



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

EACS Newsletter

No. 48, November 2013

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EACS Homepage: <http://www.chinesestudies.eu>

EACS ADDRESSES

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

This Newsletter 48 will be the last one under my editorship. By the time of the XXth conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies, to be held in Braga and Coimbra in July 2014 (see further in this Newsletter), I will have served six years on the EACS board and six years as your Newsletter editor. During these six years, also EACS has witnessed the growing impact and importance of the use of the internet and social media. As a result, the work of the webmaster – in the past six years, these have been Luca Pisano and Holger Schneider – has greatly gained importance, and this has inspired the board to rework and to revalue the Association's website. Major work in this respect has been done by Holger Schneider, who I want to thank for the nice collaboration we have had over the past few years.

A new Newsletter editor will have to be appointed in Coimbra. Up to that moment, I will happily receive your contributions for the Newsletter 49, and pass them over to my successor in this function. As always, contributions should be sent 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 relevant news, but the Editor reserves the right to edit all contributions for publication.

It has been my pleasure to edit the Newsletters, and I want to thank all of you who have sent me their contributions – after all, the Newsletter is and will remain the product of its members.

Newsletter Editor

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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Following the very successful EACS conference in Paris in September 2012, the principal tasks that I have under-taken during 2013 have been concerned with assisting the organizers in the preparations for the EACS conference in July 2014, consolidating the organization of the association, and exploring some avenues of increased activity by the Association. In addition to leading the EACS Board meeting between 19-20 July at Minho University in Braga and Coimbra University, I have had two further meetings with the elected officers of the EACS that I will describe below.

The EACS Board meeting in July 2013, attended by seventeen members of the board, involved visits to the two sites of the July 2014 conference. Board members visited all the proposed rooms to be used during the conference at both venues, the venue for the publishers' book-displays and the book display of the National Library of Taiwan, the canteens available for participants during the conference, and stayed at hotels that are conveniently located for conference participants in Braga and Coimbra. A major concern was the issue of adequate and inexpensive transportation between Braga and Coimbra. The conference organizers explained their plans and the board raised a number of relevant points. Among the decisions made by the board in their meeting was that the board members would actively work towards emailing links to the list of sinological insti-

tutions on the EACS website to the Webmaster. We can hope that by the conference in July 2014 all the institutions listed will have active links and contact information.

The first of the two additional meetings was in Erlangen University on Friday 8 February with the EACS Treasurer Michael Schimmelpfennig, EACS Newsletter Editor Bart Dessen and EACS Webmaster Holger Schneider. Unfortunately the EACS General Secretary Tian Yuan Tan was unable to attend due to prior commitments. At the meeting we discussed a wide range of issues, several of which concerned the EACS website. We considered, for example, the possibility (and legality) of including the logos of universities and companies on the EACS website, and were in general favour of the inclusion of more pictures and visual material on the website. We also discussed a proposal to increase knowledge about newly commenced and ongoing China-related research projects throughout Europe, and thereby promote the relevance of the website as a useful and even premium information resource. The idea is simply that every couple of weeks a news item related to a newly commenced China-related research project at a European university, amounting to not more than two hundred words and a reliable link to the project, should be highlighted on the home page for one or two weeks, whether the project is run by an EACS member or not. We were of the opinion that board members could be expected to submit information about such new projects initiated from the European country they represent, even if the projects are

not at their university or run by an EACS member. Other issues that we discussed concerned a proposal to initiate a proposal to initiate a new large-scale EACS project on all available translations of Chinese materials (principally in the Humanities and Social Sciences), whether the EACS could establish a peer-reviewed digital journal (working name: *The EACS Journal for Chinese Studies*) that would guarantee to publish papers within six months of their acceptance after review, and whether funding could be obtained to establish an EACS Scholarship Programme, providing ideally two scholarships annually. The underlying idea behind the proposals in each case is to enhance the range of activities undertaken by the Association. Several of these points were later discussed at the board meeting in July 2013.

My second meeting was at SOAS, London University with EACS General Secretary Tian Yuan Tan on Thursday 19 September. Among other issues, Tian Yuan Tan and I discussed the recurrent and pressing need to ensure that there is a reasonable degree of continuity in the administrative tasks performed by the elected officials of the Association. To this end we agreed that it would be very helpful to come up with a list of the respective tasks of the President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. Such information will be especially useful in handover of tasks when, for example, we need to elect a new Newsletter Editor at the board meeting in 2014. When I was elected President I was

extremely fortunate that my predecessor Brunhild Staiger shared her knowledge with me. Each of my colleagues has provided a detailed list of their tasks to the General Secretary, and thus we hope that we have now prepared for smoother transitions in the future.

In addition to the above meetings, during the last twelve months I composed and submitted an application to the Chiang Ching Kuo Foundation (CCKF) for the next three-year period of the Library Travel Grant Programme (LTG) and an application to the CCKF for financial support for the July 2014 conference. The CCKF generously decided to continue to support the LTG Programme with a grant of 30,000€, and I believe that there are good reasons to hope that the CCKF will continue to provide its generous support to the biannual EACS-conferences.

Finally, I would like to mention the summer school organized jointly by the Department of East Asian Studies and the Confucius Institute at the University of Venice between 2-6 September. I am no doubt slightly biased in my evaluation of the event having been present throughout the Summer School and also been one of the presenters. However, the organization of such an event with thirtyone students from a large number of universities and twelve speakers, along with visits to two major libraries in Venice and a concluding social event, required a remarkable effort on the part of the staff involved at ca' Foscari. The Association's thanks are due to Tiziana Lippiello, Marco

Ceresa, and their colleagues. The opinions voiced in the student evaluations that were received will be shared with the organizers of the next Summer School that will be held in 2015.

Roger Greatrex
President

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

As is custom, the recent inter-conference year Board Meeting was held in Portugal, the venue of our next biennial conference. We are very grateful to the conference organisers, Carmen Mendes from the University of Coimbra and Sun Lam and Luís Cabral from the University of Minho, for hosting two meetings in their respective campuses. The Board discussed plans for EACS 2014 with the conference organisers and also looked into longer-term projects and developments for the Association, including continual improvements and additions to our website. When you have a moment, you may like to visit our website to see some of the new features and designs introduced by our webmaster, Holger Schneider. Currently, we are also updating the information on links to the Sinological Institutes across Europe. If you find any information amiss or outdated on the website, may I ask for your assistance in emailing the correct details of your institution or department to me (tt26@soas.ac.uk). This

will help us greatly in working towards a more complete and up-to-date list.

As you may be aware, we have published the call for submissions to the Young Scholar Award 2014 on our website and through email (details also included in this Newsletter). The deadline for submission is 15 January 2014. Please help to spread the news and encourage any eligible colleagues or PhD students to submit their work.

We are also now accepting bids to host the EACS 2018 conference. The proposal must be submitted directly from an academic department and the lead applicant should be a member of the EACS and an academic specialised in the field of Chinese Studies. The application should be accompanied by a letter from the Vice-Chancellor or equivalent of the host university confirming its commitment to organise the conference. The proposal should include basic information about the organising institution, conference plans, and practical details about accommodation and other facilities. Bids for the EACS 2018 conference are to be submitted to the Secretary by email (tt26@soas.ac.uk) before 31 May 2014. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Selected bids that fulfilled the above criteria will be invited to give a formal presentation of their proposal at the General Assembly in Portugal next July.

Tian Yuan Tan
Secretary

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

Dear members of EACS,

The difficult times we had with distributing email news by means of the EACS database from roughly October to December 2012 may already hopefully have vanished from your memory. Garbled, multiple or missing attachments, emails that only reached some addressees, other not, and an increasingly desperate treasurer had to do with the aged platform, the EACS database was working on. The move to a new platform could only be undertaken in December of that year. It paid off: since then the database seems to be working smoothly.

As a further move to concentrate all financial matters at one place within the EACS, I took over the management of the funds of the Library Travel Grants from Brunhild Staiger in the beginning of 2013. Four young researchers have already made use of the opportunity to visit libraries all over Europe this year. The Chiang Ching-kuo foundation is to be lauded to have prolonged its support of the LTG grant for another 3 years, and the next round for applications has already begun.

Due to a warning by a financial advisor from the bank that manages our accounts regarding some of our fixed asset shares I also took on the task to sell old and buy new shares for parts of our fixed assets. Judging from their recent, rather modest development, however, I am afraid, we may have moved a bit too far to the safe side.

Let me continue with the issue of “sleeping members” within the EACS database raised in Newsletter 47-2012. Since a comparison of the actual paying members with the entire number of database entries revealed that quite a percentage of the entries were either from one-time members that became members for one EACS conference only, or from earlier members who for various reasons did not continue to support EACS, the meeting of the board in Paris 2012 decided to remove these entries. As a consequence the membership fee invoices of 2012 contained a reminder that the entries of those who had not contributed their membership fee for the last three years would be removed from the database by March 2013 without further notice. The statement proved to be quite effective since a number of members that had not provided their dues for several years did decide to settle their accounts. To give former members a chance to reconsider, the invoice that contained the warning was followed by emails distributed during the first quarter of 2013 warning potential candidates that their entries in the database would be deleted at the beginning of April.

After the database adjustment that finally was conducted at the beginning of May 2013 the EACS currently has 730 members (+ 25 since May). Of these members, however, around 100 have not yet paid their dues for 2011, around 150 members have pending payments for 2012, with a significant number of those of 2011 included in the figure for 2012 (i.e. not having paid for both years). Assuming that at least 50% of these members belong to

the group of one-year only members, we currently arrive at a figure around 650 active members.

In addition it has to be said that there is a constant flux of applications of new members with an average of 3-5 membership applications per month. This is pleasing news that shows that standing members do encourage their students to apply, that our refurbished website with all its information has become more attractive, and that incentives like summer schools or our bi-annual conferences succeed in getting potential future scholars interested in our association. I would still like to stress that personal encouragement of your students to join our ranks by you as members of the EACS is of great importance to our association.

The invoices for the payment of membership fees for 2013 will be distributed electronically in conjunction with the newsletter. Continuing from last year, the invoices will mention pending membership fees for the preceding three years. The invoices will also contain the statement mentioned above that database entries of all EACS members who have not paid any membership fees within the last four years will be removed from the EACS database by March of the coming year 2014 without further notice.

Further, on its meeting in Portugal in July 2013 the members of the board agreed on a suggestion by the president that beginning in 2014 a new system for the membership fees to be collected biennially in line with the occurrence of the conferences should be introduced. The move is considered to further reduce bureaucratic burdens

both on the side of members and the treasurer.

For questions regarding membership, membership fee rates or modes of payment let me refer you to the member page on our website:

<http://www.chinesestudies.eu/index.php/members>

<http://www.chinesestudies.eu/index.php/members/93-members/86-payment-of-membership-fees>

Let me end on stressing once again that your participation and support are vital to the association. Your contributions exclusively serve to continue the EACS's efforts to provide a platform for China scholars in Europe and beyond.

Michael Schimmelpfennig
Treasurer

CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS

Dear Members,

We would like to invite nominations for elections to the EACS Board at next year's Portugal conference. The EACS 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. To ensure that there is a balanced representation from different European countries, Article 9 of our constitution states that the

Board shall include no more than three residents of any single country (the President counts as one of the three). In addition, Board members cannot serve more than three terms (which means 6 consecutive years). In the coming election next year, we anticipate at least 8 vacancies to be filled on the Board.

Therefore, I 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 on the Board, to try and nominate a new Board member from among their colleagues. Nominations can be sent to the Secretary by email (tt26@soas.ac.uk) any time prior to the date of the General Assembly.

Tian Yuan Tan
Secretary

YOUNG SCHOLAR AWARD 2014

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.

We very much welcome submissions from candidates world-wide. 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 XXth biennial conference in Braga and Coimbra, Portugal, in July 2014.

Eligibility:

Candidates for the YSA should be 35 years of age or below 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 2014 Portugal conference. Each applicant may submit only one paper of a maximum of 8000 to 8500 words (approximately 50,000 characters), with a one-page abstract. The copy should include the author's full name, institution, and address.

The YSA jury hopes to nominate 3 finalists. Nominees will be invited to Portugal to attend the 2014 EACS conference where their papers will be presented during a special session. EACS will sponsor travel costs, per diem expenses as well as the conference registration fee of all shortlisted candidates.

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.

Submission:

The deadline for submission of both abstracts and papers is **15 January 2014**. Proof of age and rank should be provided at the time of submission. Please send papers and abstracts **by e-mail AND in hard-copy** to the EACS Secretary 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, tt26@soas.ac.uk. Applicants who encounter difficulties in mailing the copy of their work should contact the EACS Secretary. We very much hope you will consider submitting your work!

Tian Yuan Tan
Secretary

CCK FOUNDATION LIBRARY TRAVEL GRANT

Thanks to the continued support of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation the EACS also in 2014 is able to fund one-week visits for specialised research in Sinological libraries in Berlin, Cambridge, Heidelberg, Leiden, London, Munich, Oxford or Paris.

Applications received before the two deadlines of **March 20** and **October 20** 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, 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 travel expenses (Apex economy airfare or 2nd class rail fare), including a note of other sources of funding;

6) in the case of PhD 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 e-mail.

APPLICATIONS should be sent to the following coordinators by e-mail only:

- 1) for research on pre-modern China (i.e. before 1840) to Prof. Bernhard Fuehrer, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, United Kingdom. E-mail: bf3@soas.ac.uk;
- 2) for research on modern China (i.e. since 1840) to Dr Roman Shapiro, IVKA, Russian State University for the Humanities (RGGU), 6, Miuskaya pl., 125993 GSP-3 Moscow, Russia. E-mail: luomaru@yahoo.com

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

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

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

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

4) For citizens of Russia and other countries not belonging to the Euro Zone arrangements will be made for them to collect the grant at the place of the library upon their arrival.

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

6) The librarian's letter and a brief report of about one page should be sent by e-mail to the resp. coordinator and to Dr. Michael Schimmelpfennig, Department of Middle-Eastern and Far-Eastern Languages and Cultures – Chinese Studies, Artilleriestrasse 70, 91052 Erlangen, Germany. E-mail: m_schimmelpfennig@yahoo.com

7) Any publication using material collected under this programme should include acknowledgement of support 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:

Berlin:

Matthias Kaun, East Asia Department; Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Potsdamer Strasse 33, D-10785 Berlin, Germany. Tel.: +49 30 266 436000. Fax.: +49 30 266 336001. Email: matthias.kaun@sbb.spk-berlin.de

Heidelberg:

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

Munich:

The Bavarian State Library, Section East Asia, Fax +49-89-28636-2805.

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

E-mail: stephan-bahle@bsb-muenchen.de

NETHERLANDS:

Paul Wijsman, East Asian Library, Arsenalstraat 1, P.O.Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands. Tel. +31(0)715272540.

E-mail: eal@library.leidenuniv.nl

UNITED KINGDOM:

Cambridge:

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

London:

Ms Wai Hing TSE, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of Lon-

don, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, UK.
Fax: +44-171-436-38-44.
E-mail: wt1@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

Oxford:
David Helliwell, Bodleian Library, Oxford, OX1 3BG, United Kingdom.
Fax: +44-1865-277132.
E-mail:
David.Helliwell@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

REPORT ON THE VENICE SUMMER SCHOOL 2013

During the first week of September 2013 (2-6 September) a Summer School in Chinese Studies was held at Ca' Foscari University of Venice on behalf of the European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS). The activity was a joint initiative managed by three leading institutions at Ca' Foscari — the Department of Asian and Northern African Studies, the Confucius Institute at Ca' Foscari, and the Summer School of Ca' Foscari — and the EACS. The EACS has previously organised successful and popular summer schools in Portugal and Russia, but this year's summer school was larger and more international than before. The importance of the summer school was that it provided a unique opportunity for post-graduate and doc-

toral students to attend a range of lectures given by leading specialists, and to interact with the professors and with one another in an international and interdisciplinary academic environment. Thirty-one M.A. and PhD students from universities throughout the European Union, Russia, the Ukraine, U.S.A. and Hong Kong participated at the summer school.

The theme of the summer school this year was '*History and Historiography: the Encounter with the West*'. Given the special relationship between Marco Polo and Venice it was highly suitable that the summer school was held in Venice. The programme included a visit to the Marciana Library in S. Marco where Marco Polo's testament was specially displayed for the Summer School participants, and a visit to the libraries of the Fondazione Cini on the S. Giorgio Island.

The twelve professors who gave lectures during the summer school are active at leading universities in eight different countries, and their fields of expertise span considerably more than two thousand years of China's long and rich history. They were (in alphabetical order): Urs App (Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris), Marco Ceresa (Ca' Foscari University), Hans van Ess (LMU University, Munich), Laura De Giorgi (Ca' Foscari University), Sean Golden (UAB, Barcelona), Roger Greatrex (Lund University), Tiziana Lippiello (Ca' Foscari University), Burchard Mansvelt Beck (Leiden University), Yuri Pines (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Guido Samarani (Ca' Fos-

cari University), Paolo Santangelo (University La Sapienza, Rome), and Nicolas Standaert (K.U. Leuven).

Tiziana Lippiello
Director of the Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE XXth EACS CONFERENCE, BRAGA-COIMBRA, 2014

The 20th Conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies will be held in Portugal in the cities of Braga and Coimbra from the 22nd to the 26th July 2014. It is jointly organized by the University of Minho and the University of Coimbra, two beautiful historical locations, which will make it a unique conference. The panels include:

- Art and Archeology
- Cinema, Media and Performing Arts
- Culture
- East-West Contacts
- Economics
- Gender Studies
- History (pre-modern, modern)
- International Relations
- Law
- Linguistics
- Literature (pre-modern and modern)
- Macau Studies
- Philosophy and Religion
- Politics
- Sociology
- Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language
- Translation Studies

Among the highlights of the 2014 EACS Conference, there will be two keynote speeches: for the opening session in Braga, by Ambassador João de Deus Ramos, specialist in Sino-Portuguese Relations, consultant of Orient Foundation, and for the welcome session in Coimbra, given by Professor Ming K. Chan, visiting fellow of the Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University.

Participants are invited to submit their proposals (individual papers and panels) online from September 16th to December 16th 2013, at the site www.eacs2014.pt. The abstract should not exceed 300 words, with an additional list of 5-8 key-words.

Important dates:

- September 16–December 16, 2013: Panels and individual papers abstract submission
- March 17–21, 2014: Notification of acceptance
- March 24–May 31, 2014: Online registration
- July 22–26, 2014: Conference

The university of Minho's name derives from the region in which it is located. Minho is a northern province situated 50 kms from Porto. It stands as a comprehensive university since its foundation in 1974 and it is considered a very dynamic institution for teaching and research, highly ranked for its innovation and internationalization among European universities. In 1991, the University of Minho offered its first open course on Chinese Language and Culture, in this being

the first among Portuguese universities, and in 1997 the Centre of Oriental Languages and Cultures was created, offering open courses and a Biannual Sinology Course, with four teachers and more than 200 students. In 2004, the University made a historical step by creating the first Degree Course in Chinese Studies. In 2009 the Master's Degree Course in Cross-cultural Studies (Chinese-Portuguese) started with a total of 25 students, counting now with 21 Masters and 59 (1st and 2nd year) students, of both Portuguese and Chinese nationalities. The University of Minho is looking forward to hosting the 2014 EACS Conference, which will be an important opportunity to enrich Chinese Studies in Portuguese Universities.

Founded in 1290, the University of Coimbra is the oldest university in Portugal, and was the only university in the Portuguese speaking world until the 20th century, being nominated as World Cultural Heritage in June 2013. Its prestige is shown by the position it holds in the international rankings of universities and research centers. For nearly five centuries, its graduates have contributed both to Macau's historical evolution with its *Luso* legacies and the Macau Special Administrative Region current development (as legal personnel, medical practitioners, engineers, architects, priests, academics, interpreters, teachers, other key professionals, and civil servants). Today, the University of Coimbra is a large complex institution with three campuses, 22,635 students, of which 20 % are international students from more than 80 different nationalities, and

over 3,000 academic and non-academic staff members highly active and committed to the quality of research, education and technology transfer activities. The University of Coimbra has a multi-secular and special relationship with China and the East. Many of the missionaries who used Portuguese ships to reach China studied in Coimbra where the Jesuits had an important college since the 16th century. From the first maps of China printed in Europe, to first hand descriptions of the Forbidden City, together with many material traces of the fascination of the East through the centuries, the University of Coimbra is a fascinating testimonial of the secular connections between Europe and China.

More information available at the Conference Website:
<http://www.eacs2014.pt>.

OBITUARY
BORIS L'VORICH RIFTIN
(1932-2012)

Boris L'vovich Riftin was a prominent Russian sinologist whose works are well-known at home and abroad. Riftin is recognized for his extensive publications on Chinese literature, which covered ancient myths, traditional novels and dramas, modern literature, popular literature, storytelling, folklore and popular prints. He published more than 300 works in a variety of languages. Riftin's ability to write his research in Chinese was formidable: several works that he published in

Chinese under his Chinese pseudonym, Li Fuqing 李福清, do not have published Russian versions.

Riftin was born in Leningrad (Saint-Petersburg) in 1932 in an intellectual family. He studied Chinese language and literature at the Faculty of Oriental Studies of Leningrad State University in 1950-1955. During his undergraduate years Riftin did not have the chance to travel to China to study Mandarin. However, during his summer vacations in 1953 he went to Kirgizia (Kirgizstan, a republic of the Soviet Union at that time) to study a dialect of Hui (or Dungan) people, another form of spoken Chinese, while working as a volunteer on a collective farm of the Dungans. The Dungans were originally emigrants from the Qing empire, and they had a rich tradition of oral literature that contained local versions of many Chinese tales, legends and stories. Riftin started to collect the Dunganese folklore in the 1950s, and this work later resulted in publication of a collection of Dunganese oral literature (co-authored with the Dunganese scholar M. Khasanov) that has been recently translated into Chinese and published in China.

Riftin worked at the Gorky Institute of World Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow for more than 50 years: he entered this institution right after graduation in 1955 and till his last day served as the head of the Department of Asian and African Literatures there. In 1959 and in 1965–1966 Riftin traveled to Beijing, where he had the opportunity to collect material for his research on

Chinese folklore and traditional novel. After the Cultural Revolution started in the PRC, Riftin was not able to visit China, but he continued his research. During that period he turned his attention to the study of the influence of Chinese literature on the culture of China's neighbors. In the 1970s Riftin undertook several fieldwork trips to Mongolia, where he studied subjects borrowed from Chinese novels and narrated by the Mongolian storytellers. In 1973 Riftin traveled to Vietnam, where he studied literary materials in classical Chinese of both Chinese and Vietnamese origin. After Soviet-Chinese contacts had been re-established, Riftin travelled to China again in 1981. He often went to China to attend conferences, do fieldwork and participate in collaborative research projects with Chinese colleagues. In 1992–1999 Riftin served as a visiting professor at Tsinghua 清華 and Jingyi 靜宜 Universities in Taiwan.

Riftin was an especially multi-faceted scholar. Here, I just outline several major directions of his research: Chinese folklore and traditional novel, comparative literature, unique Chinese literary and art works preserved in foreign collections all over the world and the history of Russian sinology.

One of the Riftin's most important achievements was an analysis of Chinese oral literature and traditional novel with the use of methodology suggested by Western and Russian scholars of folklore. He discovered many international literary "motifs" in folklore and popular literature of China and other countries of East and

South-East Asia. In one of his major Russian monographs, *Istoricheskaia epopeia i folklornaia tradiciia v Kitae (Ustnye i knizhnye versii 'Troetsarstviia')* (Historical epic and the folklore tradition in China: The oral and written versions of the 'Three Kingdoms'), Riftin interpreted the novel *Three Kingdoms* ascribed to Luo Guanzhong as a late form of development of the epic tradition of China. He argued that the epic tradition existed in imperial China, but was closely related to the historical records and their oral renderings. In another monograph, *Ot mifa k romanu. Evoliutsiia izobra-zheniia personazha v kitaiskoi liter-ature* (From myth to novel: The evolution of the portrayal of characters in Chinese literature), Riftin investigated the special characteristics of the portrayal of mythical figures as well as literary characters in traditional Chinese literature. He demonstrated the close connection between the portrayal of characters in Chinese fiction and the ancient myths and religious beliefs of China. Riftin was working on a monograph on the connections between popular prints and the traditional novel when he died; hopefully this volume will be published posthumously.

Riftin achieved significant results in comparative literature studies. While in Taiwan, he headed a research project of the collection of the myths of Taiwanese aborigines. It resulted in publication of a Chinese monograph on these myths, *Cong shenhua dao guihua: Taiwan yuanzhu min shenhua, gushi bijiao yanjiu* 從神話到鬼

話：臺灣原住民神話、故事比較研究 (two editions), in which Riftin analyzed the similarities between the Taiwanese myths and myths of the peoples of mainland China, the Philippines, Polynesia, etc. He also published extensively on the exchange of subjects and ideas between Chinese novel and literature of small nations of China and other countries of East and South-East Asia.

Another direction of Riftin's research was the study of Chinese works that were preserved only in collections outside of China. He traveled to many countries, where in the libraries and museums he found unknown texts of Chinese prose, drama and storytelling. His great discoveries include an early manuscript version of the *The Story of the Stone* (also known as *Dream of the Red Chamber*) and the unique complete copy of the eighteenth-century novel *Gu wang yan* 姑妄言 by Cao Qujing 曹去晶, both preserved in the Russian collections. Both works were reprinted in China with Riftin's forewords. In co-operation with Chinese scholars he also published three collections of unique editions of plays of the sixteenth century that he discovered in the libraries of Denmark and Austria. Riftin compiled several collections of rare Chinese woodblock prints from the Russian collections, the most complete of which, *Zhongguo muban nianhua jicheng: Eluosi cang juan* 中國木版年畫集成：俄羅斯藏品卷, was published in Beijing in 2009. His bibliographies of Chinese literary works collected abroad are important reference works for the

scholars of Chinese popular literature.

Riftin also published several works on the history of Russian sinology; his monograph in Chinese on the study of Chinese traditional literature in Russia, *Zhongguo gudian wenxue yanjiu zai Sulian* 中國古典文學研究在蘇聯, is especially noteworthy. Riftin participated in the publication of many unpublished manuscripts by the eminent Russian sinologist, Academician of the Soviet Academy of Sciences V. M. Alekseev (also known as Basil M. Alexéiev, 1880–1951). One can call Alekseev a Riftin's teacher, though Riftin studied under his guidance only for a short time. Alekseev's research on popular prints inspired Riftin's interest in this subject.

In 1990 Riftin received the Soviet Union's "State Award," a very high level award granted for outstanding achievement in the arts and sciences. In 2008 he became an Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, which is the highest scholarly degree in Russia. The honors he received include a 1993 award from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China (Taiwan), a 2003 "Friendship award in the field of Chinese language and culture" that included a gold medal from the Ministry of Education

of the People's Republic (PRC), a 2007 award from the Writers Association of the PRC, and a 2010 award from the PRC government commemorating his achievements in the study of Chinese traditional literature and culture. Riftin was an honorary professor of both Liaocheng University and Xinjiang Normal University, and a visiting professor of both Nan-kai University and Shandong University.

Although Riftin was such an honored scholar, he was an open, fair and warm-hearted person. It is hard to imagine that anyone could be more devoted to his profession than he was. Riftin was in constant contact with colleagues at home, in China and other countries. Till his last months he taught courses at the Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies in Moscow. Riftin often supported young scholars' projects. The fact that Riftin has now departed from this world causes a deep sorrow, but he left behind an immense legacy to Chinese studies that will be remembered for a long time and inspire the research of future generations.

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