

NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

#5, April — June, 1982



THE MANCHUS OF QING: CHINA'S LAST DYNASTY

Portland State University historian Linda Walton is one of the speakers for the "Images of China" lecture series on Chinese art and culture that is touring the state this spring, with funding from the Oregon Committee for the Humanities. This article is from Dr. Walton's talk in Gleneden Beach March 7.

It is one of history's ironies that China's last dynasty, the Qing (Ch'ing) (1644-1911), which defended Chinese civilization against Western "barbarians" in the nineteenth century, was founded and ruled by the Manchus, descendants of nomadic conquerors of north China in the twelfth century, who were themselves regarded as "barbarians" by the Chinese.

By the nineteenth century, however, both Manchus and Chinese who confronted Western diplomats, merchants, and missionaries were united by their common posture of support for Chinese culture in the face of external challenges. During their lengthy rule, the Manchus had become Sinified, succumbing in classic fashion to the powerful appeal of Chinese culture--at least this was the Chinese explanation. A modern historical explanation would point to the necessity for the Manchus, who were only about 2% of

the population, to adapt to Chinese institutions in order to rule the huge population and vast territory of the Chinese empire.

The K'ang-hsi emperor (r. 1661-1722), first in a series of Sinified Manchu emperors who ruled during the stable and prosperous eighteenth century, completed the conquest and set the pattern of Manchu rule. His life, related in his own words, is presented in Jonathan Spence's Emperor of China. This is an intimate portrait of K'ang-hsi which defies the impersonality of the imperial throne. K'ang-hsi was a man who treasured and guarded his Manchu heritage, delighting in riding and hunting, while practicing his calligraphy and writing elegant poems in Chinese. He was also a concerned, overburdened Confucian monarch who doted on and despaired of his sons and heirs, worried about old age, and philosophically confronted death.

Emperor of China allows us to penetrate the wall of taboo and veneration that surrounded the primary resident of the Forbidden City and to see Confucian monarchy under the Manchus through K'ang-hsi's eyes.

The Death of Woman Wang (Penguin, 1978), also by Jonathan Spence, combines traditional historical

sources with fiction to create a vivid portrayal of life and death in a poor rural county of northeastern China during the first decade of K'ang-hsi's reign. The dry skeleton of the historical record--taxes, public administration, crops, etc.--is fleshed out with individuals who live through the short stories of a poor local scholar. The legal case that forms the centerpiece of the book, the murder of an adulterous peasant woman by her husband, is an individual tragedy that mirrors, through Spence's reconstruction, universal aspects of human tragedy particularized to this time and place.

As Emperor of China reveals the human face of the Confucian state, The Death of Woman Wang allows us to see the underbelly of Confucian institutions which made life a cruel experience for individuals like Woman Wang, whose very anonymity underscores the impersonality of her barely human status.

SPECIAL EVENTS

WORLD TRADE WEEK PROGRAM

"NIKE IN CHINA: A Business Seminar"
with David Chang, NIKE Vice-President

May 18, 7:30 - 10:00 AM, Portland
Red Lion, 310 SW Lincoln St.

\$15.00 (including breakfast)
Reservations: 229-3049

Northwest China Council Newsletter
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China Council, sponsored by the World
Affairs Council of Oregon and The
Asia Society China Council.*

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*Editor: Jeffrey Barlow
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NIKE, Inc., a local Beaverton company now producing its athletic shoes in Taiwan, Korea, and other Asian nations, has entered the China market and received national attention in the Wall Street Journal and Chinese Business Review as an innovative leader in China trade.

David Chang has been responsible for much of this success. Born in Shanghai, Chang had been an architect in New York and Puerto Rico until 1979 when at age 50, he became a business consultant. Since he joined NIKE in 1981, he has been to China four times and has set up production in both Tianjin and Shanghai, with the eventual goal of China producing one-quarter of NIKE's total world output by 1985.

IMAGES OF CHINA: LECTURES ON ART AND CULTURE

In Ashland, Astoria, Bend, Eugene,
Monmouth, Newberg, Vancouver.

No admission charge.

Funded with a grant from the Oregon
Committee for the Humanities.

ASHLAND Co-Sponsor: Southern
Oregon State College

April 28, evening, Southern Oregon
State College. Information:
482-6103 x15

"CHINESE POETRY, PAST AND PRESENT"

Angela Jung Palandri, Professor of Chinese Language and Literature, University of Oregon, is a native of Beijing who has written a book on Chinese poetry of the ninth century, as well as one on the contemporary poetry of Taiwan and China. Chinese poetry retains its popularity in both areas, both as a means of personal and politi-

cal expression.

ASTORIA Co-Sponsor: Astoria
Friends of the Library

April 18, 2:30 PM, Astoria Public
Library, Flag Room. Information:
325-7323

"LIFE IN TWO CHINESE CITIES:
BEIJING AND HUUHOT (INNER MONGOLIA)"

Steve Kosokoff, Associate Pro-
fessor of Speech Communication,
Portland State University, has tra-
veled to China five times beginning
in 1974. He has just returned from
six months living in Inner Mongolia
and teaching English at the teachers
college. Beijing and Huhhot, while
both in northern China, differ in
culture, language, and government.
They offer a dramatic contrast of
contemporary Chinese lifestyles.

BEND Co-Sponsor: Bend Chamber of
Commerce

April 2, noon, Bend Golf and Country
Club. Lunch reservations: 382-3221

"MASS MEDIA IN CHINA"

Deanna Robinson, Assistant Pro-
fessor of Communications at the Uni-
versity of Oregon, went to China in
1980 with the National Conference
of Editorial Writers. There she was
able to interview An Gang, editor of
People's Daily newspaper and Vice-
Chairman Deng Xiaoping. She will
discuss how television and other
mass media bring social change to
China.

EUGENE Co-Sponsor: University of
Oregon Asian Studies Society

April 29, May 13, May 27, 7:30 PM,
University of Oregon, 207 Chapman
Hall. Information: 686-4005

April 29, "MASS MEDIA IN CHINA"

Deanna Robinson, Assistant Pro-
fessor of Communications at the Uni-
versity of Oregon, will present the
same talk as given in Bend, April 2.

May 13, "WOMEN WRITERS OF CHINA"

Angela Jung Palandri, Profes-
sor of Chinese Language and Liter-
ature at the University of Oregon,
has interviewed some of the most
distinguished women writers of
China, both those with a long-
standing reputation and new writers
who have emerged since the Cultural
Revolution.

May 27, "DEVELOPING CULTURAL EX-
CHANGES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA"

Helen Chauncey, now a Chinese
history doctoral candidate at Stan-
ford University, did two years of
research in China, studying local
educational history during the Re-
publican period. She will describe
the evolving communication between
China and the U.S. and the under-
standings and occasional misunder-
standings that have resulted.

MONMOUTH Co-Sponsor: Western
Oregon State College

April 12, April 14, noon, Western
Oregon State College, College Cen-
ter, Oregon Room. Information:
David Wallace, 838-1220, x482

April 12, "GHOSTS FROM THE PAST:
TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS IN MODERN
CHINESE LIFE"

Donald Jenkins, Director of
the Portland Art Museum and Oriental
art historian, presents a slide lec-
ture using his own and Eve Arnold's
photographs of China. He will show
how China's past is still deeply
rooted in modern Chinese life--from
methods of intensive agriculture to
architectural styles.

April 14, "THE CHINESE LEGAL SYSTEM:
THE ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL"

Gary Scott, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Portland State University, will explain the Chinese philosophy of the place of the individual in society and how this relates to modern Chinese law. He will also speculate about how China's present emphasis on modernization influences the individual's legal rights and responsibilities.

NEWBERG Co-Sponsor: Associated Student Community of George Fox College

May 12, 7:00 PM, George Fox College, Hoover Building, Kerschner Lecture Hall. Information: 538-8383 x321

"CONTEMPORARY LIFE IN INNER MONGOLIA"

Steve Kosokoff, Associate Professor of Speech Communication at Portland State University, will discuss the lives of urban and rural people in Inner Mongolia, where he lived for six months in 1981-1982. Inner Mongolia, an area traditionally populated by nomadic peoples practicing a lamaistic form of Buddhism and speaking a language unrelated to Chinese, is now dominated by the majority Han culture.

VANCOUVER Co-Sponsor: Clark College

April 16, May 7, Clark College. Information: Paul Aldinger, 206-699-0281.

April 16, noon, Friday Forum (lunch reservations: 699-0281), Gaiser Hall "THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION: FROM THE INSIDE"

David Milton, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Oregon, is the author, with his wife, of The Wind Will Not Subside: Years in Revolutionary China 1964-1969, which relates his experience

living and working in China before and during the Cultural Revolution. He will also discuss how the politically active Chinese were shaped by this period of internal ferment.

May 7, 2:00 PM, Foster Hall Auditorium "CHINA'S SORROW, CHINA'S STRENGTH: A LOOK AT CHINA'S CULTURE THROUGH ITS RIVERS"

Willert Rhynsburger, Professor of Geography at Portland State University, became a professional China-watcher in 1952 in Taiwan and did research in Asia until 1966. In this talk, he describes how China's rivers have affected its governmental structure, agriculture, trade and commerce, as well as art.

INTERVIEW

In 1979, Joseph Esherick, a University of Oregon history professor became one of a growing number of Americans invited to study in China.

Dr. Esherick received a fellowship through the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China to do research on the origins of the Boxer Uprising. He was assigned to the History Department of Shandong University in Jinan, where much Chinese study of the Boxers has taken place. He lived in China, with his family, from September, 1979, to August, 1980.

American knowledge of China was so lacking in 1979 that although the Chinese had assigned Esherick to Shandong University, Esherick had to do research just to find out where the school was located. All the published sources named Qingdao as its location, but the China scholars he consulted thought it was in Jinan. Finally, he called the Chinese Embassy and found out that the University had moved to Jinan during the Great Leap Forward (1958). So much for the accuracy of published sources on public education in China!

Initially Dr. Esherick and his family lived in a tourist hotel about a 40-minute bike ride from campus. Later they moved to visitors' quarters on campus, built to house Chinese guests. Accommodations, which were heated briefly in the morning and evening, consisted of two rooms with an attached bathroom. To keep warm during long hours of study, they learned to do vigorous exercise (like jumping rope) every hour or so, and before going to bed. All their meals were taken in the foreigners' dining room at first, but later a stove was installed in their bathroom.

Mornings began at 6:00 AM, with broadcasting from the public address system in the nearby sports-field where the Eshericks joined the students for morning exercise.

Chris, Esherick's 11-year old son, was given Chinese lessons and was thus able to enter the local primary school in the spring, albeit in the fourth instead of the sixth grade. He found that his fellow students studied harder than his classmates back in Eugene, and it was a real challenge to do homework for several hours a night, including preparing math lessons in Chinese. (Incidentally, he reported that the fourth grade math book was as difficult as his sixth grade book that he brought with him from the U. S.)

Esherick found the Chinese as individuals to be "extremely helpful, kind, positive and polite". He and his family never encountered hostility in the people with whom they dealt. There are frequent frustrations for foreigners living in China, and those with the most difficulty were those with no family present with whom to discuss problems at the end of a troublesome day.

The subject of Esherick's research, the Boxer Uprising (1899-1900), has received significant attention in China, with college students sent out several times in the 1950's and 1960's to interview sur-

vivors of the movement. The records of these interviews are a major new source for understanding why the "Boxers"--who believed their boxing rituals made them invulnerable to bullets--became the basis for an anti-foreign uprising principally directed against foreign missionaries and Chinese Christians.

Esherick found the University personnel generally very helpful in obtaining Boxer documents and interview records for his perusal. However, sometimes, though access to the interviews had been promised, faculty assigned the task of providing him with the materials would be unwilling to take responsibility for turning information over to a foreigner. This was especially true around February, 1980, when with changes in U.S. policy toward Taiwan the tone of the Chinese press coverage of the U.S. became less friendly and--while he was treated no differently by individual Chinese--the documents stopped coming for awhile.

Dr. Esherick plans to develop his research into a book in the near future, examining the social, religious, and economic origins of the Boxer Uprising, particularly in the context of western Shandong where the movement began.

Since his return, he has given presentations on his life and research in China in Eugene, Corvallis, and Pendleton.

Jeffrey Barlow, Deborah Sipe

CHINA RESOURCES

ASIAN ART COUNCIL

The Asian Art Council was founded in 1975 by Asian art advocate Mildred Schnitzer and Portland Art Museum Director Donald Jenkins (both China Council board members). The Council was formed to support the Museum's Asian Gallery and has helped to make possible seven major traveling exhibitions, sponsored

"Salute to Korea" week, and organized public lectures by scholars and collectors. It also participates in the acquisition of objects for the Asian Gallery and educational materials for the Museum.

Asian Art Council members have been offered several lecture series and workshops. A recent workshop, "Treasures Within", focused on the Museum's collection of Asian furniture, ceramics, lacquerware, textiles, snuff bottles, etc. and was led by experts in these fields.

Members are also invited to join special tours to museums and private collections throughout the U.S., as well as abroad (China was toured in 1980). Now being planned are tours to San Francisco this May and to Japan in spring, 1983.

Other privileges of Council membership are a newsletter, annual dinner meeting, and discounts at the Museum Shop. Those wanting more information should contact the Museum's membership office, 226-2811.

ORIENTAL ART STUDY SOCIETY

The Oriental Art Study Society is a group of about 130 Portland area people with an interest in some facet of Asian art, such as painting, literature, and textiles. Members include collectors as well as those who simply want to learn more about this broad field. The region under study is China, Japan, Korea, India, and Southeast Asia.

Founded in 1968, the organization meets monthly to hear speakers, and members can also belong to individual study groups. This year the groups include general topics (such as a recent talk on the importance of water in Japanese life--from hot baths to gardens to commerce) and those concentrating on such areas as jade, rugs, prints, and ceramics. A monthly newsletter is sent to members, and a Christmas dinner and summer picnic are organized. The 1981 Christmas dinner

featured a fashion show put on by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association with traditional Chinese costumes.

Persons interested in joining the Society should contact the Northwest China Council (229-3049) which will pass on your name to the membership committee.

CHINA TOURS

Two unusual study/tours to China are being organized by Portland persons.

The first is a 4-week course (in English) on traditional Chinese architecture, at Qinghua University, Beijing, June 14 to July 10, followed by an optional 10-day tour to Suzhou, Hangzhou, and Shanghai, leaving China on July 21. The course, which is designed for architects, art historians, urban designers, or students in these fields, will cover such topics as construction techniques, building for living in north China, the Imperial City, and the Chinese garden. Total fees covering tuition, dormitory, meals, books, and a 3-day tour to Chengde are \$1,050, with \$600 for the 10-day tour. Travel arrangements and more information may be obtained from Howard Glazer, 227-4331.

Social service and local government administrators are invited to join a September tour sponsored by the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association and led by Annie Hall, who has been to China five times. A maximum of 12 persons will be admitted to the tour, which will include seminars and exchanges with professionals. All professional participants will be required to give a paper at an appropriate agency or institution in China. Spouses are also welcome. The cost, including travel, is about \$3,000; resumes should be sent to Annie Hall, 3340 SW 98th, Portland, OR 97225; 292-1809.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 2 * "MASS MEDIA IN CHINA": A lecture by Deanna Robinson, Bend Golf and Country Club, noon. Co-sponsor: Bend Chamber of Commerce. Free lecture; lunch reservations: 382-3221.
- 3 "CHINESE AMERICAN CITIZENS ALLIANCE ESSAY CONTEST" for high school students of Chinese descent. At noon, Chinese Presbyterian Church, free. Call Betty Jean Lee for information: 224-4082.
- 4 "BUS NUMBER 3": A Chinese comedy film (1980), Northwest Film Study Center, 1219 SW Park, 2:00 PM; \$4.00 admission.
- 5 "ENVIRONMENTS EAST-WEST": A radio program, KBOO-FM (Portland); 9:00 PM; features Chinese music
- 4/5 - "HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINESE PRINTS": An exhibition of prints, both traditional (including the Ten
6/13 Bamboo Studio and Mustard Seed Garden) and modern; University of Oregon Art Museum, Eugene; free; 686-3027.
- 8 "THE SAVAGE LAND": A national premier of a Chinese film; Oakway Cinema, Eugene; 7:00 and 9:00 PM; tickets at the door: \$3.00, students; \$3.50, general. Information: 686-4005.
- 4/9 - "EXHIBITION OF QING DYNASTY RURAL FOLK OBJECTS": Wing Luke Museum, 414 8th Ave. S, Seattle.
5/31 Tuesday - Friday, 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM; Saturday, noon--4:00 PM. 206-623-5124.
- 12 * "GHOSTS FROM THE PAST: TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS IN MODERN CHINESE LIFE": A lecture by Donald Jenkins, Western Oregon State College, College Center, Oregon Room, Monmouth. Noon. Information: 838-1220 x482.
- 14 * "THE CHINESE LEGAL SYSTEM: THE ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL": A lecture by Gary Scott, at Western Oregon State College, College Center, Oregon Room, Monmouth. Noon. Information: 838-1220.
- 16 * "THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION: FROM THE INSIDE": A lecture by David Milton at Clark College, Friday Forum, Vancouver, noon. Lunch reservations: 206-699-0281.
- 18 * "LIFE IN TWO CHINESE CITIES: BEIJING AND HUIHOT (INNER MONGOLIA)": A lecture by Steve Kosokoff, at the Astoria Public Library, Flag Room, 2:30 PM. Information: 325-7323.
- 20 "REGION AND REVOLUTION IN THE CANTONESE SCHOOL OF PAINTING, 1900--1949": A lecture by Ralph Croizier, at the University of Oregon, 177 Lawrence Hall, Eugene. 7:30 PM. Free. Information: Ellen Johnston Laing, 686-3677.
- 28 * "CHINESE POETRY, PAST AND PRESENT": A lecture by Angela Jung Palandri at Southern Oregon State College, Ashland. Information: 482-6103 x15; call for time and place.
- 29 * "MASS MEDIA IN CHINA": A lecture by Deanna Robinson at the University of Oregon, 207 Chapman Hall, Eugene. Free. Co-sponsor: Univ. of Oregon Asian Studies Society. 686-4005.

May

- 7 * "CHINA'S SORROW, CHINA'S STRENGTH: A LOOK AT CHINA'S CULTURE THROUGH ITS RIVERS": A lecture by Willert Rhynsburger, at Clark College, Foster Hall Auditorium, 2:00 PM. Vancouver, WA.
- 8 ASIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK PROGRAM, Portland. Information: 235-5709
- 12 * "CONTEMPORARY LIFE IN INNER MONGOLIA": A lecture by Steve Kosokoff, at George Fox College, Hoover Building, Kerschner Lecture Hall, Newberg, 7:00 PM. Information: 538-8383 x321.
- 13 * "WOMEN WRITERS OF CHINA": A lecture by Angela Jung Palandri, at University of Oregon, 207 Chapman Hall, Eugene, 7:30 PM. Information 686-4005
- 17 CHUN YEN (SPRING FESTIVAL) BANQUET: Sponsored by Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association; at High Hat Restaurant, 11530 SW Barbur Blvd., 6:30 PM. Cost, \$14.50; call 253-1441 or 284-2592 for reservations.
- 18 * "NIKE IN CHINA: A CHINA BUSINESS SEMINAR": A World Trade Week program of the Northwest China Council; 7:30-10:00 AM; cost: \$15.00, including breakfast. Lincoln Street Red Lion, Portland. Reservations: 229-3049. Featuring David Chang, Vice-President, NIKE.
- 27 * "DEVELOPING CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA": A lecture by Helen Chauncey at the University of Oregon, 207 Chapman Hall, Eugene; 7:30 PM.

June

- 7 "ENVIRONMENTS EAST-WEST": A radio program, KBOO-FM, Portland, 9:00 PM, focusing on the elderly in the Portland Chinese community, first of two parts. Information: 223-1155.

* SPONSORED BY THE NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL

EVE ARNOLD BOOK AVAILABLE

Eve Arnold's stunning book, In China, which includes all the photographs seen in the exhibition at Reed College this winter as well as 66 more (170 in all), is available from the Northwest China Council while supplies last. Sales benefit the China Council with \$14 tax-deductible. If you come to the World Affairs Council office, 1912 SW 6th (Ondine Building), room 252, the price is \$35. Or, we will send you the book, carefully packed and insured, for \$38. Please make out the check to the World Affairs Council. Information: 229-3049.

PLEASE FILL OUT IF YOU ARE NOT ON OUR MAILING LIST

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ zip _____

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

The Northwest Regional China Council is formed to deepen public understanding of China's history, culture, and contemporary affairs (in the People's Republic, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and among Chinese-Americans). Our events are held all over Oregon and in Vancouver and Seattle, Washington and include exhibitions, lectures, conferences, teacher workshops, and business seminars. The Northwest China Council is a program of the World Affairs Council of Oregon and one of twelve regional China councils in the U.S. affiliated with The Asia Society.

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