 5) a statement of the travelling expenses (Apex economy airfare or 2nd class rail fare), including a note of other sources of funding;
- 6) in the case of Ph.D. students, a letter of recommendation from their supervisor;
- 7) in the case of non-members, a letter of recommendation from an EACS member;
- 8) address for correspondence, including fax and E-mail where possible.

APPLICATIONS should be sent to the following coordinators:

- 1) for research on pre-modern China (i.e. before 1840) to Dr. Bernhard Fuehrer, School of Oriental and

African Studies, London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H OXG, United Kingdom. Fax: +44 (0) 20 7898 4239. E-mail: bf3@soas.ac.uk.
Dr. Fuehrer is able to process applications sent by e-mail only.

2) for research on modern China (i.e. from 1840) to Dr. Thomas Kampen, Sinologisches Seminar, Heidelberg University, Akademiestraße 4-8, D-69117 Heidelberg, Germany. E-mail: tkampen@sino.uni-heidelberg.de

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

1) If applications are approved, grants will be made to include travelling expenses and a per diem allowance, which will vary from place to place.

2) The grants will be paid on completion of the visit only.

3) **Applicants who, due to special circumstances, need to receive the grant in advance, should indicate so in their application.**

4) On completion of their visit, all scholars should obtain a letter signed by the Librarian, certifying that the visit has been made and specifying the dates when it began and ended.

5) All scholars should send the Librarian's letter directly to the president of EACS Dr. Brunhild STAIGER, Institut für Asien-Studien, Rothenbaumchaussee 32, DE-20148 Hamburg, Germany. E-mail: staiger@giga-hamburg.de. The EACS president is in charge of the financial administration of the grant.

6) Upon completion of the visit, a brief report should be sent to the EACS Secretary, Dr. Roel Sterckx (e-mail: rs10009@cam.ac.uk). Any publication

using material collected under this program should include acknowledgement of help received from the CCK Foundation.

LIBRARIANS

(For further details about the libraries see our website or the website of the European Association of Sinological Librarians at: www.easl.org)

FRANCE:

Delphine Spicq, Bibliothèque de l'Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises, Collège de France, 52 rue du Cardinal Lemoine, 75231 Paris Cedex 05, France. Fax: +33-1-44 27 18 79.

E-mail: delphine.spicq@college-de-france.fr

GERMANY:

Ms A. Labitzky-Wagner, Sinologisches Seminar, Universität Heidelberg, Akademiestrasse 4-8, D-69117 Heidelberg, Germany. Fax: +49-6221-54-24-39. E-mail: alw@gw.sino.uni-heidelberg.de

Ms. Renate Stephan at the Bavarian State Library, Section East Asia, Fax +49-89-28636-2805.

stephan-bahle@bsb-muenchen.de

NETHERLANDS:

Hanno Lecher M.A., Sinologisch Instituut, Arsenalstraat 1, 2311CT, Leiden, The Netherlands. Fax: 71-27-226-15.

E-mail: bibchin@let.leidenuniv.nl

UNITED KINGDOM:

Charles Aylmer, Chinese Section, University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR, United Kingdom. Fax: +44-1223-333-160.

E-mail: caa@ula.cam.ac.uk
Ms Sue Small, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, UK. Fax: +44-171-436-38-44.

E-mail: ss8@soas.ac.uk
Frances Wood, British Library, Chinese Section, Oriental & India Office Collections, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, UK. Fax: +44-171-412-78-58.

E-mail: oioc-chinese@bl.uk
David Helliwell, Bodleian Library, Oxford, OX1 3BG, United Kingdom. Fax: +44-1865-277132.

E-mail: djh@bodley.ox.ac.uk

OBITUARY
PROF. ERIK ZÜRCHER
1928-2008

On Thursday 7 February 2008, the first day of the Chinese New Year, Emeritus Professor Erik Zürcher passed away. He had been in frail health for some time, and his eyes were giving him trouble. He remained fully clear of mind until the end, as testified by his publication in 2007 of a major monograph containing translations of conversations between Jesuit Giulio Aleni and local Chinese literati. This constitutes a unique study of international religious contact, for once not focusing on polemics conducted from elite perspectives but on debate between a missionary and what Zürcher liked to call the local schoolmasters.

A student at Leiden University from 1947, Erik Zürcher produced a brilliant PhD dissertation in 1959, which

quickly became a classic in the study of Chinese Buddhism, *The Buddhist Conquest of China*. The first edition is still graced by his beautiful Chinese handwriting (he was also known for his masterful drawings). *The Buddhist Conquest* was reprinted in 1972 and again in 2007, indicating the importance of this work. Personally, I have always felt that his dissertation must have been both a joy (for it set him off on a successful career) and a burden (for it was a hard act to follow). Be that as it may, he wrote a flow of serious articles from the 1970s onward – on such topics as early Chinese vernacular, Buddhist messianism and the early Jesuit mission – of which the significance is undiminished today. Somewhere hidden in a drawer there must be several typescript chapters of his grammar of the Chinese in Kumarajiva's translations of Buddhist texts. A common element in his research on Buddhism, Christianity and Chinese communism was the encounter of Chinese culture and foreign thought and worldviews. Characteristically, while he produced a course syllabus containing a detailed analytical model for this material, he never published this in English. He often preferred staying close to the sources rather than designing abstract vistas.

In addition to his scholarly work, Zürcher was also a builder of institutions, at a time when there was much room for personal initiative without red tape or formats imposed from above. As early as 1931, Zürcher's teacher, Professor JLL Duyvendak, had founded the Sinological Institute; after Professor Hulswé retired in 1974, Zürcher

became the Institute's director, even though the directorship was later deemed *ad interim*, because the Institute's formal status had somehow evaporated between institutional-organizational lines. However, since "the Sinological Institute" is how Chinese Studies at Leiden University was known internationally, we have continued to use this name at home and abroad – and with some justification, for the Institute comprises a Department of Chinese Studies *and* an outstanding Sinological Library.

Having first been appointed Reader, in 1961 Erik Zürcher took up duty as full professor of Far-Eastern History, with special attention to Chinese-Western contacts in the broad sense. This was doubtless a purposefully vague designation: in the Chinese tradition, the West includes India, the breeding ground of Buddhism, and not just faraway Europe. In 1969, after several years of successful lobbying, Zürcher founded the Documentation Center for Contemporary China (with a dedicated budget), facilitating the study of present-day China and communism by others. In Europe, this made Leiden one of the Universities that took modern China seriously early on. In itself this made sense, since Chinese Studies in the Netherlands had consistently been linked with practical concerns in the areas of colonial rule, international relations and trade – but it was typical of Zürcher that he managed to put the study of modern China on an institutional footing. From 1976 to 1992, he was co-editor of *T'oung Pao*, the oldest still extant sinological journal today. He enjoyed ample academic recognition, visible in honors

such as membership of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (from 1975) and election to Correspondant étranger de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-lettres (from 1985).

From the 1970s, while taking part in work on European Expansion elsewhere in the Faculty of Arts, Zürcher taught and served in various administrative functions in the Department of Chinese Studies. Additionally, throughout the years he sat on countless committees inside the University and elsewhere, including international scholarly organizations and institutions such as Unesco. This included a two year period as president of the European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS), from 1990 to 1992. In 1978, following a request from Chinese Studies' students, he began preparing slide series for classroom use, an initiative which quickly grew into a prestigious project for visual education (co)funded by the Taiwan Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, for which, together with colleagues, he systematically collected images for the production of thematic slide series. The project moved on into computerization early on, but following the increasingly strict enforcement of copyright rules and the advent of the Internet, what had been a head start now turned into an administrative backlog that made it difficult to continue and expand. Meanwhile, many cohorts of students had enjoyed and learned from this "visualization of Chinese history". Zürcher's interest in matters visual, closely interwoven with the archaeology, art and material culture of China, was also manifest in his

initiative toward the establishment of the Hulsewé-Wazniewski Foundation, which has advanced teaching and research in these areas at Leiden University since 1997.

As in his research, so in his teaching Zürcher excelled at clear, well-formulated exposition. Unfortunately, he had no senior students in his own, original field of early Buddhism, but he trained many in the study of Christianity in China in the 17th century. Especially his 1980s seminars truly helped shape some of his students at the time, including Nicolas Standaert, now professor of Chinese at the Catholic University of Leuven and the undersigned. Still, personal attention was not the most important thing, for Zürcher was used to maintaining a certain distance from us as students, and later as PhD candidates and colleagues. While this could at times be frustrating, it was more than made good by the sheer space he gave us to develop – and this was not just *laissez-faire* but also bespoke a fundamental conception of and attitude to knowledge. During seminar sessions, he would, for instance, emphasize that he himself had needed years to master particular types of language such as those employed in Buddhist and Taoist texts. At the same time, frequent instances of irony in his comments on our readings created room for new interpretations. His astonishing command of various types of premodern Chinese (and English, and Dutch, and many other tongues) made what he said highly motivating for me and many others.

Erik Zürcher combined phenomenal erudition with an exceptionally critical mind and something one might simply call intellectual style – and with a keen sense of humor. He was a great sinologist, who made invaluable contributions to scholarship and inspired many students and colleagues.

Barend ter Haar, February 12, 2008

OBITUARY
PROF. JOHN BARLOW
1925-2008

John Sutton Barlow of Concord, Massachusetts, died February 15. He was born in Raleigh, NC on June 10, 1925 and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a major in physics and mathematics in 1944. He served in the U.S. Navy from June 1944 to August 1946, including radar school at MIT, and remained in the Naval Reserve as a Lt. jg until his resignation in 1948 because he had become a conscientious objector to war. After active duty, he returned to UNC for an M.S. degree in physics. Shortly after beginning further graduate studies at Johns Hopkins University, he decided to apply to medical school and was allowed to take pre-medical courses along with graduate physics courses.

He returned to Chapel Hill for the first two years of medical school, then transferred to Harvard Medical School. By that time he had become interested in Norbert Wiener's Cybernetics and decided that his wartime training in electronics combined with medical training pointed to a career of study of the nervous system. Even before

graduating from medical school, in a joint project between the Department of Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Research Laboratory of Electronics at MIT, he began designing and building the first U.S. analog correlator for brain potentials (now at the MIT Museum).

After graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1953, Dr. Barlow began his career of more than 50 years as a neuroscientist at Massachusetts General Hospital, mainly in EEG analysis. He was a past president of the Eastern Association of Electroencephalographers and the American EEG Society. In more recent years, he designed electronic models to simulate how parts of the brain work. He authored many scientific articles and two books in his field.

He also translated scientific articles and books from Russian, Polish, Czech, Bulgarian and Chinese with the aid of many dictionaries. It was while looking through Chinese dictionaries that he discovered the

Russian graphical system for arranging Chinese characters in a dictionary. In the hope of spreading this system to the rest of the world, he added English and appendices to an existing large Chinese-Russian dictionary to produce the 856-page *A Chinese-Russian-English Dictionary (arranged by the Rosenberg Graphical System)*. He also researched and wrote about the life of Otto O. Rosenberg, the buddhologist who perfected the graphical system.

John Barlow's interests included train travel, world affairs (especially the United Nations), music, biking, unicycling, reading biographies of scientists. He played the pipe organ at home and on trips abroad, with emphasis on J.S. Bach because he had the same initials. He was known for his puns. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Sibylle (Jahrreiss), their children, Thomas of Wilmington DE, Robert of Pleasanton CA, and Lisa of Boulder CO, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Sybille Barlow

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Romain Graziani and Roel Sterckx (eds.), *De l'Esprit aux Esprits: Enquête sur la notion de shen en Chine*. Extrême-orient, Extrême-occident 29. Saint-Denis: Presses Universitaires de Vincennes, 2007. ISBN 978-2-84292-207-8.

Harro von Senger, *36 Estratagemas para Directivos: Alcance sus objetivos*

a través de tácticas y estrategias no convencionales. Barcelona : Ediciones Deusto, 2007. 200 pp. ISBN-13: 978-84-234-2515-0. 19.95 €

Harro von Senger, *Supraplanung : Unerkannte Denkhorizonte aus dem Reich der Mitte*. München: Hanser Verlag. 2008. 302 pp. ISBN 978-3-446-41365-8. 19.90 €

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