



**European Association for  
Chinese Studies**

**Association européenne  
d'études chinoises**

# **EACS Newsletter**

## **No. 55, December 2020**

EACS Addresses .....	2	
Message from the Newsletter Editor .....	2	
Report from the President .....	3	
Report from the Secretary .....	5	
Financial Report from the Treasurer .....	8	
CCK Foundation Library Travel Grant .....	10	
In Memoriam		
Alfredo Mario Cadonna (1948-2020) .....	12	
Rolf Trauzettel (1930-2019) .....	16	
Rudolf G. Wagner (1941-2019) .....	21	
Call for Papers: <i>Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies</i> Volume 2 (2021) .....		27
EACS Membership Payments .....	28	
EACS Officers and Board Members .....	29	

## EACS ADDRESSES

---

For changes of address, please update your entry in the EACS database:

<https://projects.zo.uni-heidelberg.de/eacsd/>

Password and login data requests should be directed to the Treasurer. All membership payments should be sent to the Treasurer.

### ***President***

Bart Dessein

Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Ghent University, Blandijnberg 2, 5th floor, office 150.014 B – 9000 Gent, Belgium

Tel. + 32 9 264 39 90

E-mail: bart.dessein@ugent.be

### ***Secretary***

Thomas Jansen

Institute of Education and Humanities, University of Wales Trinity Saint David - Lampeter Campus, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 7ED, United Kingdom

E-mail: t.jansen@uwtsd.ac.uk

### ***Treasurer***

Claude Chevaleyre

Institut d'Asie Orientale (IAO), Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, 15 Parvis René Descartes, BP 7000, 69342 Lyon Cedex France

E-mail: cchevaleyre@gmail.com

### ***Webmaster***

Holger Schneider

Institute of Chinese Studies, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Artilleriestr. 70, 91052 Erlangen, Germany

Tel. +49 9131 8522448

Fax. +49 9131 8526374

E-mail: holger.schneider@zhing.de

## MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

---

The EACS Newsletter continues to be dependent upon member contributions. All contributions should be sent to the editor by e-mail. Please remember to check your copy carefully before submission. Workshop and conference reports should not exceed 600 words. Calls for papers should not exceed 100 words. For new books, please include all relevant information (author, title, publication place, publisher, year, pp., price in EURO and ISBN). Names and titles in non-Latin script (e.g. Cyrillic) are welcome provided that the author's name in transcription and a short content summary in English are included.

Every effort is made to include all relevant news, but the editor reserves the right to edit all contributions for publication.

### ***Newsletter Editor***

Nathan Woolley

School of Social & Political Sciences, University of Glasgow

Adam Smith Building, Bute Gardens, Glasgow, G12 8RT, United Kingdom

E-mail: nathan.woolley@glasgow.ac.uk

NEXT COPY DEADLINE:

1 October 2021

NEXT ISSUE:

October 2021

## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

---

How different the setting in which I write this President's Report is from when I wrote my report for the 2017 Newsletter. In 2017, I was sitting in the train back to Ghent from the Lampeter Summer School, letting the landscape that passed by inspire me in my writing. Now, I cannot recall when exactly was the last time I took an international train. The outbreak of the pandemic that has determined our daily lives since February has confined us all to our direct surroundings and the digital reality. We have all been teaching, meeting, giving lectures, and attending conferences online. I suppose the feelings of most of us are those of feeling frustrated in realizing our plans, of being unable to fulfill our duties and capabilities properly, of feeling unable to convey our message to our students properly, and, yes, of eventual utter boredom.

What might even be more frightening is the growing haunting feeling that the world of our experiences is getting smaller – it is as if not only humanities' physical world is impacted by all kinds of confinement measures, but that also the space for 'thinking out of the box' has shrunk. In the digital world, one just leaves the virtual meeting room and switches off one's computers. We, academics, miss the intellectually stimulating talks we happen to have after a lecture, on a workshop or on a conference. No more conversations with a colleague we accidentally bump into after a conference session. No

more stumbling into a conference session we actually did not plan to attend, but, "Well, now that we are here, why not". It is not seldom occasions such as these that open unexpected perspectives on research subjects we have been working on ourselves. The academic theatre has been bereft of occasional gems. I recently could not help but think of the following sentences of Deep Purple's famous 'Smoke on the Water', released in 1972 on the album 'Machine Head': "We all come out to Montreux on the Lake Geneva shoreline. To make records with a mobile. We didn't have much time. [...] We ended up at the Grand Hotel. It was empty, cold, and bare. [...] No matter what we get out of this, I know we'll never forget."

However, it is also in times of crisis that the resilience of an organization becomes manifest. I am therefore also happy that our European Association for Chinese Studies is doing well – thanks to the excellent work of the successive boards, as well as of the academic work of each and every one of you, its members.

Confronted with the current health situation, the board had no option but to postpone the Leipzig conference. It was heartwarming to see how so many of you confirmed their engagement for this major event and committed to join the conference from 24 to 27 August 2021.

The postponement of the Leipzig conference also meant that no regular 'General Assembly' could be held. We were therefore forced to switch to a digital election of the new board and the presidency. Unexperienced as we were with online elections, we had to

overcome some unexpected technical issues, but once these were solved, it was great to see how many of you did cast their votes. You will find the results of the voting in the message of our new Secretary-General Thomas Jansen, further in this Newsletter. I am also happy that you, along with casting your votes, almost unanimously approved the painstaking work of our treasurer, Claude Chevaleyre, who has put a tremendous amount of work in the finances of our Association. The Association indeed is in good financial shape.

Postponing the Leipzig conference did not withhold us from organizing the Young Scholar Award, as this is an important event in the career of young scholars. On 19 September 2020, this event was organized digitally. Richard Sage of Hong Kong Baptist University is the winner of this year's edition with a thorough classical philological study, titled "Liezi's story about the man who fell ill with forgetfulness through the eyes of Fan Zhixu (?-1129)". You will find more on this event in the message by the Secretary-General.

And there is more good news. After years of discussion, the EACS board has, on its meeting in Glasgow 2017, decided to launch its own '*Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies*'. The first issue of this online journal, which will be based at the University of Vienna, will appear shortly. My thanks go to Sascha Klotzbücher, Frank Kraushaar, Alexis Lycas, and Natasa Vampelj for the enormous work they have done for the journal. Brainstorming for the second issue has already started.

The board has also decided to collect and centralize the archives of the Association that, until now, have been dispersed over the offices of former office holders. Thanks to the efforts of Béatrice L'Haridon, we will be able to house the archives of our Association at the Institut des Hautes Études Chinoises in Paris, the institute at which our Association is officially registered. The plan is to move the archives to Paris in the spring of 2021, when the renovation of the premises (delayed due to the coronavirus crisis) will be finished.

Perhaps it is the desire to be able to physically meet again that explains why more than one Sinological centre has expressed its willingness to host the 2024 EACS Conference. We will see how this further materializes, but before that, we will meet in Leipzig 2021, and, after that, on the 2022 Olomouc conference.

The postponement of the 2020 conference to 2021 prompted the board to not organize a summer school in the same summer of 2021. Our next summer school will therefore be in 2023. Applications are welcome.

I further want to draw your attention to the Library Travel Grant. The Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation has generously extended this important scheme that allows young researchers to apply for funding for library visits and – and this is new – research stays at the most important museums for Chinese art in Europe.

In the past year, we received news of the death of the following colleagues: Rolf Trauzettel (1930–2019), Alfredo Mario Cardonna (1948–2020), Stefano Zchetti (1968–2020), and Rudolf Wagner (1941–

2019). Rudolf Wagner was Secretary-General of the EACS from 1992 until 1996, and from 1996 to 1998, he was President of the Association. I wish to pay tribute to both of them, as well as to all those members of the EACS who left us in the past year but whose deaths were not reported to the EACS board.

Let me conclude this message by thanking all those board members who had to step down after their six-year term on the previous board and who have helped make the EACS to what it is now: Christoph Anderl, who has professionally coordinated the last few editions of our Young Scholar Award event; Ana Bislev; Yulia Dreyzis, our previous Newsletter Editor; Sascha Klotzbücher who is taking the Association's Journal at heart; Minna Törmä, the organizer of the 2018 Glasgow conference; and Mugur Zlotea, our former Secretary-General. I also want to thank you for your continued confidence in me as your President. This is my last two-year term as President of this wonderful Association – time for some of you to warm up.

Kind regards,  
Bart

## **REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY**

---

As the new Secretary, I wish to thank my predecessor Mugur Zlotea for all the hard work he did on behalf of the Association and his support in the transition period between the old and the new Board.

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

A new EACS Board was elected by electronic voting between 11–17 September 2020. More than 300 members submitted their ballot, a much higher number compared to previous elections held at EACS conferences.

Elected Members of the Board for 2020–22 are:

1. Chevaleyre, Claude (CNRS) – Treasurer (171 votes)
2. Clart, Philip (University of Leipzig) – Vice-President (198 votes)
3. Dessein, Bart (Ghent University) – President and Chair
4. De Giorgi, Laura (Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia) (194 votes)
5. Indraccolo, Lisa (Tallinn University) – Vice-Secretary-General (191 votes)
6. Jansen, Thomas (University of Wales-Trinity St. David) – Secretary-General (174 votes)
7. Kraushaar, Frank (Private Scholar, Riga) (155 votes)
8. Lavička, Martin (Palacký University Olomouc) – Vice-President (149 votes)

9. L'Haridon, Béatrice (Université de Paris) – Vice-Treasurer (167 votes)
10. Liu, Jun (University of Copenhagen) (117 votes)
11. Loubere, Nicholas (Lund University) (148 votes)
12. Riemenschneider, Andrea (University of Zurich) (167 votes)
13. Rysakova, Polina (Saint Petersburg State University) (126 votes)
14. Torck, Mathieu (Ghent University) (130 votes)
15. Veselič, Maja (University of Ljubljana) (164 votes)
16. Woolley, Nathan (University of Glasgow) – Newsletter Editor (114 votes)
17. Zádrapa, Lukáš (Charles University, Prague) (143 votes)

Bart Dessen was re-elected as President of the EACS with 279 ('I agree') against 9 ('I disagree') votes.

The Board confirmed Philip Clart as Vice-President and appointed Martin Lavička, organiser of the 2022 conference in Olomouc, as joint Vice-President. Claude Chevalere was confirmed as Treasurer and Béatrice L'Haridon as Vice-Treasurer. The Board appointed Thomas Jansen as Secretary-General, Lisa Indraccolo as Vice-Secretary-General, and Nathan Woolley as Newsletter Editor.

The following Board members left the Board in September 2020:

Christoph Anderl, Ane Bislev, Yulia Dreyzis, Sascha Klotzbücher, Minna Törmä and Mugur Zlotea.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to express our gratitude for their dedicated service to the Association.

## 2. Young Scholars Award (YSA)

On 19 September 2020, the three finalists of the EACS Young Scholar Award presented their lectures to an audience of EACS members and a jury of experts during an online Zoom event.

The YSA jury received 32 submissions of high quality which were subsequently reviewed by both internal and external reviewers.

Country (based on affiliation)	No. of submissions
BE	1
CN	5
DE	8
JP	1
NL	1
NO	1
RU	3
SE	1
UK	10
US	1

The finalists and their topics were:

### **Richard Sage (Hong Kong Baptist University)**

*Liezi's story about the man who fell ill with forgetfulness through the eyes of Fan Zhixu (?-1129)*

### **Elke Papelitzky (NYU Shanghai)**

*Shi Shipiao's map of Southeast Asia: Making a case for maritime trade*

### **Kwok-Fai Law (SOAS, London)**

*Between resistance and collaboration: Maritime teaboy and the making of working-class political culture in*

*China's wartime shipping industry, 1937–1941*

The jury unanimously chose Richard Sage as the winner of the 2020 Young Scholar Award.

In their announcement, the judging panel praised Sage's paper for directing "our attention to an understudied topic, Daoist commentarial literature in the beginning of the Song period, prior to the period when Neo-Confucianist thought starting dominating the philosophical discourse." One external reviewer noted that Sage's paper "is certainly a prize-worthy piece of scholarship, with the philological expertise and sophistication really being a signature of European Sinology." The jury members also commended the winner's treatment of the primary sources and the highly complex structure of the commentary, as well as the very readable translations. "Sage manages to creatively deal with these difficulties and present us with a coherent account of this commentarial text, and contextualize it within Daoist, Confucian, and Buddhist thought during this period." The jury members were equally impressed by how Sage presented his highly specialized philological research to a general audience in the lecture, including the visualization of the complex structural build-up of the commentary. Contextualizing his material within the early Song period, Sage convincingly analyzes the paradoxical attempt of a high-ranking imperial official to undermine the notion of human cultural achievements by

presenting alternative models of dealing with self and society.

The EACS Board and the jury members wish to congratulate all participants in the Young Scholar Award competition, but above all the three finalists for their excellent papers and online lectures.

### **3. EACS Conferences in Leipzig 2021 & Olomouc 2022 and Bids for 2024**

The 23rd EACS Conference in Leipzig, scheduled for 25–29 August 2020, was postponed due to Covid and will now be held 24–27 August 2021. By 31 July 2020, approximately 600 presenters or panelists had confirmed their attendance at the conference, making a second call for papers unnecessary.

The 24th Conference will take place at the University of Olomouc, Czech Republic, between 24–27 August 2022.

The Board is inviting applications to hold the 2024 conference. Applications must be submitted directly from an academic department, with an academic specialized in Chinese Studies as lead applicant. An information sheet with guidelines for submitting an application can be obtained from the Secretary-General (Email: [t.jansen@uwtsd.ac.uk](mailto:t.jansen@uwtsd.ac.uk)).

Thomas Jansen,  
Secretary

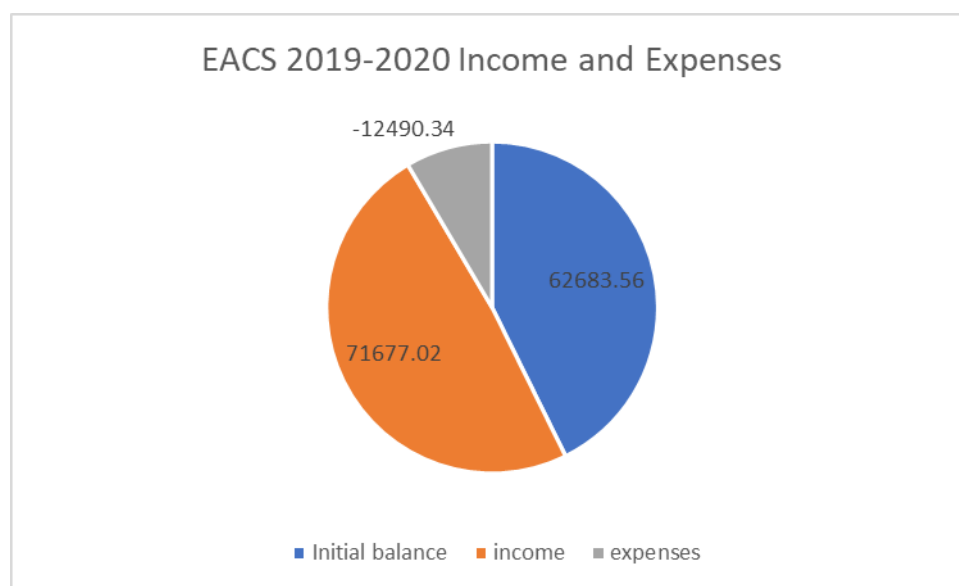
## FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

July 2019 – June 2020

In June 2019, the aggregate balance of the European Association of Chinese Studies' accounts was €59 163,30 (Paypal account and bank account).

As of 30 June 2020, the Association counts 1883 members (up 12% from June 2019).

The overall balance of the Paypal and bank accounts was €121.870,24 (up 106%)



The major reasons for this steady increase of income are:

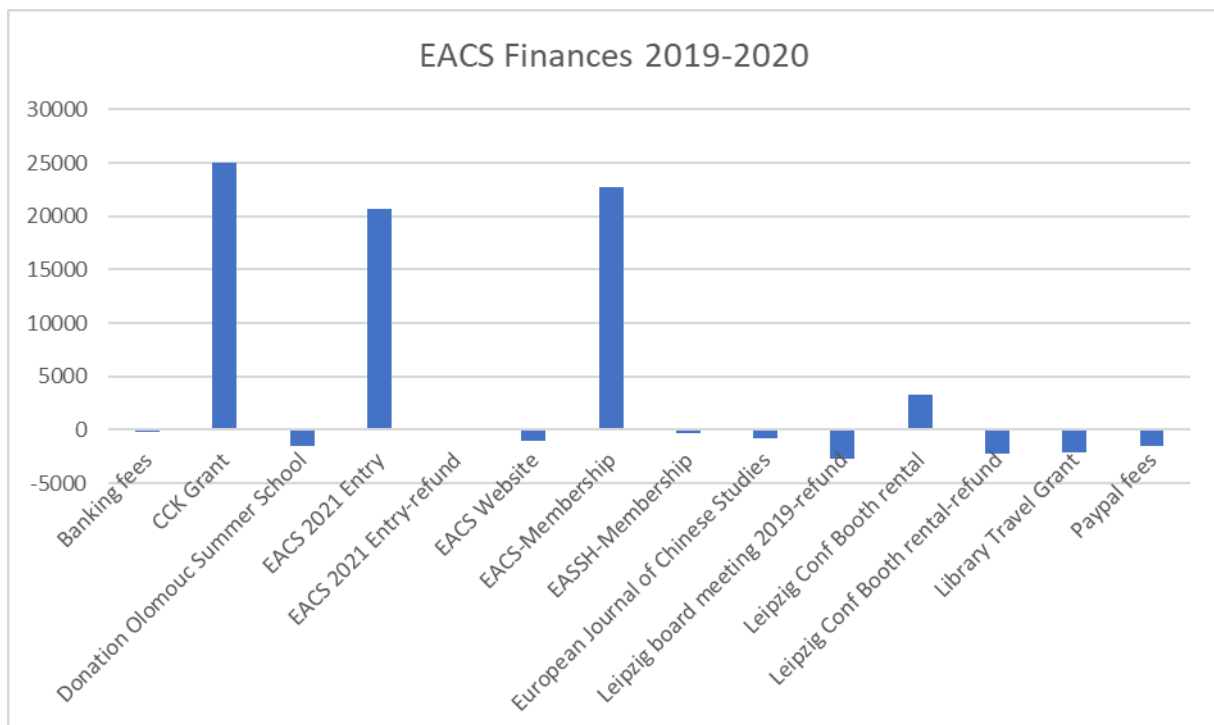
1. The transfer (early 2020) of €25.000 from the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation (€10.000 for the new library travel grants period, €12.000 to support the 2021 Leipzig conference, and €3.000 for the 2020 Young scholars' award);
2. The renewal of memberships following the call addressed to all members in February 2020;
3. An increase in new memberships, mainly due to the venue of the Leipzig conference;
4. Incoming payments of conference fees (€20.641,57);
5. Fewer expenditures than expected:
  - a. Library travel grants (€2.156,56) have been limited due to the covid-19 outbreak;
  - b. Expenditures for the Leipzig conference have been postponed to 2021.

Website and database management fees have remained stable, but some expenditures have increased:

- Banking fees have slightly increased (€134);



- Paypal fees have also increased due to a growing number of transactions on this account compared to the bank account (€1.460,3);
- Membership fees for the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities have also increased (from €100 to €125/year);
- In 2019, the EACS made a donation (€1.500) to Olomouc University to organize the summer school;
- The launching of the *European Journal of Chinese Studies* also generates new expenditures (so far, one payment for the translation of an article, €837,7).



EACS finances are in good health, but a large portion of the money currently on the accounts will be spent on the organization of the Leipzig conference in 2021. The postponement of the Leipzig conference to 2021 only generated a handful of refunds while registrations continued to arrive on the accounts in July 2020 (i.e. before the new deadline for early registrations of 31 July 2020). In all cases, the conference will be self-funded and should not impact EACS finances.

The fixed assets of the association have experienced a slight decrease due to the effects of the covid-19 crisis on the markets: €39 260,74 in June 2020 (-0,12%, compared to €39 307,24 in March 2019)

A complete report of the finances covering the period July 2018 to June 2020 was submitted to the auditors in August 2020.

Claude Chevaleyre (CNRS)  
Treasurer

## **CCK FOUNDATION LIBRARY TRAVEL GRANT**

---

Thanks to the support of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, the EACS in 2021 will continue to fund one-week visits for specialized research in Sinological libraries or for research in one of the major European museums for Chinese art, depending on the availability of funds.

Applications received before the two deadlines of 20 March and 20 October will be considered within 3 weeks after receipt.

Applicants should be Sinologists based permanently in Europe, preferably paid-up members of the EACS. 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.

Applications for Travel Grants are restricted to two applications by the same applicant, with first-time applicants having priority. Once the grant has been approved, the beneficiary must use it in maximum six months from the approval date.

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:

- a letter stating the library/museum to be visited and intended dates of travel;

- a statement of purpose, including a short description of the research project, with 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) or the collection;
- a written statement obtained from the librarian of the institute/curator where the proposed visit is to take place, confirming that the research materials required are available for consultation;
- a one-page curriculum vitae with a list of main publications (in case of more advanced scholars);
- a statement of the travel expenses (Apex economy airfare or 2nd class rail fare), including a note of other sources of funding;
- in the case of PhD students, a letter of recommendation from their supervisor;
- in the case of non-members, a letter of recommendation from an EACS member;
- 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.

Prof. Fuehrer is able to process applications sent by e-mail only;

2) for research on modern China (i.e. since 1840) to:

Prof. Andrea Riemenschnitter,  
University of Zurich, Institute of  
Asian and Oriental Studies,  
Department of Chinese Studies,  
Zürichbergstr. 4, CH-8032 Zürich,  
Switzerland, E-mail:  
andrea.riemenschnitter@aoi.uzh.ch

3) for research in one of the major European museums for Chinese art to:

Minna Törmä, University of Glasgow,  
History of Art, 8 University Gardens,  
Glasgow G128QH, United Kingdom,  
E-mail:  
minnakatriina.torma@glasgow.ac.uk

### ***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 directly to the administrator of the LTG finances: Claude Chevaleyre, Institut d'Asie Orientale (IAO), Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, 15 Parvis René Descartes, BP 7000, 69342 Lyon Cedex France, E-mail: cchevaleyre@gmail.com

7) Any publication using material collected during the 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](http://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](mailto:delphine.spicq@college-de-france.fr)

#### **GERMANY**

Matthias Kaun, East Asia Department, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Potsdamer Strasse 33, 10785 Berlin, Germany. Tel.: +49 30 266 436000, Fax: +49 30 266 336001. E-mail: [matthias.kaun@sbb.spk-berlin.de](mailto:matthias.kaun@sbb.spk-berlin.de)

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, The Bavarian State Library, Section East Asia,  
Fax: +49-89-28636-2805.  
E-mail: stephan-bahle@bsb-muenchen.de

#### NETHERLANDS

Marc Gilbert Asian Library, P.O. Box 9501 2300 RA Leiden The Netherlands.  
Tel.: +31(0) 71 527 3443.  
E-mail: m.y.c.gilbert@library.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 Christine Wise, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, UK.  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7898 4166;  
E-mail: cw21@soas.ac.uk

Sara Chiesura / Emma Goodliffe, Chinese section, Asia and African Collections, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB.  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7412 7152  
E-mail: sara.chiesura@bl.uk, emma.goodliffe@bl.uk

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

## IN MEMORIAM ALFREDO MARIO CADONNA (1948-2020)

---



On July 4, Professor Alfredo Mario Cadonna returned to the root.

During the last part of the twentieth century, from the 1980s onwards, he was one of the most important figures in Italian Sinology in the field of classical literary and religious studies. The subject of his degree thesis presented in the academic year 1978–79 (*Yulu and denglu of the Chan Buddhist school as a source for the study of vernacular elements of “Middle Chinese”*) already demonstrated the two aspects that proved to be fundamental cornerstones of his research activity: a focus on the expressions of the Chinese religious-philosophical tradition (Chan, and later especially Daoism) and the centrality of a language-based approach, the vehicle of such expressions.

Hallmarks of Alfredo's academic writing, teaching and thinking have always been close readings of the sources that transcend any form of hermeneutical relativism, readings that are grounded in the keen quest for meaning and the underlying semantic landscape.

Alfredo's activity was conducted between the two university centres of Naples and Venice for over thirty years. At the Istituto Universitario Orientale of Naples (now Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"), where I had the privilege of being one of his students and later one of his graduates, he first held the Chinese Philology seminars (1984–86) as a researcher, then as an Associate Professor he taught Religions and Philosophies of the Far East (1987–91) and Chinese Language and Literature (1986–94). At the Ca' Foscari University in Venice, in the period from 1992 to 2018, he held courses in Religions and Philosophies of Eastern Asia (later History of the Philosophy and Religions of China) and in Sinology and Classical Chinese Language.

One cannot ignore Alfredo's long and prolific presence in positions of responsibility at the prestigious Giorgio Cini Foundation in Venice. He was Director of the Foundation's "Venezia e l'Oriente" Institute (2003–06), and had previously been Scientific Secretary of its Asian Section (1988–2003).

Here, he played an invaluable role in two areas: in the reorganisation and care of the Foundation's library heritage, from 1998 onwards he coordinated the electronic cataloguing of the Library's Oriental collection

(Far Eastern, Indian, Arab, Byzantine collections) and from 2001 the electronic cataloguing of the musicological and Indological collection of Alain Daniélou, a unique archive in the western world of about 250,000 file-cards mainly in English and Devanagari. In the field of the "Venezia e l'Oriente" Institute's public activities, Alfredo hosted (as Secretary and subsequently as Director) a large number of important international conferences and workshops, with a Sinological, but also Tibetological, Indological, Islamic theme, the proceedings of which were later published in the volumes of the *Orientalia Venetiana* Series by the Publishing House Leo S. Olschki of Florence. Suffice it to mention just a few here: "Turfan and Tun-huang: the Texts. Encounter of Civilizations on the Silk Route" (1990); "Cina e Iran: da Alessandro Magno alla Dinastia Tang" (China and Iran: from Alexander the Great to the Tang Dynasty) (1994); "India, Tibet, China: Genesis and aspects of Traditional narrative" (1997); "Central Asie, une décennie de réformes, des siècles de mémoires" (Central Asia, a decade of reforms, centuries of memories) (1998); "Facets of Tibetan Religious Tradition and Contacts with Neighbouring Cultural Areas" (1999); "Music and Meaning in China and East Asia. Beauty, Ritual, Emotions" (7th International CHIME Conference, 2001); "L'Opera tibetana. Un teatro vivente" (the Tibetan Opera: a living Theatre) (2001); "Dante e la *Divina Commedia* in Oriente" (Dante and the Divine Comedy in the East) (2005).

These conferences attracted personalities from the field of

international Sinology to Italy such as Glen Dudbridge, Isabella Gurevich, Christoph Harbsmeier, Wilt Idema, Victor Mair, Joseph Needham, Manfred Porkert, Kristofer Schipper, Edward Shaughnessy, and experts from other areas such as Anne-Marie Blondeau, Anne Chayet, Hiroshi Kumamoto, Per Kvaerne, Ramon Prats, D. Seyfort Rugg, Nicholas Sims-Williams, Werner Sundermann, and Yutaka Yoshida. Not only did they allow Italian scholars a fruitful exchange through direct contact with their foreign colleagues, but above all they represented a unique opportunity of enrichment for the numerous young researchers and students present, an aspect particularly dear to Alfredo: I can testify that he always paid attention in his teaching to the transmission of the essential tools for a young researcher wanting to get their bearings in a Sinological library in an era when the world wide web was still unheard of.

The themes expressed in the conferences at the Cini Foundation often reflected the vastness of interests shown by Alfredo; for example, a focus on the area of the Silk Road and Central Asia led him (the first in Italy) to take an interest in the Dunhuang's manuscripts, through the publication of some articles and a book, in which he collected the twelve stories of the S 6836 manuscript (*Il taoista di sua maestà. Dodici episodi da un manoscritto cinese di Dunhuang (His Majesty's Taoist: Twelve episodes from a Chinese manuscript by Dunhuang)*, Venice: 1984; revised and corrected edition, Venice: 1998). Among the studies on Dunhuang's sources, I remember two articles

(1981 and 1996) with textual and linguistic notes on the *Jingde chuandeng lu* edition of the Flug 229b manuscript preserved in St. Petersburg, and a brilliant work on the figure of Xiwang mu in two manuscripts (1982).

In the second part of his academic life, Alfredo's interests turned more obviously towards Daoist sources. Among his studies, I recall in particular those dedicated to the figure and works of Bai Yuchan, Daoist master of the Song period: his annotated translation of the *Gousuo lianhuan jing* (1999); the monograph '*Quali parole vi aspettate che aggiunga?*'. *Il Commentario al Daodejing di Bai Yuchan, maestro taoista del XIII secolo* ("Which words do you expect me to add?" Commentary on the Daodejing by Bai Yuchan, Taoist master of the 12th century) (Florence: 2001); the two short studies, one in Italian and one in English, on the *Mengshuo* ("Treatise on dream") (2005 and 2006); and a second monograph, the annotated translation of eighty-eight poetic quatrains by Bai Yuchan, *Bai Yuchan. Con il braccio piegato a far da cuscino. Ottantotto poesie di un maestro taoista del XIII secolo* ("Eighty-eight poems by a Taoist master of the 13th century") (Turin: 2010). Finally, his masterful Italian translation of the *Liezi* must also be recalled: *Liezi. La scrittura reale del vuoto abissale e della potenza suprema* ("The real writing of the abysmal void and supreme power") (Turin: 2008).

His profound mastery of the interpretative tools of classical Chinese (especially of the medieval

and pre-modern era) displayed in his scholarly production led Alfredo to participate in important international projects. He contributed to the monumental *The Taoist Canon: A Historical Companion to the Daozang*, edited by K. Schipper and F. Verellen (Chicago: 2004) and from 2002 on he took part in the “Thesaurus Linguae Sericae (TLS) – An Analytical Dictionary of Chinese Synonyms” (“Buddhist Colloquial Chinese” section), a project led by C. Harbsmeyer and Jiang Shouyu. Finally, from 2009 he was part of the “International Committee for the Study and Translation of the *Wujing*”, a translation project of the Five Classics directed by K. Schipper and Yuan Bingling.

It was undoubtedly through his involvement in the latter project that Alfredo conceived his last scientific work, which unfortunately he did not have time to release for publication: the annotated translation in Italian of the 160 “Arie degli Stati” (“Airs of the States”) (*Guofeng*) from the *Shi Jing*.

Alfredo Mario Cadonna was a passionate scholar, an academic whose scientific production was the result of a natural inclination, of a genuine interest and passion for his subject, that were alien to any calculation linked to contingent conveniences. Above all, in his writings, I would like to emphasise his doctrinal depth, his attention to the translational rendering as a true craftsman of the language, and his argumentative rigour, the result of a demanding nature, which he exercised primarily with himself and then with his students, to whom (I speak from personal experience) he never failed to show an innate and

natural kindness, and a healthy irony. It cannot be defined as a coincidence if many of his former students today are recognised scholars in the field of philosophical-religious studies of Italian and international Sinology; as well as them, I also want to remember a former student of his who unfortunately passed away in 2011, Monica Esposito, an esteemed scholar of Daoism of the Ming-Qing period, and Stefano Zacchetti, the well known scholar in early Chinese Buddhist translations who suddenly passed away in April 2020.

To end these few notes on a scholar to whom I owe so much, this brief phrase from the *Wenxin diaolong* is perfectly suited to Alfredo Mario Cadonna: 聖因文以明道.

Maurizio Paolillo

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**ROLF TRAUZETTEL**  
**(1930–2019)**

---

Rolf Trauzettel's lectures on the history, philosophy, language and literature of pre-modern China were magic moments at the University of Bonn in the late 1980s and early 1990s. "Allow me to make a brief digression": these were the words that signalled that his seminars were heading towards their historico-anthropological climax. Rolf Trauzettel, who died in Bonn-Bad Godesberg on 11 August 2019 at the age of 90, was not only a sinologist with a broad historical horizon, but also a universal spirit in the sense that in research and teaching, as well as in daily conversation with his students, he sovereignly covered not only the fields of neighbouring disciplines such as Japanese Studies, Indology and Mongolian Studies but also those of classical philology, history and philosophy.

I am writing this obituary as one of the youngest students of the deceased. Although there was an age gap of around 37 years between us, I thought of him as my teacher as well as a friend. He always stood by his students in word and deed, even though they had long since graduated, and we continued to communicate by mail and on the phone over the course of many years. His house, in which he and his wife Heide entertained the circle of his students and colleagues in the most generous and endearing manner, was open to us until the very end. As the poet has it, "for as he was at the end, that is how he really was."

Rolf Trauzettel was the student of Herbert Franke (1914–2011), the most thoughtful German sinologist of the post-war period. Like his teacher, whom he revered to such an extent that he reliably referred to him with the words "well, you know, my teacher would say", he conceived of his subject as being placed in a much larger transdisciplinary context than is usually done today – or even considered necessary or possible. When reading the *Zhuangzi* with his students, he once called out: "He must have been a Greek!" This he did not mean in reference to the philosophical contents of the book, but with regard to the language. It is, like most of ancient Chinese literature, characterized by various forms of *parallelism membrorum*. It also abounds with rhetorical devices found far less frequently in other early Chinese texts, ranging from anaphora, epiphora, anadiplosis and epiploce over polyptoton and paranomasia to the hyperbaton, though probably not including the parenthesis, the absence of which Rolf Trauzettel, like his fellow student, friend and colleague Ulrich Unger (1930–2006) and his philological sparring-partner Christoph Harbsmeier, explained with the analytic structure of Chinese.

The breadth and openness of his horizon is also testified to by the decades of fruitful research at the Freiburg Institute for Historical Anthropology, of which he was one of the founding members and for which he served as chairman from 1992 to 1998. Founded in 1975 on the initiative of the editors of the journal *Saeculum* and the *Saeculum Weltgeschichte*, including Herbert



Franke, the Institute offered Rolf Trauzettel the opportunity to work together with historians such as Jochen Martin, Wolfgang Reinhard and Egon Flaig, with the cultural sociologist Justin Stagl, the philologist and religious studies scholar Jörg Rüpke, the Egyptologist Jan Assmann, and the Indologist Heinrich von Stietencron (1933–2018), to name but a few. It was from this circle of kindred spirits that he drew his inspiration to study the life-world of people in pre-modern China with regard to fundamental parameters of human existence. In doing so, he did not pursue a Eurocentric approach, which would have proceeded from the teleological concept of a universal history of mankind on its way of realizing its ‘true nature’ in the sense of the European Enlightenment. He rather carved out the peculiarities of Chinese cultures in their historical change. His thinking revolved around the question of what possibilities were opened up by historical transformations such as the introduction of Buddhism in the Common Era or the so-called modernization of China since the 19th century for creating individual scope of action.

An important fruit of these endeavours was volume 7 of the Proceedings of the Institute for Historical Anthropology on the topic of *Tod, Jenseits und Identität: Perspektiven einer kulturwissenschaftlichen Thanatologie* (Death, the hereafter, and identity: new thanatological perspectives from the point of view of Cultural Studies; Freiburg 2002), which he co-edited with Jan Assmann and to which he

contributed four papers on the individual and collective experience of death, on suicide in ancient China, on death in Chinese mysticism and on the representation of the dead in ancient Chinese burial rites. Looking back, it seems to me that he began to take up this topic when Wolfgang Bauer (1930–1997), his esteemed colleague from the University of Munich, fell terminally ill with cancer, and that an initial fear – incidentally a topic that he also addressed at that time in an essay on “Chinesische Reflexionen über Furcht und Angst” (Chinese reflections on fear and anxiety, *Saeculum* 43 [1992], 307–324) – gave way to a more cheerful expectation over the years.

Because Rolf Trauzettel never adopted a defeatist attitude, he was able to cope with the challenges of old age and to overcome the obstacles of a quite adventurous life in general. Born in Leipzig on 1 July 1930, as the second of four children of a department head at the *Reichsmesseamt*, an office responsible for the promotion of the Leipzig Trade Fair, his childhood and youth were overshadowed by the dangers and oppressions of Nazi dictatorship, the Second World War and the post-war period in socialist East Germany. Shortly before his graduation from grammar school he lost his father and, working as a primary school teacher, became the provider of his family at the tender age of 19. It was not until the winter term of 1951/1952 that he was able to begin studying Sinology, Japanology, and Indology at the University of Leipzig. When he refused to participate in pre-military education in 1953, he was threatened

with expulsion. It was only thanks to the commitment of the Indologist Friedrich Weller (1889–1980) and the mathematician and philosopher Erich Kähler (1906–2000) that he was admitted to the exams in 1956. The sinologist Eduard Erkes (1891–1958) subsequently arranged for him to be trained as a scientific librarian. After passing the state examination for academic research library services at the Berlin State Library in 1957, he served as head of the East and South East Asia Department at the Leipzig university library until 1961. The construction of the Berlin Wall in August 1961 separated him from his fiancée and later wife Heide Quadflieg. He narrowly escaped from East Germany by fleeing via Casablanca, reunited with Heide in Bavaria and began his doctoral studies at the University of Munich in 1962. His teachers were the Japanologist Horst Hammitzsch (1909–1991), the Indologist and Tibetologist Helmut Hoffmann (1912–1992), and Herbert Franke, who became his doctoral supervisor. Only two years later, he received his doctorate with a dissertation on “Ts’ai Ching (1046–1126) als Typus des illegitimen Ministers” (Ts’ai Ching [1046–1126] as the prototypical illegitimate minister). In the same year, 1964, he married his beloved wife of 55 years, Heide, who became an ophthalmologist and later opened a medical practice in Bad Godesberg. Together they raised two sons: Golo, born in 1965, and Ulrich, born in 1981.

Following his habilitation with a thesis on “Eine Gesandtschaftsreise aus dem Jahre 1688: Studien zur

Auslandskunde der Chinesen” (Acquiring knowledge about foreign lands in late imperial China: a diplomatic mission in 1688) at the University of Munich in 1968, Rolf Trauzettel was appointed to the Chair of Sinology at the University of Göttingen in 1972. In 1975, he accepted a call to the Chair of Sinology at the University of Bonn, where he remained, in spite of a tempting call to Munich as successor to his teacher Herbert Franke in 1980, until the end. Having already served as dean of the Faculty of Humanities in Göttingen from 1973 to 1974, he was dean of the Faculty of Humanities in Bonn from 1981 to 1982 and stayed on as its vice dean until 1984. From 1977 to 1981 he served as director of the renowned School of Oriental Languages, which he saved from being closed down during this time.

The German Research Foundation (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, DFG) also appreciated his judgement and expertise and appointed him as member of its review board from 1976 to 1988. Moreover, he served on the scholarship committee of the German Academic Exchange Service (*Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst*, DAAD) from 1974 to 1980. His lifelong dedication to fostering academic excellence and to what is called academic self-administration in Germany did not prevent him from openly criticizing the Ministry of Science and Education for over-regulating teaching and restricting the freedom of research in several remonstrances. In a communication dated April 23, 1990, for example, he filed a formal complaint through

official channels about what he referred to as “the Ministry’s obstruction of [his] work”:

[H]aving received the umpteenth questionnaire sent to me by your ministry with the request for a prompt reply, I take the liberty of seriously protesting against being hindered in the fulfilment of my research and teaching duties by an excessive bureaucracy. It is bad enough that important decisions concerning the funding of science are obviously based on considerations of local affairs today, but it is even less acceptable that we are not at least given the time to fulfil our duties under the current unfavourable economic circumstances.

Not much has improved since then, but only a few still have the courage to call a spade a spade like the author of these lines. Rolf Trauzettel was always outspoken, addressed grievances in public and was politically engaged, be it in German or

Chinese affairs. Sometimes he spoke about his conversations with the former Chinese premier and general secretary of the Communist Party of China, Zhao Ziyang (1919–2005), whom he first met in the summer of 1985 when the latter was on a state visit to Germany and donated a large collection of Chinese books to the University of Bonn. When Zhao received him in April 1986 for a return visit to Zhongnanhai, the two men also discussed questions of German and Chinese constitutional history. According to Rolf Trauzettel, Zhao was a highly educated but at the same time deeply modest and warm-hearted person: “He was the greatest hope China ever had.”

As far as the history of Chinese institutions was concerned, Rolf Trauzettel opened up new research perspectives for German sinology. This is already evident in the history



**Rolf Trauzettel with Zhao Ziyang in Zhongnanhai, 2 April 1986**

of the Chinese empire (*Das chinesische Kaiserreich*, Frankfurt 1968), which he wrote together with Herbert Franke and which they dedicated to the memory of their colleague and friend Étienne Balázs (1905–1963). Actually it had been Balázs who had been invited to write volume 19 of the *Fischer Weltgeschichte*. But at his premature death he had merely left a first outline of the volume. Balázs had a healthy sense for the limitations of traditional Chinese sources. Herbert Franke and Rolf Trauzettel cultivated his critical approach. How deeply Rolf Trauzettel had immersed himself in Balázs' approach can be seen in his essay on "Stabilität und Kontinuität der chinesischen Gesellschaft: Bemerkungen zum Werk des Sinologen Étienne Balázs" (Stability and continuity of Chinese society: remarks on the work of the Sinologist Étienne Balázs [1905–1963], *Saeculum* 18 [1967], 264–277).

In their history of the Chinese Empire, the authors not only focused on Balázs' interests in social and economic history, but also systematically discussed the value of the available sources. Even now, this combination still gives the book a modern perspective and confirms its lasting importance. In terms of methodology, it was a quantum leap compared to the previously available histories, such as the *Geschichte des chinesischen Reiches* (History of the Chinese Empire, five volumes, Berlin 1930–1952) written by Herbert Franke's namesake Otto Franke (1863–1946). While previous works used to follow the presentation of the sources, that is, in particular, the

dynastic histories, in every detail and hardly ever seriously questioned their reliability, Herbert Franke and Rolf Trauzettel set out with a rigorous criticism of the source material.

This critique anticipates the topics that were to become the focus of Rolf Trauzettel's later work on historical anthropology: the traditionalism of Chinese historiography; the statics and dynamics of Chinese history; historical aspects of the relationship between individual and society; or the role ethics of Chinese philosophy. His last papers, such as "Stellenwert und Funktion des Beispiels in antikchinesischen philosophischen Texten" (On the significance and the function of exempla in ancient Chinese philosophical texts; in: *Form und Gehalt in Texten der griechischen und chinesischen Philosophie*, ed. by Karl-Heinz Pohl and Georg Wöhrle, Stuttgart 2011, 77–89), "Das verhinderte Staunen – Betrachtung über Grenzlinien des klassisch-konfuzianischen Weltbildes" (Inhibited astonishment: a contemplation of the boundaries of the Classical Confucian view of life; in: *minima sinica* 24 [2012], 1–19) or "Landscape as an Aesthetic Person: On the Conceptual World of German Romanticism" (in: *Landscape East and West: A Philosophical Journey*, ed. by Hans-Georg Moeller and Andrew Whitehead, London 2014, 93–107), are characterized by variations on these themes. Written from the point of view of conceptual history or historical semantics, these intercultural comparisons display a vision stretching far beyond the sinological horizon.

It seems to me that Rolf Trauzettel's all-encompassing curiosity and his creative delight in sketching vast panoramas was informed by a holistic understanding of philology that no one has described more succinctly than Ulrich von Wilamowitz-Moellendorff (1848–1931) in his *Geschichte der Philologie* (History of classical scholarship, Berlin 1921, 1, my translation modifies Robert E. Norton, “Wilamowitz at War”, *International Journal of the Classical Tradition* 15 [2008], 79):

The task of philology is, through the power of science, to bring back to life that past life, the song of the poet, the thought of the philosopher and of the legislator, the sanctity of the temple and the feelings of believers and infidels, the colourful hustle and bustle of the marketplace and the pier, land and sea, and the people in their work and in their play. Here, too, as in all science, or to speak Greek, in all philosophy, astonishment at what is not understood is the beginning; the pure, gratifying contemplation of what is understood in its truth and beauty is the goal. Since the life that we strive to understand is a unitary whole, our science is a unitary whole, too.

For his students, Rolf Trauzettel embodied all this: the astonishment at what is not yet understood, the delight in its decipherment, the joy of knowing what was known in the past (*cognitio cogniti*) and the unity and therefore gaiety of science. As a great scholar, inspiring teacher and wonderful person we will always keep him in our memory.

Christian Schwermann

## IN MEMORIAM RUDOLF G. WAGNER (1941-2019)



Rudolf Wagner was really what the Chinese call a *bacai* 霸才, a hegemonic or dominant talent. His scholarship embraced classical China, modern China and the contemporary scene. It mustered the best resources and methods of philology, linguistics, philosophy, literature, history and political science to study in depth the social life and mind in the Chinese world across centuries. He mastered many languages beside Chinese and Japanese; his bibliography in German, English and Chinese is impressive.<sup>1</sup> He was also a builder. In Heidelberg, he built strenuously the small library of the Sinologisches Seminar into one of the best China libraries in Europe. His brilliance, generosity, and rigor as

<sup>1</sup> A full list is available at <https://www.zo.uni-heidelberg.de/sinologie/institute/staff/wagner.rudolf/publications.html> (retrieved 25/10/2020) and [https://www.deutsche-ostasienstudien.de/doas/037/037\\_4\\_17.pdf](https://www.deutsche-ostasienstudien.de/doas/037/037_4_17.pdf) (retrieved 7/11/2020)

a teacher gathered around him many bright students and young scholars, with whom and for whom he strived to establish the Excellence Cluster “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”. From 2007 to 2017, this research facility, funded by the German federal government, combined partners from many fields of the humanities and social sciences in Heidelberg University, and brought there a host of scholars from all over the world, to attend or teach in innovating master and doctoral programs for transcultural studies, to engage in important research projects boosted by workshops and conferences, and to produce numerous seminal publications generously available online.<sup>2</sup> The collective work clarified the design, analytical concepts and tools of transcultural studies. As regards China, it ushered in fresh approaches and understanding in the investigation of the public sphere, the knowledge systems, historicities and heritage. Rudolf Wagner acted as a member of a collective directorate, leaving initiative and responsibility to many younger colleagues, while remaining the untiring provider of inspiration, scholarly achievements, and material or management support. More than 250 people worked together and carried out over 50 subprojects.

The Cluster’s activities established the structures for the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, founded in 2013, which added a focus on digital humanities research, implementation and teaching. This

---

<sup>2</sup> See: <https://www.asia-europe.uni-heidelberg.de/en/cluster/publications.html> (retrieved 5/11/2020)

major institute of Heidelberg University has become part of the new Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) which opened in June 2019 on the green and large Bergheim campus along the Neckar river, the former abode of medicine, fully renovated with heavy investment from the Land of Baden-Württemberg and the federal government. Directed by Rudolf Wagner’s student Barbara Mittler and the indologist Axel Michaels, CATS also brings together the South Asia Institute, the Centre for East Asian Studies, and the Institute of Ethnology (specialized on Southeast Asia) around a common treasure, their libraries, now all located underground on four floors, with free access to the shelves and to millions of numerical resources.

On the occasion of its opening ceremony attended by Rudolf Wagner, CATS held a special forum in his honour. His lifelong facts and deeds were recorded with unrelenting wit and affection by friends, colleagues and students. He was then presented the four volumes of the book *China and the World - The World and China* (Ostasien Verlag, 2019), made of contributions from all continents to reflect the turns in Chinese, Asian, and global studies that his all-embracing mind and academic action helped to develop or even made possible. In these collected essays, and in a special issue of *The Journal of Transcultural Studies* forthcoming in Heidelberg, wide and detailed coverage of Rudolf Wagner’s scholarship can be found, as well as vivid reminiscences of his dazzling life and personality. Before his death from cancer, Heidelberg University awarded to him the Karl

Jaspers Prize together with the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the city of Heidelberg, to honour not only his internationally respected research in general, but particularly his "vision of transculturality" as a ruling principle for the humanities and social science. The ceremony was held posthumously on 14 November 2019 at the Alte Aula of Heidelberg University. It was the occasion for his wife Catherine Vance Yeh to read on his behalf an acceptance speech based on notes he had prepared, which is a witching intellectual portrait and testament.

For reasons of space, I shall remember here only the main steps of his academic career and his service to the European Association of Chinese Studies.

Rudolf Wagner was born in Wiesbaden, the "Nice of the North", during the war, the last child of a family of four. He lost his father when he was six. His family would have his youthful energy and sharp mind turn to business, and make him one of those successful "Rhineland capitalists", whom French liberals praise and envy so much. But he resisted staunchly. Although there was no scholar around him, he wanted to be a scholar in the humanities. His mother, who firmly believed in the right of her children to develop their own potential and interests, supported him fully all along, as he recalls dearly in the preface to *The Craft of a Chinese Commentator: Wang Bi on the Laozi*.<sup>3</sup> From 1962 on, he studied

Chinese, Japanese, political science and philosophy at the universities of Bonn, Heidelberg and Paris. In Heidelberg he attended the teaching of Hans-Georg Gadamer on hermeneutics and of Reinhart Koselleck and Jürgen Habermas, who was there from 1962 to 1964. Since his professor of Chinese, Wolfgang Bauer, moved to the chair in Munich, his Ph.D., a masterful reconstruction of the dialogue between Shi Huiyuan and Kumarajiva, was obtained in that university in 1969.

As a Harkness Fellow at Berkeley in 1970, he went on with a new critique of the transmission and interpretation of ancient texts, and began an extrapolative translation of the *Laozi* through the Wang Bi *Commentary*. He continued in the following year in Berlin with a Habilitation grant of the German Research Association (DFG). A position as assistant professor at the Free University of Berlin in 1972 began a long detour. His education had been exclusively in the field of classical Chinese studies; the focus of the Berlin Institute was modern China. He gained expertise in this new field, backed the student protest movement, and did not spare New Left criticism against the local academic establishment. At the end of the contract at the Free University in 1977, he had to work part-time as a science journalist and consultant on Chinese agriculture. He then finished the first German draft of *The craft of a Chinese commentator: Wang Bi on the Laozi*. He submitted it as a habilitation thesis, which was passed in 1981 at Munich University with Wolfgang Bauer and Erik Zürcher from Leiden

---

<sup>3</sup> *The Craft of a Chinese Commentator: Wang Bi on the Laozi*, (Albany, State University of New York Press, 2000), p. ix.

as external referees. The same year, he was invited as a Fellow of the Society for the Humanities at Cornell University, which resulted in a book on Taiping religion. In the subsequent years he was a Research Fellow at Harvard University and a Research Linguist at UC Berkeley, working on two books on the politics of modern Chinese fiction. In 1987, he was offered the chair of Sinology in Heidelberg, on the retirement of Günther Debon. The *Wandeljahren* were over. He moved back to Germany for a new era in his life, the role of a builder and pathbreaker.

It was by that time that we got acquainted. He wrote to me in perfect French, with traditional German courteous style, asking how he could get a rare book published in 1890 by a French journalist against the military attaché of the Chinese Legation in Paris, which was needed by a Ph.D. student he wished to help. I must confess that I had never heard of him, but was quite happy to learn that he had now the chair in Heidelberg, with an interest in the late Qing. Since I had the requested old paperback at home, I sent it to him so that he could copy it as necessary. It was returned to me after a few months, nicely bound, a gentleness that I highly appreciated. A few years later, I discovered that the Ph.D. candidate was his beloved, talented, and amazing wife Catherine Yeh. In September 1992, he attended the EACS conference in Paris, and we then met. Although in August, according to membership records, he was not yet member of the EACS, he was elected to the Board, and an unanimous vote chose him as General Secretary to replace outgoing Viviane

Alleton. This had been wisely arranged by the outgoing President Erik Zürcher. I succeeded Erik Zürcher as President, and when I left in 1996, after six years on the Board, Rudolf Wagner became President until 1998. During all these years Brunhild Staiger served as devoted Treasurer.

Rudolf Wagner was an invigorating Secretary General, full of ideas, efficient, eager to upgrade the general level of European Sinology, its resources and tools, to promote skills training and support for young scholars on new fields of research. In December 1992 he had been recipient of the Leibniz-Preis, the highest German scholarly award that allowed him five years of research on self-selected topics. It offered him some more time for building inside and outside Heidelberg a stronger basis for Chinese studies, and endowed him with a scholarly authority, which was further increased by his election as member of the Berlin Science Academy in 1995.

He initiated a systematic drive to boost the membership. Two-thirds of the 570 members who had not paid their dues were urged to do so, and gradually the tolerated five years of oblivion before automatic removal were reduced to three. His main concern, however, was to enlist graduate students and young scholars for a rejuvenation. At the Prague conference in 1994, he could proudly announce 100 new members,<sup>4</sup> and more in the following years. Membership reached 675 paying

---

<sup>4</sup> *Protocol of the meeting of the Council of the EACS, 29 October 1993, and Protocol of the meeting of the Council of the EACS, 28 August 1994.*



members by the end of his mandate. His wish to open widely the membership to scholars without European residence was granted when under Glen Dudbrige's presidency in 2000 the EACS constitution was revised. To attract and keep a dynamic constituency, he worked to improve communication and mutual visibility within EACS as well as international visibility, to enhance the intellectual quality and professionalism of conferences, to organize specialized programs and workshops that would meet the current needs of upgrading research, and were not provided in national frameworks, and to develop new research resources. The EACS was sponsoring and publishing bibliographies of its members and national surveys of Sinological studies and institutions, which were continued. Rudolf Wagner launched a regular Newsletter, edited by the skilled assistance of Laura Rivkin and Marja Kaikkonen, with announcements of grants, jobs, workshops, conferences, publications, new resources, visiting professors. It was distributed to members, and more widely to funding agencies and major Sinological centres outside Europe. In 1995 an EACS website was opened, hosted in Heidelberg, with an electronic version of the Newsletter, to create a regular flow of information. Starting with the Barcelona conference in 1996, a reviewing process was introduced for accepting paper proposals. Small groups of referees were formed to handle paper selection, guidelines were given for panel application, with mandatory discussants. Abstracts of the papers were published ahead of the

conference. Special European or non-European speakers were invited to deliver keynote talks in plenary session. Special programs with a call for papers were devised, beginning with a pathbreaking "Sinology and new information technologies", led by Rudolf Wagner himself, "teaching Chinese", "fieldwork in China". Beside the bi-annual conference, workshops and summer schools were organized. The first one was held in April 1995 in Lyon on urban studies, followed in March 1996 by a session on archival sources in Heidelberg and Tübingen. Such learning workshops and seminars held in various places on challenging topics became a regular feature among European Sinological centres. At the time, a major concern of the EACS Board was to engage programs that could help our Russian and East European colleagues to keep up high-level research, to exchange with their West European colleagues, and to train students and junior scholars with the latest research methods and available source material. The Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, then headed by Li Yi-yuan, generously supported the Library Travel Grant program, which allowed scholars short-term visits to selected European libraries for research, and it initiated a program of pre- and postdoctoral grants; both programs are still active today. The Foundation provided also a subsidy for Board and conference meetings, and funded workshops. This support was mostly spent for the benefit of our East European colleagues. Although Rudolf Wagner managed to get some money from the European Science Foundation, EU funds were directed

only to helping China, not knowledge of China. The CCK Foundation was the unique agency willing to fund his ambitious project submitted in 1994, a dynamic database of the holdings of Chinese and Sinological periodicals in the major European collections. The work started soon in early 1995. It was an immensely useful and difficult task. None of the concerned libraries had yet a data bank able to handle Chinese or other non-Latin scripts. Many still used card catalogues, with different transcriptions, no standardization of entries, incomplete recording, strong disagreements on format, and problems of incompatibility between computer systems, not to speak of fears and anxiety in front of complex unknown technicalities. Rudolf Wagner was adamant that the task should be achieved in order to open the way to a true on-line European Union Catalogue of serials, and to salvage not simply Chinese studies, but the quality and future of European scholarship. He led the crusade with his indomitable energy, rallied young talents and skills, took the best advice, found the proper technical expertise, fostered cooperation, got around stumbling blocks, and had his Heidelberg teams fill in the gaps. In the summer of 1998, the SSELP (Sinological Serials in European Libraries Project) had a public access catalogue of 14,000 titles on the web. Although, we still do not have a single complete Union Catalogue, the project gave us a very useful tool and was instrumental to push many libraries on the road of cyberspace and improved cataloguing. In 2004, the EACS conference met in Heidelberg, where Rudolf Wagner, his students and

colleagues hosted us magnificently, with intense intellectual, artistic, historical enjoyments, and also good red wine, which he loved.

Rudolf Wagner had deeply in mind the American model of the Association for Asian Studies. He was perhaps disappointed not to succeed in having the EACS matching her Atlantic sister, despite his efforts to involve the association on a European level. But he was a pragmatic character and perceived very well that European circumstances were quite different. He then fought to improve what was fundamental: intellectual quality, linking scholars together through communication, exchange and common work, and providing more library resources, prints, images and sounds. We owe him a huge debt. I always thought it was a great privilege and pleasure to share with him responsibilities for a few years within the EACS. Discussions were great, he was so intelligent, quick-minded, and witty. I loved to listen to his tight argument reeled off full speed, with encyclopaedic references in multiple languages, and ending in a burst of his famous loud laughter. Like Catherine Yeh and his family, we shall remember him as a powerful *Geist* who shed life and light around him.

Marianne Bastid-Bruguière

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### *Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies*

#### Volume 2 (2021)

For its second volume, the *Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies* invites scholars to submit papers dealing with aspects of **youth** in the pre-modern, modern, and contemporary Chinese world. We welcome unpublished papers that discuss the concept of youth and its impact on Chinese society especially in a diachronic and comparative way, on topics including, but not limited to:

- Youth and childhood in pre-modern China
- Youth within families and as social groups in society: intra- and transgenerational perspectives
- The transition from childhood to youth, and to adulthood
- Real and imaginary spaces of youth
- Songs and literature for and by young people
- Youth as innovators or traditionalists in arts, literature, theatre and film
- The economic power of young people: innovation and consumer culture
- Youth and revolts: understanding Hong Kong
- Young Sinologists

In order to be published in the *JEACS* volume 2 (2021), papers written in English (max. 10,000 words) are to be submitted by **31 March 2021** using the online submission page on our website:

<https://journals.univie.ac.at/index.php/jeacs/about/submissions>

Submissions must include a short CV (150 words), an abstract (max. 400 words), and five key words. Authors are requested to follow the author guidelines and our style sheet, which are available on the same page of our website.

#### **Generic calls for papers, book reviews and information on recently defended PhDs**

The *JEACS* also welcomes submissions of unpublished articles on any aspect of Chinese culture, across disciplines and time periods. For submission guidelines, see the link above.

The *JEACS* is looking to **review scholarly monographs** published in Europe since 2019. We are particularly interested in reviewing books published in other languages than English so as to increase the visibility of some of the less frequently quoted European languages of Chinese studies. Proposals from authors, editors, publishers and potential reviewers are welcome and will be considered and assessed by the editors provided the suggested monographs fit the highest standards of academic publishing. Submission deadline: **31 March 2021**.

Contact information: [franks.kraushaars@gmail.com](mailto:franks.kraushaars@gmail.com)

In order to better promote the academic production of early career scholars from European institutions, the *JEACS* seeks to compile a **list of recently defended PhDs**. These must have been defended between January and December 2020 and awarded by a European University. There is no restriction on the language in which the PhD was written, but we ask their authors to submit all the relevant information in English. These include: author's first and last name; title of the PhD (in original language and in English); link to online repository (when available); institution; month of award; 500 words abstract (in English). Submission deadline: **31 March 2021**.

Contact information: [alexis.lycas@ephe.psl.eu](mailto:alexis.lycas@ephe.psl.eu)

## EACS MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

EACS membership fee is presently €31 per annum for individual and corporate members (for members from Eastern European non-EU countries the cost is €16), and €16 per annum for student members (remember to send in a student ID). Members 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 Claude Chevaleyre via bank transfer or via the PayPal link on the EACS website.

Members living in the EURO zone are kindly asked to pay by bank transfer to the EACS account. Please use standard international transfer with the following:

Account holder: Association Européenne d'Etudes Chinoises  
IBAN: FR61 2004 1000 0121 9374 9R02 056  
BIC: PSSTFRPPPAR  
Bank name: Banque Postale  
Bank address: Paris IDF Centre Financier, 11 Rue Bourseul, 75900  
Paris Cedex 15

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 should be made via the PayPal link on the relevant page of the EACS website: [http://chinesestudies.eu/?page\\_id=1210](http://chinesestudies.eu/?page_id=1210).

PayPal is an online payment system used worldwide. Payment can be made with or without a Paypal account. Anyone who would like to send money without extra costs can open an account online that is without charge for sending money. PayPal only earns money when you receive payments from others.

## **EACS OFFICERS**

### ***President***

Bart Dessein\*

### ***Vice-Presidents***

Philip Clart  
Martin Lavička

### ***Secretary***

Thomas Jansen\*

### ***Treasurer***

Claude Chevaleyre\*

### ***Newsletter Editor***

Nathan Woolley

### ***Webmaster***

Holger Schneider

\*Member EACS Executive Committee

## **EACS BOARD MEMBERS**

Claude CHEVALEYRE. Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Lyon, France

Philip CLART. Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany

Laura DE GIORGI. Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia, Venice, Italy

Bart DESSEIN. Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

Lisa INDRACCOLO. Tallinn University, Tallinn, Estonia

Thomas JANSEN. University of Wales-Trinity St. David, Lampeter, United Kingdom

Frank KRAUSHAAR. Private scholar, Riga, Latvia

Martin LAVIČKA. Palacký University Olomouc, Olomouc, Czech Republic

Béatrice L'HARIDON. Université Paris Diderot, Paris, France

LIU Jun. University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Nicholas LOUBERE. Lund University, Lund, Sweden

Andrea RIEMENSCHNITZER. University of Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

Polina RYSAKOVA. Saint-Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russia.

Mathieu TORCK. Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium

Maja VESELIČ. University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Nathan WOOLLEY. University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Lukáš ZÁDRAPA. Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic