

# NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

#3, October, 1981 — January, 1982



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## RENEWABLE ENERGY IN CHINA

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As a country where much innovative work is being done in the fields of renewable energy, small-scale technology, and resource conservation, China has long had a special fascination for people involved in the appropriate technology movement. Last December, some of us were able to take a firsthand look at these aspects of Chinese development as participants in the first of a series of appropriate technology tours co-sponsored by the Farallones Institute (Berkeley) and the Chin-American Corporation (San Francisco).

Much of our visit centered on Taishan County in the Pearl River Delta region of southeastern China. Since the 1950's, construction of a vast array of dams, dikes, and irrigation canals has transformed this formerly drought and flood prone county into an agricultural breadbasket. A welcome byproduct of the dams is hydroelectricity, which is used by local people for such basic purposes as lighting, powering small industrial motors, and pumping water. China leads the world in hydroelectric potential and has long emphasized the building of hydrostations which are quite small by U.S. standards (generating capacity under 12,000 kilowatts). There are now 90,000 such stations in the country and many more are planned.

Biogas is another power source which is receiving increased attention in China. Produced from organic wastes, it is used directly for cooking and as a fuel for generators which produce electricity. In Foshan, a city of 100,000 in Guangdong Province, we visited an electric plant which is ultimately dependent on night soil collected by truck from public lavatories. This waste is placed in digestion chambers where it is broken down over a period of 22 days into gases and solids. The gases are collected in large polyvinylchloride balloons which are "drained" to fuel the electric generators. The nitrogen-rich solids are taken by barge to nearby agricultural fields where they are used as fertilizer.

The Chinese also have a growing solar energy program. At the Guangzhou Institute of Energy Conversion (one of several such regional institutes in China) we were shown an impressive collection of experimental solar devices. Institute scientists were doing work in the areas of solar food drying and domestic water heating, but their strongest research emphasis was on efficient production of potable water using solar stills. Such stills are potentially quite important, since they hold the promise of conserving some of the vast quantities of fire-

wood and other energy sources used by the Chinese to boil their drinking water.

The Institute has also taken an interest in the Stone Flower Inn, a hotel with passive solar design features which is being built in Tai-shan County as a joint venture of the Chinamerican Corporation and the Chinese government. Scheduled for completion later this year, the hotel was designed by Living Systems of Winters, California, and is highly unusual in its Chinese setting. On future trips to China it will be interesting to observe how local people react to it and how its solar features influence other construction projects in the vicinity.

John Ferrell, Editor, RAIN:  
Journal of Appropriate Technology

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## THE FLYING HORSE

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The new logo of the Northwest China Council, the "flying horse," was selected as a symbol for China because, since its discovery in a Han dynasty general's tomb in 1969, it has achieved greater international fame than any other piece of Chinese art.

Dating from the middle of the second century AD, this tiny bronze statuette (less than ten inches tall) was discovered in Gansu province and displayed as part of the Chinese art exhibition which appeared in the U.S. in 1975.

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*Editor: Jeffrey Barlow*

*Published quarterly.*

John Hay, in Masterpieces of Chinese Art, states: "The horse was a creature of great practical and symbolic importance to the Chinese; vital for bearing their arms against the warriors who pressed on the northern frontier and an embodiment of nobility, swiftness, strength and endurance."

"Art of the Han dynasty is remarkable for its rhythmic vitality, delighting in dancing line that curves with energy pent. A fleeting touch with earth is marvellously suggested by the flying swallow under one hoof. The flying swallow was the metaphor for a swift horse."

Our horse was taken from a brush sketch by Wen Chen Yang, with graphic artist Linnea Gilson applying the final touches to make it into a logo.

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

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"IN CHINA": PHOTOGRAPHS BY EVE  
ARNOLD

November 30 to January 17

Reed College, Vollum College Center,  
Gallery, 3203 SE Woodstock

Open daily except Mondays, noon to five p.m.; closed December 24, 25, 31 and January 1

Sponsored by Exxon Corporation;  
presented by the Northwest China Council and Reed College

No admission charge

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This exhibition, which first opened at The Brooklyn Museum in November 1980, is perhaps the most dramatic visual portrait of China today. Eve Arnold, an American photojournalist whose books are The Unretouched Woman and Flashback! The 50's and who made a documentary on the Islamic woman, Behind the Veil, found her ultimate assignment

in China. For five months in 1979, Arnold visited Shanghai, Guangzhou, Beijing, Suzhou, Guilin, and other cities along with the more unusual Tibet, Inner Mongolia, Xishuang Banna (on the Burmese border), Xinjiang, and Qingdao.

Not only did she photograph the Chinese people, but she also talked with them, interviewing cowboys of Inner Mongolia, turbine factory workers, Tibetan lamas, a Shanghai millionaire.

The results are a book of 170 photos, with accompanying text, arranged in four sections (Landscape, People, Work, and Living), which is available for \$35 (Alfred A. Knopf, 1980) and the exhibition which features 104 of the photos.

Her photos, all in color, present a much more diverse China than most of us ever see on tours. From a mustachioed guitar player outdoors in Beijing to a roundup in Inner Mongolia to a meeting of a city mayor and his deputies, this is a China presented both realistically and with great artistic selection

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"IMAGES OF CHINA: LECTURES ON ART AND CULTURE"

Reed College, Vollum College Center, Auditorium

No admission charge

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December 8, 7:30 PM

Donald Jenkins, Director, Portland Art Museum: "Ghosts from the Past: Traditional Elements in Modern Chinese Life"

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January 10, 3:00 PM

Jeffrey Barlow, Associate Professor of History, Lewis & Clark College: "The Great Emperor of Qin (Ch'in): Forerunner of Chinese Culture"

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January 16, 3:00 PM

Michael Sullivan, Professor of Ori-

ental Art, Stanford University: "Modern China Through the Artist's Eyes"

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January 17, 3:00 PM

Linda Walton, Assistant Professor of History, Portland State University: "The Heritage of China's Ethnic Minorities"

In conjunction with the Eve Arnold exhibition, the Northwest China Council is sponsoring a series of lectures. Plan to visit the show and hear a lecture on Chinese art or culture. Eve Arnold's book of China photographs will be sold to benefit the China Council.

Funding for this series is from the Oregon Committee for the Humanities. After the exhibition, we are hoping to take the series on the road with additional lectures, to Astoria, Bend, Medford, Pendleton, and other towns.

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"U.S. - CHINA RELATIONS: THE CHINESE VIEW"

Consul General Hu Dingyi and Consul Xie Heng, People's Republic of China

November 30, 7:30 PM (dinner);  
9:00 PM (speech)

Red Lion Inn, Portland Center, 310 S.W. Lincoln  
Free parking lot in back

Sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Oregon (WAC)

\$12.50, WAC members; \$13.50, guests  
Speech only: \$1.00. Reservations required: 229-3049.

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This is the first Portland visit of the Consul General and his wife, the Consul in charge of cultural affairs, since summer 1980. Now stationed at the San Francisco Consulate of the People's Republic of China, Consul General Hu and Consul Xie have been career diplomats since 1950, serving in India,

Great Britain, and Ghana. Both speak fluent English.

Prior to the talk for the World Affairs Council, Consul General Hu and Consul Xie will be the honored guests of the Northwest China Council and Reed College at the opening reception for the Eve Arnold exhibition.

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## INTERVIEW

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"THIS MAN IS A TIGER": SAM OAKLAND

Sam Oakland, who teaches Nordic mythology, Icelandic sagas, and American literature at Portland State University, tells how he got his first story published in China. Without knowing anyone in the Chinese publishing field, he sent a short story to a major literary journal, Dang Dai, and his story was published in 1979.

In May, 1980, at a conference in Yugoslavia, Oakland met a Chinese delegation which had a copy of the magazine with his story. When he told them that he had had no personal contacts in China and had simply sent his manuscript to the journal, the Chinese were amazed at his brashness and remarked, "This man is a tiger."

Sam Oakland is indeed a tiger. His friendship with the Chinese developed into one of trust and mutual respect which resulted in an offer to hold academic chairs at two Chinese universities. Thus, in 1980--81, Oakland spent one year in China, half at the Guangxi Teachers College and half at Hua Chung University, in Guilin and Wuchang respectively.

Oakland was given access to homes of writers and poets and he was allowed to live and travel in China without the customary monitor assigned by the Chinese government. However, American scholars do not have unrestricted access to Chinese institutions and neither do Chinese.

Oakland attributes this to a "gate guard mentality" among the Chinese, which he believes comes from traditional values from the ancient Chinese feudal system. Each school, apartment complex, and town has a guard assigned the task of "watching" who comes and goes. This mentality affects all facets of life in China, and inspired Oakland to write the following poem, "Guards in the Yards."

On short-legged bamboo chairs with  
high high backs  
they sit,  
reading, knitting, shining  
shoes  
&  
mending for hours . . .  
A single red arm band signals their  
function,  
their duty:  
neighborhood watchmen, watch-  
women,  
watching - keeping watch,  
patrolling,  
guarding the yard from a  
single spot  
in the sun  
in the shade,  
from under an overhanging roof  
when it rains . . .

Minding who comes - minding who goes

Gatekeepers without gates in a coun-  
try of gatekeepers with gates, in a  
country of walls with gates and gate-  
keepers in those walls, in a country  
with a great wall without gates,  
without knitters, without menders,  
without keepers. . .

Oakland describes three debates in the relatively open dialogue now underway in China about the state of poetry after the Cultural Revolution. There is a battle brewing between conservative publishers and new publishers since the Cultural Revolution about whether free or blank verse should be tolerated. A second argument concerns the extent to which current ideas and problems should be presented in poems, perhaps because publishers are avoiding anything that harks back to Cultural Revolution propaganda or excessive criticism of present governmental policy. The third point of conten-

tion is whether or not a worker can also be a poet (one is now "certified" a poet by being the child of a poet, or being acclaimed by critics or other poets). Oakland believes that these battles will be won by the young and those editors who went through the Cultural Revolution.

Christine Richardson-Barlow

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## CHINA COUNCIL NEWS

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The Northwest China Council steering committee, the group that makes the continuing decisions in the Council's life, has undergone a few changes. Due to Dian Murray's one-year absence (she has gone to Harvard University on a research fellowship), her position as co-chair has been filled by attorney Bill Campbell. Donald Jenkins, Director, Portland Art Museum, is the other co-chair. The steering committee also includes Christine Allen, Jeffrey Barlow, Mary Bernson, Rusty Goldy, Elizabeth Perry, Mildred Schnitzer, and Norman Stoll. The group meets monthly.

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## HUMAN RESOURCES

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### DONALD JENKINS

The Northwest China Council is fortunate to have Donald Jenkins, Director of the Portland Art Museum, as one of its co-chairs. Originally trained in European art, Mr. Jenkins began the serious study of Far Eastern art while he was a graduate student at the University of Chicago. His field of special expertise is Japanese prints, but he has also developed a continuing interest in Chinese painting.

While he was Associate Curator of Oriental Art at The Art Institute of Chicago, Jenkins took advantage of the Chinese ceramics collection there to become familiar with that art form. At the Port-

land Art Museum, he has had the opportunity to become acquainted with Chinese furniture. Anyone who has read the catalog for the 1976 exhibit, Masterworks in Wood: China and Japan, knows Jenkins also has a substantial knowledge of Chinese and Japanese sculpture and Buddhism.

In addition to preparing the exhibit and catalog for Masterworks in Wood, Jenkins has advanced the knowledge of Portland residents about Chinese art in other ways. Recently he led a tour of China which visited major art museums of the People's Republic, and he has also led a tour to Taiwan. He sometimes teaches at the Museum's Pacific Northwest College of Art and is a frequent lecturer to community groups.

Jenkins believes that one of the special contributions he can make to public appreciation of Far Eastern art is to assist people in appreciating the continuities between Chinese painting and the prints and paintings of Japan. He is now at work on a laypersons' introduction to the Portland Art Museum's collection of Far Eastern art.

### ANTHONY POLSKY

Anthony Polsky lives in a house only a few miles from his boyhood home in Beaverton, but between 1966 and 1973, he became a seasoned Far Eastern correspondent. In 1967, while he was traveling in the South Pacific and Far East for the New York Herald-Tribune, it went broke, and Polsky took a position in Hong Kong on the staff of the Far Eastern Economic Review. For three years Polsky wrote about the Cultural Revolution, Chinese military affairs, and the western borders of China, which he toured. During that period, he was thrown out of Macao for reporting on a threatened mutiny of the Portuguese garrison.

Polsky later moved to Singapore where, as a free lance writer, he reported on the overseas Chinese and the policies of the People's Repub-

lic toward them. During that period he also reported on business practices in Southeast Asia for the Nihon Keizei Shimbun, the Japanese Wall Street Journal. He was also, briefly, a New York Times correspondent, but his tenure was abruptly terminated in 1971 by the government of Singapore, after he collaborated with Amnesty International on an article about Singapore's political prisoners.

Upon his return to the United States, Polsky received a Ford Foundation Fellowship for Advanced International Reporting which he used to study about China and Japan at Columbia University. He then worked for Newsweek International and Reuters Ltd. of London before coming home to Oregon and a variety of business commitments.

Now a full-time free lance journalist, Polsky has contractual relationships with the Washington Post and the Far Eastern Economic Review. He frequently writes about China's relationship with the Northwest, and his writing often focuses on business and economics. In October, he will participate in a conference sponsored by the Department of State and the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii. Polsky is a professional lecturer who can speak from experience about economic, military, and foreign affairs in the Far East, and the press in Asia.

Harold Pope

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## BOOKS IN THE NEWS

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### Coming Alive

by Roger Garside

1981, McGraw Hill, \$12.95

Developments in Chinese political and social culture since the death of Zhou Enlai is the theme of this recently published work.

The book's author served as a First Secretary in the British Embassy in Beijing from 1976 until

1979 and had also been in China at the end of the Cultural Revolution. In this work, he both documents and analyzes events for their significance in Chinese politics and culture.

Many of the most interesting passages in the book are eyewitness accounts of reactions of the Chinese public to the various political events which took place during the late seventies, such as the death of Zhou Enlai. In reading of the maneuvers of the top political leaders, one has the sense of watching a complicated play with numerous actors, some of whom disappear abruptly, only to reappear again later in the play.

The author points out some valuable clues to interpreting the events in Chinese politics. When attacks or criticisms are made on political leaders in the press or on wall posters, they are usually couched in allegory or describe a similar situation from Chinese history. By not specifically naming the target or the crime, room is left for the attacker to claim that no such attack was intended. If the charge is later proved wrong or if the political climate changes, no specific charge can be pointed to.

The author has some definite political biases, but his work is of strong interest for its in-depth descriptions of political events during a tumultuous time in recent Chinese history.

Deborah Sipe

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## CHINA COUNCIL PRESENTING SLIDE-TAPES THROUGHOUT OREGON

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A ready-made program for clubs, civic groups, classes, etc., is available from the China Council this fall. Two slide-tapes, "Looking at China, Looking at America," and a preview of the Eve Arnold "In China" exhibition, can be sent to you or presented by a China Council volunteer. Call us: 229-3049.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## October

- 9/29 - 12/3  
(Tuesdays) "GLOBAL ISSUES EDUCATION: FOCUS ON ASIA": A graduate course at Beaverton High School through the Division of Continuing Education of Portland State University. Taught by Mary Bernson, Asian Studies teacher and Northwest China Council advisory board member, the course is designed for teachers who wish to incorporate Asian themes, issues, and perspectives into secondary level classes. For information and to reserve a place in the class, call 649-0446.
- 1 - 31 "ARTISTS APPRECIATION EXHIBIT": Wing Luke Museum, 414 8th Ave. S, Seattle, 206-623-5124. Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Saturday, noon - 4:00 PM.
- 3 CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL opens. Offering classes in Mandarin, Cantonese, and English. NW Third and Davis, Chinese community building, Portland. Registration is 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. For information, call Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, 223-9070, or Mary Leong, 284-2952.
- 6 GOURMET DINNER BENEFIT FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL: Lung Fung Restaurant, SE 82nd and Division, Portland. A ten-course Chinese dinner, sponsored by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. No-host cocktails: 6:30 PM; dinner: 7:30 PM. \$25.00 per person. Tickets available at downtown Chinatown restaurants; information: Gene Chin, 253-1441.
- to be announced ISRAEL EPSTEIN, author of From Opium War to Liberation, a history of China from 1840 to 1949, and long-time resident in Beijing (works for China Reconstructs magazine), will speak for the U.S. - China People's Friendship Association, Portland Chapter. For date, time, and place, call Sarah Morgan, after 3:00 PM, 282-1778.

## November

- 7 NORTHWEST REGIONAL SEMINAR ON CHINA AND JAPAN: Featuring Jonathan Unger, Visiting Professor of Sociology and International Studies, University of Washington, speaking on "Contemporary Class Structure and Conflict in Rural China." Open free to the public. For information, call David Deal, Department of History, Whitman College, 509-527-5131.
- 14 CHINESE FLOATING ART AUCTION for Wing Luke Museum, Seattle. For information, call 206-623-5124.
- 30 - 1/17 \*IN CHINA: PHOTOGRAPHS BY EVE ARNOLD": An exhibition sponsored by Exxon and presented by the Northwest China Council and Reed College. At Reed College, Vollum College Center Gallery. Open daily except Mondays and closed December 24, 25, and 31 and January 1. Hours: noon - 5:00 PM. No admission charge. For information, call 777-7591. (See article this issue.)
- 30 "U.S. - CHINA RELATIONS: THE CHINESE VIEW": Consul General Hu Dingyi and Consul Xie Heng, People's Republic of China. Sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Oregon. Red Lion, Portland Center, 310 SW Lincoln. 7:30 PM: Dinner; 9:00 PM: Speech. \$12.50, WAC members; \$13.50, guests; speech only: \$1.00. Reservations necessary: 229-3049. (see article this issue.)

## December

- 8 \*IMAGES OF CHINA: LECTURES ON ART AND CULTURE: first in a series, Donald Jenkins, Director of the Portland Art Museum, speaks on "Ghosts From the Past: Traditional Elements in Modern Chinese Life." Reed College, Vollum College Center Auditorium, 7:30 PM. Free of charge. For information, call Northwest China Council, 229-3049.

\*China Council sponsored

Please inform the Northwest China Council well in advance of upcoming China events. Next calendar will list items for months of January, February, and March--deadline for items December 1. Write 1912 SW 6, #252, Portland, OR 97201 or call 229-3049.

*ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS*

This issue was prepared by Christine Richardson-Barlow, Jeffrey Barlow, Jane Larson, Harold Pope, and Deborah Sipe.

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PLEASE FILL OUT IF YOU ARE NOT ON OUR MAILING LIST

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ zip

Please describe your special interest in China (trade, secondary education, lived in or traveled to China, Chinese descent, etc.):

SEND TO: Northwest China Council, WAC, 1912 SW Sixth, #252, Portland, OR 97201

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