Happy New Year 2013

Our Society provides a forum for the development and expression of interests and expertise from within the local community, and from around the globe, to inspire and to enrich cultural life in Asia’s most dynamic metropolis.

JANUARY 2013

Saturday 12th - Ian Gow
Alexander Wylie 1815-1887
Scottish Shanghailander: Missionary; Man of Letters; Mathematician

Saturday 19th - Bill Dodson
Arrested Development: China's history of invention and its future development

Tuesday 22nd – Yat-Ming Loo
Limehouse Blues: The Lost History of London’s Chinatown

Sunday 27th
Michelle Blumenthal Memorial Walk to Gaoqiao Pudong

REGULAR FOCUS GROUPS
RAS Study Group – 14th and 28th
RAS Film Club – 20th
RAS Book Club – 21st – with special guest DUNCAN HEWITT

RAS SUZhou Chapter
20th – Peter Hibbard
Sleeping with a Blanket on: the search for summer retreats from Shanghai

For full details and updates of all our events please visit our website
www.royalasiaticsoociety.org.cn

RAS China in Shanghai is a branch of The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland
PRESIDENT’s NOTE

Following on from the Constitutional changes adopted at our recent AGM, I am very pleased to advise you that HM Consul General, Mr Brian Davidson, has graciously accepted the invitation to become Honorary President. I’m sure you will join me in welcoming Brian to our Society and look forward to him attending some of our events over the coming months.

As we usher in 2013, may I wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year, but before we celebrate the Chinese Year of the Snake, we have a full programme on offer in January, with three lectures and a walk plus our usual Focus Group meetings.

We welcome back Ian Gow, this time to speak on a new topic, Alexander Wylie – a fascinating individual and a key player in establishing NCBRAS. We are also delighted to have, for the first time, Suzhou Vice President, Bill Dodson present to us on China’s history of invention and it’s future innovation. Our third lecture has just been confirmed, visiting from UCL, Yat-Ming Loo will talk on a subject to complement our first Monograph, concerning the lost history of London’s Chinatown. This will be an ‘open’ invitation to all RAS members and friends to join and celebrate her life and the things she enjoyed – so do please come along for a relaxing stroll in the Gaoqiao area of Pudong, where we will also gather for lunch. In addition, Peter Hibbard will speak at the Suzhou Chapter on the search for summer retreats from Shanghai and Duncan Hewitt is special guest at our Book Club meeting as translator of the January book choice.

Activities in February will be somewhat limited due to the Chinese Spring Festival, but we will be into full swing for our Spring/Summer session beginning in March, with all the various Literary Festivals where RAS authors and members will be evident at M’s Shanghai International Literary Festival and both the Beijing and Suzhou Bookworm Literary Festivals. Plans are also well advanced for our April, May and June programme.

HOWEVER..... we really do need to appoint a new Programme Director now, to take things forward for September. We require someone to take care of the Lecture Series: usually one Tuesday and one Saturday per month (perhaps two people could do this). Members are very good at suggesting possible speakers, so we are seeking a person(s) who is able to arrange the schedule and liaise with speakers and venues. Please contact myself or any Council member if you feel you can offer help with this. We are especially keen to maintain a good balanced programme, but we do need someone to organize this.

Looking back to December, I would like to thank our visiting speaker from Hong Kong, Dr Victor Zatsepine, for his presentation on Imperial Russian explorers to China in the 19th century. Victor also visited our Library while he was in Shanghai. cont.d…
RAS Library Directions

The Sino-British College, USST
No.1195 Fuxing Zhong Road
Shanghai, 200031 PRC

Enter the main gate and turn right towards the SBC Learning and Resource Centre Building with the white balcony.

The RAS Library is situated on the ground floor just inside the main entrance to the left of the staircase.

RAS Library Opening Times for January

Wednesday Afternoon: 2-5pm
9th - 16th - 23rd - 30th

Saturday Afternoon: 2-4pm
12th - 19th - 26th

Members may borrow two books
Refundable Deposit: 500 rmb (cash)

ACQUISITION REQUESTS and LIBRARY ENQUIRIES should be sent to the Hon Librarian, Ed Allen:
librarian@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

December speaker
Dr Victor Zatsepine visits the RAS Library – pictured here with Ed Allen (photo by Anja Thomsen)

Xin Nian Kuai Le - Katy

The second group stroll along Yuyuan Lu, led by Duncan Hewitt and Lynn Pan, enjoyed beautiful Autumnal weather. We took a slightly different route to the previous month’s walk with equally fascinating architecture and intriguing history. The late lunch and coffee rounded off the morning’s stroll perfectly – once again, special thanks to Duncan and Lynn.

As always, many thanks to everyone for supporting our events and helping out in various ways. We are always very keen to hear from members with new ideas and offers of help.

Xin Nian Kuai Le - Katy
**RAS WEEKENDER – SATURDAY 12th**

4pm for 4.30pm start  
**VENUE:**  RAS Library at The Sino-British College,  
1195 Fuxing Zhong Lu (Shaanxi Nan Lu)  
Members: 30 rmb  Non Members: 80 rmb  
**RSVP:** bookings@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn  
Please reply putting 12th Ian Gow in the subject box  

**PROFESSOR IAN GOW**

*Alexander Wylie 1815-1887, Scottish Shanghailander: Missionary, Man of Letters, Mathematician*

Alexander Wylie was one of the leading members of a unique concentration of Missionary Scholars and Translators who lived and worked in Shanghai in the second half of the 19th Century. He was one of the founders of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (NCBRAS) later a Vice President and finally an Honorary Member. Wylie was also a key figure in the development of the NCBRAS Library and his collection of nearly 800 volumes helped to make this library one of the finest in Asia. In addition, The Wylie Collection forms the cornerstone of the Bodleian Library’s China Collection at Oxford. Originally hired as a printer for the London Missionary Society Press in Shanghai, Wylie is a scholar still extensively cited today in the fields of missionary history, archaeology, astronomy, numismatics, and pre-modern Chinese literature. He also produced major annotated bibliographic publications. However, his most remarkable contributions related to the fields of mathematics and the history of mathematics. Wylie was the first translator into Chinese of the last nine volumes of Euclid, Isaac Newton’s Principia Mathematica, and Calculus. He also, by a series of remarkable articles, showed, that the conventional wisdom that China had no significant achievement in mathematics until after the Jesuits, was wrong and that pre-modern Chinese mathematics was on a par and even developed certain mathematical techniques that preceded Europe by hundreds of years. Despite all these achievements and despite being cited widely in all these fields, there is no major article or journal about this outstanding scholar in English. There is however, a significant and growing literature in Chinese where he is rightly regarded as one of the fathers of Chinese mathematics and the history of Chinese mathematics.

**Professor Ian Gow OBE,** is Executive President of the Sino-British University College in Shanghai - a major joint venture between nine UK universities and the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology. He was the Founding Provost of China’s first independent foreign university campus since the reopening of China, the multi-award winning University of Nottingham, Ningbo.
RAS WEEKENDER – SATURDAY 19th
4pm for 4.30pm start
VENUE: RAS Library at The Sino-British College, 1195 Fuxing Zhong Lu (Shaanxi Nan Lu)
Members: 30 rmb Non Members: 80 rmb
RSVP: bookings@royalasiaticssociety.org.cn
Please reply putting 19th Bill Dodson in the subject box

BILL DODSON

Arrested Development: China's History of Invention and the Future of Innovation

Local author Bill Dodson discusses China's history of invention and discovery, when and why it all stopped - and if it will ever restart again.

Bill Dodson is the author most recently of “China Fast Forward: The Technologies, Green Industries and Innovations Driving the Mainland’s Future” (Wiley, August 2012), and of “China Inside Out: 10 Irreversible Trends Re-shaping China and Its Relationship with the World” (Wiley, 2011). He writes the Energy and Environment column for the China Economic Review. He has been interviewed on China economic, industry and innovation trends by Bloomberg; CCTV’s BizAsia business news program; the BBC; Newsweek Magazine; The Economist; Monocle; National Public Radio and other international media channels.

Copies of Bill's latest book, “China Fast Forward” will be available for sale.
RAS LECTURE – TUESDAY 22nd
7pm for 7.30pm start
VENUE: Radisson Plaza Xingguo Hotel 78 Xing Guo Road, Shanghai
Members: 80 rmb Non Members: 130 rmb
To include one selected drink
RSVP: bookings@royalasiaticssociety.org.cn
Please reply putting 22nd Yat-Ming Loo in the subject box

YAT-MING LOO

Limehouse Blues:
The Lost History of London's Chinatown

RAS WEEKENDER – SUNDAY 27th
MICHELLE BLUMENTHAL MEMORIAL WALK
to Gaoqiao Pudong

In honour and celebration of Michelle

Michelle loved walking, exploring and discovering new places, so please mark your calendars to join this event, which will be free and open to RAS members, Shanghai Expatriate Association Art & Architecture members, and all who knew Michelle. The walk will start around 10am and continue until 3-4pm, with an optional group lunch around 1pm. Arrangements have yet to be finalised so the meeting point will be advised together with full details nearer the time. Please let us know if you wish to attend this event and if you would like to join the optional lunch.

RSVP: bookings@royalasiaticssociety.org.cn
Please reply putting 27th Walk in the subject box

Gaoqiao is an interesting town in Pudong, located in a vibrant free trade zone area called Waigaoqiao. The old town still has authentic character, and lots of things to see and explore. There are three interesting museums: one on the history and culture of Gaoqiao in a 1931 family home (Green Gang leader Du Yuesheng comes from this village), another a 1918 courtyard home with period furniture, and also a new museum dedicated to a Gaoqiao native painter with examples of his work and other contemporary Chinese paintings. You can explore many old buildings down the little lanes: some with original wood carvings and shell windows, another a magnificent 1930 family courtyard home (now a school). There is a tea house with daily opera or story telling, an incense shop/training center, plus good street food and snacks!
RAS BOOK CLUB
at GloLondon, No 1 Wulumuqi Lu
Monday 7pm prompt
PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME
21st JANUARY
ENTRANCE: includes one selected drink
Members – 70 rmb
Non members & Guests – 100 rmb

With special guest
DUNCAN HEWITT

Hanging Devils: Hong Jun Investigates
by He Jiahong
Translated by Duncan Hewitt

RSVP is essential as space is limited
bookclub@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

Co-ordinator - Sandy Strand

NEXT YEAR’S Book Club choices are listed on our Website
http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org.cn/v/index.php?view=categoryevents&id=5%3Abookclub&option=com_eventlist&Itemid=74

RAS FILM CLUB
PLEASE NOTE
NEW VENUE
same building but closer to Sichuan Lu
at Chai Bites Lounge
Embankment Building,
Ground Floor 370, North Suzhou Road

3rd Sunday of the month
20th January - 7pm prompt
Mang Jing, Blind Shaft, 2003
Directed by Li Yang

RSVP is essential as space is limited
filmclub@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

Suggested Donation
Members - 20 rmb   Guests – 50 rmb

Co-ordinator - Linda Johnson

RAS STUDY GROUP
2nd and 4th Monday of the month
7pm start at Melange Oasis
Jiashan Market Shanxi Nan Road Lane 550 No. 37 Building D

China: A Century of Revolution
(6 hrs, PBS)
14th and 28th January 2013

RSVP is essential as space is limited.
studygroup@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

Suggested Donation
Members – 20 rmb   Guests – 50 rmb

Co-ordinator - Katie Baker

February 2013
we will screen a new series
Great Minds of the Eastern Tradition
may have imported the comforts of home and lived in fine style on the back of the
opium trade and on the massive fortunes profiteered by housing huge numbers of
Chinese in their settlement, the contagious, acrimonious and intolerable sounds and
smells of China were never far away. Numerous attempts, stretching over decades, to
find and establish suitable resort areas in the nearby islands of the Zhoushan
Archipelago met with failure and disappointment, leaving just far away Chefoo
(Yantai) as the only tolerable place of resort in China. Shanghailanders had to wait
until 1896 before the new northern Chinese resort of Peitaiho (Beidaihe) appeared on
the horizon. They also had recourse to the emerging mountain resorts, engineered by
British missionaries, of Mokanshan (Moganshan) and Kuling (Lushan). However it was
the ‘the accidental resort’ of Weihai(wei) that found almost instant and endearing
favour following the Sino-Japanese War and its cession as a British leased territory in
July 1898. Weihai, and many other foreign–established resorts are enjoying a
renaissance as the ability to escape from the city has become a reality for their residents in recent times.

Peter Hibbard MBE, historian, former president of the
RAS China in Shanghai and a Weihai summer sojourner
will talk about his personal and academic journey of
discovery of China’s endearing summer resorts.

ALL EVENTS AT THE SUZHOU BOOKWORM:
The Suzhou Bookworm, Gunxiu Fang 77, Shi Quan Jie.
Tell your taxi driver the intersection of Wu Que Qiao and Shi Quan Jie.

Or, take the subway to the Lindun Lu stop in downtown Suzhou and take a 10 minute ride by
pedicab or five-minute taxi ride to the Bookworm. It’s a fifteen minute walk due south from
the Lindun Lu subway station: Gongyuan Lu (across from the old Sofitel Hotel - now Marco
Polo), cross Shi Zi Jie to Wu Que Qiao. The Bookworm will be on your left at the intersection
of Wu Que Qiao and Shi Quan Jie.

For more information or membership applications, contact Bill Dodson
at: bdodson88@gmail.com.
RAS CHINA in SHANGHAI MONOGRAPH SERIES
with Hong Kong University Press

KINDLE version – OUT NOW - KINDLE version

Both available at: www.Amazon.com


http://www.amazon.com/Knowledge-Pleasure-Florence-Ayscough-ebook/dp/B009RP6LXE/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1350525471&sr=1-1&keywords=knowledge+is+pleasure

BOTH also available at: www.Amazon.co.uk

http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&fieldkeywords=lao+she+in+london

http://www.amazon.co.uk/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&fieldkeywords=knowledge+is+pleasure&rh=i%3Aaps%2Ck%3Anaissance&%22

Hard copies of Series 1 and 2 are available for purchase at RAS events & RAS Library opening times  CASH & COLLECTION ONLY

To reserve your copies email: enquiry@royalasiaticssociety.org.cn putting “Monographs” in the subject box

Lao She in London
Anne Witchard
RAS China in Shanghai series - 1
August 2012  188 pp.  14 b/w illus.
Paperback ISBN 978-988-8139-60-6  RMB 100

Knowledge Is Pleasure
Florence Ayscough in Shanghai
Lindsay Shen
RAS China in Shanghai series - 2
August 2012  176 pp.  6 colour, 15 b/w illus.
Paperback ISBN 978-988-8139-59-0  RMB 100
RAS CHINA MONOGRAPH SERIES 1

Lao She in London - Anne Witchard

‘London is blacker than lacquer’

Lao She remains revered as one of China’s great modern writers. His life and work have been the subject of volumes of critique, analysis and study. However, the four years the young aspiring writer spent in London between 1924 and 1929 have largely been overlooked. Dr Anne Witchard, a specialist in the modernist milieu of London between the wars, reveals Lao She’s encounter with British high modernism and literature from Dickens to Conrad to Joyce. Lao She arrived from his native Peking to the whirl of London’s West End scene - Bloomsburyites, Vorticists, avant-gardists of every stripe, Ezra Pound and the cabaret at the Cave of the Golden Calf. Immersed in the West End 1920s world of risqué flappers, the tabloid sensation of England’s "most infamous Chinaman Brilliant Chang" and Anna May Wong’s scandalous film Piccadilly, simultaneously Lao She spent time in the notorious and much sensationalised East End Chinatown of Limehouse. Out of his experiences came his great novel of London Chinese life and tribulations - Ma & Son: Two Chinese in London. However, as Witchard reveals, Lao She’s London years affected his writing and ultimately the course of Chinese modernism in far more profound ways.

"A beautifully written book that combines literary biography with a remarkably succinct account of British modernism and an evocative portrait of interbellum London, as viewed through Chinese eyes. Anne Witchard reminds us eloquently of the key role played by Chinese influences - both classical and modern - in literary modernism, and makes a great contribution to our understanding of Lao She’s London years."

Julia Lovell, Birkbeck College, University of London

“Sent by missionaries to teach Chinese in London, the fastidious writer and intellectual Lao She arrived in 1928 in a city brimming with prejudice where tourists visited Whitechapel to see opium dens and experience the Yellow Peril at first hand. Lao She’s novel about London reflects his experience of missionary condescension and popular panic. Anne Witchard’s wonderful weaving of Chinese and British intellectual lives with the horror engendered by characters such as Dr Fu Manchu is a fascinating reminder of how attitudes and prejudices needed to change.”

Frances Wood, Curator, Chinese Collections, British Library

“This perceptive and engaging book explores the London years and writings of one of China’s finest twentieth century novelists. Lao She came to Britain to teach Chinese, but as Witchard ably shows, the fiction and essays he wrote here teach us instead new ways to understand 1920s London, Anglo-Chinese relations, and the transnational world of modern literature.”

Professor Robert Bickers, Department of History, University of Bristol
Florence Ayscough - poet, translator, Sinologist, Shanghailander, avid collector, pioneering photographer and early feminist champion of women's rights in China. Ayscough's modernist translations of the classical poets still command respect, her ethnographic studies of the lives of Chinese women still engender feminist critiques over three quarters of a century later and her collections of Chinese ceramics and objects now form an important part of several American museum's Asian art collections.

Raised in Shanghai in an archetypal Shanghailander family in the late nineteenth century, Ayscough was to become anything but a typical foreigner in China. Encouraged by the New England poet Amy Lowell, she was to become a much sought after translator in the early years of the new century, not least for her radical interpretations of the Tang Dynasty poet Tu Fu published by the renowned literary critic Harriet Monroe. She later moved on to record China and particularly Chinese women using the new technology of photography, turn the Royal Asiatic Society’s Shanghai library into the best on the China Coast and build several impressive collections featuring jars from the Dowager Empress Xi Ci, Ming and Qing ceramics. By the time of her death, Florence Ayscough has left a legacy of collecting and scholarship unrivalled by any other foreign woman in China before or since. In this biography, Dr Lindsay Shen recovers Ayscough for posterity and returns her to us as a woman of amazing intellectual vibrancy and strength.

“In this well-researched book, Lindsay Shen has brought Florence Ayscough to life and painted a fascinating picture of the many aspects of the life of the foreign community in old Shanghai. Using enchanting prose, Lindsay shows us a scholarly and unusual woman who, in her study of Chinese language and culture was ahead of her times.”

Jane Portal, Matsutaro Shoriki Chair, Art of Asia, Oceania, and Africa, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

“This is a sensitive and elegantly written biography of one of the most passionate Sinologists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The author moves fluidly between closely shadowing Florence Ayscough's remarkable life and immersion in Chinese culture and stepping back to illuminate her setting and kindred spirits. Those previously familiar with only a few of Ayscough's pioneering achievements will find in this monograph a coherent narrative unfolding before them; those for whom she is an unknown name are in for the delight of discovery. Lindsay Shen is to be admired for recognizing that this impressive story is worth telling and for giving it such vividly human character.”

Elinor Pearlstein, Associate Curator of Chinese Art, Art Institute of Chicago
THANK YOU to all our recent EVENT PATRONS.........

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Enquiries: enquiry@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn  Membership: membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn
RAS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Any foreign passport holder interested in Asian culture and in promoting the aims of the Society may apply for membership. (PRC law unfortunately prohibits us from admitting Chinese nationals.)

The Society operates a rolling membership system – membership is valid for one year from the date of registration. Payments are only possible in cash – please remit your fee and completed form to a Council member at one of our events.

RAS MEMBERSHIP FEES

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Payments are presently only possible in cash. Please be so kind as to remit your fee at one of our events, to a Council member. Membership is valid for one year, from the date of registration, pending acceptance as a member by the RAS Council.

For further details please contact us at: membership@royalasiaticsociety.org.cn

or introduce yourself to a Council member at one of our events, to complete the process.

RAS CHINA in SHANGHAI

Official use: to be completed by Council Member

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Please retain this section - Your Membership Card will be available for collection at the next RAS event.

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Past newsletters are also available:

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