

# NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



#16, January — March, 1985

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## *CHINA AND THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG*

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Just a month after Britain and China signed a long-awaited agreement over Hong Kong's future, the Northwest China Council presented a conference on the subject which generally has been viewed as one of the best programs given by the organization. About 100 paid attendees, many of them not previously seen at programs sponsored by either the China Council or the World Affairs Council, came to the half-day meeting at the Benson Hotel.

Hong Kong is a major trading partner of the US, and American investment there, in the billions of dollars, is larger than that of any other country. Much of Britain's investment is listed as "local" investment.

The principal speakers, all with impressive credentials, were trenchant, outspoken and, for the most part, intelligently skeptical about terms of an agreement which provides for China to resume control in 1997 of territory which has been indisputably Chinese, although under British control for more than a century.

In order of their presentations, the speakers were: Adam Watson, re-

tired senior British diplomat and author of books on international relations; Steven Goldstein, Director of the China Council of The Asia Society; and Frank Ching, former Beijing correspondent of The Wall Street Journal who currently resides in Hong Kong while writing a book.

Local panelists who questioned the speakers had all recently returned from Governor Victor Atiyeh's trade and friendship mission to Japan and China. They were: Steve Carter of The Oregonian business department; Judy Rooks of KOIN television; and Anthony Polsky, international correspondent and President of Cathay Counsellors Group, Inc., an international consulting firm.

Retired British diplomat Adam Watson set the historical perspective of Hong Kong stemming from the 19th century, and noted the unassailable truth that "Hong Kong always has been and essentially is a Chinese city (whose prosperity) is largely based on the industry of Chinese immigrants within a framework of British-provided law and order."

Watson noted that 40% of the PRC's foreign trade went through Hong

Kong, so that China had a definite practical interest in maintaining the present system without either the symbols or substance of British rule. The operating principle will be "one government (China's), two systems." Watson acknowledged the possibility that a change in China's current leadership could negate the rational, constructive aspects of the 1997 agreement.

"There is no ultimate guarantee. (The agreement) is just the best document we could have come up with in the circumstances," Watson said.

Steve Goldstein and Frank Ching were both considerably more skeptical about whether the recently-signed agreement could remain unimpaired until 1997, and after, considering the well-known vagaries of Chinese politics, and the immense philosophical and practical differences between the successful methods contributing to Hong Kong prosperity today, and the changing political and economic environment in China.

Goldstein offered in some detail three reasons why China might be expected to live up to the Agreement over the next few years. First, China would keep the Agreement unimpaired because of consideration for International Law and China's reputation for keeping commitments once made. Second, China would not "kill the golden goose." Finally, Goldstein offered the so-called "Taiwan hostage" theory; that is, that China must precisely live up to its promises in Hong Kong in

order to build credibility with Taiwan for eventual peaceful reunification with that island province.

More interesting, Goldstein then presented a number of rather pessimistic scenarios. These included the possibility that China might revert back to some sort of radical Maoism, or that the inevitability of the PRC's restrictive political system would react negatively on the reformist economic policies. Goldstein also expressed considerable concern that PRC bureaucrats would not be able to resist meddling in Hong Kong's unique system, in part because the mainlanders neither understood nor trusted the capitalist system responsible for Hong Kong's prosperity.

Frank Ching of The Wall Street Journal discussed at some length the cynicism of Britain and China regarding the people of Hong Kong whose wishes were supposed to be taken into account. Ching demonstrated that Hong Kong's overwhelmingly Chinese population indeed had an intense interest in their own political future, but essentially had been made pawns by Britain and China. He noted that China's political record for the past decades was so bad that when it negotiated a good agreement (the current one on Hong Kong), Hong Kong's Chinese are skeptical and unbelieving.

Anthony Polsky

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## **CHINA TOURS**

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Dr. Henry Sredl of Oregon State University's Industrial Education Program is leading two unusual summer tours to China in 1985. Both visit Huhhot in inner Mongolia and the second trip spends seven days in Tibet (Lhasa and Shigatze). The tours' theme is "Human Development in the People's Republic of China" and graduate credit is optional. For information, call Dr. Sredl at 754-2733, in Corvallis.

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**1912 S.W. Sixth, #252  
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*Acting Editor: Steve Kosokoff  
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Chinese New Year!  
A Special Reception for Associates  
and honoring  
John Service, an "old China hand"

CELEBRATE! and bring a friend to share your interest in China happenings. Mingle with us while sampling dim sum and drink. Unroll the silk! This is the time to wear your Chinese attire. We hope you will join us Thursday, February 21, 1985, 5:30-7:30 PM, in the Bank of California, 707 SW Washington, 4th floor, cafeteria/lounge, and get acquainted with others in the Northwest China Council. \$5, Associates; \$6, Guests. And you may join the Council at the door. Reservations required: 229-3049.



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## SPECIAL EVENTS

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### **"THE EMBRACE OF THE MOTHERLAND: CHINA AND THE FUTURE OF TAIWAN"**

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Friday, January 4, 8:30 AM to noon  
Westin Benson Hotel, SW Broadway  
at Oak

\$12, Associates  
\$15, General Public  
(Continental Breakfast included)

Reservations required: 229-3049

If the task of bringing Hong Kong into the embrace of the People's Republic of China (PRC) seems complex enough, then Taiwan's re-unification with the "motherland" poses even more difficulties and sensitivities. Furthermore, Taiwan and Hong Kong have close, if

not always friendly, ties. Hong Kong is Taiwan's third largest export market, the Asian and international hub for its national airline, a vital port of call for its ships--as well as the third-party link to trade with China and its main listening post on the mainland. Thus, the response of the Kuomintang government to an increasing PRC presence in Hong Kong will be critical to Taiwan's economy, politics, and trade.

Following an October China Council conference on the recent Sino-British agreement to return Hong Kong to China's control, the January program will look at the island of Taiwan as it confronts China's aim of re-unification.

Leonard Unger, the last American ambassador posted to the Republic of China on Taiwan (leaving January 1, 1979, when US recognition passed to the People's Republic), is the featured speaker. Other speakers are: James Hsiung, an authority on US-Asian relations, who is a political scientist at

New York University; Dan Sanford, a political scientist at Whitworth College in Spokane who has studied the re-unification issue in depth; Zhang Yijun, of the Institute of International studies in Beijing and now a visiting scholar at Lewis & Clark College; and Lang Jialin, of the Foreign Affairs Department of Fujian Province who is spending a year in Portland as part of the Oregon-Fujian Sister State exchanges.

Questions to be discussed include: What is the reaction on Taiwan, official and un-official, to the Hong Kong agreement? How might Taiwan's economy, politics, international status, and trade be affected by the many changes in Hong Kong over the next 13 years as China prepares to take over in 1997? What is China's policy towards Taiwan, and what is the scope of diplomatic discussion, trade, communications and travel between Taiwan and China today?

Tapes of the 3½-hour October conference on Hong Kong are available for rent (\$5 for one week) or sale (\$12)--call 229-3049 to order a copy; the audio quality is good. The lectures and media panel will also be broadcast on KBPS, 1450 AM, at noon on Jan. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

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## **"CHINA OLD AND CHINA NOW" — STATEWIDE LECTURE SERIES**

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January through April

In: Ashland, Bend, Corvallis, Klamath Falls, La Grande, Pendleton, Portland, Roseburg and Salem

Co-sponsored with the World Affairs Council of Oregon and local educational organizations

No Admission Charge

No country seems to be changing faster than China. We read daily of Chinese peasants buying cars or

planes, the strictly enforced one-child family and its many social consequences, and the quest for greater foreign investment in such joint ventures as the production of Camel cigarettes. What remains of the revolutionary ideals that Mao proclaimed in 1949 and are the ancient traditions still reflected in China today?

With a major grant from the Oregon Committee for the Humanities, the China Council and the World Affairs Council of Oregon are organizing lectures in nine Oregon communities this winter and spring. China scholars in art, literature, political science, economics and history will discuss the social and cultural realities of contemporary China, linking current trends to traditional themes in Chinese life.

Such nationally known China experts as Robert Oxnam, president of the Asia Society, and Robert Kapp, director of the Washington State China Relations Council, will join Oregon's China scholars in presenting "China Old and China Now".

Beginning January 20 in Portland, each series includes three lectures (with five in Portland) as well as an exhibit of photos by Oregon travelers to China. Reading lists and teaching resources will also be available. The Northwest Film Studies Center may sponsor a Chinese film festival around the state, with feature films from China and short documentaries.

Those China Council associates living in towns sponsoring a lecture series will receive a schedule in the mail.

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## **JOHN SERVICE LECTURES IN PORTLAND**

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The U.S. - China Peoples Friendship Association is sponsoring a Chinese New Year celebration on Friday, February 22, featuring a banquet and program at Tuck Lung

Restaurant. The guest speaker is distinguished career diplomat John Service, who spent many years in China and whose World War II dispatches are found in Lost Chance in China, edited by Joseph Esherick. Recently, Service accompanied Harrison Salisbury on a re-tracing of the Chinese Long March, and his Portland lecture is titled "The Long March Revisited". The banquet begins at 7 PM and is \$15. for reservations, call 289-3312 (Woodlawn Pharmacy), 644-7757, or 282-1778.

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## **BOOKS IN THE NEWS**

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Seven Contemporary Chinese Women Writers, Panda Books, Beijing, 1982, 280 pp., paper, \$4.95.

For most Americans, China's "ten years of chaos," otherwise known as the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, remains a mystery. What happened? How did it start? What were its goals? What went wrong? Was it all bad? What was Mao's role? What are its lasting effects?

These questions are important and difficult to answer. It may be years before we (and many in China) will be able to understand the essence of this great event. Now a fascinating collection of contemporary literature has arrived to help us answer some of these questions.

Seven Contemporary Chinese Women Writers brings together the short stories of Ru Zhijuan, Huang Zongying, Zong Pu, Shen Rong, Zhang Kangkang, and Wang Anyi. All stories are set during or immediately after the Cultural Revolution and offer much insight concerning the general situation, its effects on individuals, and, most importantly, the specific application of that period to Chinese women.

Ru Zhijuan's heroine struggles with the contradiction between love and

friendship among young workers in an oilfield. Huang Zongying deals with both the problems of being a writer and the terrible effects of the Cultural Revolution on a dedicated scientist. Zong Pu explores a generational problem between an older woman and her 19-year-old pupil. Zhang Jie, surprisingly, writes a story about sexuality in which the choice to remain unmarried is advocated. Zhang Kangkang tells the story of both the devastating effects of the Cultural Revolution and the struggle to survive afterward. Wang Anyi, daughter of Ru Zhijuan, describes the post-Cultural Revolution lives of a number of residents of a small courtyard.

The most impressive work in this fine collection is Shen Rong's novella "At Middle Age." Popular in China as a story, and even more popular as an excellent film, Rong explores the problems faced by many of China's overworked and underpaid middle-aged intellectuals. Dr. Lu Wenting, a 42-year-old eye surgeon, who suffered greatly during the Cultural Revolution, struggles to be wife and mother, under harsh living conditions, as well as dedicated professional. Her struggle to do it all reasonably well results in a heart attack for Dr. Lu. This moving story was felt deeply by many Chinese and was thought by some to have prompted the government to try harder to improve the lives of the millions in China with stories similar to that of Dr. Lu.

Shen Rong, 50, was born to a wealthy family in Sichuan. Her father became a judge in China's pre-liberation Supreme Court. She was unpublished and sent to the countryside from 1969-75. She says of this story, "When I was writing the novel, I didn't expect the critics to describe it as one which touched a keen problem in society. It was just a desire to mirror life as it is that challenged me to write."

Regardless of the motives of Shen Rong or the other six writers, all stories in Seven Contemporary Chinese Women Writers both mirror contemporary Chinese life and touch keen problems. And those problems, as told in these stories, give the foreign reader great insight into modern China. The book is a must for those interested in understanding today's People's Republic.

Steve Kosokoff

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## OREGON — CHINA RELATIONS

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Governor Hu Ping's delegation from our Chinese sister province of Fujian visited Oregon for nine busy days, November 29 to December 7. The official six-member delegation was accompanied by an economic investigation group and a media delegation, for a total of 17 in the full group.

Relationships between many types of institutions were discussed, including scientific, educational, media as well as business enterprises. Preliminary agreements were signed in a variety of areas.

Discussions were held by the Oregon System of Higher Education on general plans for future cooperation and specifically by the Oregon Health Sciences University. The Institute of International Trade and Commerce was asked to conduct several studies. These cover: the Oregon uniform business practice code and other legal issues which the Fujian administrators must understand in order to conduct business with our state; Chinese law as it affects foreign trade with the U.S.; and the feasibility of Fujian government investment in Oregon timber lands.

Willamette University announced the signing in Fujian of an exchange

agreement with Xiamen University.

Both the Port of Portland and several coastal ports met with the delegation. On the business side, discussions were held with various companies in the following industries: wood processing (sawmill equipment and technology, plywood and fiberboard production), grass seed, poultry processing, seafood processing and production, vegetable processing and packaging, silicon chip production and high tech instrument production. There are plans for at least one and possible more industry specialist delegations to visit Oregon in the spring.

In addition, Governor Hu Ping encouraged Salem Mayor Sue Harris to establish a sister city relationship with a city in Fujian.

China Council associates had a chance to meet some of the Fujian delegation at a Chinese breakfast held at Chang's Yangtze on December 7, and can look forward to more opportunities for similar exchanges as more Fujian delegations come to Oregon.

To keep our associates in touch with the rapid development of Oregon - China ties, this column will be published frequently.

Jeanne Cobb

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## January

- January-April \* "CHINA OLD AND CHINA NOW": Lecture series in Ashland, Bend, Corvallis, Klamath Falls, La Grande, Pendleton, Portland, Roseburg, Salem. See listings for individual lectures.
- 4 \* "THE EMBRACE OF THE MOTHERLAND: CHINA AND THE FUTURE OF TAIWAN": Halfday conference; for details, see article above. 8:30 AM - noon, Westin Benson Hotel; \$12, Associates, \$15, Public. Continental breakfast. Information: 229-3049.
- 20 \* "CHINA OLD AND CHINA NOW"--"Viewing the Flowers from Horseback: Historical Overview of Major Turning Points," lecture by Richard Smith, historian, Rice University. Portland State University, Smith Center, Rm. 338, 3 PM. 229-3049.
- 24 \* "CHINA OLD AND CHINA NOW"--"Confucian Past and Communist Present: Where the Twain Meet," lecture by Linda Walton, historian, Portland State University. Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE, 7:30 PM. Information: 588-6508.
- 31 \* "CHINA OLD AND CHINA NOW"--"The Family in Socialist China: Feudal Remnant or Social Anchor?" Lecture by Stevan Harrell, anthropologist, University of Washington. Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE, 7:30 PM. Information: 588-6508.

## February

- 7 \* "CHINA OLD AND CHINA NOW"--"The Novel and the Rise of Realism in China," lecture by Wendy Larson, Chinese language and literature professor, Portland State University. Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE, 7:30 PM. Information: 588-6508.
- 21 \* CHINESE NEW YEAR RECEPTION FOR ASSOCIATES, honoring John Service. Dim sum and drink. Bank of California, 707 SW Washington, 4th floor, 5:30-7:30 PM. \$5, Associates, \$6, Guests. Information: 229-3049.
- 22 CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER AND LECTURE: "The Long March Re-visited," lecture by John Service, sponsored by the U.S. - China People's Friendship Association. Tuck Lung Restaurant, 140 NW 4th, 7 PM. \$15; reservations required: 289-3312 (Woodlawn Pharmacy); 644-7757; 282-1778.

## March

- 2 CHINESE COMMUNITY NEW YEAR CELEBRATION: Sponsored by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. Dinner, dance, entertainment. Lloyd Center Red Lion, 6:30 PM, no-host cocktails, 7 PM, dinner. \$25 per person. Reservations: George or Mary Leong, 284-2592 or 231-4711.
- 2 NORTHWEST REGIONAL SEMINAR ON EAST ASIA: University of Washington, East Asia Resource Center, Seattle. Full day of scholarly panels and lectures; free and open to the public. For details, contact Mary Bernson, (206) 543-1921.
- 8 - 24 \* EIGHTH PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: Films from many countries, including China. Sponsored by the Northwest Film Study Center; at Berg Swann Auditorium, Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park; \$4 per film. 221-1156.
- 27 \* "CHINA OLD AND CHINA NOW"--"Themes in Chinese Civilization," lecture by Robert Oxnam, President, The Asia Society. Dinner to precede lecture. For location, time and dinner cost, call 229-3049.

### EXHIBITS

- 1/17 - 2/17 "VIEW FROM A SCHOLAR'S DESK: ARTS OF THE MANDARIN": Includes jade, ceramics, textiles, paintings. Seattle Art Museum. Information: (206) 447-4729.
- 1/17 - 2/17 "BLUE AND WHITE AND BLANC DE CHINE: CHINESE PORCELAINS OF THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES": 30 pieces from the "Transitional" period, including some from Dehua, Fujian. Information: (206) 447-4729.
- 2/1 - 4/30 "DRAGONS!": Exhibition of the dragon motif in Western and Eastern art and philosophy. Wing Luke Museum, 414 8th Ave. S, Seattle. Information: (206) 623-5124.

\* Program is sponsored by the Northwest China Council.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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You may combine World Affairs Council membership with associateship in the China Council, or become a China Council associate only.

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Please circle the option you wish and enclose a check to "World Affairs Council for NWRCC"

	Individual	Family	Retired	Student
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I wish to become a China Council associate only	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15
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*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 Southwestern Washington and include exhibitions, lectures, conferences, teacher workshops, and business seminars. The Northwest China Council is a self-supporting program of the World Affairs Council of Oregon and one of twelve regional China councils in the U.S. affiliated with The Asia Society. There is a branch office in Seattle.*

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