

NORTHWEST CHINA COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

#26, July — September, 1987



CHINA IN OREGON *PREVIEW: GETTING ALONG WITH THE CHINESE*

This is an excerpted version of an article which will appear in China in Oregon: A Resource Directory, soon to be published by the Northwest Regional China Council.

Given their long history and civilization, the Chinese have a highly developed sense of protocol.

However, since the Communist revolution of 1949, the complex rules of behavior as practiced by the Confucians have been replaced with a more pragmatic and broad-minded approach to social behavior. And, with this relaxation of their own traditional protocol, the Chinese today are more accepting of Western behavior than in times past.

Foreigners do not need to forget their cultural values when in China, but it will be useful to know Chinese etiquette to better understand what is happening around you. Also, the Chinese will see any attempts to follow their customs as a sincere compliment, as most people would.

It is still true in China that one is encouraged, through the family system, to know one's role, accept

it, and behave accordingly. First names are not used by casual acquaintances, only by intimate friends or family members. The family name comes first, and women keep their their family (maiden) names. Thus, Huang Yenxia is Miss Huang regardless of the fact that she may be married to Mr. Zhang!

Punctuality is highly valued in modern China and is essential to avoid embarrassing yourself. It is best to avoid being casual about time, since tardiness is considered insulting to your hosts, whether your appointment is for business or sightseeing.

Foreigners are often shocked by the questions they are asked by the newest of acquaintances in China. Safe topics of conversation for the Chinese are ones that

July - August Events

July 2..... *Chinese Culinary Travel Talk*

July 10..... *PRC Political Briefing*

August 12 ... *Ambassador Han Xu
at Annual Dinner*

See Special Events section inside for details.

will help them place you quickly in terms of rank and social position. Therefore, to be asked your age, how much money you make, the number of your family members, is not considered rude. Rather, it is the quickest way to get to know the proper way to treat you.

While the above questions will be considered too personal by Westerners, the Chinese will see our questions about feelings and hopes as too personal.

Gifts are supposed to be politely refused, as are tips. But, with more and more foreigners visiting China, there are some regions where you will see open gift-giving and tipping. Tipping should be discouraged as officially it is not approved. However, appropriate gifts, especially from one organization to another are acceptable and often expected. Relating the gifts to the nature of the organization is good. Books are the gifts most valued by the Chinese at this time. Avoid gifts that are obviously more than your Chinese friend or host could reciprocate. You could cause loss of face. A good rule of thumb is to avoid gifts which are too expensive or too personal.

In all questions of appropriate social behavior, if you trust your Chinese counterpart, follow his or her cues. Your Chinese hosts will let you know when you have overstepped the bounds of propriety.

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

1912 S.W. Sixth, #252
Portland, Oregon 97201
(503) 229-3049

Editor: Judy Kliks
Published quarterly.

Learning even a few polite Chinese phrases for social situations will demonstrate to your Chinese hosts that you have taken the extra step in a spirit of mutual respect and friendship.

Christine Richardson

SPECIAL EVENTS

U.S. EMBASSY POLITICAL ANALYST TO DISCUSS CHINA'S REFORMS

Friday, July 10
Noon - 1:30 PM

Chen's Dynasty
622 SW Washington

Luncheon and Talk

\$7.00, China Council associates
\$9.00, General

Reservations required: 229-3049

Joseph Moyle, chief political analyst of Chinese domestic policy at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, has just completed a three-year term in that post. Fluent in Chinese and a specialist in Chinese affairs, Moyle has closely followed the twists and turns of the recent student demonstrations and campaign against bourgeois liberalization. He was able to travel about and talk to people prior to leaving China, and he will share his insights into how the ideological and power struggle between China's reformist and conservatives might affect U.S.-China relations.

Moyle received his B.A. in international relations and M.A. in East Asian Studies from the University of Minnesota. Since entering the

Foreign Service in 1966, he has been stationed in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Libya. He will return to Malaysia as director of the refugee office, working with Vietnamese boat people.

THE FOOD OF CHINA

Thursday, July 2
7 - 8 PM

Powell's Travel Store
Pioneer Courthouse Square
SW 6th & Yamhill

Tina Chang previews the Northwest Regional China Council's August-September culinary tour of China with a free talk and slide show on July 2 at Powell's Travel Store.

Tina was trained at the famous Pei Mei Cooking School in her native Taiwan. The tour she leads will explore Chinese culture and life, with a special focus on food from farm to banquet table. In this presentation she will touch on the regional distinctions among the 5,000 dishes now being prepared in China, from the pungent and peppery style of western China's Sichuan Province to the delicately flavored seafood of coastal Fujian Province. Steve Kosokoff, a veteran of ten visits to China, will show slides of the cities on the itinerary: Fuzhou, Shanghai, Suzhou, Yantai, Beijing, and Chengdu. The tour registration deadline is July 8.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR HAN XU IN PORTLAND AUGUST 12

Wednesday, August 12
Meeting: 5:30 PM
Dinner: 6:00 PM
Reception: 7:00 PM

Red Lion - Lloyd Center

1000 NE Multnomah, Portland

Reservations required: 229-3049
\$35, World Affairs Council members,
China Council associates
\$42, General

His Excellency Han Xu, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the U.S., will be the honored guest at the annual awards banquet of the World Affairs Council and the Northwest Regional China Council. He will speak on "China's Foreign Policy: Sino - U.S. Relations." Ambassador Han Xu has been Counselor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Soviet Union, Deputy Chief of the Liaison Office of the PRC in the United States, and Director of the Department of the American and Oceanian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was appointed Ambassador to the United States in May, 1985.

An invitation will be sent in mid-July.

OREGON — CHINA RELATIONS

OREGON - CHINA DENTAL PROJECT

Cast-off dental equipment will be given a second life in China through a locally-organized program.

The Oregon-China Dental Project has gathered used dental chairs, x-ray machines and other equipment no longer used by area dentists. The equipment will be shipped to Kunming, Yunnan Province, where officials at clinics and a dental school have said the need for equipment is great.

"This is a relatively poor part of China," commented project organizer Warren Chung, a Portland pharmacist. "The level of technology at some of

the institutions is comparable to what existed here in the Forties."

Mr. Chung is a steering committee member of the Portland chapter of US-China Peoples Friendship Association, which is sponsoring the project. Portland dentist Gerald Morrell and Bob Herb of Patterson Dental Supply Co. are also participating.

Arrangements are being made with officials in Kunming and at the Chinese Consulate General in San Francisco to have equipment shipped in the near future. According to Mr. Chung enough equipment has been collected to fill one shipping container.

Visits by Chinese dental technicians to Oregon to learn about equipment maintenance and exchanges of dentists between here and China are also being planned.

Those who wish to make a donation or who would like more information can reach Warren Chung at Woodlawn Pharmacy, 289-3311.

Paul Morris

BEAVERTON SEEKS TO ESTABLISH SISTER CITY IN TAIWAN

Early in 1986 a task force was appointed by Beaverton Mayor Larry D. Cole to explore the possibility of sister city relationships with that city. As a result, the non-profit Beaverton Sister Cities Foundation was established with the goal of securing sister city ties with Pacific Rim countries of Japan, Korea, and Taiwan (ROC) by 1988. A matrix of eleven points of comparison was designed to aid in the selection of comparable cities, resulting in the targeting of communities in three countries as likely candidates.

The resolution recommending Hsinchu, Taiwan (ROC) as a sister city for Beaverton was presented to and pas-

sed by the Beaverton City Council on June 15, 1987. The resolution now goes to the city officials in Hsinchu.

Before any ties are formalized, Beaverton is sending three local school district educators to Taiwan to study the people, culture, and language there. Upon their return in the fall, they will use their new knowledge in the classroom, designing new curricula on the culture of Taiwan and speaking to area service organizations.

No other city in Oregon has a Taiwan sister, and Hsinchu is especially appropriate for Beaverton due to its development as a high-technology center and its 500 acre industrial park, modeled after Stanford University's high-tech park. Hsinchu is having success attracting companies, and Qume Corp., Taiwan, and a subsidiary of IT & T have located there. Beaverton is seeking to establish ties not only with businesses, but with schools as well.

Volunteers are needed. For more information about the sister city program, please contact Rosemary Egan, Executive Director, Beaverton Sister Cities Foundation, 526-2499.

CHINA RESOURCES

OREGON TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM IN CHINA

The Oregon Teacher Education Program in China (OTEP) was conceived by Jack Van der Water, Foreign Study Program, Oregon State System of Higher Education, to inspire and challenge education students. It is open to education majors in all of Oregon's public and private schools.

I, an Assistant Professor of Educa-

tion at Portland State University, was the first resident director, leading eleven students for a three and a half month study program last year.

As participants in this unique program, the students were able to see the many benefits of studying another culture through its education system. In turn, they learned much about our own system. The first three months of our stay was at Beijing Teacher's College, where students had classes in Chinese language, history and culture, and education courses taught by the resident director. In addition there were guest speakers on many topics and visits to a variety of schools, including a reform school and a university run by the National Minorities Institute.

Shortly after our arrival in Beijing, an article appeared in China Daily entitled "Teacher Shortage is a Pressing Problem." It described the extreme difficulty China is facing in trying to attract students to the teaching profession. Among other distressing facts, we read that an estimated 95% of the students attending Beijing Teacher's College do not wish to be teachers. Being in the midst of thousands of students who were deeply dissatisfied with their college, major course of study, and profession, was intriguing. It must have seemed strange to them that we spoke with such enthusiasm to the students and faculty about our teacher education preparation, curriculum units, and how we looked forward to planning lessons and teaching American students about China.

After Beijing, our group traveled to Chengde, Xian, Shanghai, and Hangzhou, with our final ten days in Xiamen, which provided an interesting, albeit still urban, contrast to the Beijing area.

Finally, our hosts at Xiamen Uni-

versity invited local teachers to attend presentations by the Oregon students of the curriculum units they had developed during their stay in China. Topics ranged from Chinese art to sports, and the lessons featured demonstrations, participation, and media. The presentations were well-received and were an effective way of concluding the study program in China. The units have since been used by students in the classroom, and we hope to compile them in a curriculum guide.

Not only is OTEP designed to educate prospective classroom teachers but faculty in education as well. The position of resident director is open to education faculty from Oregon colleges and universities.

The second OTEP group of eleven students departs August 26. For information on OTEP, contact Jack Van der Water or Christine Sproul OSSHE Foreign Study Programs, Oregon State University, 754-3006.

Nancy Benson

CLASSICAL CHINESE CLASS

This fall John Emerson will again teach Classical Chinese. According to Emerson, Classical Chinese grammar is the easiest there is. In this original course based on readings from Lao Tzu, a complete chapter will be read in the fourth week and every week thereafter. The class is designed for students with no previous study of Chinese, though students fluent in Chinese have profited from it. The class will be 7-9 PM Thursdays, starting in late September and continuing until June. A course in Taoist philosophy will also be taught in English on Monday evenings if there is enough interest. Phone for details: 225-8838 days, 233-9463 weekends and evenings until 9:30 PM.

BOOKS IN THE NEWS

Joan Lebold Cohen, The New Chinese Painting, 1949-1986. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1987. 167 pp. with illustrations. \$19.95 softcover.

In the introduction to her book, The New Chinese Painting, Joan Cohen states, "Chinese art in the post-Mao era is at a crossroad... Chinese feel that their art must bear the particular mark of their culture, so the Chinese artist strives to create a national style that reflects the new, powerful China, a style that succeeds at home as well as internationally." The 20th c. has been a tumultuous era for Chinese art and artists as a group, just as it has been for all intellectuals in China. The uneasy relationship between official policy and intellectual and artistic expression, and the balance between Western and Chinese thought, influence, and artistic technique has been repeatedly tested and strained.

The issue of the development of a new national style that would reflect the modernization of China, coupled with artistic elements of the past, is not a new issue; its roots are found in the 1898 reforms and the May Fourth movement of 1919. The opening of China to the West in the early 20th c. allowed artists to travel to Japan and Europe to study and experiment with western-style painting and methods of art education in search of ideas and techniques that would revitalize their tradition. The more innovative of these artists searched for and discovered elements of their own artistic tradition that could be meaningfully incorporated into modern painting from the West.

Upon their return to China, western-trained Chinese artists established art schools and academies. However, as they became separated from western sources of inspiration and materials, and as the public was

caught in a great upsurge of nationalism in response to the Japanese invasion, traditional painting was again accepted as the nationalistic mode, and many western-style painters discarded their oils and began to paint with brush and ink. When Japan moved south into China in 1937, the population fled inland, and the three major centers of Western art-- Shanghai, Nanjing, and Hangzhou-- were abandoned. It was at this point that Western art ceased to be a direct influence on the artistic development of China.

The New Chinese Painting brings the issue of western influence on Chinese art into the latter half of this century. Cohen's specific focus is on the art of the post-Mao era, and the aftermath of the Cultural Revolution, from 1979-1986. It was during this time that U.S.-China relations were normalized and China experienced the second Hundred Flowers period of relative intellectual and artistic freedom of expression. The author lived in China for 2½ years during this time, and collected material for this book. She interviewed artists, toured art schools, and attended art exhibits. She also lectured on American art and art education at art institutes. Since mid-1981, when Cohen moved from China, she has returned semi-annually to augment her research.

While The New Chinese Painting covers many styles in contemporary China, including ink painting, peasant art, and wall painting, Cohen emphasizes art that is influenced by western Modernist movements, particularly Realism, Expressionism and the avant-garde. One-hundred thirty-one artists are included, and their works are represented in over 250 reproductions. Most have never been reproduced before. Many are in color, and although frequently small and of varying quality, the photos do give an indication of the artists' style and subject.

Cohen writes from a very personal point of view. The tone of the book is informal and narrative, based on her conversations with the artists whom she befriended, and her personal impressions of their work. Obviously moved by the persecution suffered by the painters, Joan Cohen presents a stark view of the Cultural Revolution and its effects on the lives of the artists. She champions the cause of freedom of expression for the painters, denounces their critics, and calls in to question the shifting party policy on art and the role of the artist in society.

This book is interesting due to its informality, and to Cohen's experiences of meeting directly with the artists and talking with them. She also had the unique opportunity to introduce new Western styles to the painters. Her lectures on American art in 1979 were the first given at the Beijing Central Academy of Fine Arts in over 30 years.

At first glance the book seems to be a rather general work on contemporary art in China, but Cohen's comments and analysis of style presuppose a familiarity with and an understanding of modernist movements in Western art. Her comments on the influence of Abstract Expressionism are understandable when applied to western-style painting, but as a student of Chinese art, I find it disconcerting when they are applied to a painting in the traditional Chinese media. The terms are inappropriate and show a lack of understanding of the history of traditional painting in China. In her discussion of Wu Guanzhong's painting The Great Wall, aspects of brushwork that she attributes to the influence of Abstract Expressionism actually come directly out of the Chinese tradition, and were used centuries earlier.

In addition to her bias towards Western painting which is seen throughout the book, Cohen tends to over-interpret a work of art,

reading more into a piece than may actually be there, and thus inhibiting the viewer from forming his or her own impressions of the work. At times her comments are not borne out in careful observation of the painting.

While reading the book, many questions were raised. In particular: In the broader scope of art on a national scale, how prevalent is the trend towards modernism? Will styles modeled after Expressionism and the avant-garde survive in a nation where the official policy upholds art that is accessible to "the masses" and rejects works that are non-representational? Will the role of art and artist in society change? And finally, are the artists in the book, whom Cohen believes to be on the cutting edge of artistic change in their handling of foreign influences, truly the vanguards of a new art for China?

This period of experimentation finds a parallel in the Western-style art of the early 20th c.. The road to a new national style through the bewildering array of new influences remains a long and varied one. It is perhaps too early to tell what effect international modernism will have on the development of a national style, and how far-reaching the impact will be. The Chinese artist will need to find a point of connection between the two traditions, an aspect of Western art that reaffirms the Chinese aesthetic heritage. It will be interesting to see where such an amalgamation and synthesis occurs.

Ann Wetherell

*Joan Cohen, author of The New Chinese Painting, 1949-1986, will speak in Portland on October 9. Please see the Coming Events section for details.

CHINA COUNCIL NEWS

THANK YOU, ASSOCIATES!

The Northwest China Council advisory board is gratified with the generous and quick response to its letter requesting donations to help complete China in Oregon and begin the fiscal year in July with a strong financial base. As of June 23, 61 China Council associates have given \$1,300. We are proud that so many members have responded, showing support for our work.

Each donor, except those who requested anonymity, will have his or her name on a page in China in Oregon illustrated with Chinese traditional designs. The final draft of China in Oregon is now being checked and edited, with the completed disks (on Microsoft Word) going to the publisher for programming on PageMaker. Linnea Gilson, who designed our "flying horse" logo, is the book designer and Tony Midson, of Continuing Education Publications, our publisher. We hope to get China in Oregon to the printer in late July or early August.

COORDINATOR TAKES SABBATICAL TO CHINA

Jane Larson, China Council coordinator since 1980, will be in China from August 1987 to July 1988, based in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, with regular travel to Portland's future sister city, Suzhou, and Beijing. She will help the China Council initiate cultural exchange projects for Oregon, such as a visit by the world-famous Quanzhou string puppet troupe. Additionally, she will represent various Oregon institutions and agencies in China, acting as a troubleshooter and liaison for existing exchanges and assisting organizations in establishing new cultural and educational ties.

Two co-coordinators will work half-time, beginning August 1. Christine Richardson, who is project director of China in Oregon, and Ann Wetherell, China Council Assistant since June 1986, will share duties. Ann will handle program organization, membership, and newsletter production. With an M.A. in Asian art history from the University of Oregon, Ann will soon begin teaching at Pacific University, where she will be responsible for establishing new courses in Chinese and Indian art. Christine will work on tours and special projects (such as marketing the resource directory) as well as fundraising and other administrative tasks. Christine has done extensive research on Chinese-American history and, with her husband, Jeffrey Barlow, wrote the book China Doctor of John Day.

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COMING EVENTS

Cohen to Speak on "The New Realism"

Friday, October 9
7:30 PM
Portland Art Museum Auditorium
1219 SW Park

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

This issue was prepared by Nancy Benson, Judy Kliks, Jane Larson, Paul Morris, Christine Richardson, Kathi Steffensen, and Ann Wetherell.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- 1 "FASCINATING DISCOVERIES IN ANCIENT CHINA:" Lecture by Zheng Siming, People's Republic of China. Part of "Tour the World at Home" series, sponsored by International Trade Institute, PSU Summer Session, and World Affairs Council. 338 Smith Memorial Center, PSU; each Wednesday at noon. Information: 229-4081
- 2 - Aug. 6 BUSINESS CHINESE: 6-week summer language class taught by Lu Qiang of the Beijing Languages Institute. Class meets Tues., 5:30-7:30 PM, Thurs., 7:30-9:00 AM. Limited to 10 students. Trade Pacific, Inc., 101 SW Main St. 1800; 5138. Call Lois Beran, 241-8607 or 236-5115 to register.
- 2 *CHINESE CULINARY TRAVEL TALK: Slide show and tour preview by tour leader and Chinese cooking instructor Tina Chang, and China specialist Steve Kosokoff. 7 - 8 PM, Powell's Travel Store, Pioneer Courthouse Square; free.
- June 22 -
July 20 "WHAT IS ACUPUNCTURE AND CHINESE MEDICINE?:" Course for health care practitioners on the use of acupuncture in treatment of alcohol and drug detox., PMS, pain management, and other ailments. Tues., 7-9 PM through July 20; 1 hrs. July 31. \$150; \$75 students. Oregon College of Oriental medicine. 11231 SE Market St. Registration: 253-3443.
- 11 - Aug. 20 "MODERN CHINESE WOODCUTS": Exhibition from the collection of Bill Colby, Prof. of Art, University of Puget Sound. Mon. - Sat., 10:30-4:30; Thurs. & Fri., until 6 PM.; free. Image Gallery, 1026 SW Morrison. Information: 224-9629.
- 12 INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT STREET FAIR: Annual event of Asian community, sponsored by International District Economic Association, and Wing Luke Asian Museum. Seattle Chinatown's Ring May Park, S. Maynard and S. King Streets. 11-4 PM; Free, costs at booths. Information: Kit Freudenberg, Museum Director, 206-623-5124.
- 10 *LUNCHEON WITH JOSEPH NOYLE: Former chief political analyst on Chinese domestic affairs with the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, will speak on current reforms in China. Noon - 1:30 PM, Chen's Dynasty, 622 SW Washington. \$7.00, China Council associates; \$9.00 General. Reservations required; 229-3049.
- 29 "THE CHANGING FACE OF EDUCATION IN CHINA:" Lecture by Chai Yu Yu, PRC. Part of "Tour the World at Home" series. See July 1 listing for details.

August

- 8 "MODERN CHINESE WOODCUTS:" Art Prof. Bill Colby of University of Puget Sound speaks on his collection. 11:00 AM, free. Image Gallery, 1026 SW Morrison. Information: 224-9629.
- 12 *WORLD AFFAIRS AND CHINA COUNCIL ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER: Honored guest is PRC Ambassador HAN XU. Meeting, 5:30; dinner 6:00; reception 7:00 PM. Red Lion-Lloyd Center, 1000 NE Multnomah. \$35, Members; \$42, General. Reservations required; 229-3049.
- 15 US - CHINA PEOPLES FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER: Picnic for visiting Chinese students, scholars, friends. 1 - 4 PM; meeting, 1 PM. Picnic, 2 - 5 PM. Bring salad or dessert. 13500 SW Walker Rd., Beaverton. Information or rides, Maxine Sweetman, 644-7757.
- 16 - Sept. 6 *"A CULINARY TOUR OF CHINA:" Northwest Regional China Council tour departs Portland for China. Registration deadline is July 8. Information: 229-3049.
- 19 "THE WEST AND MODERNIZATION OF EAST ASIA:" Lecture by Byung-joo Lee, Republic of Korea. Part of "Tour the World at Home" series. See July 1 listing for details.

September

- 5 CHINESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL REGISTRATION: Saturday, 10-1 PM. Beginning, intermediate, advanced classes in Mandarin and Cantonese. 315 NW Davis, 2nd floor. Information: 223-9070.
- 24 BEIJING PUPPET THEATRE: Performance of 5 ft. high puppets sponsored by the Mid-Valley Arts Council. 8 PM, Smith Auditorium, Willamette University, Salem. Tickets: \$5 - \$15, call 370-SHOW. Information: 373-7929.

BECOME A CHINA COUNCIL ASSOCIATE

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

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

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Special Interest in China: _____

I would like to volunteer to help the China Council with:

_____ Events _____ Office Work
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_____ Programming

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

	Individual	Family	Retired	Student
I wish to join the World Affairs Council as a China Council associate	\$45	\$55	\$30	\$25
I wish to become a China Council associate only	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15
I am a current member of the World Affairs Council and wish to be a China Council associate	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10

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, tours, 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.

**Northwest China Council
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